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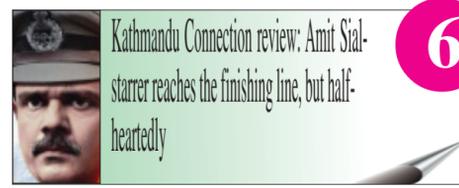
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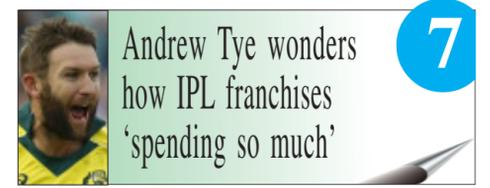
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Chalk Out Fool-Proof Plans For Covid Situation: Odisha CM Tells Collectors, SPs



Bhubaneswar, Apr 27: As the Covid-19 positive cases surge in Odisha, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today directed District Collectors and SPs chalk out fool-proof plans after assessing the situation on ground. Also, Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra was asked to monitor the Covid situation closely and brief the Chief Min-

ister about the same. During a review meeting on Covid situation through video conferencing, Patnaik told the officials, "I would like each Collector and SP to apply their minds taking the field situation into consideration and make fool proof planning. I would like the observers to have a close look at this.

Whatever gaps are there, departments should take ownership to fill them, the Chief Secretary would monitor this closely and brief me in the next meeting." He further stated the government must be prepared for the worst case scenario. "In spite of the increasing cases, so far we have been able to manage the Covid care

requirement of the patients. However, the rising cases in some districts is a major cause of concern. The virus is now spreading in the double and triple mutant strains. In this wave, even young people are suffering from health complications," said Patnaik. Praising traders' associations in some towns of the State for re-

ducing market timings and closing shops voluntarily, the Chief Minister said, "This is a welcome step and I sincerely appreciate this as it shows complete involvement of the community in Covid management." He also asked the Collectors to partner with resident associations, merchant associations and community based organizations while taking steps for Covid management. The Chief Minister directed the officials to ensure sufficient and timely supply of oxygen to Covid patients. Among others, Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra, DGP Abhay, Collectors and SPs and senior officials were present in the meeting. Odisha today reported another 6,073 Covid positive cases taking the tally to 50,958. The Covid death toll in the State reached 2,007 as 10 more persons died of the disease.



Bhubaneswar, Apr 27: In a bid to protect steel manufacturing units in Odisha, the State government on Monday urged the Centre to continue imposing anti-dumping duties (ADD) and countervailing duties (CVD) on imported steel. In a letter to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State for Industries and MSME Diba Shankar Mishra said revoking of ADD and CVD on stainless steel products would give China a free hand

for dumping cheap metal in the country. Claiming that Odisha is one of the top steel manufacturing states in the country, Mishra said dumping by China and Indonesia would make matters worse for domestic producers who have invested heavily in the State. Noting that over Rs 1.5 lakh crore has been invested in steel sector and another Rs 8,000 crore investment is in pipeline for downstream industries, Mishra said the Centre's move will only give a free hand

to China to dump steel in the country via Indonesia. This will badly hit the State government's plan to develop metal and steel clusters. "The State government has drawn up plans to woo downstream industries, primarily metal and steel. A 50 per cent value addition has been targeted in the metal sector by 2030. For this to happen, the State will take all steps to protect the interests of the Steel and downstream industries," Mishra said. Admitting that steel industry in India, one of the fastest growing steel producing nations, is passing through stress for some time due to rising imports, the government assured Rajya Sabha that it will take all steps to promote and safeguard the sector. He said major stainless steel manufacturers have opposed the suspension of anti-dumping duties citing risks of cheap Chinese imports flooding local markets.

Legendary Writer Manoj Das No More

Bhubaneswar, Apr 27: Eminent Litterateur, Editor and Columnist Manoj Das from Odisha passed away today evening while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Puducherry. He was 87. Das was suffering from age-related ailments and

Times of India, The Hindustan Times, The Hindu and The Statesman as well. In 2000, Das was awarded with Saraswati Samman. He was awarded Padma Shri in 2001 and Padma Bhushan in 2020 for his contribution in the field of

of Sri Aurobindo at the Sri Aurobindo International University. Das was born on February 27, 1934 in Shankari village in Balasore district. 'The Escapist', 'Tandralokara Prahari', 'Aakashra Isara', 'Amruta Phala', 'A Ti-



admitted to the hospital for past few months. He was the foremost bilingual Odia writer and a master of dramatic expression both in his English and Odia short stories and novels. Das edited The Heritage, published from Chennai in 1985-1989. He wrote columns in The

Literature & Education. The Kendra Sahitya Akademi awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award Fellowship to Das. Das had been an inmate of Sri Aurobindo Ashram in Puducherry since 1963. He was teaching English Literature and the Philosophy

ger at Twilight', 'Bulldozers and Fables and Fantasies for Adults', 'Cyclones', 'Godhulira Bagha', 'Kanaka-Upatyakara Kahani' and 'Sesha Tantrikara Sandhanare' have been some of the highly-appreciated works of the Litterateur.

Odisha government schools Admission begins

Bhubaneswar, Apr 27: The School and Mass Education department has announced to begin admission to elementary and secondary grades in government-run schools from Tuesday and complete the process by May 31. While the admissions will be carried out from 7 am to 9.30 am on all working days, not more than five parents would be allowed at a time into a school for admission of their wards to avoid crowding in wake of the Covid-19 situation. In a SOS notification issued by the department for school admissions on Monday, headmasters were asked to ensure that Covid-19 guidelines are followed during the admission process. Parents will be informed about the admission time and schedule through the WhatsApp groups formed for implementation of



'Odisha Siksha Sanjog' programme. The State government has promoted all the students from Class I to IX to the next class for the 2021-22 academic session without conduct of examination due to the ongoing pandemic situation. The department stated that all admissions based on promotions within a school will not require presence of students or their guardians. Since these are rolling admissions, schools will update their admission register ac-

cordingly. In case of new admission to Class I, the headmasters of primary schools have been asked to collect information from anganwadi centres preferably over telephone or WhatsApp. While the student is not required to remain present in the school for admission, the headmaster will contact the parent concerned about the formalities over telephone. "If a parent's presence is required in a case of new admission, headmaster concerned has to

inform him or her about the date and time for arrival at school in order to avoid crowding", the notification read. The admission process will be monitored by District Education Officers concerned. Survey to trace out-of-school children: The Odisha School Education Programme Authority (OSEPA) has directed district education officers (DEOs) and district coordinators of Samagra Shiksha, a Centrally Sponsored Integrated

Scheme for School Education, to carry out a comprehensive door to door survey to identify out-of-school students. While earlier the survey was limited to children in the age group of 6 to 14 years, this year the age group has been extended to 18 years. The details of the children who have either dropped out or were never enrolled in the schools will be collected during the exercise. The officials concerned have been asked to prepare a database of such students by forming teams comprising teachers, village education committee members and SHG members under each Cluster Resource Centre Coordinators (CRCCs). The data would be used to enrol all such students to schools in the new academic session, said Bhupendra S Poonia, State Coordinator of OSEPA.

Odisha Dialogues Forum's Annual Lecture Series Today On Occasion Of Utkala Gaurab's Birth Anniversary

Bhubaneswar, Apr 27: The Odisha Dialogues, aka Odisha Alochana Chakra, will launch an annual lecture series and a research fellowship on April 28 on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Utkala Gaurab Madhusudan Das.

Former Supreme Court judge Justice Madan Bhimarao Lokur will deliver the maiden annual lecture, 'Can India's Judiciary Rescue Her Democracy?'. Former professor of Delhi School of Economics Dr Pulin B

Nayak will chair the lecture session to be held virtually. Today, the Odisha Dialogues is reckoned as a credible, trusted and dynamic thought leadership platform with immense potential for making a visible difference to the



state's intellectual discourse, said Rajesh Mahapatra, the founder-director of the Odisha Dialogues. There couldn't be a day more befitting than the birth anniversary of Utkala Gaurab Madhusudan Das, the

28th of April, to observe as our Annual Day, said Mahapatra. In Madhu Babu's notions of modernity, cosmopolitanism, the embrace of science, the critique of caste, women's empowerment and advocacy of the secular, the Odisha Dia-

logues sees a 'living legacy' with which we can reimagine Odisha for making a better world, he added. Last year, the Odisha Dialogues hosted its first webinar, kicking off a series of discussions on how to rebuild Odisha post Corona.

Delhi Government To Import Oxygen From Foreign Countries



New Delhi, Apr 27: As India is fighting against Coronavirus and the acute shortage in medical oxygen, the Delhi government has decided to import 18 oxygen tankers from Bangkok and 21 oxygen plants from France for Covid-19 patients in the state,

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Tuesday. The decision has been taken as the state is facing crisis in receiving the oxygen allotted by the Centre. We have requested the Centre to allow use of Air Force planes to import 18 oxygen tank-

ers from Bangkok that will start arriving from tomorrow, said Kejriwal. Talks are on and I'm very hopeful that talks will be successful, he added. Notably, the first Oxygen Express train for Delhi reached the national capital today morning carrying around 70 tonnes of oxygen. The national capital is reeling under Covid menace as the number of Covid deaths in a day in Delhi touched 380 on Monday — the highest till date.

Supreme Court Gives Permission To Sterlite Plant For Oxygen Production

Tamil Nadu, Apr 27: Sterlite Copper Plant in Tamil Nadu, which was closed due to pollution disputes, has been allowed by the Supreme Court to produce oxygen. The court has said that Sterlite can start the production of oxygen in the next 10 days. Also, the court has directed the plant to supply free oxygen to the country. According to the court order, an expert panel will oversee the work of oxygen production. Due to Corona virus, there were reports of lack of oxygen in many hospitals across the country. The Supreme Court had already



taken cognizance of this. Justice DY Chandrachud, who is hearing the case on Tuesday, said, "This is a national crisis. People are dying... We have to bring the local community in our favor. Dur-

ing this time, the court has advised to avoid politics. The court said "there will be no political discord." We are going through a period of national crisis. We are here to save the lives of citizens. The court

said, "We will have to support the country as a court. This is a national disaster. In fact, the Tamil Nadu government had accused the central government of supporting Vedanta Ltd, the owner of the plant. At

the same time, the Center denied these allegations. Apart from this, the Supreme Court has also said that the expert panel will decide the number of people working inside the plant. On Monday, the Tamil Nadu government allowed Vedanta Limited to reopen the Sterlite plant. However, this permission was 4 months. This decision was taken after a meeting of all political parties, where DMK chief MK Stalin said that Sterlite should give 'Oxygen for free' to Tamil Nadu. Apart from this, DMK also talked about monitoring the plant.

No Victory Procession On May 2: Election Commission

New Delhi, Apr 27: The Election Commission of India has made an important announcement regarding the counting of four states – Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Puducherry, a union territory. The Election Commission said that after the results on May 2, there will be no victory procession. Sources quoting an order said that this decision has been taken to prevent the spread of corona virus infection. Sources in the Election Commission said that a detailed order is being issued in this regard. Significantly, this decision was taken by the



Election Commission after a serious comment made by the Madras High Court. On Monday, the High Court strongly criticized the Election Commission, terming it alone as 'responsible' for the second wave of Covid-19 in the country and termed it as the 'most irresponsible institution'. The court had made a

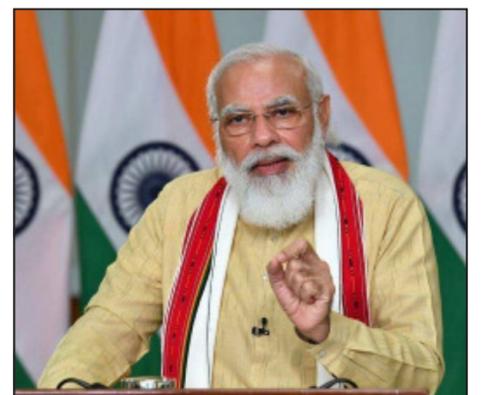
sharp remark that a case could also be registered against the Election Commission officials on murder charges. The court had said that the Election Commission gave an opportunity to the epidemic to spread by allowing political parties to hold rallies and meetings. Let us tell you that in the three states Tamil Nadu,

Kerala, Assam and Union Territory of Puducherry recently assembly elections have been held, whereas in West Bengal, there is 1 phase of voting. The counting of elections in these states will be held on May 2. Election Commission took steps to be vigilant to protect Covid-19: sources On the other hand, in view of being held 'alone' for the second wave of Covid-19, Election Commission sources said on Monday that the Commission has decided to ensure rescue from Covid-19 first during elections in Bihar and then in four states and one Union Territory. For

meticulous steps. Sources said that it is the responsibility of the State Disaster Management Authority to ensure the implementation of the Disaster Management Act to deal with Covid-19, but the Commission has given its constitutional rights to ban campaigning in West Bengal for the purpose of protecting people from infection. Applied to. An official said that the commission's ability to successfully conduct Bihar assembly elections in November 2020 was widely appreciated. Seven crore 30 voters had voted in 1,06,000 polling stations in this election.

PM Modi's aunt Narmadaben dies during Covid-19 treatment

Ahmedabad, Apr 27: "Our aunt Narmadaben was admitted to the civil hospital some ten days ago after her condition deteriorated following coronavirus infection," said Prahlad Modi, the prime minister's younger brother. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's aunt Narmadaben Modi who was undergoing treatment for coronavirus infection died at the civil hospital here on Tuesday, the family said. Narmadaben (80) lived in the New Ranip area of the city with her children.



"Our aunt Narmadaben was admitted to the civil hospital some ten days ago after her condition deteriorated following coronavirus infection," said Prahlad Modi, the prime

minister's younger brother. "She breathed her last at the hospital today," he told PTI. Her husband Jagjivandas, brother of the prime minister's father Damodardas, had died many years ago, said Prahlad Modi.

Bengal reports record 16,403 fresh COVID-19 cases, 73 more deaths

Kolkata, Apr 27: In the past 24 hours, 10,664 people recovered from the disease, though the discharge rate continued its downward trend at 85.61 per cent. West Bengal on Tuesday logged 16,403 fresh COVID-19 cases, the highest-

single spike recorded in the state so far, pushing the tally to 7,76,345, a bulletin issued by the state health department said. The death toll climbed to 11,082 with 73 more fatalities, it said. In the past 24 hours, 10,664 people recovered

from the disease, though the discharge rate continued its downward trend at 85.61 per cent. West Bengal now has 1,00,615 active cases, the bulletin said, adding, 55,287 samples were tested since Monday.

Gujarat sees record 14,352 COVID-19 cases and 170 deaths; state faces HC flak over poor pandemic management

Ahmedabad, Apr 27: Gujarat on Tuesday reported the highest number of 14,352 coronavirus positive cases in a day and a record 170 deaths, including 27 in Surat, the state health department said. With the addition of new cases, the count of infections in the state has gone up to 5,24,725 while the death toll reached 6,656, it said. Gujarat is now left with 1,27,606 active cases. A total of 7,803 patients were discharged during the day, raising the number of recoveries in Gujarat to 3,90,229, the department said in a release. With new detections, Gujarat's case recovery rate fell to 74.37 per cent. As many as



1,67,977 beneficiaries received COVID-19 doses in Gujarat on Tuesday, taking their count to 1,16,22,606, the department said. At 5,725, Ahmedabad reported the highest number of COVID-19 cases in the state in the day, followed by Surat with 2,269 detections, Jamnagar 697,

Vadodara 631, Rajkot 534, Bhavnagar 357, Gandhinagar 325, Junagadh 261, etc. Of the 170 fatalities, 26 occurred in Ahmedabad and 14 in Vadodara. Gujarat's COVID-19 figures are as follows: Positive cases 5,24,725, new cases 14,352, death toll 6,656, discharged 3,90,229, active cases

1,27,840, people tested so far - figures not released. Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu reported 217 new cases, taking the tally to 7,054, officials said. With 190 patients being discharged, the count of recoveries rose went up to 4,862 in the UT which is now left with 2,188 ac-

tive cases while the death toll so far stood at four. The Gujarat High Court on Tuesday expressed its displeasure over the state government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, noting the entire exercise lacks "transparency" and pointed to the death of patients outside hospitals due to "non-attendance by doctors". The court also advised against imposing a lockdown and said it is not a solution to fight the pandemic. The HC asked the Gujarat government to direct hospitals to admit all COVID-19 patients approaching them instead of just those coming through '108' (helpline) ambulance service.



'Enforcing COVID norms is responsibility of state authorities': EC day after Madras HC rapping

New Delhi, Apr 27: Facing flak over its alleged failure to ensure COVID-19 appropriate behaviour during poll campaigns, the Election Commission on Tuesday said enforcing provisions of the law to fight the pandemic is the responsibility of state disaster management bodies. The commission also asserted that it has continuously directed state and district

authorities to enforce instructions of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The poll panel underlined that on "no occasion" it takes over the task of a state disaster management authority (SDMA) for enforcement of instructions issued in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Election

Commission's (EC) remarks came a day after the Madras High Court made harsh observations against it for failing to enforce COVID appropriate behaviour during poll campaigns. Elections have been held in Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and the Union Territory of Puducherry. The last of the eight phase West Bengal polls is on Thursday. Counting for



votes for all the assembly elections is on May 2. The commission in a statement said while it will comply with all directions of the high court, on April 30, dur-

ing the next hearing, it will apprise the bench of all the steps already taken by the poll panel for free, fair and safe elections. It also said "statements being attrib-

uted to the Hon'ble High Court in certain sections of media" do not find mention in the order which was finally passed. The EC was apparently referring to the oral observations made by the bench against it. Referring to the petition that was moved in the Madras High Court to ensure "COVID safe" counting on May 2, the statement said that similar petitions

concerning COVID-19 compliant behaviour during ongoing elections were filed, and the EC had already responded to them. The commission gave out "legal and factual positions" to drive home the point that it did everything possible at its end to ensure "COVID safe" polls, it said. The poll panel said enforcement of COVID-19 measures is the responsibility

assigned to a state disaster management authority. These measures include lockdowns, restriction or curtailment on public gatherings, and the authority's officers follow the Disaster Management Act, 2005, it said. Public gatherings under the Act were not stopped during this (election campaign) period by the state authority, the EC said.

Arrest of one male offender with the seizure of valuable Railway items by RPF Puri

(A.O. Bureau)
Puri, Apr 27: On the basis of reliable source information regarding criminal activities against Railway properties in Coaching Complex area, on the night of 27.04.2021 from 01.00 am, Officer's & Staff of Puri [SI Mohan, ASI N.K.Sahoo, Const-Seema Sahoo, Dipti Ranjan Muduli & Manoj Singh] conducted massive raid & ambush. During which the above RPF team could able to detained one male person namely Sagar Nayak,



aged-21 Years, S/O-Bama Dev Nayak, At-P.K.D.A. Colony, P-S-Talbania, Dist-Puri [Odisha], while he was committing crime against Railway Prop-

erty i.e. copper cable from LHB Coaches [new model red colour Coaches]. During interrogation he confessed his guilty. Accordingly he was arrested & Case No.02/2021, dated-27.04.2021, u/s-3[a] Railway Property [Unlawful Possession] Act-1966 and forwarded to him in the Hon'ble Court of SDJM Puri, where he sent in judicial custody. Said Anil Ku Singh IIC RPF PURI. Name of I.O.-SI Mohan, Value of Railway property- Rs-15000/-.

Odisha CM Expresses Concern As 7 Players Of Indian Women's Hockey Team Test Covid +Ve

Bhubaneswar, Apr 27: As soon as the news on seven members of the Indian women's hockey team being tested Covid positive broke out, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed his concerns and wished speedy recovery of the players. In a tweet, Patnaik wrote, "Concerned to know that 7 members of Indian women's hockey team including captain @imranirampal and 2 support staff tested positive for #COVID19. Wishing them speedy recovery and praying for their



good health." The Sports Authority of India (SAI) said the Indian women's Hockey team Captain Rani Rampal and six

other members and two support staff have been tested positive for Covid-19. "Seven members of the Indian women's hockey team

and two support staff have tested positive for Covid-19. They were tested on April 24, post quarantine after their return from their

respective hometowns to their training base at SAI Bengaluru, as per the laid down protocol," said SAI in a statement. "The seven players who have tested positive are Rani Rampal, Savita Punia, Sharmila Devi, Rajani, Navjot Kaur, Navneet Kaur and Sushila," it further said. Video analyst Amrutaprakash and scientific advisor Wayne Lombard have also tested positive. All the players and support staff are asymptomatic and have been isolated and kept under observation at the SAI NCOE Bangalore.

Jindal Stainless begins dispatch of Liquid Medical Oxygen from Jajpur facility



(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, Apr 27: Continuing its efforts to help the nation combat COVID-19, Jindal Stainless has begun the supply of Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) from its Jajpur facility in Odisha. Over 40 MT of LMO is being dispatched on a daily basis to meet the increasing demand of LMO in Odisha, Andhra

Pradesh, and other states as required. To date, ~128 MT of LMO has already been dispatched for various medical facilities. Commenting on this development, Managing Director, Jindal Stainless, Mr Abhyuday Jindal said, "We are now on a mission mode. Both in Hisar and Jajpur, we're extending all possible support to respective

governments by ensuring an uninterrupted supply of oxygen from our facilities, irrespective of the impact on operations. Saving lives of fellow Indians is the biggest priority today." Since the onset of the pandemic in 2020, Jindal Stainless, Hisar, has been consistently supplying LMO of ~8 MT per day to all medical facilities in and

around the plant. Nearly 2170 MT of LMO has been supplied in a year till date to various hospitals, including Jindal Institute of Medical Sciences at Hisar, Maharaaja Agrasen Medical Education & Scientific College at Hisar, Government Hospital at Sirsa, Maharishi Markandeshwar Trust at Ambala, and Medanta, Fortis, and

Singhania hospitals at Gurugram, Delhi. Over and above this, oxygen is also being directed to oxygen gas cylinder fillers as per government directives. Through its 580-bedded multi super-specialty hospital in Hisar, Jindal Institute of Medical Sciences, Jindal Stainless has been actively fighting the pandemic since last year. Isolations wards, screening units, telephonic consultations, 150 ICU beds, 60 ventilators, and several other facilities have been activated to their maximum capacity to help patients. Yesterday, in the presence of Chief Minister, Haryana, Sh Manohar Lal Khattar, the company committed its OP Jindal Modern School in Hisar to be converted into a 500-bed emergency COVID hospital equipped with 150 ICU beds.

Odisha Congress Demands To Postpone Pipili By-Election

(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, Apr 27: In a major development, Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee has demanded the postponement of the Pipili by-polls considering the rising Covid-19 cases in the state. OPCC working president Pradeep Majhi addressing a Press meet here today has demanded to postpone the Pipili by-election in the state as the infection is on the rise, adding that the lives of the people in the state are in danger due to the corona, he added. The OPCC will meet the



state chief electoral officer and will write a letter to the Election Commission of India in the matter. While the Covid infection is on rising in the state, lives of people is more important or the election, Majhi questioned. It might be mentioned here that Ajit Mangraj, Congress leader and former Congress candidate of Pipili, died due to Covid a few days ago.

state chief electoral officer and will write a letter to the Election Commission of India in the matter. While the Covid infection is on rising in the state, lives of people is more important or the election, Majhi questioned. It might be mentioned here that Ajit Mangraj, Congress leader and former Congress candidate of Pipili, died due to Covid a few days ago.

Noted Jatra Comedian Jaga Rout Passes Away Because Of Coronavirus

(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, Apr 27: In a sad piece of news, veteran Jatra comedian Jaga Rout breathed his last. He was infected by the deadly Coronavirus. He was popularly known as 'Jaga Mause'. He had tested positive for the virus and was undergoing treatment. His amazing performance includes 'Rajadhani Tate Duru



Juhar, Nakahile Kula Phula and Bohu Anithili Bhasi Jauchi, Kagaj Besyapadaru'

Skills of five lakh migrants mapped, but no follow up

(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, Apr 27: AS the Covid-19 situation continues to be grim across the country, the government is waiting for the return of around six lakh migrants to the State again in the event of extended lockdown and shut down in various

opment and Technical Education Premanand Nayak told this paper. He, however, maintained that the follow up work was not completed as the situation returned towards normalcy before the second wave. He added that the work will be launched soon. One of the impor-

not put in place a system for their registration. Subsequently, 70 per cent of them returned to their work places. Official sources maintained that without any registration, the State government now does not have exact data on how many of them returned to which states and which industries. "A registration system would have helped the State government to remain prepared to create livelihood support for the migrants, once they returned. But it is now in the dark about this," said Umri Daniel, Director, migration and education, Aide et Action International. Besides these unresolved issues, the State government is yet to make anything public about the skill mapping of five lakh migrants. "A total of 10,07,330 migrant workers had returned to their respective villages during the pandemic. Of them 1,81,702 workers were skilled workers and 5,54,754 were unskilled", sources in the Labour and Employees Insurance department said.



places. Official sources maintained that though the return of the migrants will not pose much problem for the government this time around, providing them livelihood support is likely to be a difficult task. The State government had started skill mapping of migrant returnees during the first wave last year. Skill mapping of around five lakh migrant workers had been done, Minister of State for Skill Devel-

opment and Technical Education Premanand Nayak told this paper. He, however, maintained that the follow up work was not completed as the situation returned towards normalcy before the second wave. He added that the work will be launched soon. One of the impor-

NINL oxygen plant of 418 MT per day capacity lying idle

(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, Apr 27: Even as the country continues to gasp for oxygen amid the massive spread of coronavirus cases, an oxygen plant with a capacity of 418 metric tonne per day is lying idle at Kalinga Nagar in Jajpur district. Oxygen generation at the plant of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd (NINL) has stopped ever since the production at the 1.1 MTPA integrated Iron and Steel plant came to a halt following the disinvestment decision last year. Several employees have urged the Central government to at least



restart the oxygen plant and resume generation to save Covid-19 patients, who are battling with life due to shortage of oxygen in Covid hospitals in cities like Delhi, Jaipur, Lucknow and Nashik. The demand

for resuming the plant comes after Tamil Nadu government on Monday allowed Vedanta's sealed Sterlite Industries at Tuticorin to operate for the production of medical oxygen for a four-month period in

view of the depleting oxygen reserves. As the surge in Covid cases continues throughout the county, many believe the disinvestment process of NINL being undertaken by the Department of Investment and

Public Asset Management under the aegis of the Ministry of Finance may not be feasible in near future. General secretary of Neelachal Executive Association Ajit Kumar Pradhan said, the production at the oxygen plant can be resumed immediately and supplied to the Covid affected parts of the country. Production at NINL has been stopped since March 26 last year after its promoters Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation, OMC and IPICOL stopped infusing funds for operation of the steel plant following a decision for its strategic disinvestment.

COVID-19: Cuttack admin apathy puts villagers at risk

(A.O. Bureau)
Cuttack, Apr 27: Even as the State government is emphasising on tracing, testing, isolating and treating of Covid-19 patients, the lackadaisical approach of the district administration towards the key aspects, has given rise to threat of spread of the virus in rural areas. Delay in

tracing the contacts of migrants who returned from other states and tested positive has people in villages worried. What's worse is that the tehsil, block and health officials are simply not paying heed to the concerns of sarpanchs of affected gram panchayats to initiate steps in this

regard. The case of a 45-year-old man from Patapari village in Nichintakoili block highlights the officials' indifference towards efforts to contain the spread of the virus. The man, who was working in a company in Kolkata, had returned home on April 17. After staying home with his family for

around a week, he developed symptoms and tested positive for the virus. He was admitted to Sadguru Covid Hospital at Jagatpur on April 24. Even as three days have passed since he was hospitalised, no steps have yet been initiated to trace people who had come in contact with him.

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EDITORIAL

Race against time

India ought to muster all the help it can, from within and abroad, to tame the pernicious virus. The pandemic's second wave has created havoc in the country and the gravity of the situation can be gauged from the Supreme Court's assertion that it is a "national emergency-like situation". Even Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing the country during his monthly radio programme "Mann Ki Baat", called it a "storm" that has "shaken the nation". With the COVID-19 cases hitting new peaks each passing day, the country is faced with an acute shortage of medical oxygen, hospital beds and essential medicines. With the Centre scheduled to throw open vaccination to all adults from May 1, the Government hopes to rein in the raging pandemic but four Opposition-ruled States — Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Punjab and Jharkhand — claim that they would not be able to launch the drive on May Day because they don't have enough vaccines. This unfortunate development against the planned mitigation of the spread of the virus has put a spoke in the wheels of the Union Government's protracted battle against COVID-19. Not only the availability of the vaccines but also their pricing has become a bone of contention for the States. The vaccines, Covishield and Covaxin, would be provided to the States and private hospitals at a much higher rate than what the Centre pays to procure these. Meanwhile, the Centre is tapping all the international cooperation it can to ameliorate the critical situation. Maybe it's time for India to reap the dividends of its unconditional help to other countries — supplying them with vaccines, medicines and other essentials — when they were in a morass of despair. The US National Security Advisor, Jake Sullivan, conveyed to his Indian counterpart Ajit Doval that just as India had aided the US when its hospitals were crippled by the pandemic, Washington is determined to help New Delhi in its time of need. The US, UK and the European Union have pledged to help India with vaccines, oxygen tankers and concentrators, PPE kits, ventilators and so on. According to the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum, India will soon receive at least 12 ISO containers to help transport oxygen within the country. In the race against time, we need not just global cooperation but also teamwork among the States and the Centre to defeat the biggest enemy of humankind in living memory.

Waiting to exhale

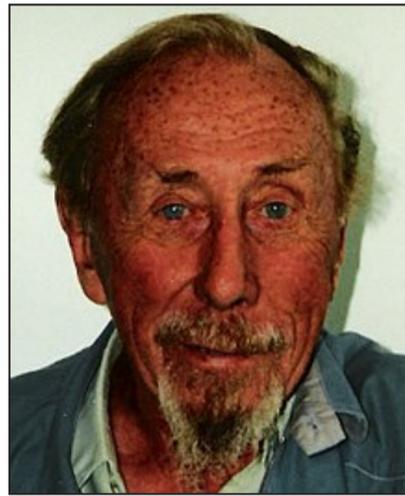
The Centre and Delhi Government must work in tandem to ensure regular oxygen supply to people. Scores of precious lives have been lost due to the horrific oxygen crisis in Delhi, under the very nose of the Central and State Governments, the Supreme Court, High Court and civic authorities. Still, there is no clarity on what led to such a dreadful situation. The Centre has repeatedly laid the blame on the door of the Arvind Kejriwal Government while the State administration has held supplier Inox responsible for the delay in distribution and asserted that the supply was "grossly inadequate" to meet the demand of the hospitals. The truth lies somewhere in between. Kejriwal admits that the Centre has increased Delhi's oxygen quota again from 480 metric tonnes (MT) to 490 MT but accessing it remains a big issue. Delhi's requirement is 700 MT but, according to him, only 330-335 MT is available. With the exponential rise in COVID-19 cases, the demand has also increased. The demand-supply gap has led to the current situation. However, it's not the time for a blame game but to work together to save lives and win the trust of the people who are fast losing faith in the institutions of governance. If the situation is allowed to persist, we would be headed towards an unprecedented chaos and may face an eruption of mass protests that could worsen the Corona spread in the Capital. It's time for the Centre to appoint an independent authority/regulator to take a holistic view of the situation, analyse the demand-supply gap, suggest corrective measures to remove distribution bottlenecks and ensure that no hospital is left without oxygen. Any delay could be fatal because oxygen supplier Inox has already thrown in the towel and expressed its inability to enhance the supply, citing production constraints. Faced with such a situation, the Centre and the State have to come together and reach out to industrial houses to help Delhiites. The Chief Minister has already written to industrialists to provide a helping hand in handling the oxygen crisis. It is equally important that the State authorities set up a control room for both hospitals and patients to help them inquire about oxygen supply and the availability of oxygen beds. In the absence of such a setup, the hospitals and patients both rush to social media and TV channels to vent their grievances, leading to more panic. Both the Governments should also take urgent steps to ensure that all hospitals are equipped with oxygen plants, which require little investment and most of the big hospitals can comfortably meet this expenditure. In very few developed countries can such big health setups exist without oxygen plants, which are seen as a basic requirement. It's heartening to note that the Delhi Government has decided to set up half a dozen of its own oxygen plants to deal with the situation.

Fr. Windey : A True Gandhian

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Fr. Windey was born in 1921 at Buggenhout (Belgium), the fourth of 12 children to a family whose father was the Director of Schools and mother was a school teacher. His primary school (1927-32) was in Buggenhout and the secondary school (1932-38) in the neighboring city of Dendermonde. In September 1938 he joined the Jesuit community in Drogen near Ghent, Belgium. He studied classical philology for the Central Commission in Brussels. In the following period, at the end of the World War II, he was a professor in the Jesuit college in Brussels for three months: in December he was called by his Provincial Superior to find out if he agreed to move to India. He travelled to India in 1946 and was ordained a priest in 1950. In those years Father Michael learned and worked as a Missionary Jesuit in several parts of India; first in Bombay, then teaching in the state of Bihar, first at St. Xavier College, then as a professor of Sociology at the University of Ranchi, then in the state of Darjiling, then in the extreme south in Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu, (1953-54) where he finished his preparation as a Jesuit and took his vows by entering the Society of Jesus on February 2, 1956. At the University of Allahabad he continued his studies (1954-55) and moving for a year in Holland to Den Haag (1959-60). After

that period Father Windey founded the well-known Xavier Institute of Social Science in Ranchi, Bihar, and was the first Director. He was also, at that time, Director of schools, promoter of the Marian Congregations and of important Catholic Organizations in the same state. It was during the Bihar period, until 1967, that he came into contact with Jayaprakash Narayan, the famous social worker and political thinker, and worked in collaboration with him. Until 1969 he worked in Ranchi, eastern India, where he began social work in 1967 when a famine hit Bihar state. He shifted to the southern state of Andhra Pradesh in 1969 to work among cyclone victims and later set up Village Reconstruction Organisation, popularly known as VRO, following Mahatma Gandhi's call to reconstruct village life as the way to bring about India's advancement. Fr. Windey "believed in the Gandhian way of developing villages, and understood the Indian ethos and culture". In India he is recognized as one of Gandhi's successors.



(On Birth Centenary of Fr. Michael Anthony Windey)

Popularly known in India as VRO, the base of his Organization has remained at Guntur, even though its reconstruction operations of rural entities have developed in the States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and in the Union Territory of Pondicherry. In Odisha the organization's presence is remarkably felt in Kendrapada, Jajpur, Bhadrakh, Keonjhar, Dhenkanal, Puri, Kandhamal, Rayagada and Kalahandi districts. Fr. Windey first visited Odisha soon after 1971 devastating cyclone that hit coastal areas of Cuttack and Balasore districts at the request of the then Special Relief Commissioner of Odisha, Mr. V.S. Matthews. After initial survey, three villages namely Arunanagar, Soubhayanagar and Gandhinagar had been constructed over the dilapidated cyclone ravaged villages. Later he established a Regional Volunteers Training Centre at Cahndikhole in 1980 with the patronage of Dr. Radhanath Rath,

Editor, The Samaja. Two years later he searched and located a valley at the source of river the Baitarani near Gonasika, where he founded a training center for Juang boys. Similarly, after Bansadhara floods in 1980, he entered into Koraput district where constructed three villages. At the wake of time he established several training centers, pre-primary schools, tree plantation activities, health centers and so on. In 2006, he set up an old age home in Anandpur area of Keonjhar district. The motto of the VRO is: "better villages for a better world" and its volunteers bring standards of progress for the life of small communities, create teaching centers where village children can learn a job, create schools, health centers in remote areas where if there were no VRO, there would be very few opportunities for the inhabitants. However, in every set up he has introduced a system of sustainability for the continuation of the program. Father Michael Windey devised innovative systems for the management of schools and hospitals, still applied today by the VRO in its health, education and training programs, so as to ensure sustainable development. Thanks to the work of volunteers from all over the world and religious confession, Father Windey's activity continues. Over the past thirty-eight years, he has received numerous awards, including the Gandhi Prize. His elegant and vibrant working life came to an end on 20th September 2009, at the age of 88. By now his established organization has reached fifty years of operation.

Those who leave no man behind

Sadly, the age-old creed of nemo resideo was violated when the joint security team came under fire from Maoists in Chhattisgarh. The professional construct of a military soldier is deliberately drilled and freighted with sacred ethos, timeless values and spirited regimentation that almost defy the modern-age perspectives of practicality, individualism and personal safety. The nobility of the profession of arms is predicated, among other values, on the age-old Latin phrase "nemo resideo" or "leave no man/women behind". In different expressions, languages and syntax, its inherent spirit manifests in the fighting soldier's inviolable belief in his comrades-in-arms within his platoon or paltan (unit). Such faith within the combatants rouses them to routinely defy the situational/operational odds and do the seemingly impossible, frequently. It is often an institutional code that is insisted upon, nurtured and breathed as a given, falling short of which brings the ultimate shame on the combatant — a question mark on the individual or paltan's izzat (the uncompromising pride vested in the "Naam-Namak-Nishan" (the distinguishing name, hallmarks and accoutrements of the battalion/regiment)! The legendary story of WW1, where a soldier in a trench saw his "buddy" fall in fierce battle and urged his Lieutenant to allow him to dash into the no-man's land to bring back his comrade, was met with a what could be construed a fair query today: "You could, but don't think it would be worth it. Your friend is probably dead, and you may throw your life away." But because a noble soldier is cut from a unique cloth, the combatant made the dare amid relentless fir-



Bhopinder Singh

ing, hoisted his "buddy" and retrieved him to the trench. Expectedly, the Lieutenant said: "Your friend is dead and you are mortally wounded." The gallant soldier replied: "It was worth it because when I got to him, he was still alive... and I had the satisfaction of hearing him say, 'Jim... I knew you'd come'." The moving impact of this story within that detachment, unit or even the Army is unfathomable in its psychological import. The same spirit has been shown by the Indian Armed Forces in countless acts of similar valour and sacrifice, most recently in Galwan where the Commanding Officer went down fighting in hand-to-hand combat along with his troops. This unique Indian quality of "leading from the front" is unmatched for any fighting force in modern history, and the Indian soldier knows that everyone in the unit has "got his back" and they will "never leave anyone behind". Unlike the commercial/civilian domain, the conscript Indian Armed Forces have magnificently upheld the self-devised concept of "unlimited liability" towards the nation

and amongst itself. Even in death, the spirit of "leaving no man behind" is just as hallowed. Unbeknownst outside of the "uniformed" fraternity, it is suchlike traditions that make the Indian Armed Forces distinct from other "uniforms", be it in the police or Central Armed Police Forces that also face operational situations warranting such beliefs. While the exact details pertaining to the horrific Maoist attack in Chhattisgarh on the joint force of 2,000 security personnel, which led to 22 jawans getting martyred, are still a matter of conjecture and speculation, certain known details are disturbingly suggestive. Beyond rightful concerns on Intelligence, planning, tactics and so on, the fact that during the ambush, a sizeable number of the personnel escaped to camps and left behind the wounded, dead and caught alive to fend for themselves is shockingly telling of a reality. Apparently, the bodies of the fallen soldiers, who were subsequently stripped of their weapons and wares by the insurgents, were re-

claimed the next day. Important to reiterate that the recruitment area and demographic profile of the soldiers, be it in the Armed Forces or the policing realms, are common — the difference in cultural and instinctive patterns arises subsequent to joining the respective forces, and that has to do with the leadership, lack of regimentation and political interferences, in one force versus the other. The same family that sends one son to the Infantry unit may send another to a police force; however, owing to institutional moorings and leadership, the conduct of one "uniform" versus the other could differ in combat operations — and the blame should never be apportioned on the jawan. The sense of invaluable identity, "belonging" and purpose that accrues to a South Indian officer in a Sikh Regiment is inexplicably natural in an Infantry Regiment, which then seamlessly subsumes one's personal identity towards that of the regimental identity, values and traditions. For those intangible emotions of the paltan/regimental pride and dignity, the Indian Army soldier repeatedly fights to "the last man standing". Troves of policing reform reports are gathering dust as the institution suffers from the lack of political will to reform, as it potentially "frees" the force from political use/misuse. It is this cultural risk and infection that stares at even the Armed Forces should they too get politicised and exposed to societal morass, passions and divisions. The "uniform", irrespective of its denomination, military or police, must always believe that their institution will never leave anyone behind, fighting or dead. It's almost a blood promise, belief and practice that must never end, for as long as conflicts exist, the unsaid oath to each other must be sacred.

Lighting Lamps And Silent Prayers, Wishing The Journalist A Speedy Recovery



(A.O. Bureau) Pattamundai, Apr 27: Satyajit Sen A Young Journalist From Beltal Village In Pattamundai Block. He Works For A Private Tv Channel Name (Kanak News) in Bhubaneswar. For

The Past Seven Days, He Has Been Suffering From Covid-19 Disease And Is Being Treated at the Kar Hospital in Bhubaneswar. Entrepreneur Mr. Gudu Biswal as a Small Brother Of Satyajit He

Had Arranged the Program And Wished Him A Speedy Recovery and All The Journalists Of Pattamundai Jointly Donated Lamps To The Local Patitpaban Jagannath Temple in Pattamundai.

COVID case surge in Odisha triggers health infra boost in rural pockets

(A.O. Bureau) Sambalpur, Apr 27: Reeling under a steep spike in positive cases, the Sambalpur administration has reactivated the temporary medical centres (TMCs) and set up new Covid care centres (CCCs) across the district, especially in rural areas. So far, at least 31 cluster TMCs are ready for use in the district including nine in areas under Sambalpur Municipal Corporation (SMC), four each in Bamra and Jamankira, two each in Maneswar, Jujomura, Kuchinda, Rairakhol and Naktideul besides one each in Dhankauda, Rengali, Kuchinda and Rairakhol.

While the TMCs under SMC has 560 beds, the ones in blocks have a total bed strength of 616. This apart, the administration is also planning to set up more CCCs with oxygen facilities in the district. Last year, there was only one central CCC at Burla with a bed strength of 1000. However this year, the administration has already set up three CCCs including a 600-bed one in Burla and 50-bed centres each in Rairakhol and Kuchinda NACs. Sources said since the occupancy at CCCs is low, only 20 per cent of the beds in each centre has been equipped with oxygen facilities. As the occupancy increases, the num-



ber of oxygen beds will also hiked. Sambalpur Collector Shubham Saxena said, the administration is also planning to set up new CCCs in every block of the district. "We have already decided the locations while the logistics and equipment are ready. We

have designated authorised officers for each centre. If the situation demands, all the new CCCs can be made functional by next week. Once these are functional, the district will have around 14 CCCs with a total bed strength of 2,500," he

added. Besides, while the existing Covid hospital at VIMSAR, Burla has already started functioning with an increased bed strength of 225, the new 300-bed Covid facility on its premises will also be ready by next week.

Vedanta supports four district schools under Odisha Government's Mo School Abhiyaan

(A.O. Bureau) Jharsuguda, Apr 27: Vedanta, India's largest producer of aluminium and value-added products, supports four schools of the Jharsuguda district through the Mo School Abhiyaan, an initiative by the Government of Odisha under its School & Mass Education Department. The company has contributed a sum of INR 80 lakhs to the revamping of government high schools including P.S. High School, Kolabira, C.D.B. Nodal High School, Parmanpur, B.D. High School, Baghmara and G.P. Nodal High School, Samasingha located in the Kolabira Block. Stated high schools will be preferred with INR 20 lakhs each to build infrastructure to the level of having features like a smart classroom, e-library, ICT Lab, playing ground and garden etc. Additionally, as per the Mo School Abhiyaan framework, the contribution made by Vedanta will be matched, twice over, by the CSR Pool of the State Mo School Abhiyaan Sangathan that will speed up the development of infrastructure at the schools. Speaking about the company's contribution, Mr. CN Singh, CEO - Vedanta Ltd., Jharsuguda, said, "Vedanta is committed to the development of children in India. With our interventions in the field of

quality education at the grassroots level, we strive to transform the socio-economic fabric of the region. Through our various educational initiatives, we aim to groom school children by providing them with an inclusive, healthy and creative environment to be suc-

cessful citizens who will shape the emergence of a progressive and cosmopolitan state. We will provide our full support to the Odisha Government's Mo School Abhiyaan, a robust approach towards building a brighter future for the state and its people." Shri. Saroj Kumar Samal, District Magistrate & Collector, Jharsuguda, appreciated the company's support saying, "I welcome Vedanta's contribution to Mo School Abhiyaan that aims to revamp the government and government-aided schools in Odisha. The company has taken several initiatives to help students in the community embark on

their journey towards an enriching career. I am sure that Vedanta will continue to take more such initiatives in shaping Odisha as a developed, progressive and cosmopolitan state." Smt. Kalpana Panda, District Education Officer, Jharsuguda, said, "Mo

strengthen the education standard of secondary school students residing in core villages. DAV Scholarship support Program for Project Affected Families offers financial assistance and scholarship support to the meritorious children to ensure the mainstreaming of children in the English Medium education system. Running in five Government-run schools of Jharsuguda city partnering district administration, Vedanta's Mini Science Centres were facilitated through expertise roped in partnering STEM Learning Pvt. Ltd. intending to encourage scientific temper and learning in children of the schools. Vedanta's Village Computer Literacy Program under which the company runs a basic computer literacy program in two government schools and also a certificate program for adolescent girls in the community is helping students learn 21st-century skills and bridge the digital di-

Mourning at the behest of Surajmal College staff



(A.O. Bureau) Rengali, Apr 27: A mourning ceremony has been held on the campus of Nisheshwar Patel, a staff member of Surajmal College, Rengali Block, Sambalpur District,

over his death. The evening meeting was organized by the college on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Dr. Manoj Kumar Panda. Mr Patel died of a heart attack in Bimsa on the 22nd. He was a man of

action and philanthropy. The evening meeting was attended by Professor Naresh Chandra Agrawal and other faculty members who offered a 2 minute silent prayer for the well-being of Mr. Patel's soul.



cessful citizens who will shape the emergence of a progressive and cosmopolitan state. We will provide our full support to the Odisha Government's Mo School Abhiyaan, a robust approach towards building a brighter future for the state and its people." Shri. Saroj Kumar Samal, District Magistrate & Collector, Jharsuguda, appreciated the company's support saying, "I welcome Vedanta's contribution to Mo School Abhiyaan that aims to revamp the government and government-aided schools in Odisha. The company has taken several initiatives to help students in the community embark on

School Abhiyaan is going to be a big step towards the brighter future of the state and the contribution made by Vedanta will benefit the initiative greatly. Vedanta runs various educational projects to provide great support to students requiring grooming, extra guidance and financial assistance during their studies." Vedanta's educational interventions have nurtured and supported 5000 children in the region. Some of the company's best interventions and notable initiatives which enables the development of school children are: Vedanta Vidyarthi Vikas Yojana (VVVY) provides remedial coaching classes to

dren in the English Medium education system. Running in five Government-run schools of Jharsuguda city partnering district administration, Vedanta's Mini Science Centres were facilitated through expertise roped in partnering STEM Learning Pvt. Ltd. intending to encourage scientific temper and learning in children of the schools. Vedanta's Village Computer Literacy Program under which the company runs a basic computer literacy program in two government schools and also a certificate program for adolescent girls in the community is helping students learn 21st-century skills and bridge the digital di-

Villagers facing scarcity for drinking water officials are not cooperating

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Apr 27: Malkangiri an unfortunate incident was reported in Koimetta Gram panchayat under Malkangiri District Kalimela block. While the need for water to survive is paramount, the villagers are in need of drinking water. The village has more than 100 houses and a population of over 700. With a total of 5 tube wells, 3 tube wells have iron-mixed water, while 2 tube wells do not have enough drinking water, so there is no thirst for more than 700 villagers. There was a water tank and a pump house by GGY scheme. Due to some simple issues the project is defunct also by non-cooperation by the government officers.. Era Madkani, a former sarpanch, complained that the water supply was not



available even after three long years due to minor faults. Junior Engineer and P.E.O who were repeatedly contacted about the problem, found nothing but reassurance. Contacting the distribution of this drinking water, Mr. JE told we handed over to PEO and the maintenance is their duty the panchayat officer to address the technical problem. "After contacting the Panchayat Officer (PEO),

he informed us about the incident and has not given us a official order or letter from the day the project was completed. Innocent villagers are suffering from the current drought due to the dumping of mud on each other. Some villagers of the village Rajkishore Madhi, Arjun Kabasi, Shukra Padiami, Unga Padiami, Jagbandhu Padiami and jatish Madkani have complained about this.

Refused vehicle, woman walks with son's body in Odisha

(A.O. Bureau) Dhenkanal, Apr 27: In a heart-wrenching incident, a woman had to carry the body of her five-year-old son on her shoulder for one and a half km after the kid succumbed at the district headquarters hospital (DHH) as the hospital staff allegedly refused to arrange a vehicle to transport the body to her village, on Monday. A native of Bhapur village, which is 18 km from Dhenkanal town, Kamali Dehury admitted her son to the paediatric ward at the DHH at around

1 pm on the day. While details of the child's condition is not clear, sources said he was critical and doctors had referred him to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. But the child succumbed before he could be shifted. Kamali alleged that when she approached hospital staff for assistance to help carry the body to the village, they said no vehicle was available. Denied help, Kamali decided to carry the body walking all the way as private vehicles charge exorbitantly to go to Bhapur. However, some

members of the Marwari Manch and a local social worker came forward to help and donated Rs 3,000 and Rs 2,000 respectively to make necessary arrangements. On the other hand, chief district medical and public health officer (CDM-PHO) Dr Sujatarani Mishra said though the process was delayed, the health administration had arranged a vehicle but the woman left before that while giving a written undertaking that she will make her own arrangements to carry the body.

29 more corona patients have been identified in Malkangiri district

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Apr 27: The number of patients undergoing treatment has increased to 160. In Malkangiri district, the number of corona patients is slowly increasing. The number of people diagnosed with coronary heart disease in the district has risen to 29 per day. Gradually increased to 160! According to reports, 6 people in Malkangiri municipality are infected with the Karona virus

today! In the Balimela advertised area, 4 patients have been diagnosed with coronary heart disease, 1 in Ward 4, 1 in 10 No ward and 2 in Ward 14 in ward No 19 1 person found positive. In Balimela NAC 4 person found positive. Similarly, 5 corona patients have been identified in Malkangiri block, 2 in Gangla panchayat, 2 in Udupa panchayat and one in Malkangiri block! One block employee has



been sent for treatment in Bhubaneswar! Two corona patients have been identified in Chatrakonda Panchayat! 3 in Maithili

Panchayat and Kudumulu gumma. One Karona warrior is infected! Out of three infections in Padi block, 2 have been identified in

Tandabai panchayat and one in Tandapalli panchayat! In Malkangiri district, the total number of coronary heart disease patients was 5,457, while a total of 5,271 coronary patients recovered and 25 people have died so far. To Malkangiri municipality and Balimela NAC area. Night curfew is in effect from 6pm to 5am on the other 5 days while the shutdown are being taken on Saturdays and Sundays!

Kathmandu Connection review: Amit Sial-starrer reaches the finishing line, but half-heartedly



New Delhi, Apr 27: Kathmandu Connection tries hard but falls short of being entertaining. The SonyLIV show fails to strike that perfect balance that makes the show special, particularly when the story starts to look like a mix of Manoj Bajpayee's The Family Man and Kay Kay Menon's Special Ops. The comparisons are unfair, but inevitable. An overzealous police officer Samarth Kaushik, played by Amit Sial, along with his associate Mishra (Anuraag Arora) is out

to nab the gangsters responsible for a hotelier's kidnapping. In another part of the country, a CBI officer Ritesh Agarwal (Gopal Dutt) is investigating the murder of a colleague. Also, a primetime news anchor, Shivani Bhatnagar is being stalked and getting blank calls. The web series blends all three events as we are told that there is a common connection in a casino in Kathmandu, which is run by Sunny, who is the aide of Dawood Ibrahim's henchman

and politician Mirza Baig. But the time writer Siddharth Mishra takes to place all the characters and connections together gets tedious. A shorter introduction to the lead characters and their family life might have helped maintain intrigue. Instead, it consumes three-and-a-half episodes in a six-episode series, leaving the show grasping for life. However, when it does get to point, it soon digresses into attention-grabbing. The unexpected turns in the narrative change not

only changes the pace, but also the genre of the web series — from a spy thriller to a revenge thriller. Amit Sial, with his grounded performance, anchors this unsteady show. His character looks like an amalgamation of Kay Kay Menon's Himmat Singh, a RAW agent in Disney Plus Hotstar's Special Ops, whose only motive was to nab the mastermind of the terror attack on the Indian Parliament, and Manoj Bajpayee's Srikant Tiwary, who was an underpaid and overworked government agent with no life and work balance, in The Family Man on Amazon Prime. Sial's Samarth Kaushik is after antagonist Sunny and is ready to go to any length to get hold of him, even if that means being suspended. He chooses his professional responsibilities over his family duties, leaving him distant from his wife and daughter.

Besides Sial, actors Anuraag Arora, Gopal Dutt and Aksha Pardasany did a good job too. The background score by Sneha Khanwalkar helps a great deal in building the narrative of the concluding two episodes. Also, kudos to director Sachin Pathak for paying attention to detail when it comes to getting the setting right, for example, the absence of mobile phones in the early 1990s, the costumes of the news anchor Shivani and the cars in which the principal characters travel. Shorter episodes and a little more thought into making this spy-cum-revenge thriller different from the already existing great shows like Special Ops and The Family Man would have made Kathmandu Connection a sure shot winner for SonyLIV. For now, it is watchable, just that it takes a while to get there.

Game of Thrones prequel House of the Dragon starts production

New Delhi, Apr 27: The Game of Thrones prequel series titled House of the Dragon is officially in production. The upcoming series will premiere in 2022. The time of the Targaryens is coming! The Game of Thrones prequel series titled House of the Dragon is officially in production. HBO announced on Twitter on Monday that House of the Dragon has begun filming in the UK and released the behind-the-scenes photos of a socially distanced table read. To further excite fans, the Twitter account also shared a closer look at the star cast of the series. First up, and the most notable name in the cast, is former The Crown star Matt Smith. Per the social media update, Smith will play Prince Daemon Targaryen. Rounding out House Targaryen is Emma D'Arcy as Princess Rhaenyra Targaryen and Paddy Considine as

King Viserys. There's also Steve Toussaint, who will play a character called The Sea Snake. House Hightower will also be represented in the new series with Olivia Cooke playing Alicent Hightower and Rhys Ifans playing Otto Hightower. Other cast members not photographed include Eve Best as Princess

upcoming series will focus on a civil war that threatened to tear apart the powerful House Targaryen. Will this shed some light on the Targaryens' motto, Fire and Blood? We hope so. The drama is from co-showrunners Ryan Condal and Miguel Sapochnik and executive producer and saga author George R.R. Martin. The update re-



Rhaenyra Velaryon, Sonoya Mizuno as Mysaria, and Fabien Frankel as Ser Criston Cole. As per E! News, the highly-anticipated series, which takes place 300 years before the famed GOT series, follows the forefathers of Daenerys Targaryen (Emilia Clarke). The

garding the show starting production comes over a week after GOT celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the premiere. All month long, HBO commemorated the milestone with "maraThrones." The House of the Dragon is just one of several GOT spinoffs in the works.

Indian Idol 12, Dance Deewane 3, Wagle Ki Duniya are shooting during Maharashtra curfew

Mumbai, Apr 27: While the Indian Idol 12 team is shooting in a studio in Daman, the Dance Deewane 3 team has flown to Bangalore. The Wagle Ki Duniya team, meanwhile, is working from a resort in Silvassa. As a part of statewide restrictions to curb the spread of coronavirus, Maharashtra had earlier this month suspended the shooting of films and shows till April 30. Following the announcement, most fiction shows shifted base to other cities to churn out

grim situation, there was still no clarity if shoots would be allowed from next week. And hence their teams did a fast reece and figured out a studio for the shoot. Interestingly, both shows will see a change in the judges' panel. As Neha Kakkar, Himesh Reshammiya and Vishal Dadlani could not join the shoot in Daman, Anu Malik and lyricist Manoj Muntashir will be present as special guests. Aditya Narayan, who recently recovered from Covid-19, will be

and once the Maharashtra government clarifies the shooting norms, the team would be back in Mumbai," added the source. Also, Wagle Ki Duniya, which was re-airing old episodes, is back on the floors. The team has relocated to a resort in Silvassa and will be filming episodes from there. Producer JD Majethia shared that the storyline will revolve around the Wagle family and neighbours getting stuck in a lockdown-like situation while out for a mini-vaca-



new episodes. And now reality shows Indian Idol 12 and Dance Deewane 3 have also flown their team to Daman and Bangalore, respectively, to shoot upcoming episodes. A source shared with indianexpress.com that the makers of Indian Idol 12 and Dance Deewane had episodes for two weeks, and were toying with the idea of re-airing for a week. However, given the

back to host the show. On the other hand, Madhuri Dixit excused herself from travelling to Bangalore with the Dance Deewane 3 team. In her place, Nora Fatehi will join judges Tushar Kalia and Dharmesh Yelande. And as host Raghav Juyal is recovering from Covid-19, Bharti Singh and Haash Limbachiya will take charge as hosts. "It's a temporary shift as of now,

tion and how they cope up with the challenges. Earlier, shows like Kumkum Bhagya, Kundali Bhagya, Aap Ki Nazron Ne Samjha, Mollki shifted to Goa to shoot episodes. While Imlie and Mehndi Hai Rachne Wali are being shot in Hyderabad, the team behind Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai, Anupamaa and Pratiga are working from Silvassa.

Rhea Chakraborty goes to Hyderabad to look for work as Bollywood offers scarce

Hyderabad, Apr 27: Actor Rhea Chakraborty is reportedly looking for work in Hyderabad. The actor recently returned from Hyderabad to Mumbai. "The multiple events of the last year took a massive toll on Rhea. It has taken her a humongous amount of effort to try starting all over again. She has been knocking every door she can, asking for work, trying to get her life back to normal," a source said indicating that offers from Bollywood were scarce. The actor is yet to confirm her next project. "This is not going to be an easy task for Rhea but she needs to do this to move on and start her life again, from scratch," the source adds. Rhea was arrested last year in a drug case related to actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death. Prior to



that, she was the target of a long public and media trial after Sushant's death, whom she was dating at that time. The actor, who has started sharing posts on social media after a long radio silence, dropped a picture of Hanuman chalisa book on her Instagram profile. "Give us the power to fight this

storm, Give us the strength to withstand this misery. Give us your blessings to heal. Jai Bajrangbali," she wrote. The post comes after she praised Covid-19 warriors and frontline workers on Instagram. On Monday, the actor shared an Instagram story that read, "Grateful to the

Covid warriors (frontline workers) who are saving our beloved city! #Heroes Be safe, be kind. United we stand. Love and strength to all of us! May God bless us." Her latest post came after she dropped a picture with a hashtag that read, "Keeping the faith." The photo had

the actor reading Rabindranath Tagore's Gitanjali. Apart from Rhea, Kartik Aaryan also dedicated a post to frontline workers. He shared a picture of Lord Hanuman holding oxygen cylinder with a caption that read, "This is for all the covid warriors risking their own lives to save others."

Ayushmann Khurrana, Tahira Kashyap donate to the Maharashtra CM relief fund

Mumbai, Apr 27: Ayushmann Khurrana on Tuesday shared that he and wife Tahira Kashyap have contributed to the Maharashtra chief minister's relief fund in a bid to support the fight against Covid-19. The ac-

tor thanked people for stepping forward 'to do as much as possible for each other'. The Article 15 actor shared how the current times have taught us to stand in solidarity with each other. "We have been in the eye of the storm since last

year. This pandemic has broken our hearts, made us endure pain and suffering like never before, showed us how solidarity with one another can make us handle this humanitarian crisis," he wrote adding that the pandemic has once

again asked us 'to show fortitude, resilience and mutual support'. The actor went on to thank people who have been actively amplifying resources and pleas on social media and off it. "People, across India, have stepped forward to do as much as possible for each other and Tahira and I thank each and every individual who have inspired us to do more." Ayushmann Khurrana further shared that while they have been constantly doing their bit, it was time to come together as a community and care for each other. "We have been constantly doing our bit to help as many people as possible and have now contributed to the Maharashtra

Chief Minister's Relief Fund in this hour of need. This is the time when we should come together as a community and care for each other. People need as much help as possible and we can all look to do our bit as we deem fit." Before Ayushmann and Tahira, Akshay Kumar had donated Rs 1 crore to Gautam Gambhir Foundation. Apart from monetary help, many celebrities like Tapsee Pannu, Sonu Sood, Bhumi Pednekar, Alia Bhatt have joined the online Covid warrior force and are supporting communities and individuals to aid patients source hospital beds, medicines, plasma and oxygen across the country.



We'll ensure you reach home seamlessly: BCCI assures foreign players at IPL

New Delhi, Apr 27: The BCCI on Tuesday said it would do everything to ensure that foreign players competing in the IPL reach their respective countries seamlessly once the tournament ends, a day after three Australians quit the event amid an upsurge of COVID-19 cases in India. Andrew Tye (Rajasthan Royals) and the duo of Kane Richardson and Adam Zampa (both Royal Challengers Bangalore) withdrew as apprehension set in after a couple of weeks went by smoothly for the league held in front of empty stands across six venues. "We understand that many of you are apprehensive about how you will get back home once the tournament concludes... We want to apprise you that you have nothing to worry about," BCCI COO Hemang Amin said in a letter addressed to the players.



"The BCCI will do everything to ensure that you reach your respective destinations seamlessly. The BCCI is monitoring the situation very closely and is working with the government authorities to get you home once the tournament concludes. "Be rest assured that the tournament is not over for BCCI till each one of you has reached your home, safe and sound,"

he added. India is recording over 3 lakh daily cases for the past few days and the health infrastructure is struggling to handle the rise with shortage of oxygen and some crucial medicines adding to the crisis. Australia on Tuesday suspended all direct passenger flights from India with immediate effect until May 15 due to the "very significant" spike in COVID-19 cases. Kolkata Knight

Riders mentor David Hussey acknowledged that Australians in the IPL are a "bit nervous" about getting back home in the wake of the situation here. Amin lauded the players for carrying on. "As some of you have said, 'if we can help distract people from all the troubles of recent times, even if it is for a short while, we have done a great job'. When you all walk out onto the field, you are bringing hope to

millions of people who have tuned in. "If, even for a minute, you can bring a smile on someone's face, then you have done well. While you are professionals and will play to win, this time you are also playing for something much more important," he concluded. Several England and New Zealand players are also competing in the event but haven't yet spoken about their concerns. The IPL final is scheduled to be held on May 30 in Ahmedabad. As many as 14 Australian players remain in the event, including stars such as Steve Smith (DC), David Warner (SunRisers Hyderabad) and Pat Cummins (Kolkata Knight Riders), as well as coaches Ricky Ponting (DC) and Simon Katich (RCB). Commentators Matthew Hayden, Brett Lee, Michael Slater and Lisa Stahlekar are also among the Australians involved with the league right now.

Warner, Smith To Leave IPL!

New Delhi, Apr 27: Any top Australian cricketers, including David Warner and Steve Smith, may soon return to Australia from India. All eyes are on the Cabinet's National Security Committee meeting to be held on Tuesday, in which it will be decided whether to reduce the operation of aircraft from India or to impose a complete ban on it. According to a 9 News report, several leading Australian cricketers, including David Warner and Steve Smith, are now expected to be out of India in India before the border closes. Warner is leading the Sunrisers Hyderabad while Steve Smith is playing for the Delhi Capitals. The report says that there are 30 of our players, coaches and commentators, who are naturally eager to get out of India. In view of the deteriorating situation, he is facing the right situation for the whole country in terms of health. 17 Australian players were participating in the

Indian Premier League. Three of which – Adam Jampa, Ken Richardson (both Royal Challengers Bangalore) and Andrew Tye (Rajasthan Royals) have already returned home. Ty told that he does not want to go out of the country. Ricky Ponting (Delhi Capitals), David Hussey (Kolkata Knight Riders) and Simon Katich (Royal Challengers Bangalore) as well as commentators Brett Lee, Michael Slater and Matthew Hayden are also in India. The report said that talks are on to bring the players back by chartered plane. The 9 News report claimed that negotiations are going on and a suggestion for this has been 'closed' but nothing has been finalized. At the same time, Cricket Australia said that there is no chartered plan for the players at this point. The second option is being discussed. Quarantine may occur in a third country before reaching Australia.



RCB Look To Bounce Back Against Delhi Capitals



New Delhi, Apr 27 :Forgetting the defeat of the previous match, Virat Kohli's Royal Challengers Bangalore return to victory against Delhi Capitals on Tuesday (April 27) in a tie against the IPL (IPL 2021). Will come with the intention of RCB were defeated by Chennai Super Kings by 69 runs in the previous match. On the other hand, Delhi beat Sunrisers Hyderabad in a super over on Sunday night. RCB will have to overcome their weaknesses in the middle overs against Delhi Capitals. In-form openers for RCB, Devdutt Padikkal (171 runs) and Kohli (151 runs) have given a great start. However, both could not get support from the middle order. Glenn Maxwell (198 runs), AB de Villiers (129) and Washington Sundar (25 runs) will have to do well against Delhi's strong bowling attack. Australia's expensive player Maxwell proved his value to be good in some matches RCB will also have to forget Harshal Patel's dhumai in the last over in the match against Chennai. Ravindra Jadeja changed the map of the match by scoring 37 runs in his last over, while Harshal has been the most successful bowler of RCB before this. Fast bowlers Mohammad

Siraj and Kyle Jamieson will also have to do better, while spinners Yuzvendra Chahal and Sundar will be expected to bowl economically. RCB may field left-arm spinner Shahbaz Ahmed in place of Navdeep Saini or Dan Christian. hikhari Dhawan (259 runs), an opener for Delhi and the highest run-getter in the tournament, would like to maintain his form. Opener Prithvi Shaw (166 runs) will also try to play big innings. Delhi have a strong middle order, with skipper Rishabh Pant (125), Australia's Steve Smith, Marcus Stoinis and West Indies' Shimron Hetmyer who can be match-winners on their day off. Rishabh Pant and Steve Smith will have the responsibility to play the role of the innings. Delhi will miss the spinner R Ashwin, who has left the league to help his family battling Corona. Akshar Patel and Amit Mishra will have to make up their shortcomings. Akshar won by throwing a super over against the Sunrisers while Mishra made a brilliant performance against Mumbai. Fast bowler Avesh Khan has taken 11 wickets in five matches. The team management can also field Lalit Yadav, who can bat with off-spin.

Arrange flight to bring players home after IPL is over: Lynn to Cricket Australia

New Delhi, Apr 27: Mumbai Indians batsman Chris Lynn has requested Cricket Australia to arrange a chartered flight to take its players home from COVID-ravaged India after the IPL is over and revealed that his franchise will get all members of the team vaccinated next week. Three Australian players -- Andrew Tye, Kane Richardson and Adam Zampa -- have withdrawn from the league amid the escalating health crisis due to the pandemic's second wave in the country. On Monday, Cricket Australia had enquired about the health and travel plans of the IPL players. "I texted back that as Cricket Australia make 10 per cent of every IPL contract was



there a chance we could spend that money this year on a charter flight once the tournament is over?" Lynn told News Corp media. The league matches will end on May 23, followed by the qualifiers (May 25, 28) and eliminator (May 26) and the final (May 30) -- all scheduled to be held in Ahmedabad.

"I know there are people worse off than us. But we are going from a really tight bubble and are getting vaccinated next week so hopefully the government will let us get home on a private charter. "We are not asking for shortcuts and we signed up knowing the risks. But it would be great to

get home as soon as the event is over." India will open vaccination for all above 18 from May 1 and the Reliance group, which owns Mumbai Indians, has already announced that it will facilitate vaccination of all its staff members and their dependent family members. As many as 14 Australian players still remain in the IPL, including Steve Smith (Delhi Capitals), David Warner (SunRisers Hyderabad) and Pat Cummins (Kolkata Knight Riders) as well as coach Ricky Ponting (DC) and Simon Katich (RCB). India is witnessing an unprecedented second wave of the pandemic with more than 3 lakh daily new cases being reported in the past few days, which has

crippled the country's health care system. "Obviously India is in chaos at the moment. But we are at least giving people something to smile about by playing the tournament," Lynn said. Mumbai Indians will take on Rajasthan Royals on Thursday at the Feroz Shah Kotla ground here. While some Australian players have returned home, their New Zealand counterparts have no such plans. "There's no doubt they're certainly anxious about what's happening in India and what they're witnessing," New Zealand Cricket Players Association chief executive Heath Mills said. "But they feel well looked after by their IPL franchises and safe in their bubbles."

Deepika-Atanu shoot triple Gold

Guatemala City, Apr 27: Indian archery's star couple Deepika Kumari and Atanu Das led the show with two individual Gold medals as the country capped its best ever performance in a World Cup, claiming three Golds and a Bronze in the tournament's first stage here. Former world number one Deepika claimed her career's third individual World Cup Gold to add to the team's triumph, while her husband Das grabbed his first ever World Cup individual medal in style winning the men's recurve individual final. The two are now



automatically qualified for this season's most-coveted Archery World Cup Final. "We travel together, train together, compete together and win together," Das, who got married to Deepika in June last year after a two-year courtship, said after claiming the Gold medal on Sunday. "She knows what I like, and I know what she likes." This was the best ever World Cup finish by India's recurve archers with two individual and one team Gold medals in their return to the top International calendar year event after almost two years.

Andrew Tye wonders how IPL franchises 'spending so much' amidst COVID-19 crisis

Melborne, Apr 27: The 34-year-old Tye left the Indian Premier League on Sunday as he feared getting "locked out" of his own country in the wake of a COVID-19 surge in India. Rajasthan Royals pacer Andrew Tye, who left for Australia midway the IPL in the

wake of COVID-19 surge in India, was critical of the franchises spending insane money on cricket at a time when their country is facing an unprecedented health crisis. Tye, however, said the league should go ahead if it was a means to relieving stress or giving

ing a glimmer of hope to those who are suffering due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "Looking at it from an Indian point of view, how are these companies and franchises spending so much money, and the government, on the IPL when there's people not being



able to get accepted into hospital? "If sport can

continue and be one of those avenues to relieve

stress or give a glimmer of hope that the world is OK and there is light at the end of the tunnel, I think it should go ahead," Tye was quoted as saying by cricket.com.au. "But I know that's not everyone's feelings and I completely respect everyone's views from all

angles." He said players (in the IPL) are safe now but at the same time asked "if it's going to stay safe". "There was a number of reasons, but the main one was with the situation that has started to happen back home in Perth with a lot of cases in hotel quarantine coming out of

India," Tye told 'SEN radio' from Doha on Monday. However, not all Australians are very concerned. Pacer Nathan Coulter-Nile, who has a Rs 5 crore deal with Mumbai Indians would rather be in the bio-bubble than risk a trip back home at this point.

Tata Steel initiates several measures to tackle second wave of Covid-19 pandemic

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 27: With the second wave of Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19) engulfing the entire country and surging fast, Tata Steel has accorded top priority to health and safety of its employees, stakeholders and the communities in which it operates. As a responsible corporate, it has put in place several measures to deal with the situation. Various measures and protocols, including vaccination efforts to mitigate the risk to its employees across all its operating locations as well as the communities around, have been stepped up. Since the beginning of the pandemic last year, Tata Steel has set up testing and working protocols in all its operating loca-



tions and plants. Tests are being carried out for its entire workforce at a pre-determined frequency, to isolate the individuals who get infected. Apart from implementation of Work From Home (WFH) and minimum travel, innovative social distancing protocol called the 'POD' concept have been put in place to ensure social distancing on shop floors and minimise exposure to risk cases. The health workers and front-line workers fighting Covid-

19 pandemic have been vaccinated since January 16 in all Company owned Hospitals at operating locations. The Company has also been purchasing vaccines from the Govt. since 1st March and vaccinating all its employees, families at its own hospitals in all operating locations as per the eligibility criteria set by Government of India. Besides, Tata Steel is tying up with various city hospitals in relevant geographies for wider and accelerated coverage while aggres-

sively pursuing vaccination at workplace. The Company is operating as per plan and aims to run its operations safely and efficiently. The workforce requirement is being reviewed and the deployment is being optimised to ensure safety. Responding to the National urgency, the Company is supplying 500-600 tons of Liquid Medical Oxygen daily to various States (Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Jharkhand,

Odisha, Bihar and West Bengal) and Hospitals through its manufacturing units in Jamshedpur, Kalinganagar and Dhenkanal. In Odisha, under the guidance of both Central and State governments and support from respective district administrations, Tata Steel's Plant at Kalinganagar in Jajpur district and Tata Steel BSL's Plant located in Dhenkanal are actively engaged in the efforts and on a daily basis oxygen from these plants are being dispatched to the designated States and locations. The well-equipped Tata Steel Medica Covid Hospital with ICU facility, located at Duburi in Jajpur district, is fully functional and caters to patients of Jajpur and nearby districts.



(A.O. Bureau) New Delhi, Apr 27: Gold-silver prices have dropped for the fourth consecutive day. Due to the strengthening of the rupee, the price of gold in the domestic market decreased on Wednesday. After this decline, the price of 10 grams of gold in the bullion market has fallen by Rs 440. In comparison to gold, the prices of silver have also been recorded. Today, the price of one kilogram of silver (Silver Prices) came to Rs 63,628. New Gold Price (Gold Rate on 27th April): Gold prices

have fallen for the fourth consecutive day. On Tuesday, gold in June futures fell by 0.04 percent in bullion market. After which the price of gold was Rs 47,445 per 10 grams. On the other hand, if we talk about the price of gold in the international market, then the spot gold fell 0.1% to \$ 1,777.93 an ounce. New Silver Price (Silver Rate on 27th April): Silver prices also declined compared to gold. Due to declining industrial demand, the price of one kilogram of silver fell from Rs 69,329 to Rs 68,623.

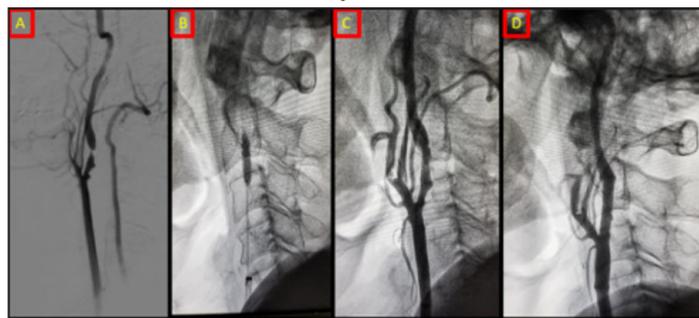
Adani Ports waives charges for ships carrying COVID equipment

(A.O. Bureau) Bhadrak, Apr 27: Adani Ports and SEZ (APSEZ), the nation's largest private sector operator of sea ports, has waived charges for ships exclusively carrying COVID-related equipment, and said such vessels will be given priority berthing. Adani's group has also secured about two dozen cryogenic tanks for transporting medical oxygen, from the UAE, Thailand and Saudi Arabia, it said in a series of tweets. India is faced with the world's largest surge in COVID-19 cases, straining its already stressed healthcare infrastructure. Hospitals have faced oxygen shortage, and the private sector has lent a helping hand to aid the government. Countries from the US to Australia pledged help for India as new infections topped 3 lakh for a sixth day. "In view of the requirement of oxygen and related equipment (medical grade oxygen,

oxygen tanks, oxygen bottles, portable oxygen generators, oxygen concentrators, steel pipes for manufacturing oxygen cylinders, etc.) it has been decided to give priority berthing to vessel carrying Covid-related cargo," APSEZ said on Twitter. Also, the ports operated by the firm "will not charge any storage or handling charges for these types of equipment, Covid-related cargo being handled in any mode of storage." "Additionally, the port will not charge any vessel-related charges for the vessels calling the port exclusively for Covid related equipment," it said. Stating that evacuation of such cargo will be given utmost priority, APSEZ asked all shipping lines and agencies to make a declaration of the subject cargo while declaring the vessel. These measures, it said, will become applicable with immediate effect and will be valid for a period of 3 months.

Apollo Hospitals reports first successful use of Intravascular Lithotripsy in India in treatment of severely calcified carotid artery stenosis

(A.O. Bureau) New Delhi, Apr 27: Apollo Hospitals today announced the first successful use of Intravascular Lithotripsy in India to treat a 75-year-old male patient with heavily calcified carotid artery lesions. The patient, who presented with recurrent CVA (cerebrovascular accident) or strokes, was successfully treated by transcatheter arterial revascularisation (TCAR) using Intravascular Lithotripsy (IVL). With only a few cases reported from USA and Italy using IVL to treat carotid artery stenosis or narrowing, the achievement by the team of doctors at Apollo Health City, Hyderabad of the first reported use of this technique in India is a milestone in carotid angioplasty and stenting procedures in the country. Dr. Sangita Reddy, Joint Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals Group said, "At Apollo Hospitals, we are always looking to set new standards of care with advanced medical technology that lets our doctors undertake challenging procedures safely and successfully. The first re-



ported use of IVL in India to treat calcified carotid artery lesions will enable us to treat patients who cannot go in for conventional procedures. It will decrease the risk of procedural complications, providing positive clinical outcomes with reduced risk of future adverse events. It is a testament to the dedication and skill of our doctors that they have continued to focus on treating and saving lives of patients with NCDs even during the pandemic." Dr. P C Rath, Sr. Consultant Cardiologist & Director, Cath Lab & Interventional Cardiology, Apollo Health City, Hyderabad said, "The patient presented with recurrent strokes. Upon evaluation, he was found to have a critical stenosis involving the right internal carotid artery. There was

also significant calcification of the vessel and a 180o arc of deep wall calcium. This required urgent intervention to open up the vessel since carotid artery stenosis (CAS) is responsible for around 30% of ischemic strokes. The conventional treatment option of carotid endarterectomy, that is, surgical approach to remove plaque from the artery was not recommended due to advanced age and comorbidities that included hypertension and a prior CABG (coronary artery bypass graft surgery). A direct stent implant through the minimally invasivetransfemoral ca-

rotid artery stenting was also not advisable due to the severely calcified plaque that would prevent proper stent expansion with sub-optimal dilatation of the artery. It was decided to proceed with Intravascular Lithotripsy that combines the calcium-disrupting potential of lithotripsy with the expertise that we hold in use of balloon catheters." Intravascular Lithotripsy (IVL) works through generating sonic waves, which are sonic pressure waves. This is a novel use of the concept of lithotripsy, that has been safely used for decades to treat kidney stones by

safely breaking up the stones. The sonic waves in IVL pass through the soft tissues of the arterial wall lining, and the pulsatile energy safely disrupts the calcium in the plaques, creating micro-fractures in the calcium. The broken-up calcium allows expansion of the artery at low pressure thus permitting the safe implantation of a stent with minimal trauma to normal arterial tissue and improving the blood flow. The procedure is safer as the calcium fragments resulting from the IVL therapy remain in situ, with a reduced likelihood of breaking off and embolising. Dr. P C Rath added, "A new tool called Shockwave intravascular lithotripsy that has been recently approved for the treatment of heavily calcified lesions in coronary and lower limb arteries was used to treat the heavy calcification in the carotid artery."

Stellantis Announces Key Leadership Appointments for India & Asia Pacific Region

(A.O. Bureau) Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Apr 27: Stellantis India & Asia Pacific has today announced key leadership appointments for its operations both within India and the region. Mr. Roland Bouchara, has been appointed to the role of CEO & Managing Director for Stellantis in India with full responsibility for the Jeep and Citroën national sales companies (NSCs), coupled with the Group's manufacturing



operations. Since 2017, Roland has successfully led the Citroën India operations in his capacity as Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing for

the brand. This included end-to-end execution of the recent launch of the Citroën Brand and its first product in India - the new Citroën C5 Aircross.

PANCHAYAT SAMITI, MALKANGIRI

Advertisement No.: 01/IX-01/2021-Dev. Dated the 27th April 2021

Sealed Tenders are invited from the intending Bidders to quote their rate for the following projects under Scheme : NHM Grant 2020-21. The interested bidders may submit the tender documents complete in all respect along with Paper Cost (Non-Refundable) and other requisite documents on or before 07.05.2021 up to 1.00 P.M. addressing to the Block Development Officer, Malkangiri, Po/Dist.: Malkangiri, Pin-764045 by Registered Post/ Speed Post only.

The other details like Terms & Conditions, general instructions for the Bidders etc. are available in the District Website: www.malkangiri.nic.in.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Scheme	Estimated Cost in Rs. (In Lakh)	Tender Value put to tender in Rs. (in Lakh)	Coass of Contractor	Cost of Tender Paper	EMD 1% (in Rs.)	Time of Completion in calendar months
1	Construction of Ward at PHC (W) Biralaxmanpur	NHM 2020-21	25.00	18,10,130.00	"C" & "D"	6,000/-	18,200.00	6 (Six) Months

Sd/- Block Development Officer
Malkangiri

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, BUGUDA, GANJAM

Bid Notice No. 01 TENDER CALL NOTICE Date : 26.04.2021

The Block Development Officer, Buguda invites sealed tenders on percentage basis for construction of following work as per details mentioned below during 2020-21 from the intending contractors registered with state PWD or equivalent class of CPWD/Railway/MES/ Central Govt /State Govt. Undertaking the following works to be eventually drawn up in the present rate contractor from (P-1) for execution of the civil works on production of definite group from the appropriate authority in the prescribed form. The bidder may submit bids in shape of Register Post/Speed Post or through special messenger for the said purpose against the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approximate estimate cost in Rs.	EMD in RS	Eligibility of Contractor	Time of Completion	Cost of tender paper (Non Refundable)
1	Construction of New Sub-Centre at Kankuturu of Sankuru	2368070.00	23681.00	B&C	6 months	Rs. 6000+ 12 %GST
2	Construction of Labour Room at PHC(N) Maniara	1918714.00	19187.00	B&C	6 months	Rs. 6000+ 12 %GST

PERIOD OF COMPLETION OF WORK MENTIONED IN TENDER CALL NOTICE
Date of sale of Tender Paper: 28.04.2021 to 10.05.2021 (working days from 7.00 A.M to 11.00 A.M)
Last date of submission of Tender Paper: 10.05.2021 (Up to 1.00 P.M) Date of opening tender: 11.05.2021 at 11.30 A.M
Please Visit our District Administration website: www.ganjam.nic.in for more detail of Term & Condition for tender call notice.

Sd/-Block Development officer, Buguda, Ganjam