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PM reviews Covid related situation in a meeting with empowered groups

New Delhi, Apr 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting to review the functioning of different empowered groups through video conference. The Empowered Group on Economic and Welfare measures made a presentation to PM on steps taken such as extension of PM Garib Kalyan



Anna Yojana. It was discussed that portability enabled due to One Nation One Ration Card initiative has helped to benefit more people. Insurance scheme for frontline health workers has been extended for another 6 months. PM directed Central Government should work in close co-ordination with the states to ensure

that the poor get the benefits of free food-grain without any issues. PM also said that steps should be taken to expedite the settlement of pending Insurance claims so that the dependents of the deceased are able to avail of benefits in time. The Empowered Group on issues relating to facilitating supply

tor, NGOs & International Organizations briefed the PM on how Government is working in active partnership with private sector, NGOs & International Organisations. PM asked the officials to explore how volunteers from civil society can be utilised to lessen the pressure on healthcare sector by

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik sanctions Rs 10cr to BMC for Covid Management



Bhubaneswar, Apr 30: In view of surge in Covid cases in Bhubaneswar, Chief minister Naveen Patnaik sanctioned Rs 10 Crore to Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation out of CMRF for Covid management in the state capital today. Along with that, the Chief Minister

also announced that beneficiaries under State food security act will get additional 5kg of rice free of cost for the next two months. As many as 12 lakh beneficiaries across the state will be provided additional stock of rice by the state government.

Odisha receives first consignment of Covaxin for vaccination of 18-44 years age group

Bhubaneswar, Apr 30: Odisha today received 1.5 lakh doses of Covaxin as the first consignment for vaccination of 18-44 years age group. The vaccines will be administered in Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) limits from May 3 onwards. Though vaccination of 18-44 years age group was scheduled to begin on May 1, it will begin from May 3 due to weekend shutdown. Earlier Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has an-

nounced free vaccination for citizens above 18 years. Odisha has placed orders for 377 lakh doses of Covishield and 10.34 lakh doses of Covaxin for third phase vaccination. "Tomorrow, on 1st May, the State will have a trial, symbolic commencement of 18-44 years age-group vaccination, with vaccination of a token few beneficiaries, in view of the urban area lockdown," read a tweet of Health Department.

No Shortage of Oxygen, Remdesivir; Have Enough Beds & Ventilators: Odisha Govt

Bhubaneswar, Apr 30: There will be no shortage of Oxygen for the treatment of Covid-19 patients in Odisha, said additional chief secretary of health department, Pradipta Mohapatra on Friday. Briefing the media, Mohapatra said the daily oxygen consumption is 45 MT in the State. Directives have been issued to ensure that no oxygen cylinder remain empty in any hospital. Modalities have also been fixed to fill cylinder from nearest filler every day. "Apart from fulfilling the demand of our State, we are also supplying oxygen to nearly seven states by making green corridor.

When the demand will surge in our State, we will certainly meet our demand first," Mohapatra said. Speaking about media reports regarding shortage of Remdesivir, the ACS said, By tomorrow 21,000 more Remdesivir injections will arrive in the State. The reports regarding shortage of the injections are from private hospitals. "There are 8463 general beds in



"Odisha has sufficient stock of Remdesivir. Our daily consumption is 1200 injections, but we have a stock of 43,000 injections. the State of which 3791 are occupied by patients. Of the 2063 ICU/HDU beds, 1426 that means 69 per cent beds are occupied.

Free Laptop For +2 Students: Last Date Of Application Submission Extended



Bhubaneswar, Apr 30: The last date for submission of online application for DBT of cash in lieu of laptop to +2 pass out meritorious students has been extended till 15.05.2021. The Higher Education Department, Government of Odisha has been distributing free laptops to meritorious +2 pass out students since 2013. However, instead of distributing the laptops physically under "Biju Yuva Sashaktikaran Yojana", it has decided to

convert the scheme into a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) one with effect from the financial year 2020-21. As per the decision, Rs 30,000 will be transferred to the bank account of beneficiary student.

Shops, business establishments in Cuttack to remain shut from 2 pm to check Covid spread

Bhubaneswar, Apr 30: With the state government weighing various options for stricter containment measures amid a massive spike in coronavirus cases, community involvement seems to be taking precedence during the second wave of the Covid pandemic in Odisha. A day after the traders' community in Ganjam decided to close shops from 2 pm to 5 am for the next 10 days in urban areas of the district, different traders' associations and market committees in Cuttack on Friday announced that the business establishments in the Millennium city will remain open from 5 am to 2 pm from May 3 to 18. As per the decision taken at a meeting of different traders bodies, including Cuttack Chamber of Commerce, Malgondown, and



Chhatra Bazar traders associations, all shops and business establishments will remain closed from 2 pm to 5 am from May 3 in view of the surge in coronavirus infection. However, shops dealing with medicines, medical equipment, and surgical items will be excluded from the new regulation, which will remain in force for 15 days till May 18. General Secretary of Cuttack Chamber of Commerce Prafulla Kumar Chhatoi said all

the associations of traders and vendors have unanimously agreed to reduce the market timing to curb the spread of the virus. "The unprecedented surge in new cases forced us to convene an emergency meeting and decide to go for strict measures to keep ourselves and the community protected from the infection. All merchants and even make-shift vendors voluntarily came forward to close shops during afternoon and

evening," said Chhatoi. Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) lauded the decision of the traders' associations and urged the people of the city to support the initiative and abide by the new timing. "The vendors sou-moto decided to pull down shutters from 2 pm to 5 am. We hope this will help contain the spread of the infection," said CMC Commissioner Ananya Das. On April 26, merchants and vendors in nine

Odisha Seeks 25 Lakh Doses Of Covishield From Centre

Bhubaneswar, Apr 30: Amid suspension of COVID-19 vaccination drive in several districts of Odisha due to shortage of vaccine, Odisha Health Minister Naba Das today wrote to Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan urging the latter for supplying at least 25 lakh doses of Covishield vaccine to the state. "I reiterate my request to urgently supply at least 25 lakh doses of Covishield vaccine in a single lot as an emergency in order to enable us to ensure 2nd dose vaccination of people aged 45 years & above and to conduct sessions regularly across the state," wrote Das in the letter. "Till date (30.04.2021), Odisha has received 53,32,870 doses of Covishield vaccine and balance stock available in pipeline across the State is 1.06 lakh jabs (as on 29th April 2021). Between 20th to 29th April, the State has received only 2.9 lakh doses of Covishield in three allocations, which is very low in quantity for the State to conduct vaccination sessions smoothly," he said. "Due to such short supply, the vaccination sessions could not be conducted in more than 1100 session sites each day in the recent past and our daily achievement has

drastically declined. Till date, we have vaccinated 43,02,094 beneficiaries aged 45 years & above with 1st dose and 5,04,358 beneficiaries with 2nd dose. As on 29 April 2021,



7,52,590 beneficiaries aged 45 years & above are already due for 2nd dose Covishield, but due to erratic & inadequate supply, we could not vaccinate them in time," Das added.

Maharashtra records 62,919 fresh Covid-19 cases in 24 hours

Mumbai, Apr 30: Mumbai reported 3888 fresh Covid-19 infections and 89 deaths in the last 24 hours. The coronavirus disease (Covid-19) case tally in Maharashtra rose by 62,919 new cases in the last 24 hours, while 828 deaths pushed the toll to 68,813, according to the state health bulletin. The worst-hit state witnessed a fall of 3240 cases as on Thursday, 66,159 fresh cases were reported in the last 24 hours. The fatality count increased in the last one day, as Maharashtra reported 771 deaths from the virus on Thursday. However, of the 771 deaths,



383 took place in the last 48 hours and 165 occurred during the last week. The remaining 223 deaths happened in the period before the last week but were added to the death toll that was shown on Thursday as part of a

data reconciliation exercise. PTI quoted an official as explaining. Around 290,207 samples were tested to detect the virus in the last 24 hours, indicating an increase in testing by 1,994 as 288,213 samples were tested for

Covid-19 on Thursday. The total number of tests done so far by the state since the beginning of the pandemic now stands at 27,106,282, the health bulletin showed. Mumbai reported 3888 fresh Covid-19 infections and

89 deaths in the last 24 hours. Click here for complete coverage of Covid-19 On Thursday, Mumbai registered 4,192 new Covid-19 cases and 82 deaths in the last 24 hours. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) data showed testing of 38,848 samples on Thursday, while 43,525 samples were tested on Friday. The recovery rate in Mumbai currently stands at 88 per cent with a doubling rate of 87 days. The recovery rate in the state capital remained the same, but the doubling rate increased in the last 24 hours from 79 days on Thursday to 87 days on Friday.

India To Receive Sputnik V Vaccine Consignments From May 1

New Delhi, Apr 30: Amid the raging second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in India, the country will start receiving consignments of Russian Sputnik V vaccine doses from May 1 onwards. India is ex-

emergency use approval in India. According to the guidelines, the vaccine is indicated for active immunisation to prevent Covid-19 in individuals over 18 years of age and it needs to be stored at a temperature

Sputnik V will provide one more option to the country to boost its vaccination drive," Harshal R Salve, associate professor at the Centre for Community Medicine, AIIMS Delhi, had earlier told



Govt grants Emergency Financial Powers to Armed Forces to fight COVID-19 surge

New Delhi, Apr 30: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh invoked special provisions and granted Emergency Financial Powers to the Armed Forces to empower them and speed up their efforts in tide over the current COVID-19 situation in the country, on April 30, 2021. These powers will help Formation Commanders to establish and operate quarantine facilities/hospitals and undertake procurement/repair of



equipment/items/material stores, besides provisioning of various services and works required to support the ongoing effort against the pandemic. Under these

powers, Vice Chiefs of Armed Forces including Chief Of Integrated Defence Staff To The Chairman Chiefs Of Staff Committee (CISC) and Gen-

eral Officer Commanding-in-Chiefs (GOC-in-Cs) and equivalents of all three services have been given full powers, whereas Corps Commanders/Area Commanders have been delegated powers up to Rs 50 lakh per case and Division Commanders/Sub Area Commanders and equivalents have been delegated powers up to Rs 20 lakh per case. These powers have been devolved initially for a pe-

riod of three months from 1st May to 31st July 2021. These are in addition to the emergency powers delegated to the Medical Officers of the Armed Forces last week. The emergency powers were sanctioned to the Armed Forces last year too when the COVID-19 pandemic first broke out. This had helped the Armed Forces tackle the situation faster and in an effective manner.

pected to receive 5 million doses of the vaccine by June. According to media reports, around 150,000 to 200,000 doses of the vaccine will be delivered by early May and another 3 million doses by May end. After Covishield and Covaxin, Sputnik V, developed by Gamaleya National Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology in Moscow, is the third Covid-19 vaccine to get

of minus 18-degree Celsius in liquid form. However, it can be stored at 2-8-degree Celsius in its freeze-dried form in a conventional refrigerator, making it easier to transport and store. In a recent study, published in the journal The Lancet, the efficacy of Sputnik V was determined to be 91.6 per cent. "There is a need to generate evidence about its efficacy in the Indian population.

IANS. The vaccine should be administered in two doses of 0.5 ml each with an interval of 21 days. While speaking to IANS recently, N.K. Arora from the Indian Council of Medical Research said that the composition of the first dose will be different from the second dose and there should be at least a three to four weeks gap between the first and the second shot.

Earthquake of 3.2 magnitude hits Assam's Sonitpur again



New Delhi, Apr 30: An earthquake of 3.2 magnitude on the Richter scale was yet again reported from Assam's Sonitpur Friday evening, according to the data shared by the National Center for Seismology. This comes two days after a massive 6.7 magnitude tremor rocked Dhekiajuli town in the state's Sonitpur district on Wednesday morning injuring at least 10 people

and causing extensive damage to several houses and buildings. Earthquake of Magnitude:3.2, Occurred on 30-04-2021, 18:27:31 IST, Lat: 26.59 & Long: 92.39, Depth: 27 Km .Location: Sonitpur, Assam, India. Six aftershocks, of magnitude ranging from 3.2 to 4.7, occurred in the two-and-a-half hours following the main tremor. A total of 18 aftershocks hit the district and its nearby

areas on both sides of the Brahmaputra in central Assam, according to a PTI report. After senior minister Himanta Biswa Sarma posted on Twitter informing about the earthquake, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and assured all help from the Centre. Two persons died during the earthquake. The Assam State Disaster Management Authority said, "While no casualty resulting due to earthquake injuries reported but two persons (one each in Kamrup Metro and Nagaon districts) died due to shock /heart attack around the time of earthquake."

Severe strain, stressed healthcare system may explain Covid death surge, says Guleria

New Delhi, Apr 30: A more severe strain and people not finding hospital beds in an overwhelmed healthcare system have been cited as possible reasons by AIIMS chief Dr Randeep Guleria for the surge of deaths in the current Covid wave. Speaking to The Indian Express at a time when the country has been recording more than 3 lakh new infections for nine days straight, Dr Guleria said: "We are working on different strategies. First is to try to increase turnaround time in terms of triaging. So, if you have a patient who stabilises and the oxygen requirement is not there, then send him to the area with non-oxygen beds, but with close monitoring. There is one area where we are able to give high flow oxygen, but if the patient's requirement is less then he can be shifted to a low-flow oxygen area. Triaging is becoming important because that was not required in the past as cases gradually came up. The rise was slow in the first wave but it is vertical in the second wave. It's almost like a rocket. This is why the healthcare infrastructure is badly shaken; had this rise been at a slower rate, we would have been able to manage. The main issue is the rapidity with which the cases have increased, which has created the



shortage." On the surge in deaths, he said "There can be two or three reasons for the increase in the number of deaths. One is in absolute numbers. If the number of deaths is more and the percentage is less, then we need to have more data to see what is the percentage of death. Second, there is some data which has even emerged from the UK later on that possibly the UK strain was associated with higher mortality. It may be that the strain is also causing severe disease, and it's also possible that it is associated with higher mortality. Thirdly, since the number has increased so quickly and the healthcare system got strained, many patients are not able to find a bed and are availing treatment at home. By the time they come to the hospital, they are in bad shape and that is also having an effect on mortality." With experts claiming that the current surge could peak by mid-May, Dr Guleria

said it will depend on how the country breaks the chain of transmission. "People have done a lot of mathematical modelling predicting that by early next month or by the end of next month the peak would happen. So, I think somewhere next month we can start seeing a decline in the number of cases. A lot of this will depend on how we go about trying to break the chain of transmission. If we have an aggressive containment strategy and we are able to prevent transmission to some extent, we will be able to see the peak earlier and decline happening quickly. If that is not done, then we have a large susceptible population and therefore the peak may get delayed," he said. Amid debate over the need for a national lockdown, he said that focusing on aggressive containment strategy along with strict localised lockdowns can help bring down the number of cases. "It's a decision which has to be

taken by policy makers but definitely in areas where the positivity rate is high, we have to have a sort of a situation which is akin to lockdown. This is human to human virus spread, and what we are noticing is that despite all messaging and requests, people are still not following Covid-appropriate behaviour. This has to be done more aggressively in terms of enforcing it rather than requesting," Dr Guleria said. He also requested people not to panic and rush to hospitals if the situation can be managed at home: "We know that 85% of the people will have only mild illness. Right now, two things have happened — one is the panic reaction, everyone is running to the hospital even if the oxygen saturation is alright, worrying that it may fall and they may not get a bed. They want to get admitted early and block the bed, which is not required because the majority of people will be

come fine. Secondly, the feeling that there could be shortage of oxygen so there is hoarding of oxygen cylinders, which is also creating unnecessary shortage... We used to have Covid care centre, hospitals and then tertiary care hospitals. Now people are directly going to tertiary care hospitals from their home. That intermediary things have to be looked at, you may just need low flow oxygen and if we have areas which can provide that, then the strain on tertiary care hospitals and ICUs will be less and more sick patients can be managed there." He also suggested that people not start taking steroids at an early stage. "The treatment strategy has not changed much but what we have observed is that because of the panic reaction, people have started giving steroids early which are known to cause more harm. A lot of drugs are being misused and given to people which were not given in the past. If your saturation is not falling, and in the early stage of disease when there is viral replication, steroids are not given as they promote viral replication and cause further deterioration. This is being shown in studies as well in the UK. It showed higher worsening in people given steroids early," he said.

'Shooter Dadi' Chandro Tomar No More



Bhubaneswar, Apr 30: Hours after country lost popular news anchor Rohit Sardana to COVID-19, another veteran person succumbed to the virus today. Sharpshooter Chandro Tomar popularly known as

'Shooter Dadi' passed away due to COVID complications while under treatment on Friday. The octogenarian sharpshooter was admitted to ICU of a hospital in Meerut. She was undergoing treatment at the

hospital since April 26 after being tested positive for COVID-19. However, she lost the battle to the virus. Tomar had taken up shooting at the age of 60. She had won several medals in various tournaments.

Helping Hand: Good Samaritans ensure dignity to Covid victims in death

(A.O. Bureau) Sambalpur, Apr 30: At A time when families and relatives of Covid-19 victims are dreading to touch their last remains, social workers and volunteers have come forward to ensure that they are given a dignified cremation or burial. In Cuttack, 16 vol-

unteers of Sabitri Jana Seva Health Helpline have taken the responsibility of such funerals at the Satchaura crematorium. Ever since the second wave hit, the volunteers haven't taken a break. Most of them remain in the crematorium round the clock to cremate the victims whose bodies are being brought from different Covid hospitals. "Relatives of the victim do not enter the crematorium fearing the infection but we assure them that their family member gets a dignified farewell", said founder secretary of the organisation Bibhuti Kumar Ray, a para legal volunteer of Odisha State Legal Service Authority. From arranging firewood

to getting the paperwork done and lighting the pyre, the members do it all. During the first wave, the Cuttack Municipal Corporation had assigned the cremations job to the organisation which conducted funerals of 1,200 bodies as per Covid protocols at Khannagar, PPE kits", said Ray, who belongs to a slum at Sartol near Nuabazar. He had formed the organisation in 2006. He had been cremating unclaimed bodies in Cuttack since 2013 with the help of Commissionerate Police. "It is God's grace that none of us have been in-



unteers of Sabitri Jana Seva Health Helpline have taken the responsibility of such funerals at the Satchaura crematorium. Ever since the second wave hit, the volunteers haven't taken a break. Most of them remain in the crematorium round the clock to cremate the victims whose bodies are being brought from different Covid hospitals. "Relatives of the victim do not enter the crematorium fearing the infection but we assure them that their family member gets a dignified farewell", said founder secretary of the organisation Bibhuti Kumar Ray, a para legal volunteer of Odisha State Legal Service Authority. From arranging firewood

Kaliaboda and Satchaura crematoriums in the city from August 18 to December 31. This time, though, Covid bodies are being cremated only at Satchaura. This year, while 70 Covid infected bodies were cremated from January 1 to March 30, funerals of a whopping 204 such bodies have been done from April 1 to April 29. The volunteers do not back out from the job even if they are forced to do it without PPE kits many times. "Government provides Rs 4,800 towards cremation of Covid positive bodies. A majority of that money goes into buying firewood and other religious paraphernalia required in a funeral. There is no money left to buy

fectured so far. Despite the work that we do, the government does not consider us Covid warriors", he rued. Hundreds of miles away in Bargarh, volunteers of 'Sankalpa Parivar' have been doing this noble task since the first wave last year. In the last one year, they have performed funerals of 150 Covid victims of which 46 bodies have been cremated in April alone. Of the 70 members of the social organisation, 12 are actively involved in cremating bodies of Covid victims. The organisation had started working towards helping people from vulnerable backgrounds when the country went under the lockdown in March last year.

Dr. Sitakantha Dash Donates 25 Lakhs to Odisha CM's Relief Fund

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 30: Renowned Odia American Scientist, Entrepreneur and Philanthropist Dr. Sitakantha Dash has donated Rs. 25 Lakhs towards Odisha Chief Minister's Relief Fund to tackle Covid crisis in the state. Issuing a statement Chairman and Chancellor of Jagadguru Kripalu University, Dr. Dash hoped that his humble contribution will encourage, inspire and motivate other NRIs and NROs residing abroad to extend their help and support to rescue their motherland India and motherstate Odisha at this hour of catastrophic medical emergency arisen due to second spell of grave corona pandemic. On behalf of Dr. Dash, President of Jagadguru Kripalu University Trust Swami Mukundananda

and Registrar Madhu Sudan Mishra handed over the cheque amounting 25 Lakhs to Chief Secretary of Odisha Suresh Mohapatra at his Office at Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar. Dr. Dash pointed out that the immense hardships being faced by the people of India due to the current havoc created by virus has evoked deep sympathy across the Globe. He expressed satisfaction over Govt. Of Odisha's praiseworthy and timely action in providing medical care and initiating painstaking endeavours in minimising the spread of Corona. Stating that Odisha is passing through an unusual hardship period, Chief Patron of Newly Formed World Odisha society Dr. Dash appealed to Odia



Diaspora worldwide to come forward and fulfil their solemn duty in strengthening the hands of the State Government in handling the present calamity. A pioneer in ProBiotech innovations, Dr. Dash is the Founder of UAS Laboratories in Minneapolis, ProBiotic innovation Centre at South Dakota state University of U.S.A. and Dr.

S.K. Dash Probiotic Centre of excellence at IIT, Bhubaneswar. Chairman of Internationally acclaimed charitable Trust Dr. Dash Foundation, Dr. S.K. Dash has been instrumental in establishing and furthering numerous Philanthropic institutions and projects in Odisha. An ardent Devotee of Lord Jagannath, Dr. Dash has

been actively engaged in promoting Jagannath culture in India and abroad and had built USA's largest Hindu Temple in the state of Minnesota. Dr. S.K. Dash is also Director of Indian Association of Minnesota, Kalinga Hospital at Bhubaneswar and adjunct Professor in South Dakota state University of U.S.A.

Odisha: Beneficiaries To Get 5 Kg Additional Rice For Free



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 30: In view of the second wave of COVID-19 in Odisha. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today announced that Food Security Act beneficiaries

in the state will get additional 5 kg rice free of cost in May and June. The move of the state government will benefit around 12 lakh people. The state government will bear all expenses in this regard.

SOA Professor Honoured With Best Professor Award For 2021

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 30: Prof. Lala Behari Sukla, Director of the Bio-fuels and Bio-processing Research Center at Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) here, has been bestowed with the best professor of the year honour by Asian Education Awards (AEA) this year. The award was virtually presented to him recently in recognition of his continuing excellence in education. Prof. Sukla, who was recently named in the list of world's top two per cent scientists by Stanford University, USA, in the area of mining and metallurgy, earlier worked as

Chief Scientist and headed the Bio-resources Engineering Department at the CSIR-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology in Bhubaneswar. Credited with significant contribution for the development of microbiology in India, Prof. Sukla has been the recipient of several prestigious awards including the R.P. Das Memorial Award in hydrometallurgical engineering by the Indian Institute of Metals, Bhubaneswar Chapter in 2019, Global Education and Corporate Leadership Award in 2018 and Prof. S.R. Vyas Memorial Award by Association of Microbiologists of India in 2010.

Odisha government's 'flattening curve' claim jolts experts

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 30: Even as the Covid-19 re-curve is on an upward spiral with occasional drop in number of new cases over the last fortnight, and the test positivity rate has surpassed 15 per cent (pc), Odisha government's sudden claim that the graph has begun flattening left health experts perplexed. As the fresh cases dropped by around 16 pc a day after a record spike of 8,386 infections, Director of Medical Education and

health experts opined that when the curve is in ascending order and there is reverse migration from the worst hit states, it would be too early to say the graph is plateauing or the curve is flattening. Noted microbiologist and former member of ICMR Dr Tribhuban Mohan Mohapatra said this time the fight with Covid will be a long drawn affair as there is no lockdown or shutdown unlike previous year. "If you test less, detection of cases will be less. That does not mean

coastal districts, which have good communication facilities for shifting of patients, were affected. This time the backward districts have been affected more. Patients are being referred from Sundargarh, Nuapada and Kalahandi. Reactivation of Covid facilities on an urgent basis is the need of the hour. More challenging time is ahead," said a senior health official, requesting anonymity. Of the 6,998 new cases, Khurda district recorded the maximum 919, followed by Cuttack (517), Sundargarh (474), Nuapada (420), Jharsuguda (396), Bargarh (330), Angul (325), Sambalpur (323) and Mayurbhanj (308). Twelve more districts registered over 100 cases. The disease claimed 12 more lives, the highest single day spike in fatalities so far this year, taking the cumulative death toll to 2,029. Four deaths were registered in Khurda, two each in Puri and Rayagada, and one each in Angul, Cuttack, Keonjhar and Sundargarh. With 44,064 tests in the last 24 hours, the State crossed the one crore milestone in testing. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik appreciated the hard work and dedication of healthcare personnel and all those working tirelessly to ramp up testing and strengthen Odisha's fight against the pandemic.



Training (DMET) Prof CBK Mohanty on Thursday pronounced that the Covid curve is now on a flattening mode with just 6,998 new cases in the last 24 hours. "One can clearly see the fluctuation in the number of cases. After it breached the 8,000 mark, the graph again dropped. Like a wave it rises one day and drops the other day. Such a condition implies that Odisha is heading towards flattening the curve," Prof Mohanty told media persons. Warning that such premature announcement will make people more complacent,

there are no positive cases in our surroundings. The State is under-reporting the cases by not testing in adequate numbers. Besides, Odisha needs to impose stricter measures like lockdown in worst affected districts to block the virus transmission," he said. Prof Mohanty's claim also found few takers among his fraternity. They said things may get clear by the end of May as the peak is expected in the mid of the month. "The virus making inroads in the peripheral districts and hinterlands is what concerns us now. Last time most of the

Odisha records highest single-day spike of 8,681 Covid cases, 14 die

Bhubaneswar, Apr 30: A day after a 16% drop in new infections, Odisha recorded its highest single-day spike with 8,681 people testing positive in the last 24 hours. The disease also claimed 14 lives, the highest on a day so far this year, during the period. The state witnessed a jump of 24% cases from the previous day's tally of 6,998. Of the new cases, 4,948 were in quarantine and 3,733 detected during contact tracing. Khurda district recorded the maximum of 1,408 cases, followed by Sundargarh (745), Cuttack (570), Puri (514), Balangir (459), Bargarh (423), Angul (419), Jharsuguda (411) and Sambalpur (410). At least 14 more districts, including Nabarangpur, Jajpur, Mayurbhanj, Nuapada, Ganjam, Kalahandi, Nayagarh, Balasore,

Rayagada, Keonjhar, Gajapati, Koraput, Bhadrak and Deogarh

ment sources said, 14 patients fell to Covid while undergoing treat-

Chief Secretary PK Mohapatra said asymptomatics and pa-

among them, 1426 are in ICUs and 270 on ventilators. The state has so far set up 11,227 beds, including 2063 in ICUs, and 701 ventilators apart from 40,000 beds with oxygen supply in Covid Care Centres (CCCs). In terms of oxygen availability, Mohapatra said the state has a capacity of storing 130 metric tonnes oxygen in cylinders besides the per day generation capacity of 375 metric tonnes liquid medical oxygen. The consumption was around 45 metric tonnes per day. The Health department ACS urged people to make way for second dose vaccination of 45 plus age group as the state is facing acute shortage of Covishield vaccine. It has a stock of around one lakh doses against the requirement of 6.3 lakh doses.



registered more than 100 fresh cases. As many as 45,452 tests, including 18,703 through RT-PCR, were conducted in the last 24 hours. The test positivity (TPR) rate once again crossed 19% with many western Odisha districts recording above 30% TPR. With this, the Covid tally mounted to 4,44,194 in the state. The active cases now stand at 61,698. Health depart-

ment taking the cumulative death toll to 2043. Three patients each in Koraput and Sundargarh, two each in Khurda and Rayagada, one each in Ganjam, Kalahandi, Nabarangpur, and Sambalpur succumbed to the disease. The Health and Family Welfare Department on Friday urged the people not to panic and unnecessarily crowd the Covid hospitals. Additional

tients with mild symptoms can remain in home isolation. "Hospitalisation is not required for all patients. Hospital beds should be kept ready for the needy and critical patients with comorbidities. The state has around 89% patients who are recuperating at home with the medical supervision of rapid response teams," he said. As many as 5271 patients are in hospitals now and

Blood Donation camp is organised

(A.O. Bureau) Puri, Apr 30: A Blood Donation camp was organised by Beldal youth Association Puri, with collaboration of Samarpan Odisha at Maa Jagulai Temple premises Beldal village today total numbers of 56 unit Blood was col-

lected Above 18 years students & others were participated in this camp Blood bank person, Sinner Social worker & Adviser SAMARPAN Badri Mishra, Jayanti Mohapatra Secretary, Samarpan President Prof. Abhimanyu Bhunia, Journalist



Madhu Sudhan Mishra, Sibannarayan Senapati, Kedar Mohapatra, Somya Ranjan Patra, youth Association President Hitesh Pradhan, Saibhai Organisation Person Ajaya Mishra, Ajaya Pradhan Sagarika Rath, Sivani bhunia were present.

EDITORIAL

The real heroes

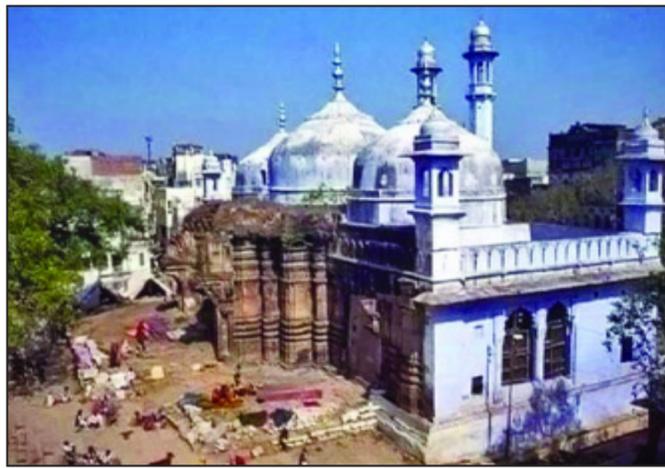
They hide behind ordinariness in everyday life but their acts of compassion make them special. Heroism is not limited to the battlefield or silver screen alone. It is present all around us but since these intrepid heroes don't make a song and dance about their noble acts, we tend to miss noticing their considerable contribution. The basic creed of heroism is to show grace under pressure and courage in the line of fire. A person's conduct and mettle to look squarely into the eyes of an adverse situation smilingly are the quintessential qualities that make her/him stand out from the rest. Another great characteristic of a gallant person is that s/he invariably does the right thing, takes the right course of action, even when nobody is watching. Such real-life women and men of honour, perseverance and diligence aren't perturbed by the lack of cameras at hand to record their heroics but they give the moment their all, and then some more, to vanquish the hardships. Of course, they do it at the cost of their time, energy, comfort and finances; sometimes even life, like Narayan Dabhalkar of Nagpur. The 85-year-old unflinchingly vacated his COVID hospital bed, secured after much effort, for a critical 40-year-old patient he didn't know ("the family's kids would be orphaned") after the hospital refused admission to the latter because there were no vacant beds. Opting for a discharge despite dipping oxygen levels and against medical advice, Dabhalkar returned home and passed away three days later. Similarly, businessman Ketan Rawal is providing 12 of his 50 vanity vans to the Mumbai Police free of cost to help policemen and frontline healthcare workers rest and eat as they serve during the partial lockdown. For their part, Ludhiana's good Samaritans are sending free home-cooked meals to COVID patients and pasting motivational messages, wishing them speedy recovery, on these food packets. Then there are "oxygen langars" being organised, people volunteering to deliver free food and medicines to COVID patients near their residence. To put it in Hemingwayesque fashion, these noble souls show the coolness, the grace, the courage and the discipline to rise above their sorrow, misfortune and self-interest while lending a helping hand to those less fortunate or doughty. Let's doff our hats to these unsung heroes and sincerely hope they would inspire many more people to bring fraternal care, courage and empathy to our pandemic-ravaged society and its hurting individuals.

Mayday! Mayday!

As young adults enthusiastically try to register for a job, the system seems less than prepared. The maddening rush on the Co-WIN portal speaks volumes about the jitteriness among the young adults to book a slot for getting inoculated at the earliest. Within minutes after registration for the COVID-19 vaccination for those in the 18-44 age bracket was thrown open, the website crashed due to excessive load. However, it doesn't surprise anyone as internet servers in India are known to have succumbed even during the university registration process. Anyhow, the first day recorded almost 1.33 crore registrations. It is a clear inkling that the task ahead for the Centre and the State Governments would be arduous, to put it mildly. Besides, in the backdrop of several States flagging the shortage of vaccines, the drive is unlikely to cover the population it is meant to before May 15, by when the States are expected to have a meaningful stock. The second wave of the Coronavirus tsunami has exposed the glaring incompetence and loopholes in our healthcare system which is now creaking under the weight of the pandemic. The ailing healthcare infrastructure is impacted by the sudden exponential rise in cases, shortage of medical oxygen and essential medicines like Remdesivir and availability of hospital beds. However, putting the blame squarely on the severity of the second wave and the pitiable state of healthcare setup would not be justifiable as it must be shared by the States for their lackadaisical approach and the Centre for its insouciance after the first wave had died down. The time which could have been utilised for ramping up the infrastructure was wasted on making conjectures of defeating the virus. As a result, we were ill-prepared and the second wave overwhelmed us. Another matter related to the non-availability of vaccines was its differential pricing, which was a cause of concern for the States and other stakeholders but that has been taken care of in a limited way, for now. Be that as it may, only time will tell how the nation emerges from the throes of affliction, confusion and uncertainty. How grim the situation can turn after May 1 can be gauged from the fact that most hospitals in States such as Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi and West Bengal have showed non-availability of slots for those less than 45 years of age. During the second phase, most people simply walked into the vaccination centres for their job without necessarily registering at the Co-WIN portal. So, the moot question here is: Are the Governments equipped and ready to handle such huge traffic at the vaccination centres in a short span? Also, it's clear by now that the Governments have failed to rein in the black marketeers of medical oxygen and medicines when the demand is sky-high.

The Kashi Vishwanath temple was destroyed by Aurangzeb. So, changes to Gyanvapi mosque as per facts mustn't rile anyone. It was 1927; one Abdul Rashid murdered Swami Shradhanand, the successor of Swami Dayanand Saraswati, in his sickbed. The killer was arrested and tried. The British Government then had no qualms about the religions of the two men. Jawaharlal Nehru's friend Asaf Ali, a distinguished advocate, took up Rashid's brief. The court, nevertheless, sentenced him to death as it was a cold-blooded murder. The janaza (funeral) was attended by thousands of Rashid's sympathisers but there was no riot or communal disturbance. Had any riot taken place, the Government would not have flinched from suppressing it. If the British were inclined to be soft, they could not have ruled an Empire for 190 years. That Empire had 40 crore Indians, with the white men from the British Isles being never more than one lakh. Take the case of Ayodhya. The All India Muslim Personal Law Board eventually lost its long litigation in the Supreme Court; not a single Muslim stabbed a Hindu. In Ayodhya itself, everyone favoured the temple, including the local Muslims, on the grounds that it would vastly increase the number of in-bound pilgrims and the city's economy would flourish. If at all any violence took place, it was because of the firing earlier by Mulayam Singh's police in 1990. The Mulayam regime resorted to indiscriminate shooting, not sparing even boys. No violence occurred owing to any mischief by a Muslim. It has been my consistent experience that when confronted

A lesson in the Gyanvapi case



Prafull Goradia

with facts, most Muslims are willing to accept them. A member of the AIMPLB confided to me that the Board contested the Ayodhya issue in the courts for so long merely to stall the Hindus' demands on other temples-turned-mosques. Some years ago, the chief of the Jamaat-e-Islami visited Delhi for a few days and happened to spend a couple of hours at my place. His explanation for Islamic conquerors replacing temples with mosques was that they wished to declare to the area that a change of regime had taken place. A Hindu raja had been replaced by a Muslim sultan or badshah. In response, I asked that when a Hindu Prime Minister takes over in a Hindu-majority country, would it be fair to reverse the situation? Should not the mosque be replaced by a temple? Again, as a true Muslim, the Jamaat chief promptly replied that if it was the PM's and his people's desire, so be it. In 1961, while delivering the Azad Memorial Lecture, British historian Arnold

Toynbee, especially invited by Jawaharlal Nehru, said: "In the course of the first Russian occupation of Warsaw, the Russians had built an Eastern Orthodox Christian Cathedral in the city that had been the capital of the once-independent Roman Catholic Christian country, Poland. The Russians had done this to give the Poles a continuous ocular demonstration that the Russians were now the masters. After the re-establishment of Poland's independence in 1918, about 100 years later, the Poles pulled down this cathedral. I do not blame the Polish Government for having pulled down the Russian church. The purpose for which the Russians had built it had been not religious but political, and the purpose had also been intentionally offensive." Before reaching Delhi, Sir Arnold had taken a boat ride on the Ganga and had noticed Aurangzeb's mosque on the bank with two tall minarets. He said at his lecture that he was sur-

prised that this mosque was standing even after the Partition of India. To come back to the point, should not a crime be punished commensurately? If the criminal had got away at the time of commission of the crime, should he not be apprehended and punished when it is possible to do so later? If the wrongdoer has passed away, at least the act of crime should be reversed. What is the meaning of justice otherwise? And where would be the rule of law? Since 2014, quite a few intellectuals have been protesting that democracy in India is in danger and that liberals have no future here. Well, here is their opportunity to firm up democracy whose first foundation is the rule of law. One only has to read the Magna Carta of English King John, 1215 AD. Some scholars have expressed the fears of communal riots. How many riots have taken place since 2014? It is true that recently there have been a few skirmishes in Bangalore and there was a major riot in northeast Delhi when President Trump was on a visit to India. Otherwise, the scorebook as far as riots are concerned has been negative over the last seven years. In any case, how can a court of law or a Government shun the enforcement of justice merely due to the fear of riots? It is well recorded that the Kashi Vishwanath mandir was destroyed on the orders of Aurangzeb after his crowning. Fortunately, a portion of its front has survived as part of the masjid. Where people now worship Lord Shiva was built by the great Holkar Queen Ahilyabai in the 18th century. If, therefore, the Gyanvapi mosque underwent some changes according to historical facts, no Muslim would have any objection.

Importance and Pleasure of Reading In Lockdown

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Everybody wants pleasure in life. Pleasures work as a kind of driving force. Therefore, people pursue diverse hobbies according to their tests, liking and means. The pleasure derived from reading books, periodicals and magazines are totally a different type of pleasure. It is unique in the sense that it provides instructions, knowledge and inspiration along with satisfaction and pleasure. Reading Presupposes certain level of intelligence, comprehension, language skills and love of solitude. Habit of reading is to be grown and cultivated. The earlier it is done the better. Childhood is the best period when reading habits should be developed. Because reading is one of the most mind nourishing activities. As per Bacon "Reading makes a full man, writing an exact man and conference a ready man". Reading is an essential basic skill building activity. One's language fluency is determined by the quality of reading. Besides vocabulary enrichment, ideas, collection, familiarization with different types of writing formats, speaking fluency etc all depends upon reading. It is astonishing that people have wondered why reading is important. Reading is fundamental to functioning in today's society. There are many adults who can't read well enough to understand the instruction on a medicine bottle. That is a scary thought. Especially for their children unfortunately most of the modern students read books only for getting through tests only. They read neither for pleasure, nor for culture or knowledge. They waste their valuable time in viewing film T.V. serials, playing cards or in idle

gossiping and mobile chatting for pleasure and pastime. They should not forget that books are the best friends, that reading provides best type of pleasure. Reading is such type of pleasure which can be recreated and shared with others. Reading provides us with valuable experience which would always stand us in good stead. Reading is a vital skill in finding a good job. Many well paying jobs require reading as a part of job performance. Poor reading skills increases the amount of time it takes to absorb and react in the work place. A person is limited in what they can accomplish without good reading and comprehension skill. Reading is also important as it develops the mind. The mind is a muscle which needs exercise by reading. So reading is the only leisure time hobby which is matchless. The ability to get pleasure by reading is really a great gift and boon. They are fortunate who possess and practice it. For reading you do not depend on anybody else, you are your own master. The boons of reading are many and price-



less. There is no other hobby or leisure time pursuit which can be compared favourably with reading. Milton the great poet calls the reading as the life-blood of master spirit. So Covid-19 lockdown you inside the home and advise to read the books of authors like Bacon, R.N. Tagore, Shakespear, Dante, Tolstoy, Dr. Prativa Roy, Gopabandhu to gathered knowledge. In the words of Thomas Carlyle "All that mankind has done, thought, gained or been; it is lying as in magic preservation in the page of books". Only by reading can we be earned in this never ending life and death struggle. So lastly it is my opinion for all the readers that "Reading is important because words-spoken and written are the building blocks of life". Osho says the day when you stop reading the very day you declared as old.

Where is Achhedin and Vikas!

Er. Bidyadhar Panda
B.Tech. Civil. M.Tech. Env.
LL.B. PGJMC

Lot of people including me and Mr. Thomas are searching Miss Achhedin and Mr Vikas since a decade. Now in the era of 2nd wave of Covid 19 and shortfall of Oxygen everybody believes that they may have died somewhere. They were born and brought up in Gujarat in 80's and migrated to Delhi in 2014. Mr. Thomas was caring them a lot and expecting that one day they will reach all Indians. He wanted to inspire them in their noble path staying close, so he too migrated from Gujarat to Delhi in 2016. In Delhi he roamed around but couldn't find them. Later he came to know that they had gone to UP and staying in Gorakhpur. Mr. Thomas went there and met one businessman in Golghar. He told Mr. Thomas that they were here in Gorakhnath Temple with Mr. Yogi for few weeks only and then left to Amethi. Mr. Thomas was tired and thought he will meet them in Amethi but failed after searching duo more than a month there. At last someone told they had gone to north eastern regions and telling him that they are planning to go to heaven through Himalaya via Himachal Pradesh. Thomas disappointed and while returning met me in a train boggy. As Covid 19 is around and 2nd wave is bringing disaster, no one is daring to travel in Indian Rail except emergency. So, in our boggy I was alone as a co-passenger to Mr. Thomas who was sad without finding Miss Achhedin and Mr Vikas anywhere in India roaming several months many states. I started my conversation to make him happy and then Mr. Thomas started a speech on one of my column "lockdownyaluckdown" which was published recently in a daily newspaper. He started with strong remarks, "Definitely Luck is down and out." Keeping a moment quite again he started uninterrupted for one hour. His logic was good and admirable. I thought to share with you

all to think of it in leisure. He narrated- Reality is around 1.16 Billion Indians are in the Low Income Group while around 135 Million are in the Poverty side (Source: Pew Research Report "India's Middle Class Shrinks and Poverty Spreads"). PreCovid, it was around 1.2 Billion in Low Income Group and 59 Million Poverty. India has just 84 Million who are both Middle Income and Rich while PreCovid, it was 124 Million both Middle Income and Rich (India's RICH has been less than 5 Million both PreCovid and after Covid 1st Wave which is why India is called 1 of the WORLD LEADERS for Income and Wealth Inequality as well as for Gender Inequality). In addition to the separate post of mine put up above, if you look at the Various Human Development Rankings like World Happiness Rankings (India's ranked 139th), worldtop20DOTorg SITE which measures the World Education Rankings right from Primary Education to Secondary Education (India ranks badly), World University Rankings (Sadly India doesn't have even 1 within the Top 150 World University Rankings); PISA Assessments for Reading Comprehension, Sciences and Mathematics (India does badly in all) and so on including Global Hunger Index Rankings (India does badly), World Gender Inequality Rankings (India Ranks high just like with World Income and Wealth Inequality where India ranks high again). It goes on where India does Terrible with Various Human Development Rankings. Now, let's go to the Various Economic Development Rankings where India does slightly better but still bad in most. Global Innovation Index Rankings, India is just in Top 50, Global Creativity Index Rankings, India does badly. World Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index Rankings, India does badly where India does just ok with World Tourism Numbers where it's still behind China, Thailand, etc within Asia itself (PRECOVID DAYS TILL 2019). After this Mr. Thomas was about to start on education issues in India. I know little about it and could guess that Mr. Thomas will take minimum few hours to explain me all the loop holes where India is still struggling to find a way out.

Mass Sanitization Drive by NTPC Talcher Kaniha



(A.O. Bureau) Talcher, Apr 30: NTPC Talcher Kaniha has started a Mass Sanitization Drive from 30.4.2021 of its 10 peripheral villages under

its CSR initiative. This is done to curb the rising rates of the covid-19 in these villages during these perilous times, thus ensuring general health, well-being and

safety of the fellow villagers. The fire department has collaborated in this initiative by lending one of its fire engines for the sanitization purpose.

VIMSAR doctor a call away for home isolation patients

(A.O. Bureau) Sambalpur, Apr 30: At a time when majority of Covid-19 patients are under home isolation, a senior resident doctor of Burla's Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) has started telemedicine service to cater to this section of infected people as and when they require medical consultation. Beginning the service from April 25, Dr Sanjeeb Mishra is now getting calls of around 100 patients on a daily basis from across the State including Cuttack and

Bhubaneswar. He is providing the services alongside his 12-hour-regular duty at the hospital from 9 am to 9 pm everyday. "I decided to start teleconsultation services to counsel patients under home isolation and help them cope with proper medical help," said Mishra who feels that many states including Odisha are facing acute shortage of beds at hospitals because even patients with mild symptoms are getting admitted out of fear. "This is why critical patients face trouble finding a bed on time. Infected patients must get



admitted to hospital only if the symptoms are critical. I hope to convince patients about this through teleconsultation," he said. Dr Mishra has shared his number on social media to help spread the word so that most can benefit from the service. "I am addressing queries ranging from medication to line of treatment for symptoms like persistence of fever and cough, loss of appetite and taste, etc. I am also making the patients aware of monitoring oxygen levels and deciding when to go to a hospital," he said.

Mobile Covid testing centres set up in Malkangiri Groom fined for Covid violations

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Apr 30: Malkangiri, The number of coronary infections in Malkangiri district is on the rise. With that in mind, the district administration has taken steps. The mobile administration testing center has been set up in the district headquarters subdivision by the district administration in view of the second wave of the



coronary pandemic and the growing number of coronary infections in Malkangiri district. The center has been set up at the Malkangiri DNA Stadium. Arrangements have been made here for the testing of traders and people in the area around the playground. The Covidium Testing Center can be used to test more and more people every day.

(A.O. Bureau) Jeypore, Apr 30: In a first in the district, Jeypore police raided a marriage venue and slapped a fine of Rs 8,000 on the groom for gross violation of Covid norms. Sources said, one Chandra Harijan of Chargam village under Borigumma police limits was hosting a marriage party with over 1,000 participants on Wednesday evening. Neither the groom nor bride parties had per-



mission from the local police to conduct the event. All protocols were thrown to the wind with guests seen without masks and mingling with each other without mandatory social distancing. Acting on a tip off, police rushed to the venue and chased the crowd

away. A case was registered against Harijan and a fine of Rs 8,000 slapped on him for flouting guidelines. "We are ensuring strict adherence to Covid norms in the area and urge public cooperation in these tough times," said IIC Sanjaya Mandal.

Croc breeding: Bhitarkanika out of bounds for visitors



(A.O. Bureau) Kendrapara, Apr 30: The Forest department has imposed a three-month ban on entry of tourists and visitors to Bhitarkanika National Park to provide a congenial atmosphere to the saltwater crocodiles during their mating and nesting season. The ban will be effective from May 1 and continue till July 31. Tourists and locals will be prohibited from entering the park as the estuarine crocodiles might get disturbed during their breeding season by intrusion of visitors, said divisional forest officer (DFO) of Bhitarkanika Bikash

Chandra Dash on Thursday. Bhitarkanika, Dangamala and Ragadapati forests have the highest concentration of crocodiles. The sound of mechanised boats carrying tourists and forest officials disturb the crocodiles. Once the reptiles are disturbed, they become violent. Most of the crocodile attacks take place during the nesting season, Dash informed. The female reptiles lay eggs near water bodies inside the mangrove forest and guard the eggs till the hatchlings emerge. Forest guards have been instructed to keep a watch on the

eggs and protect those from snakes, wild boars and fishing cats. The guards will also monitor the movements of mother crocodiles. Many local forest dwellers illegally enter the forest areas to collect honey and wood. Their entry to forest areas has also been restricted. Last year, as many as 103 nesting sites of crocodiles were spotted at the creeks, nullahs and river systems in Bhitarkanika. As per the census carried out in January 2020, there are 1,768 saltwater crocodiles in Bhitarkanika river system.

Weekend Shutdown Imposed In Entire Jajpur District

(A.O. Bureau) Jajpur, Apr 30: Weekend shutdown has been imposed in entire Jajpur district of Odisha, informed Collector Chakravarti Singh Rathore today. "Sarpanchs of all 311 panchayats of the district have announced weekend shutdown in their respective



panchayats. As per the State Government's order, weekend shutdown will be imposed in all urban areas. Collectively, the entire Jajpur district will be under weekend shutdown," the Collector said. Emergency services will continue during the weekend shutdown in the district, he added.

Senior Journalist Debendra Samantaray Succumbs To COVID-19



(A.O. Bureau) Sambalpur, Apr 30: Debendra Samantaray, Editor-in-Charge of Sambad, Sambalpur died of COVID-19, today. Samantaray had tested positive for the virus and was undergoing treatment at

a COVID hospital here for the last two weeks. As his condition deteriorated, he was shifted to the ICU today. However, he breathed his last this evening. A pall of gloom descended on the fraternity after the death of Samantaray.

Mob lynches man for raping woman in Odisha

(A.O. Bureau) Soro, Apr 30: An irate mob lynched a man allegedly for raping a woman at Singakhunta village under Soro police limits yesterday, police said today. The deceased has been identified as Basant Singh. The locals alleged that, taking advantage of the absence of woman's husband at home, Basant abducted her to a house and sexually assaulted her. On being informed, the villagers rushed

to the spot and rescued her. The woman had sustained critical injuries from that assault. Irate over the incident, the villagers lynched Basant to death making him naked. Later, the police reached the spot and recovered Basant's body from a nearby forest. After preliminary investigation it was found that Basant had served 8 years sentence for raping a minor girl and many complaints have been lodged against him for misbehaving with women.

to the spot and rescued her. The woman had sustained critical injuries from that assault. Irate over the incident, the villagers lynched Basant to death making him naked. Later, the police reached the spot and recovered Basant's body from a nearby forest. After preliminary investigation it was found that Basant had served 8 years sentence for raping a minor girl and many complaints have been lodged against him for misbehaving with women.

No public entry but birthday bash in horticulture office

(A.O. Bureau) Jagatsinghpur, Apr 30: In brazen violation of Covid guidelines, employees of the office of assistant director, horticulture celebrated the birthday of an engineer and organised a feast for hundreds of field staff of different blocks on Wednesday. Police sources said the administration has banned entry of



public to government offices from April 28 in view of the spike in Covid cases in the district. Tak-

ing advantage of the situation, the employees of the horticulture assistant director's office locked

the main gate and celebrated the birthday of an assistant engineer in presence of other staff. Assistant director, horticulture, Mihir Samantaray was also present. On a tip off, police raided the office but the employees and field staff managed to escape from the spot. Contacted, Samantaray denied celebrating any birthday but

said, "A meeting of our field staff in eight blocks of Jagatsinghpur was being held. We had arranged a feast for the staff." Jagatsinghpur SP Prakash R said police have informed the Collector about the incident. After inquiry, action will be taken against the erring officers for violating Covid guidelines, he added.

New ambulance service launched in Malkangiri

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Apr 30: As the second wave of corona is currently

number of covert measures to address the issue. In addition, the medical department

increases. Today, on behalf of the Malkangiri district administration, District Magistrate Y Vijay Kumar inaugurated four ambulances. The ambulance consisted of three general ambulances and a well modernise instrumental equipped ambulance. Malkangiri District Headquarters Hospital has a total of 22 ambulances, with district magistrate Y Vijay urging the state government to keep most of the ambulances in view of Carona.



being played across the state, while the Malkangiri district is also witnessing the outbreak of corona. The district administration has taken a

has been looked into. In Malkangiri district, the district administration has instructed all medical staff to be prepared as the number of corona in-

Kangana slams Twitter user who says she's not helping needy like Priyanka, Alia



New Delhi, Apr 30: Kangana Ranaut hit back at two Twitter users, one of whom suggested that she was not helping amplify calls for Covid-19 resources for patients, unlike Priyanka Chopra and Alia Bhatt. Kangana Ranaut shot back at Twitter users who

questioned her role in helping Indians suffering during the Covid-19 pandemic. She said social media was not the only way to help others. A Twitter user wrote: " @ K a n g a n a T e a m Meanwhile still searching for one tweet from your end seeking help for suffering Indians like

what PC Alia doing. You are just working towards BJP's image improving work. What does it take to just accept that Govt has failed in this crisis?" Twitter is not the only way to help people, I am helping people with beds, medicines, vaccines, oxygen... I have too many in my own professional and personal circle who are calling me and asking for help, I am not doing it for the gallery...understood dummy? Replying to the user, she said: "Twitter is not the only way to help people, I am helping people with beds, medicines, vaccines, oxygen... I have too many in my own professional and personal circle who are calling me and asking for help, I am not doing it for the gallery...understood dummy?" It's very important to verify genuinely needy people,

most frauds begging for oxygen and beds and selling in black, I am perpetually getting calls from friends/family for help passing them all to my brother Akshat, who is practically working in this only for past few weeks. <https://t.co/MuhsLVGpDg> — Kangana Ranaut (@KanganaTeam) April 30, 2021. Another person tweeted: "Its difficult for these people to understand that a celebrity of your stature would help others without seeking publicity." Replying to him, she wrote: "It's very important to verify genuinely needy people, most frauds begging for oxygen and beds and selling in black, I am perpetually getting calls from friends/family for help passing them all to my brother Akshat, who is practically working in this only for past few weeks." Earlier in the

day, Kangana had expressed her thoughts on intellectuals (buddhijeevis), saying that they were portraying a negative image of India in international media. "These people try to tell us how to run our country? Who are they? Such a large portion of America's population was wiped out during the first wave. Everyone saw what happened in Italy. England is still struggling with the second wave. We are too. No doubt. But did anyone name and shame any minister, their democracy? 'Choose education, this and that.' Who are you to tell us? We will struggle on our own and we are already," she said. She ended the video by saying that the government should take action against the 'upadravi (rowdy)' persons.

Fatima recalls Anil's response when she had doubts about voicing her opinion

Mumbai, Apr 30: Fatima Sana Shaikh has spoken about her experience about working with Anil Kapoor. She said that she had certain things on her mind but wasn't sure if she should voice her opinion. Actor Fatima Sana Shaikh has opened up about her experience about working with actor Anil Kapoor. She said that she had certain things on her mind but wasn't sure if she should

very enthusiastic, funny, very hardworking, always on time, always doing his lines, working on his character, he is amazing and a lovely person." Earlier this year in January, Fatima celebrated her birthday with Anil in Rajasthan. Sharing pictures of the celebrations from the sets, Fatima had said, "Working birthdays are always the best!!! Thank you for making it special!



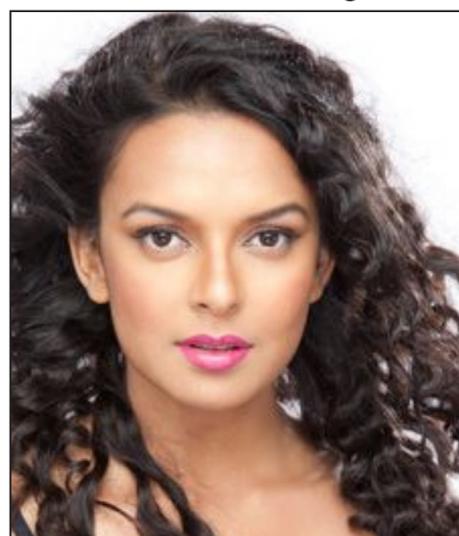
voice her opinion. However, Anil encouraged her to speak up and not be scared. The duo is working on an untitled movie together and were filming it together earlier this year. "It took some time to get into the rhythm, as Anil sir had joined the shooting a little later. I wanted to do certain things, but I wasn't sure whether I should voice it or not, and then he says, 'Beta do whatever you want, just don't be scared'. When you have somebody who is pushing you and making you feel so comfortable that you can question him or the director then you feel liberated. I think that is the amazing qualities all these senior actors have and I would like to be that for newer actors because I am welcomed," she told Spotboye in an interview. Speaking on Anil's personality, she added, "He is like a child,

Bade zero shoro se manaane ke liye." It is reported that Harshvardhan Kapoor, son of Anil, is also set to appear in the movie. In March when Fatima tested Covid-19 positive and was quarantined at home, Anil had sent her food boxes. Taking to Instagram Stories, she had shared a picture of the dishes she received from Anil and wrote, "Anil Kapoor, you are the best. Thank you for sending this amazing ghar ka khaana." The food items comprised a box of rice, chapatis, vegetables, and a box of sweets. Fatima shot to fame with Dangal, also starring Aamir Khan and Sanya Malhotra. The actor has also featured in films like Thugs of Hindostan, Suraj Pe Mangal Bhari, and Ludo. Fatima was last seen in the Netflix anthology titled Ajeeb Daastaans.

Will wait to get vaccinated before resuming work: Bidita Bag

Kolkata, Apr 30: Actor Bidita Bag was busy shooting in Lucknow when Covid cases started to surge in the first week of April. After shooting for a day, she left for Mumbai and thereafter left for hometown Kolkata. Actor Bidita Bag was busy shooting in Lucknow when Covid cases started to surge in the first week of April. After shooting for a day, she left for Mumbai and thereafter left for hometown Kolkata. "I had just started shooting for 'Bhaukaal-2' when things started getting bad and there was a sudden spike in cases. I left to return when things improve but it got worse.

Few days later, the shoot was cancelled as some people contracted the virus," said the 'B a n d o o k b a z Babumoshai' actor. Protagonist Mohit Raina too developed symptoms and was later tested positive. Last year, during lockdown she was stuck in Mumbai, so she immediately left for her hometown. "Wearing double mask and face-shield, without even sipping water in transit I reached home (Howrah) and quarantined myself as I have parents at home. Since then, I have not stepped out even once." She is no mood of taking any risks. "Now that age bracket for the vaccina-



tion has been reduced (above 18 years), I will wait to get both the jabs before resuming work. But getting a dose is also

a big challenge in such a situation. For now, I am not committing for any project and will only complete whatever work

is scheduled after this phase gets over. Actors are more vulnerable as they have to shoot without a mask," said the actor. On her level the actor is trying to gain Covid related information from social media to help those in distress and need. "This is little we can do at this moment," she said. In March the actor had a theatrical release with 'Fauji Calling.' "Next will be my film 'Teen Do Paanch' on OTT. Last year-end I had two releases 'The Missing Stone' and 'Abhay2' that I shot after lockdown. Besides, I have also shot for a series in Mumbai, but I am not allowed to talk about it," she said.

Randhir to move near wife Babita, Karisma and Kareena's homes

Mumbai, Apr 30: Randhir Kapoor will sell his ancestral home in Chembur area of Mumbai. He will move near the residences of his wife Babita and daughters Karisma Kapoor and Kareena Kapoor. Veteran actor Randhir Kapoor had

they would stay together in their Chembur house. "My parents had told me that I can stay in this (Chembur) home for as long as I want, but the day I decide to sell it, I will have to share the sale proceeds with my siblings Rishi, Rajiv, Ritu and Rima. That's

Randhir was hospitalised on Thursday after testing positive for Covid-19, hospital officials said. The 74-year-old actor is being treated in Mumbai's Kokilaben hospital. "He was admitted to the hospital last night for COVID-19 treatment. He remains stable, there's nothing to worry," Dr Santosh Shetty, Kokilaben hospital, had told PTI. He lost his brother Rajiv, on February 9 this year at the age of 58 due to a heart attack. Rajiv was the youngest among three brothers and two sisters -- Randhir, Rishi Kapoor, Ritu Nanda, and Rima Jain. His eldest sister Ritu Nanda and brother Rishi Kapoor dies in January and April last year. Friday marks the first death anniversary of Rishi.

Mohit Malik and Addite Shirwaikar blessed with a baby boy

New Delhi, Apr 30: Actors Mohit Malik and Addite Shirwaikar have entered a new phase in their lives. The couple has been blessed with a baby boy and they will be embracing their parenthood now. The couple announced this good news to their respective social media handles. Their post truly described how happy and excited they are to embrace parenthood. The couple shared a glimpse of their newborn baby, where the tiny fingers of the baby



were holding Addite's hands. Their post was

just too adorable to handle. The Kulfis

Kumar Bajewala actor and his wife both took

it to her Instagram and wrote, "Dear Universe, Thank you for this blessing! Thank you for these midnight cries and all that comes with it, because we truly feel lucky to welcome our little baby boy into our world of love! He's Here and He's Truly Magic. From 2 to 3, Happily Ever After.... Yours Truly, Parents of #BabyMalik Mohit & Addite." Mohit and Addite met on the sets of the popular TV show Banoo Main Teri Dulhan and finally got married in 2010 after dating for a couple of months.

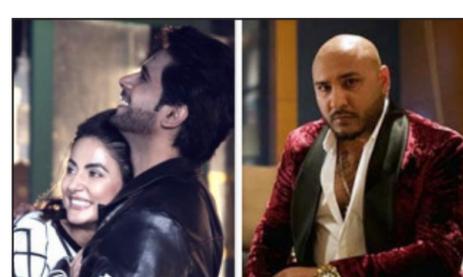


confirmed that he will be selling his ancestral home in the Chembur area of Mumbai and moving near the residences of his wife Babita and daughters Karisma Kapoor and Kareena Kapoor. He also said that when his brother Rajiv Kapoor was alive,

fine as I have done well for myself in my career and also invested well. Rajiv largely stayed with me, he had a house in Pune but he was mostly in Mumbai. Now, I am moving near Babita, Bebo and Lolo's homes," he had told a leading daily in an interview.

Hina Khan to feature in B Praak's 'Patthar Wargi' music video

Mumbai, Apr 30: Hina Khan has been making a lot of headlines nowadays. Her father passed away recently and two days after her father's demise, the actress tested positive for COVID-19. She decided to take a break



from social media for some time to recover from her rough phase and balance her life. While she is off social media, her team is currently handling all her social media handles. Recently, her team announced her project

with Tanmay Singh and B Praak. Hina's team took it to her Twitter and gave a glimpse of her upcoming project. Titled 'Patthar Wargi', fans are looking forward to seeing the actress in yet another music video.

It's Shawtime for Delhi



Ahmedabad, Apr 30: Opener Prithvi Shaw smashed six fours in the first over in a stunning batting display on his way to a blistering 82 as Delhi Capitals crushed Kolkata Knight Riders by seven wickets here on Thursday. Chasing 155 for a win, Shaw sent all the six legal deliveries from opening bowler Shivam Mavi to the boundary, driving, punching and sweeping at will. Mavi's first delivery saw Dinesh Karthik diving full-length to his left to take a fine catch only to find later that it was a wide ball. Shaw then sent all the next six balls to the fence one after the other. Shaw shared a 132-run stand for the first wicket with senior partner Shikhar Dhawan (46 off 47 balls), who played second fiddle throughout, as the duo annihilated the KKR bowlers. Shaw was out in the 16th over after facing 41 balls, hitting 11 fours and three sixes but, by then, the match was as good. DC chased down the target with 3.3 overs to spare, reaching 156 for 3 in 16.3 overs. The 21-year-old Shaw reached to his fifty off 18 balls in the

eighth over, his third half century of the season in his seven matches. He was dropped by Shubman Gill when on 55 off the bowling of Varun Chakravarthy as DC reached the 100-run mark in 10.2 overs without losing a wicket. For KKR, lead pacer Pat Cummins finished with excellent figures of 3/24. This was DC's fifth win in seven outings while KKR suffered their fifth loss in as seven games. Earlier, KKR suffered another familiar batting collapse before late fireworks from Andre Russell lifted them to 154 for six after being put in to bat. KKR were at a decent position at 69 for one in the 10th over but slumped to 82 for five in the 13th before Russell saved them with a 27-ball 45 not out. Russell's blistering innings had two boundaries and four sixes. Struggling opener Shubman Gill made a 38-ball 43, and his knock was studied with three boundaries and one six, but he failed to convert his solid start into a big score. For DC, Axar Patel and Lalit Yadav were impressive with two wickets.

Players want loyalty in selection but disappointing they aren't aggressive: KKR coach McCullum

Ahmedabad, Apr 30: A livid Kolkata Knight Riders coach Brendon McCullum came down heavily on his team's top-order batsmen for not showing enough "intent and aggression" in the ongoing IPL after demanding "loyalty" from him during team selection. McCullum didn't name anyone but rising India superstar Shubman Gill is among those who have looked completely out of sorts. As an opener in all seven games, he has scored only 132 runs at an average of less than 19 and strike-rate of below 120. "It's very, very disappointing. I think as a player, you ask to be given freedom and confidence and loyalty when it comes to selection, to go out there and take the game on and try and be aggressive... And to try and make things happen for your team,"

McCullum said at the post-match conference after the team slumped to its fifth defeat against the Delhi Capitals. "That's the style of play which both myself and the captain (Eoin Morgan) have asked of our players. But unfortunately we're not quite getting that. We're certainly not getting it in the abundance that we need," McCullum said after another below par batting effort. A target of 154 was cakewalk for DC as Prithvi Shaw smashed six boundaries in the opening over from Shivam Mavi. His 82 off 41 balls sealed the issue. "What we saw from Prithvi Shaw tonight was the perfect template of how we want to play. You're not always going to be able to hit every ball for four or six, but you can have the intent to do so, particularly when you're

given a free licence. "It's very difficult if you don't play shots to score runs, and unfortunately tonight we didn't play enough shots. It's become a bit of a theme," McCullum's statement was crystal clear as he was talking about Gill and fellow opener Nitish Rana. Rana also has scored only 201 runs at a sub-par strike-rate of 122.56 and McCullum indicated that a change is on the cards. "A saying that I've used throughout my career is that 'If you can't change a man, change the man.' So we'll probably have to make some changes and try and bring in some fresh personnel who will hopefully take the game on a bit more." What has irritated McCullum is that on slow surfaces, Powerplay overs become way more impor-



tant as it becomes harder to up the ante during middle and back-end overs. "Look, on a slow surface you've really got to maximise the new ball and the fielding restrictions. One thing we have to get our heads around is that in T20 cricket, you've got to part from the old-school mentality of trying to find a boundary and then get a one. "If you get a boundary, then look for another, and then look for another one. If you're able

to do that, then the opposition bowler is under an immense amount of pressure and normally what happens then is they don't execute," the former Kiwi captain elaborated what he wanted from Gill and Rana. "It's incredibly disappointing because I've asked time and time again for us to be more aggressive and more expressive and take the game on, and we continue to not do it. So we're going to have to make some changes for sure."

We feel safe inside IPL bio-bubble: de Kock

New Delhi, Apr 30: Mumbai Indians' wicket keeper batsman Quinton de Kock on Thursday said his team feels "very safe" inside the IPL bio-security bubble, two days after leg-spinner Adam Zampa called it one of the "most vulnerable" before taking a flight back to Australia. "To be honest, we trust in our

doctors, so we are pretty safe in our bubbles. At least we feel very safe and it is quite easy," de Kock said after winning the match against Rajasthan Royals. "We still take precautions and I felt safe. I don't know about other guys. I am speaking for myself. It is being easy to get on with the game and practice and ev-

erything," the South African added. Speaking about the match, De Kock said that it was "lot easier" to bat on the Kotla track after the struggles in Chennai. "Obviously, it was a lot biteasier to bat over here. Was quite pleasant. We are just happy to win it. It feels good to score some runs again, especially in a winning cause,"

the southpaw said. "Yeah, genuinely with our team, we always try and get one of our top four just bat through to the last (part) of our innings. We did that today and obviously the changes from Chennai to Delhi have helped a bit," he added. Rajasthan Royals skipper Sanju Samson conceded that his side was 20-25 runs

short. "We played an afternoon game, but the wicket was fine and the ball was coming on the bat. I felt we were a bit 20-25 runs short. We need to play some fearless and positive cricket when we come out there and play the next game," Samson said at the post-match conference.

Mumbai back in victory stride

New Delhi, Apr 30: Opener Quinton de Kock roared back to form with a blistering 50-ball 70 as Mumbai Indians beat Rajasthan Royals by seven wickets here on Thursday. Put in to bat, Rajasthan rode on 42 by skipper Sanju Samson and Jos Buttler's 41 to post a competitive 171 for four but their efforts was overshadowed by de Kock, who struck six fours and two maximums to complete the task in 18.3 overs at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. Krunal Pandya also played a useful cameo, smashing 39 off 26 balls with the help of two fours and as many sixes. Mumbai openers Rohit Sharma (14) and de Kock put up 49 for the first wicket. The South African fetched his first boundary, a cover drive, and then launched into left-arm pacer Mustafizur Rahman (1/37) for a four and a maximum. While Rohit played his trademark pull-shot to get a six



in the fifth over. De Kock hammered Chris Morris (2/33) for another maximum but Rohit perished in the sixth over, giving a dolly to Chetan Sakariya at mid-on. Leg-spinner Rahul Tewatia (0/30) conceded three boundaries in the seventh over, two by Suryakumar Yadav (16; 3x4) and one by de Kock, as Mumbai got 14 runs. However, Morris brought back Rajasthan by removing Surya, as Mumbai

slipped to 83/2. Krunal joined de Kock, who completed his half-century in 35 balls and then got a life. Krunal smashed a six over the sight-screen off Tewatia, in the 15th over, which fetched Mumbai 12 runs as they needed 41 runs from the last five overs. De Kock and Krunal added 63 runs for the third wicket and brought the side closer to a win. A profligate Morris conceded 16 runs in the

18th over, as Kieron Pollard (16 not out) and de Kock took them on the cusp of a win. Earlier, Samson blazed his way to 42 off 27 balls as Rajasthan Royals posted a competitive 171 for four. Put in to bat, Rajasthan openers Buttler (41 off 32) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (32 off 20) laid the foundation with their 66-run stand in 7.4 overs. Buttler, who was in his elements, smashed

Rahul Chahar (2/33) for six, but the leggie dismissed him the very next ball, stumped by de Kock. Samson started with a boundary, a cut-shot and then hit two boundaries off Krunal Pandya in ninth over, in which RR got 12 runs. But Chahar struck again, this time removing Jaiswal, as he lobbed off a return catch. Shivam Dube (35 off 31 balls; 2x4, 2x6) and Samson, who hit five boundaries, added 57 runs for the third wicket, with the Mumbaiers playing some aggressive shots. Samson also kept playing shots at will, as he hit two successive boundaries, in the 16th over off Boult, which fetched his team 14 runs. However, Boult cleaned up Samson in the 18th over and then Bumrah dismissed Dube in the penultimate over, as the Mumbai bowlers kept things tight in the last four overs. RR got 45 runs in the last five overs.

Kohli wins toss, opts to bowl against Punjab



Ahmedabad, Apr 30: Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper Virat Kohli won the toss and elected to bowl against Punjab Kings in their Indian Premier League (IPL) match here on Friday. Shahbaz Ahmed replaced Washington Sundar in the RCB playing XI. Punjab Kings left out Henrique

Moises, Arshdeep Singh, Mayank Agarwal and replaced them with Prabhsimran Singh, Harpreet Brar and Riley Meredith. Teams: Punjab Kings: KL Rahul (capt), Prabhsimran Singh, Chris Gayle, Deepak Hooda, Nicholas Pooran, Shahrukh Khan, Chris Jordan,

Harpreet Brar, Ravi Bishnoi, Mohammed Shami, Riley Meredith. Royal Challengers Bangalore: Virat Kohli (capt), Devdutt Padikkal, Rajat Patidar, Glenn Maxwell, AB de Villiers, Shahbaz Ahmed, Kyle Jamieson, Daniel Sams, Harshal Patel, Mohammed Siraj and Yuzvendra Chahal.

Man City close in on 1st ever CL final

Paris, Apr 30: Manchester City are in pole position to reach the Champions League final after coming from behind to beat Paris Saint-Germain 2-1 away in the first leg of their blockbuster semi-final on Wednesday, with Riyad Mahrez curling in

the winner from a free-kick. Marquinhos had powered in a header to give PSG an early lead and the deserved advantage at half-time at the Parc des Princes. However, City skipper Kevin De Bruyne's cross dropped in to pull City

level just after the hour and Mahrez beat Kaylor Navas from a 71st-minute free-kick to complete the turnaround, giving Pep Guardiola's side the advantage going into next Tuesday's return in Manchester. "The last 10 minutes of the first half was



good and the second half was excellent in every department. We scored two goals away which is so important, but we have a hard job to do in six days," Guardiola told BT Sport. "In general, so satisfied for the performance but it is halfway. We still have 90

more minutes to beat them and PSG is a team where anything can happen." After starting so well, PSG lost their way after half-time and had Idrissa Gana Gueye sent off in the 77th minute as a shocking tackle on Ilkay Gundogan earned the midfielder a

straight red card. Having already failed to win at home to Manchester United, Barcelona and Bayern in this season's Champions League, the Parisians face an uphill struggle in England if they are to reach the final for the second year running.

Veterinarians Dialogue with Departmental Minister Bungled Services Of Two Special Trains, Extended

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 30: Demanding equality & recognition with solitary demand for entry level Group-A, the Odisha Service Veterinarians have been wearing symbolic black badge from last five months and from April 25th they have also embargo digital works. It is relevant to enlighten the fact that, since last 15 years the service veterinarians of Odisha have been demanding their legitimate entry level Group-A(Jr) status in parity with Central Govt & most of the states of the country to Government. Consistently Government has given optimistic commitment only to renege from it. Moreover in last 15 years Govern-

ment has prioritised other cadres to satisfy their demands and neglected the service veterinarians in an accustomed way. In fact, during the pandemic of COVID-19, Odisha Engineering Service cadre reconfigured and new posts have been created. But government has adopted naive policy against the service veterinarians since long. On this issue Hon'ble Minister, F & ARD, Dr Arun Kumar Sahu and Sri R Raghuprasad, Commissioner cum Secretary, F & ARD had a dialogue with the Central Executive Committee (CEC) of OVSA (Odisha Veterinary Service Association) on 27th of April

2021. During the treatise both Hon'ble Minister & Commissioner cum Secretary comprehend that demands of the service veterinarians are reasonable and also given their obligation to look after the matter in an affirmative way. But neither of them could ascertain the indemnity to fulfil the demands. As similar episodes of commiseration have now been a familiar trend to deceive the morale of the working service vets of the state, the CEC members strappingly resist the word of commitments and decided to stay on the pre determined course of action rather in a more intensifying demeanour. According to the CEC members of OVSA,

they are observing a strict Digital Boycott which will escort to an absolute PEN DOWN (without hampering animal treatment at VD/VH premises) act w.e.f 1st of May 2021. They will only serve to the presented cases in the office premises during the working days within the duty hours debarring any door step assistance in lieu of the protest. They have appealed for Hon'ble Chief Minister's intrusion in this regard to resolve the issue. They have also clued-up that, they will go for leave en-mass from May 15th if their demands will not be resolved during the date-line. It is a matter of immense apprehension that, If Govt couldn't address to the demands

of the OVSA in an asenting way then there will be colossal loss to the Livestock sector of the state by affecting the health status of the Domestic/wild/pet animals & birds directly. Further from financial point of view livelihood of livestock farmers will get affected & the vision of the Govt's Doubling of Farmers Income will be held back by affecting the egg, milk and meat production of the state. Possibility of public health commotion arising out of zoonotic diseases cannot be ruled out. So, from this prospective, honourable Chief Minister should immediately intercede to resolve the demands of the service veterinarians, opinions generally expressed.

(A.O. Bureau) New Delhi, Apr 30: Ministry of Railways has decided to extend the services of two

Hyderabad Special. HOWRAH-VASCO-D A - G A M A - HOWRAH SPECIAL: 08407

the return direction, 08408 Vasco-da-Gama-Howrah Special leaving from Vasco-da-Gama at 0650hrs on every Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday & Fridays will run up to 29th June. HOWRAH - HYDERABAD - HOWRAH SPECIAL: 08646 Hyderabad-Howrah Special leaving from Hyderabad at 0800hrs daily will run up to 15th May, 2021. Similarly, 08645 Howrah-Hyderabad Special leaving from Howrah at 1130hrs daily will run up to 17th May, 2021. The timings and nominated stoppages for the above trains will remain unchanged.



Special trains running through ECoR jurisdiction as per the following. These trains are Vasco-da-Gama-Howrah-Vasco-da-gama Special and Hyderabad-Howrah-

All round Excellence in unprecedented times

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 30: Dalmia Bharat Limited, (BSE: 542216, NSE: DALBHARAT), a leading cement manufacturing company, reported its consolidated financial results for the quarter and full year ending March 31, 2021. Highlights for the Quarter and Full Year ended March 31, 2021: Commenting on the results, Mr. Puneet Dalmia, Managing Director - Dalmia Bharat Limited, said, "Dalmia Bharat is incredibly proud of its people for delivering industry leading all round performance despite a very tough environment. With another year of strong financial and operating performance, we are on a clear path of accelerated growth

backed by a strong Balance Sheet and an exceptionally dedicated team." Mr. Mahendra Singhi, Managing Director and CEO - Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited said, "I am delighted with our company's performance this year. The performance is backed by



broad-based revenue growth of 9.0% across each region of our operation and EBITDA margin expansion of 460bps. Through a much disciplined execution, we have successfully increased our capacity by ~16% while simultaneously pre-paying our gross debt. Key

Awards & Recognitions. For second time in a row, Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited was the only cement company globally which was invited to speak at the UN Climate Summit 2020. One of the only 16 Global Companies to be appointed as "COP-26 Business Leader" by COP-26 Presidency, an apex UN Body under United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Asia Sustainability & Environmental Stewardship Award to DCBL by International Cement Executive for its sustainable practices. Nalanda (Dalmia Bharat's in-house L&D team) receives Top Honours at Business World People's L&D Excellence Awards.

Birla Global University organized BGU Banker's Conclave 2021 on "Digitalization & Innovation in Banking: The Synergy between Technology and Customer Service"

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Apr 30: The Birla School of Commerce, Birla Global University organised the first ever BGU Banker's Conclave on the topic "Digitalisation and Innovation in Banking: The Synergy between Technology and Customer Service" on 17th April, 2021. The conclave was held over three sessions-Inaugural and two Panel Discussion in which eminent bankers and financial consultants joined for the deliberations. Mr. Hare Krishna Jena, Managing Director, Clearing Corporation of India Ltd. joined the Inaugural session as the Chief Guest and Mr. K r i s h n a



Sastry Pendyala, Partner, Cybersecurity, EY, India as the Chief Speaker. They were accompanied by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Birla Global University, Prof. (Dr.) P.P. Mathur, Registrar, Prof. (Dr.) B.K. Das and Conclave Chairperson

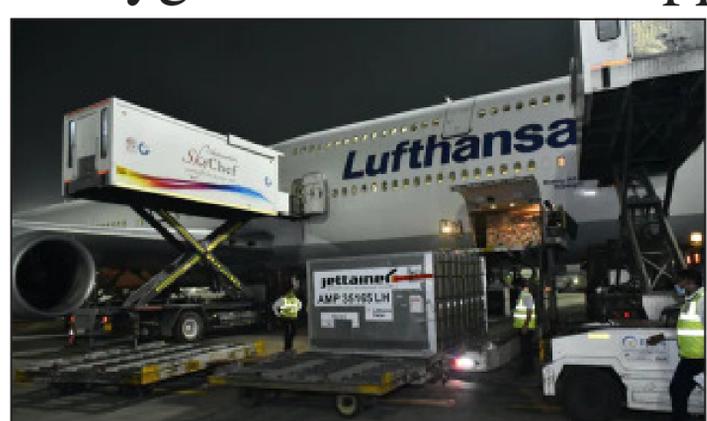
& Dean, Birla School of Commerce Prof. (Dr.) Samson Moharana. The panel discussions were attended by eminent bankers from public and private banks like, Mr. Anuj Ranjan, General Manager, Head-Fintech division, RBI, Mumbai, Mr.

Debadatta Chand, Executive Director, Bank of Baroda, Mr Biju K. Head, Operational Risk and Chief Information Security Officer, Federal Bank, Mr. Rohan Angrish, Head, Engineering and Innovation Lab, ICICI Bank, Dr. Manas Panda, Manag-

ing Consultant, Banking & Financial Services, Wipro, US, Mr. Manish Shah, Executive Vice President, Digital Channels, Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. and Mr. Mahendra Dohare, General Manager, Digital Banking Division, Punjab National Bank. The panellists deliberated on the several developments in digital banking along with the challenges being faced in real and readily answered the queries of the participants. The conclave was moderated by Mrs. Lopamudra Nayak, Faculty, Birla School of Commerce and other faculty members presented the vote of thanks.

UK Sends Oxygen Factories To Support India

(A.O. Bureau) New Delhi, Apr 30: The UK will send further vital oxygen equipment to India in support of the country's fight against COVID-19. Three oxygen generation units will be sent from surplus stocks in Northern Ireland to support India by providing more oxygen to those suffering from COVID-19. The oxygen units are each capable of producing 500 litres of oxygen per minute, enough for 50 people to use at a time. Oxygen is one of the main needs of India's healthcare system. This follows the UK's recent action to support India, with 495 oxygen concentrators and 200 ventilators sent from surplus stocks. The first batch of these medical supplies arrived in



Delhi around 01:00 local time on Tuesday 27 April, with the rest due to arrive in Delhi by Friday. The equipment will all then be transferred to Indian hospitals. The support was sent in response to a request from India and a pledge from Prime Minister Boris Johnson for the UK to do all it can to help. The assistance package has been sourced by the Department of

Health and Social Care (DHSC) and funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office. Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said: "We stand with our Indian friends in their fight against COVID-19. International collaboration is more essential than ever, and this additional UK support package will help meet India's current needs, particu-

larly for more oxygen." British Deputy High Commissioner to Kolkata, Nick Low said: "It's wonderful to see the United Kingdom and India deepening their cooperation against COVID-19 for the benefit of all our people, no matter where they live. The oxygen generation units the British Government is supplying will come from Northern Ireland. I'm

also touched that so many friends back home, most of whom have never been to India, have been in touch to say that they have made donations. This is the friendship between our people, our cities and our regions." India has this week reported its highest numbers of new daily cases and deaths since the pandemic began and is facing severe shortages of oxygen. DHSC have worked closely with the NHS, as well as suppliers and manufacturers in the UK to identify surplus life-saving equipment that can be sent to India. This is the just the latest example of UK-India collaboration throughout this pandemic, to the benefit of both countries and the world.

FIT@50+ Women's Trans Himalayan Expedition deferred to February/ March 2022

Jamshedpur, Apr 30: FIT@50+ Women's Trans Himalayan Expedition 21, a collaboration of Tata Steel Adventure Foundation (TSAF) and the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, under the FIT India banner, has been rescheduled to February/March 2022. The Expedition was also supported by Tata Motors, Tata Sports Club and Titan. In view of multiple considerations including massive surge in Covid cases in India, nation-wide lockdown in Bhutan which is unlikely to get lifted till October 2021, and based on the

Expedition rescheduled due to increasing Covid-19 cases across India and ensuing lockdown in Bhutan

advisory from the Nepal Embassy, it has been decided to defer the Expedition to the next season. Ms. Bachendri Pal, Leader

team amidst the ongoing pandemic situation which has not even spared the Himalayan region. Since the last 30 days we have been in touch with various authorities and are closely monitoring the unfolding Covid-19 crisis. After much considered thought, the decision to defer the Trans Himalayan Expedition to the next climbing season has been taken." In the meantime, the team is keeping safe and healthy and will continue their planning and preparations for the expedition in February/ March 2022.

