

'Increase beds to treat Covid patients'

Private hospitals granted special permission to up bed strength by 40 per cent

KOLKATA: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said her government has decided to grant special permission to all medical establishments to increase the number of beds by at least 40 per cent to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic situation.

She said that private hospitals in the state have been allowed to increase the number of beds, which will enhance the total number of beds in the hospitals in West Bengal to around 30,000.

"Today we have decided to give special permission to all the hospitals to increase their bed strength by 40 per cent. The decision was taken to ad-

dress the Covid-19 pandemic here," she told reporters at the state secretariat. The chief minister said that a decision was taken to set up oxygen plants at all medical and super speciality hospitals.

"The hospital authorities will be able to do it themselves. The medical colleges in the districts have been given the authority to do it themselves since doing it centrally may take some time. We do not want to waste time," she said. On the question of getting more doctors, she said third-year post graduate trainees will be employed in treating Covid-19 patients.

"Since their examinations have



been postponed they can be utilised in treating Covid-19 patients. They will get some extra benefit for this. It will help us in getting 2,000 more doctors and nurses," Banerjee added.

18,431 cases, 117 deaths

West Bengal's Covid-19 fatalities rose to 11,964 on Thursday after 117 deaths, the highest so far in a single day, were reported, the health department said in a bulletin.

The caseload also mounted to 9,35,066 after the state registered a record one-day spike of 18,431 fresh infections. In the last 24 hours, 17,412 recoveries were reported while the number of active cases increased to 1,22,774, the bulletin said.

Since Wednesday, 60,105 samples have been tested for Covid-19 in West Bengal. PTI

Koraput Deputy Collector suspended in Kalimela land scam

Malkangiri: The deputy Collector of Koraput Alok Kumar Anugulia has been suspended for his alleged role in illegal settlement of government lands in favour of 18 encroachers during his tenure as Kalimela Tehsildar. A letter issued in this regard by the Principal Secretary of Revenue and Disaster Management department on Thursday stated that Anugulia has been placed under suspension and disciplinary proceedings against him is being contemplated. Anugulia had in connivance with two other officials illegally registered large tracts of government land at Kalimela in favour of 18 encroachers in exchange for monetary favours. Subsequently, the Revenue department asked the Collector Vijay Yedulla to look into the issue on December 17 last year and submit a report within 10 days. Sub-Collector Rameshwar Pradhan verified the record of land in the block and found that Anugulia violated the norms while registering government land in the names of the 18 persons. ENS

Odisha reports 10K plus cases; high TPR concern

FROM P1...

The share of RT-PCR was only 2.5 pc in Dhenkanal, 5.8 pc in Balangir and 9.3 pc in Puri. Odisha is among the 12 states, which are now contributing significantly to the national tally with a high positivity rate. As per the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the TPR in the State was 23 pc between April 26 and May 2.

As per data compiled by ICMR, 16 states have more than 20 pc TPR and the rate in Odisha is higher than that of Kerala (22 pc), Himachal Pradesh (20 pc), Tamil Nadu (19 pc), Bihar (18 pc), Punjab (17 pc) and Jharkhand (16 pc). The alarming TPR notwithstanding, the number of overall testing and the share of RT-PCR continued to remain much lower in Odisha than many other states. Despite clear instruction from the Centre to test at least 70 pc of the samples through RT-PCR, it has never crossed 40 pc.

Apart from low testing, alleged data fudging by the Health directorate in terms of positive cases has come to fore. As per testing reports compiled by district officials of Keonjhar, as many as 287 people had tested positive on April 27. But surprisingly, the State government announced only 175 cases the next day. While the sharp reduction in number of cases indicates 'data management' at some level, health authorities refuted the allegations. Additional Chief Secretary of Health, PK Mohapatra said the directorate is sharing the number of cases received from the districts.

Of the 10,521 fresh cases, 5,945 were in quarantine and the rest were local infections. Khurda, Sundargarh and Cuttack registered the maximum number of new cases at 1,477, 1,186 and 963 respectively. Ten districts recorded more than 300 cases each. With this the tally rose to 5,00,162 of which 4,23,257 have recovered and the active cases stood at 74,731.

The maximum four deaths were reported from Khurda, two each from Balasore and Malkangiri and one each from Boudh, Deogarh, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Kalahandi, Nayagarh, Rayagada, Sambalpur and Sundargarh.

Distressed OSCSC seeks bailout from State govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhubaneswar

WITH a market borrowing of ₹15,000 crore and credit rating of A minus, the Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation (OSCSC) has urged the State government to bail it out from the financial quagmire by extending guarantee for fresh loan to ensure uninterrupted procurement of rabi paddy and smooth implementation of food security schemes.

The State-run corporation sent the SOS to the Government after several public sectors banks including UCO Bank and NABARD refused to extend more credit with State government guarantee as collateral.

The recommendation of UCO Bank's local branch for additional exposure of ₹500 crore, over and above the ₹1,700 crore working capital facility already extended, to the sanctioning authorities of the bank was turned down recently due to the unstable financial condition of the State PSU.

Echoing similar concern, NABARD, the biggest lender of ₹5,000 crore in the loan portfolio of OSCSC, refused to raise its exposure any further without government guarantee or letter of comfort. "Other lenders including the Bank of India have sounded the need for heightened comfort from collateral of government guarantee/comfort letter," the Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare department said.

The market borrowing of the corpo-

ration has hit the roof at ₹14,850 crore and it might cross ₹17,000 crore by the end of Rabi procurement of the current kharif marketing season (KMS).

If not addressed and reimbursed immediately, it will go on increasing with every passing day. Of the total market borrowing, ₹11,320.85 crore is due to interest costs amounting to ₹4,700.85 crore up to March 2021 and ₹6,620 crore for subsidy receivable from the Centre.

The stock-in-process and surplus godown stock of CMR have the combined effect of pushing OSCSC's borrowing to ₹14,850 crore, said a note of the department.

While the Centre has not released the provisional subsidy for three quarters of 2020-21 financial year, food subsidy bill to the tune of ₹6,620 crore is pending till April 30, 2021 of which ₹1,547 crore pertains to 2020-21 and advance subsidy claim of ₹1,500 crore stands receivable for the first quarter of 2021-22. An amount of ₹3,573 crore food subsidy is pending from 2003-04, the note said.

The huge food subsidy bill is pending with the Centre despite repeated request by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister RP Swain to the Centre to release the amount as the State is facing funds crunch to carry out decentralised procurement of paddy.

FOOD SUBSIDY BILL

₹6,620 cr

Is pending till April 30, 2021

₹1,547 cr

pertains to 2020-21

₹1,500 cr

advance subsidy claim for 1st quarter of 2021-22

₹3,573 cr

food subsidy pending from 2003-04



MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. | GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

Regd. Office: Muthoot Centre, TC No 14/2074 - 7 Punnen Road, Trivandrum, Kerala - 695 039, INDIA | U65929KL1997PLC011518, Ph: +91 471 4911400, 2331427

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company for the period upto 30.06.2020 & MSGL, SPL-16. One plus, Guide Prepaid, Super value, ADGL and all other 6 months tenure Gold loans up to 30.09.2020 and MSGB, EMI & SME SUVARNA due up to 31.03.2021 which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so far in spite of repeated notices, will be auctioned on 17.05.2021 from 10 am onwards.

JAGATSINGHPUR DISTRICT - PARADEEP: F386, F401, F410, F411, F418, F419, F425, F427, F430, F433, F434, F443, F444, F450, F451, F454, F455, F456, F458, F459, F461, F462, F468, F469, F470, F471, F474, F475, F478, F479, F481, F485, F486, F488, F494, F495, F496, F500, F501, F504, F505, F509, F510, F514, F519, F524, F525, F527, F528, F531, F532, F537, F538, F539, F540, F541, F542, F543, F545, F547, F548, F549, F551, F553, F554, F556, F559, F560, F564, F565, F566, F568, F569, F570, F571, F572, F573, F574, F575, F576, F577, F578, F579, F580, F581, F582, F583, F584, F585, F586, F587, F588, F589, F590, F591, F592, F593, F594, F595, F596, F597, F598, F599, F600, F601, F602, F603, F604, F605, F606, F607, F608, F609, F610, F611, F612, F613, F614, F615, F616, F617, F618, F619, F620, F621, F622, F623, F624, F625, F626, F627, F628, F629, F630, F631, F632, F633, F634, F635, F636, F637, F638, F639, F640, F641, F642, F643, F644, F645, F646, F647, F648, F649, F650, F651, F652, F653, F654, F655, F656, F657, F658, F659, F660, F661, F662, F663, F664, F665, F666, F667, F668, F669, F670, F671, F672, F673, F674, F675, F676, F677, F678, F679, F680, F681, F682, F683, F684, F685, F686, F687, F688, F689, F690, F691, F692, F693, F694, F695, F696, F697, F698, F699, F700, F701, F702, F703, F704, F705, F706, F707, F708, F709, F710, F711, F712, F713, F714, F715, F716, F717, F718, F719, F720, F721, F722, F723, F724, F725, F726, F727, F728, F729, F730, F731, F732, F733, F734, F735, F736, F737, F738, F739, F740, F741, F742, F743, F744, F745, F746, F747, F748, F749, F750, F751, F752, F753, F754, F755, F756, F757, F758, F759, F760, F761, F762, F763, F764, F765, F766, F767, F768, F769, F770, F771, F772, F773, F774, F775, F776, F777, F778, F779, F780, F781, F782, F783, F784, F785, F786, F787, F788, F789, F790, F791, F792, F793, F794, F795, F796, F797, F798, F799, F800, F801, F802, F803, F804, F805, F806, F807, F808, F809, F810, F811, F812, F813, F814, F815, F816, F817, F818, F819, F820, F821, F822, F823, F824, F825, F826, F827, F828, F829, F830, F831, F832, F833, F834, F835, F836, F837, F838, F839, F840, F841, F842, F843, F844, F845, F846, F847, F848, F849, F850, F851, F852, F853, F854, F855, F856, F857, F858, F859, F860, F861, F862, F863, F864, F865, F866, F867, F868, F869, F870, F871, F872, F873, F874, F875, F876, F877, F878, F879, F880, F881, F882, F883, F884, F885, F886, F887, F888, F889, F890, F891, F892, F893, F894, F895, F896, F897, F898, F899, F900, F901, F902, F903, F904, F905, F906, F907, F908, F909, F910, F911, F912, F913, F914, F915, F916, F917, F918, F919, F920, F921, F922, F923, F924, F925, F926, F927, F928, F929, F930, F931, F932, F933, F934, F935, F936, F937, F938, F939, F940, F941, F942, F943, F944, F945, F946, F947, F948, F949, F950, F951, F952, F953, F954, F955, F956, F957, F958, F959, F960, F961, F962, F963, F964, F965, F966, F967, F968, F969, F970, F971, F972, F973, F974, F975, F976, F977, F978, F979, F980, F981, F982, F983, F984, F985, F986, F987, F988, F989, F990, F991, F992, F993, F994, F995, F996, F997, F998, F999, F1000, F1001, F1002, F1003, F1004, F1005, F1006, F1007, F1008, F1009, F1010, F1011, F1012, F1013, F1014, F1015, F1016, F1017, F1018, F1019, F1020, F1021, F1022, F1023, F1024, F1025, F1026, F1027, F1028, F1029, F1030, F1031, F1032, F1033, F1034, F1035, F1036, F1037, F1038, F1039, F1040, F1041, F1042, F1043, F1044, F1045, F1046, F1047, F1048, F1049, F1050, F1051, F1052, F1053, F1054, F1055, F1056, F1057, F1058, F1059, F1060, F1061, F1062, F1063, F1064, F1065, F1066, F1067, F1068, F1069, F1070, F1071, F1072, F1073, F1074, F1075, F1076, F1077, F1078, F1079, F1080, F1081, F1082, F1083, F1084, F1085, F1086, F1087, F1088, F1089, F1090, F1091, F1092, F1093, F1094, F1095, F1096, F1097, F1098, F1099, F1100, F1101, F1102, F1103, F1104, F1105, F1106, F1107, F1108, F1109, F1110, F1111, F1112, F1113, F1114, F1115, F1116, F1117, F1118, F1119, F1120, F1121, F1122, F1123, F1124, F1125, F1126, F1127, F1128, F1129, F1130, F1131, F1132, F1133, F1134, F1135, F1136, F1137, F1138, F1139, F1140, F1141, F1142, F1143, F1144, F1145, F1146, F1147, F1148, F1149, F1150, F1151, F1152, F1153, F1154, F1155, F1156, F1157, F1158, F1159, F1160, F1161, F1162, F1163, F1164, F1165, F1166, F1167, F1168, F1169, F1170, F1171, F1172, F1173, F1174, F1175, F1176, F1177, F1178, F1179, F1180, F1181, F1182, F1183, F1184, F1185, F1186, F1187, F1188, F1189, F1190, F1191, F1192, F1193, F1194, F1195, F1196, F1197, F1198, F1199, F1200, F1201, F1202, F1203, F1204, F1205, F1206, F1207, F1208, F1209, F1210, F1211, F1212, F1213, F1214, F1215, F1216, F1217, F1218, F1219, F1220, F1221, F1222, F1223, F1224, F1225, F1226, F1227, F1228, F1229, F1230, F1231, F1232, F1233, F1234, F1235, F1236, F1237, F1238, F1239, F1240, F1241, F1242, F1243, F1244, F1245, F1246, F1247, F1248, F1249, F1250, F1251, F1252, F1253, F1254, F1255, F1256, F1257, F1258, F1259, F1260, F1261, F1262, F1263, F1264, F1265, F1266, F1267, F1268, F1269, F1270, F1271, F1272, F1273, F1274, F1275, F1276, F1277, F1278, F1279, F1280, F1281, F1282, F1283, F1284, F1285, F1286, F1287, F1288, F1289, F1290, F1291, F1292, F1293, F1294, F1295, F1296, F1297, F1298, F1299, F1300, F1301, F1302, F1303, F1304, F1305, F1306, F1307, F1308, F1309, F1310, F1311, F1312, F1313, F1314, F1315, F1316, F1317, F1318, F1319, F1320, F1321, F1322, F1323, F1324, F1325, F1326, F1327, F1328, F1329, F1330, F1331, F1332, F1333, F1334, F1335, F1336, F1337, F1338, F1339, F1340, F1341, F1342, F1343, F1344, F1345, F1346, F1347, F1348, F1349, F1350, F1351, F1352, F1353, F1354, F1355, F1356, F1357, F1358, F1359, F1360, F1361, F1362, F1363, F1364, F1365, F1366, F1367, F1368, F1369, F1370, F1371, F1372, F1373, F1374, F1375, F1376, F1377, F1378, F1379, F1380, F1381, F1382, F1383, F1384, F1385, F1386, F1387, F1388, F1389, F1390, F1391, F1392, F1393, F1394, F1395, F1396, F1397, F1398, F1399, F1400, F1401, F1402, F1403, F1404, F1405, F1406, F1407, F1408, F1409, F1410, F1411, F1412, F1413, F1414, F1415, F1416, F1417, F1418, F1419, F1420, F1421, F1422, F1423, F1424, F1425, F1426, F1427, F1428, F1429, F1430, F1431, F1432, F1433, F1434, F1435, F1436, F1437, F1438, F1439, F1440, F1441, F1442, F1443, F1444, F1445, F1446, F1447, F1448, F1449, F1450, F1451, F1452, F1453, F1454, F1455, F1456, F1457, F1458, F1459, F1460, F1461, F1462, F1463, F1464, F1465, F1466, F1467, F1468, F1469, F1470, F1471, F1472, F1473, F1474, F1475, F1476, F1477, F1478, F1479, F1480, F1481, F1482, F1483, F1484, F1485, F1486, F1487, F1488, F1489, F1490, F1491, F1492, F1493, F1494, F1495, F1496, F1497, F1498, F1499, F1500, F1501, F1502, F1503, F1504, F1505, F1506, F1507, F1508, F1509, F1510, F1511, F1512, F1513, F1514, F1515, F1516, F1517, F1518, F1519, F1520, F1521, F1522, F1523, F1524, F1525, F1526, F1527, F1528, F1529, F1530, F1531, F1532, F1533, F1534, F1535, F1536, F1537, F1538, F1539, F1540, F1541, F1542, F1543, F1544, F1545, F1546, F1547, F1548, F1549, F1550, F1551, F1552, F1553, F1554, F1555, F1556, F1557, F1558, F1559, F1560, F1561, F1562, F1563, F1564, F1565, F1566, F1567, F1568, F1569, F1570, F1571, F1572, F1573, F1574, F1575, F1576, F1577, F1578, F1579, F1580, F1581, F1582, F1583, F1584, F1585, F1586, F1587, F1588, F1589, F1590, F1591, F1592, F1593, F1594, F1595, F1596, F1597, F1598, F1599, F1600, F1601, F1602, F1603, F1604, F1605, F1606, F1607, F1608, F1609, F1610, F1611, F1612, F1613, F1614, F1615, F1616, F1617, F1618, F1619, F1620, F1621, F1622, F1623, F1624, F1625, F1626, F1627, F1628, F1629, F1630, F1631, F1632, F1633, F1634, F1635, F1636, F1637, F1638, F1639, F1640, F1641, F1642, F1643, F1644, F1645, F1646, F1647, F1648, F1649, F1650, F1651, F1652, F1653, F1654, F1655, F1656, F1657, F1658, F1659, F1660, F1661, F1662, F1663, F1664, F1665, F1666, F1667, F1668, F1669, F1670, F1671, F1672, F1673, F1674, F1675, F1676, F1677, F1678, F1679, F1680, F1681, F1682, F1683, F1684, F1685, F1686, F1687, F1688, F1689, F1690, F1691, F1692, F1693, F1694, F1695, F1696, F1697, F1698, F1699, F1700, F1701, F1702, F1703, F1704, F1705, F1706, F1707, F1708, F1709, F1710, F1711, F1712, F1713, F1714, F1715, F1716, F1717, F1718, F1719, F1720, F1721, F1722, F1723, F1724, F1725, F1726, F1727, F1728, F1729, F1730, F1731, F1732, F1733, F1734, F1735, F1736, F1737, F1738, F1739, F1740, F1741, F1742, F1743, F1744, F1745, F1746, F1747, F1748, F1749, F1750, F1751, F1752, F1753, F1754, F1755, F1756, F1757, F1758, F1759, F1760, F1761, F1762, F1763, F1764, F1765, F1766, F1767, F1768, F1769, F1770, F1771, F1772, F1773, F1774, F1775, F1776, F1777, F1778, F1779, F1780, F1781, F1782, F1783, F1784, F1785, F1786, F1787, F1788, F1789, F1790, F1791, F1792, F1793, F1794, F1795, F1796, F1797, F1798, F1799, F1800, F1801, F1802, F1803, F1804, F1805, F1806, F1807, F1808, F1809, F1810, F1811, F1812, F1813, F1814, F1815, F1816, F1817, F1818, F1819, F1820, F1821, F1822, F1823, F1824, F1825, F1826, F1827, F1828, F1829, F1830, F1831, F1832, F1833, F1834, F1835, F1836, F1837, F1838, F1839, F1840, F1841, F1842, F1843, F1844, F1845, F1846, F1847, F1848, F1849, F1850, F1851, F1852, F1853, F1854, F1855, F1856, F1857, F1858, F1859, F1860, F1861, F1862, F1863, F1864, F1865, F1866, F1867, F1868, F1869, F1870, F1871, F1872, F1873, F1874, F1875, F1876, F1877, F1878, F1879, F1880, F1881, F1882, F1883, F1884, F1885, F1886, F1887, F1888, F1889, F1890, F1891, F1892, F1893, F1894, F1895, F1896, F1897, F1898, F1899, F1900, F1901, F1902, F1903, F1904, F1905, F1906, F1907, F1908, F1909, F1910, F1911, F1912, F1913, F1914, F1915, F1916, F1917, F1918, F1919, F1920, F1921, F1922, F1923, F1924, F1925, F1926, F1927, F1928, F1929, F1930, F1931, F1932, F1933, F1934, F1935, F1936, F1937, F1938, F1939, F1940, F1941, F1942, F1943, F1944, F1945, F1946, F1947, F1948, F1949, F1950, F1951, F1952, F1953, F1954, F1955