

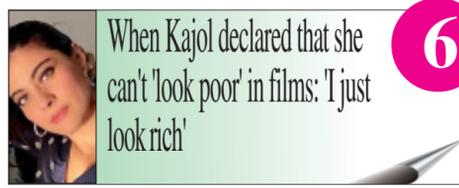
Alpan Bandyopadhyay Rejects Extension & Retires, Appointed Chief Advisor To Mamata Banerjee

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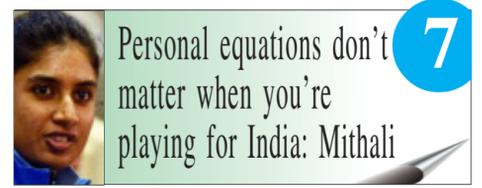
Staff Nurse Bhagabati Singh get Government Quarter after the interference of Media Representatives and Advocates

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Khimji Foundation Donates 60 Beds To BMC For Covid Care Centers

Bhubaneswar, May 31: In yet another noteworthy example of public-private partnership in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic, Khimji Foundation, the philanthropic wing of the city-based Jewellery chain, Khimji Jewellers, has donated 60 beds with mattresses, pillows and other accessories and 60 bedside units under its CSR commitment to the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) in its effort to help and strengthen the Civic Body's fight against the pandemic in the Capital City. Sumeet Khimji, Director of Khimji Jewellers, formally handed over the items to BMC Commissioner, Sanjay Kumar Singh on the premises of Bhubaneswar Development Authority this afternoon.



The beds donated will be used in different Covid Care Centres (CCCs) in Bhubaneswar, including Patia CCC, Dumduma CCC and other UPHC/UHCs which are being run by the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation. Appreciating the CSR initiative of Khimji Foundation, the BMC Commissioner

said: "We would like to offer our sincere thanks to Khimji Foundation for their contribution of 60 beds to Covid Care Centres which will be extremely useful for people during this unprecedented crisis. Such public-private partnerships will go a long way in winning the battle against the pandemic." Speaking on this noble

occasion, Sumeet Khimji said, "Bhubaneswar, the capital city, is battling with the second wave with a lot of grit and responsibility. During this time of crisis, it is commendable to see the way Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation has been taking constructive initiatives in giving aid and services during this pandemic. Khimji Founda-

tion, has always, extended support to the Government of Odisha and the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation in times of crisis. "I would request the citizens of Bhubaneswar to be strong, not to panic, and take utmost precautions like using mask, washing hands and maintaining social distance. I urge all citizens to get vaccinated at the earliest," he further added. Among others who were present at the occasion are Laxmikant Sethi, Additional Commissioner, Suvdendu Kumar Sahu, Deputy Commissioner (Sanitation), Anshuman Rath, Zonal Deputy Commissioner (South-East Zone) of BMC and Sourav Dasgupta, Chief Executive Officer of Khimji Group.

Give Preference To Beneficiaries With Online Appointment During Vaccination: Odisha Govt To Vaccinators



Bhubaneswar, May 31: The Odisha government today directed personnel associated with Covid-19 vaccination to give preference to those who book appointment online through Cowin for getting the vaccine. In a letter to Collectors, Municipal Commissioners, CDMOs and PHOs, the Additional Chief Secretary of Health and Family Welfare Department PK Mohapatra stated

Programme Officers, Manager, Vaccinators and Verifiers in respective districts and municipal corporations must ensure beneficiaries who have taken on-site appointment through Cowin shall be given preference for availing vaccinations over the ones who opted for on-site registrations and appointments. Mohapatra also cited that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare noticed at some

vaccination centres both online and onsite slots are kept. He added it has been observed the beneficiaries who booked an online appointment have to wait for longer period to get vaccines as compared to onsite slots. The letter further said the feature of onsite registration should only be used for the purposes of enabling access for facilitated cohorts and for minimising vaccine wastage.

Weather Alert: These Dists Likely To Experience Thunderstorm

Bhubaneswar, May 31: The Regional Meteorological Centre here today issued thunderstorm warning (Yellow Warning) for several districts of Odisha. Thunderstorm with lightning very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Koraput, Nabarangpur, Malkangiri, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Rayagada,



Kandhamal, Gajapati, Ganjam, Nayagarh, Khurda, Mayurbhanj, Balasore and Bhadrak today, the Meteorological Centre said.

Temperature Forecast: No large change in maximum temperature (day temperature) during next 4-5 days over the districts of Odisha.

CBSE Class-12 Exam: Last Year's Policy Can Be Adopted This Year Too, Says SC

New Delhi, May 31: The Supreme Court on Monday told the Centre to give reasons if the government is departing from the decision taken last year, amid the Covid pandemic, in connection with the class XII board exams. The top court suggested that the policy adopted last year can also be adopted this year. Attorney General (AG) K.K. Venugopal, representing the Centre, urged the top court to give him time till Wednesday to come back with a decision on cancelling of class XII board exams due to the pandemic. A bench comprising Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and Dinesh Maheshwari told the AG, "you take a decision, but if you are departing from the decision taken last year

in connection with the exams, then you must give us good reasons." The bench emphasised that the policy which was adopted previous year can be adopted this year too and reiterated that if Centre is departing from the notification issued earlier, then it should have good tangible reason. The AG replied that a meeting has been called to take a decision on the issue. The bench responded, "Take whatever decision that's appropriate but what has been expressed by the petitioner is that last year's policy should be followed." The bench further queried the AG, a notification was issued last year, why can it not be continued this year? After a brief hearing in the mat-



ter, the top court adjourned the case to Thursday. "List the matter on Thursday, June 3, 2021 as requested by the Attorney General for India, as the competent authorities are examining all aspects of the matter and are likely to take in principle decision, which would be placed before the Court on that date", said the top court in its order. The petition filed by advocate Mamta Sharma urged the top court to issue direc-

tions to the boards to cancel the Class XII examinations, instead devise an objective methodology to declare the result within a specific time-frame. "The Covid-19 situation is more severe in comparison to last year and require the respondents to adopt the same criteria of assessing the grading/marks of class XII students as done in the last year", said the plea. The plea contended that notifications

issued by CBSE and ICSE deferring the exams to an unspecified date should be quashed, adding that students cannot be subjected to suffer uncertainty amid unprecedented public health crisis. The plea contended that it is a fit case wherein the top court may exercise its power under Article 142 of the Constitution to direct the respondents to implement the same methodology, which is being adopted for class X to declare the result and cancel the examination for Class XII. Last year, amid the pandemic the top court had asked boards to determine and declare Class 12 exam results on the basis of earlier assessment of students.

New Vehicle Registration Allowed In These Areas

Bhubaneswar, May 31: The State Transport Authority (STA), Odisha has allowed new vehicle registration at Sundargarh, Rourkela, Nuapada and Gajapati RTOs as the state government permitted opening of

vehicle showrooms in Sundargarh, Nuapada and Gajapati districts from June 1. The government has not allowed opening of vehicle showrooms in other districts during lockdown. The Regional Transport Officers of

Sundargarh, Rourkela, Nuapada and Gajapati have been instructed to allow the dealers to have access to VAHAN portal for registration of new motor vehicles from June 1 till further orders.

Doctors' association calls for 'Black Day' on June 1 to protest Ramdev's remarks

New Delhi, May 31: The call has been given to condemn the "derogatory and distasteful statements" made by Baba Ramdev, FORDA said. It added that patient care will not be hampered by the day-long protest. The India Medical Association (IMA) strongly objected to Ramdev's statement, made last week, and demanded action against him. "It is stated that the accused being a businessman, in order to take advantage of the present situation and his large public following, is wilfully and deliberately advancing dishonest representa-

tions... about allopathy and modern medicine... and to swindle them into parting with their monies by taking Swami Ramdev's unapproved and dubious drugs," the IMA said in a 14-page complaint sent to the Centre. The war of words started after Ramdev called al-



lopathy a "stupid science" in an interview. IMA criticised the yoga guru and asked for an unconditional apology, which Ramdev had to furnish on Sunday after being cautioned by the Union health minister. "IMA brings to the notice of our Health Minister, a video circulating

in social media portraying, the celebrated Yoga Guruji saying that 'modern allopathy ek aisi stupid aur diwaliya science hai' (modern allopathy is a stupid and failed science)," the association had said in its statement. On Wednesday last week, IMA asked PM Modi to take strict action against Ramdev for spreading misinformation about vaccines due to which ASHA workers tasked with immunizing people have been attacked by people who have fallen for his claims, reported PTI.

No Vaccination Of People Above 18 Years In Odisha From June 2!

Bhubaneswar, May 31: COVID-19 vaccination of people aged between 18 and 44 years is likely to be halted in the entire state from June 2 due to shortage of vaccines. As per Health Department sources, vaccination drive is being affected due to the short supply. Stock of state procured vaccines will exhaust tomorrow and there is no communication from the manufacturers regarding further supply of the vaccines. Till yesterday, Odisha had a stock of 14,650 doses of Covaxin and 42,730 doses of Covishield for



the age group of 18-44 years. However, Centre is expected to send 3,05,460 doses of Covishield and 40,000 doses of Covaxin for beneficiaries above 45 years. The Covishield consignment will reach the state on June 3 and

Covaxin on June 6. It is pertinent to mention here that thousands of people aged between 18-44 years are waiting for their second dose of Covaxin in the state capital as their due dates have already arrived.

AIADMK leader K Palaniswami urges PM Modi to increase Amphotericin supply to TN



Chennai, May 31: Referring to the incidence of black fungus in Tamil Nadu, Palaniswami, in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said mucormycosis was spreading rapidly all over the state. Anti-fungal drug Amphotericin is in short supply and its allotment to Tamil Nadu should be increased, Leader of Opposition and top AIADMK leader K Palaniswami requested the Centre on Monday. Referring to the incidence of black fungus in Tamil Nadu, Palaniswami, in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra

Modi, said mucormycosis was spreading rapidly all over the state. Amphotericin injection, used to treat the infection, is in short supply, he said and requested Modi to increase its allotment to enable the affected people to get access to life saving treatment. The former Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to Modi for immediately looking into the Covid-19 related requirements of Tamil Nadu and increasing allotment of vaccines, oxygen and anti-viral Remdesivir.

Nadda and Anurag Thakur lay foundation stones for 2 oxygen plants in Himachal

New Delhi, May 31: The two oxygen plants have a capacity of 140 LPM each and these can ensure uninterrupted supply to 30 beds. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Jagat Prakash Nadda and Union minister Anurag Thakur on Monday virtually laid foundation stones for two oxygen plants in Himachal Pradesh. They also flagged off vehicles with Covid relief material for the people in the state. These oxygen plants are being set up in Hamirpur and Bilaspur. They also flagged off vehicles with Covid relief material for the people in the state. These oxygen plants are being set up in Hamirpur and Bilaspur. "A few



weeks ago we had flagged off 17 Asptal Mobile Medical Units carrying Covid relief materials for 12 districts in Himachal Pradesh. Today we are laying the foundation for 2 PSA Oxygen Plants of 140 LPM each for Hamirpur & Bilaspur and also flagging off 108 oxygen concentrators, 160 oxygen cylinders that will ca-

ter to over 330 hospital beds as part of our continuing Covid relief efforts," Nadda said. "The BJP and its karyakartas across the country are engaged in these efforts under the mantra of 'Seva hi Sangathan'. Everyone in their capacity is coming forward to provide assistance; we must continue this and ensure all our relief ma-

terials reach their intended beneficiaries in Himachal Pradesh," he added. Himachal Pradesh chief minister Jairam Thakur was also present on the occasion. "We will set up a total of 3 Oxygen generation plants, along with providing 300 Oxygen Concentrators and 200 Oxygen Cylinders which will cater to

700 beds providing a robust supply of O₂," Union minister Anurag Thakur said. He also applauded the chief minister for ensuring that the Covid relief material is swiftly allocated to intended beneficiaries. Thanking the central government, chief minister Jairam Thakur said, "Himachal government is providing the best possible facilities towards treatment of Covid patients and started the Himachal Covid Care Mobile App. The state is amongst the top in India vis-à-vis vaccination drive." The two oxygen plants have a capacity of 140 LPM each and these can ensure uninterrupted supply to 30 beds.

Covid-19: Maharashtra extends lockdown till June 15, but allows certain relaxations

Mumbai, May 31: In the urban areas that are considered as separate administrative units and where the total positivity rate is less than 10 per cent and total oxygen beds occupancy is less than 40 per cent, essential shops can be allowed to operate from 7 am to 2 pm instead of 7 am to 11 am. The civic body can also decide on all non-essential shops which are standalone and not inside a mall up to 2 pm, but they will be closed on weekends. Deliveries of non-



essential items along with essential items through e-commerce will be allowed in all these districts. All government offices will be allowed to function at 25 per cent attendance instead of 15 per cent earlier. As the sowing season

is approaching, the agriculture shops can be allowed to be open till 2 pm. But in areas where the positivity rate is more than 20 per cent and the occupancy of the oxygenated beds is more than 75 per cent, then the district bor-

ders are to be sealed and only in cases of emergencies related to death or Covid-19 duty personnel shall be permitted to move. The government says that there will be no restriction on cargo movement. Asked on what would happen if positivity rates or percentage of oxygen bed occupancy of a district or a Municipal Corporation were to change, chief minister secretary spokesperson said, "District Disaster Management Authorities

(DDMA) must review the positivity rates or percentage of oxygen bed occupancy on weekly basis preferable on Fridays so that changes may be made applicable from Mondays." If the positivity rate were to change in such a way that as per these orders restrictions should relax then the District Disaster Management Authority can apply the concerned provisions with the 'Break the Chain Orders' dated May 30, 2021, with the prior consent of the SDMA.

Alpan Bandyopadhyay Rejects Extension & Retires, Appointed Chief Advisor To Mamata Banerjee



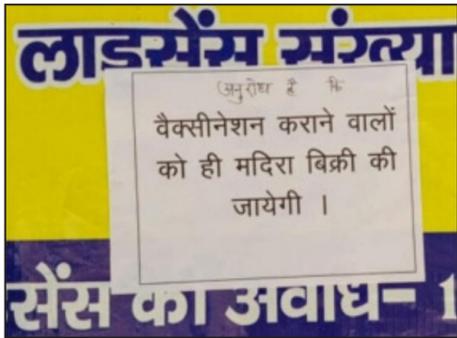
Kolkata, May 31: In a surprise development on Monday, West Bengal Chief Secretary Alpan Bandyopadhyay, who was given an extension of three months, opted for his normal superannuation scheduled on May 31, apparently putting an end to the Centre-state tussle over his Central deputation. Alleging that the decision for Central deputation was a fallout of the Centre's vendetta politics, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has appointed Bandyopadhyay as the Chief Political Advisor to the CM. Bandyopadhyay's decision to opt for normal retirement came after the Centre sent a second letter to him and the state government, asking the senior officer to report to North Block on Tuesday, clearly indicating that the Centre will not withdraw from its stance. The communication from the Centre came as a response to a letter shot off by Banerjee, in which she urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to withdraw the "letter of recall" and allow Bandyopadhyay to continue working as the Chief Secretary of West Bengal for the next three months. Earlier on May 28, the Centre had written to Bandyopadhyay, asking him to report to the Department of Per-

sonnel and Training (DoPT) at 10 am on May 31. It also asked the state government to give him the necessary clearance for this purpose. Unwilling to release the Chief Secretary, Banerjee wrote to the Prime Minister on Monday, saying, "Thumbly request you to withdraw, recall, reconsider your decision and rescind the latest so-called order in larger public interest. The government of West Bengal cannot release, and is not releasing, the Chief Secretary at this critical hour, on the basis of our understanding that the earlier order of extension, issued after lawful consultation in accordance with applicable laws, remains operational and valid." Speaking to the media, the Chief Minister said, "I am sorry to say that the purpose of service of the extension was in public interest and they (the central government) agreed to give extension. They have recalled him, but the state government doesn't even know the reason. Naturally, the state government didn't agree because the purpose behind giving him extension still persists. "Perhaps the Central government is not aware that when I received the letter, Bandyopadhyay has been superannuated from his service on the

afternoon of May 31, as his normal date of retirement is May 31. Hence his services are no longer available to join the Central government tomorrow, as mentioned in today's order." Banerjee then announced that Bandyopadhyay has been appointed as the Chief Advisor to the Chief Minister and he will start working from Tuesday onwards with a salary commensurate with his age, seniority and designation. "This will be sanctioned by the finance department," she said. Meanwhile, Hare Krishna Diwedi, presently working as the Home Secretary, will handle the responsibilities of the Chief Secretary, while B. Gopalika, who is presently working as the Additional Chief Secretary, will become the new Home Secretary of the state. Terminating the incident to be a one-off case in the country's 74 years of cooperative federalism, the Chief Minister alleged that the BJP government is destroying the federal structure of the state. "I have not seen such a heartless and unkind Prime Minister and Home Minister in all my life. You cannot recall the top man in the state bureaucracy in this manner. This is not only shameful, but it also shows their vindictive attitude. They will destroy the morale of the bureaucrats in the country.

'No Vaccine, No Liquor' Rule In UP's Etawah To Promote COVID Vaccination

(A.O. Bureau) Etawah, May 31: The Etawah administration in Uttar Pradesh has found a novel idea to promote the Covid vaccination drive. Notices that say "No liquor without vaccine certificate" have been prominently displayed outside liquor outlets in Sefai in Etawah district. The notices were put up at the direction of Etawah Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Hem Kumar Singh. ADM Singh, along with district police officials, inspected liquor outlets in Sefai after the Aligarh hooch tragedy where over 50 people died after consuming spurious liquor over the weekend. ADM Hem Kumar Singh directed liquor outlets to display notices clearly stating that alcohol will not be sold to anyone who is yet to be vaccinated against Covid-19. Owners of liquor outlets were also warned against selling liquor to customers without verifying their vaccination certificates. However, Etawah district excise official Kamal Kumar Shukla said no



order has been issued to stop the sale of liquor to those who are yet to receive the jab. He went on to add that the district administration's efforts to shore up inoculations must be encouraged but there are no orders mandating vaccine certificates for the purchase of liquor. The Etawah ADM's order comes days after the district magistrate of Firozabad had said salaries of government employees will be withheld unless they receive the jab. Uttar Pradesh has set a target of administering one crore doses of Covid-19 vaccines in the month of June. In order to achieve this target, district officials in the state are implementing novel ideas to promote vaccination.

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Central Vista Project Is A Vital National Project: Delhi HC

New Delhi, May 31: The Delhi High Court has given its verdict on Monday while hearing the petition that has stopped the Central Vista project. The Delhi High Court gave great relief to the Central Government and said that the work on the project would continue and the stay petition was dismissed. The High Court said that this is a very important project related to national importance. It cannot be seen sepa-

rately. Not only this, the High Court has also imposed a penalty of one lakh on the petitioner who filed a petition seeking a stay on the Central Vista project. The petitioner sought to stop the Corona epidemic on the basis of the petition. The bench of High Court Chief Justice DN Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh has given this ruling while dismissing the petition. The central government had given this in the High Court.



Administrator never tried to understand islanders' culture: Lakshadweep MP

New Delhi, May 31: Administrator Praful Patel has been to Lakshadweep for just 15-20 days in the past five months, and cared little to understand the islanders' culture and ecology, its MP Mohammed Faizal said. Faizal asserted that a legal re-

course would be sought if the Centre went ahead with the controversial laws for the archipelago. The NCP leader, who has been demanding recall of Patel as administrator, said the draft laws were being opposed by every section of

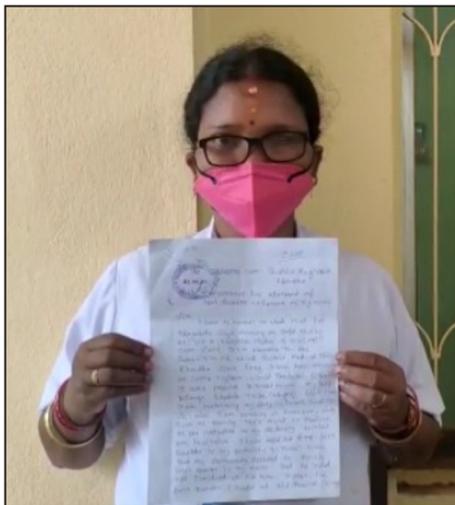
the Lakshadweep society, even the local BJP leaders. He alleged that the draft legislations were in blatant violation of the Supreme Court guidelines for carrying out developmental work on the ecologically-sensitive islands. Patel was given

the charge of the Lakshadweep administrator following the death of Dineshwar Sharma in December last year. Faizal said Patel was trying to have a "one-man show" on the islands without consulting the locals or even their representatives.

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Staff Nurse Bhagabati Singh get Government Quarter after the interference of Media Representatives and Advocates

(A.O. Bureau) Khordha, May 31: Smt. Bhagabati Singh working as Regular Staff nurse at District Head Quarter Hospital (DHH) Khordha, under District Medical Officer -Cum-Superintendent DHH, Khordha. In the supervision of Chief Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) Khordha. Since long she was working as a front line worker in covid-19 pandemic situation and she is also a physical disabled person and also belongs to ST category. Still then she was performing her duty in a discipline manner and also working in emergency duty such as



morning, day and night in medical as per instruction of his authority. She have applied for a government residential quarter before the CDMO Khordha in three times. But not al-

lotted the quarter in his name. Though the government quarter situated at old medical colony laying vacant vide Qr. No-E/1. The quarter is reserved only for staff nurse. During the pandemic her application for allotment of government quarter in her favour Dt. 20.12.20, 12.04.21 and 15.04.21. But the said vacant quarter allotted in the name of one clerical staff of CDMO office. When she approached before and reflected the irregular condition before the CDMO Khordha but the CDMO advice her to consult with DMO about the government quarter. But she not get the justice. She filed a appeal before the Collector Khordha to give justice to him. Some media representatives and Advocates of Khordha extended their support to Smt.

Bhagabati Singh and brought to the notice of CDMO Khordha and also highlights the issue in different media. For the result of which Smt. Singh get his legitimate claim's. District Medical Officer (MS) Cum-Superintendent DHH Khordha in his office letter no-1156, Dt-31.05.2021 the vacant government quarter (D-type) situated at old medical campus Khordha allotted Smt. Bhagabati Singh staff nurse DHH Khordha. It can only possible to the interference of Media persons and Advocates of Khordha. Smt. Singh thanks the media persons and Advocates to extend their support to her.

The service organization of Odisha Distributed free ration in Puri



(A.O. Bureau) Puri, May 31: May Through out World The second wave Corona as affected so many people of India and have created unemployment to so many people It also affected to temporary shops of Puri which as

Brought panic for The common people on behalf of Reliance Company with coordination of Service organization 5 kg Rice, 1 kg Sugar, 1kg Dal, 1 liter Mustard oil, have been distributed to Puri Luck down affected people The program wilk

continue further Told by The service organization Secretary Dilip ku Behera In this Program Social worker Sibasis Khuntia, Journalist Jaya Krushna Das, Member of Org. Sanjay ku Sahu and Mr. Behera were Present.

Drug Peddler Arrested in Khordha 50.19 Brown Sugar Recovered



(A.O. Bureau) Khordha, May 31: A team of Khordha Model PS arrested a drug peddler in the back side of Maa Barunei Hotel, Jemadei, Khordha and recovered 50.19 grams of Brown Sugar. On receipt of credible information as per the direction of SP, Khordha under the supervision of Sushil Kumar Mishra, SDPO, Khordha and In-

spector Sanjaya Kumar Pattnaik IIC, Model PS, Khordha formed a team headed by SI, Bijaya Kumar Behera, SI, Digbijaya Biswal,

SI, Padmalochan Behera proceeded to the alleged location and could able to nab the suspected person namely Akash Sethi and maintaining all procedures when search of the said suspected persons was taken 50.19 gram's of Brown Sugar cost of Rs. 2 Lakhs was seized from his exclusive possession of the back side of Maa Barunei Hotel, Jemadei Khordha. Registered a case vide model PS case no-215/2021, U/S-21(B)NDPS Act. and the accused was forwarded to the Judicial court Khordha.



2600 Tonnes Of Oxygen Carried By ECoR Through Oxygen Express Trains



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 31: In a move to provide Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) during the pandemic period to different States those having insufficient Oxygen, Indian Railways is running Oxygen Express Special Trains to & from different parts of the country. During this COVID-19 upsurge, East Coast Railway has taken up the lead role for transportation of Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) in a major way for saving lives of patients. Till today, ECoR has carried 2600.02 tons of LMO from different Steel Plants of its

jurisdiction towards different States. The first rake of loaded LMO by Indian Railways was sent from Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Visakhapatnam to Nagpur & Nasik. 40 Oxygen Express Special Trains loaded with Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) in 162 containers were sent from ECoR jurisdiction towards different States of the Country. Loaded LMO rakes form Durgapur, Tatanagar, and Rourkela going towards Secunderabad, Chennai and Bangalore have also been passing through ECoR jurisdiction with top priority.

Out of the 40 Oxygen Express special trains from ECoR jurisdiction, almost half of them received by Delhi & Haryana areas. About 1010.09 tons of LMO through 63 containers in 19 Oxygen Express Trains are transported to Delhi & Haryana. Oxygen Express Trains from ECoR jurisdiction have also been sent to Maharashtra, Telangana, Kerala, Tamilnadu & Karnatak States. ECoR has carried 545.31 tons of LMO to Maharashtra, 117.9 tons to Kerala, 685.7 tons to Telangana, 120 tons to Tamilnadu and 120.98 tons to

- ECoR despatched 40 loaded Oxygen Special Trains towards different States of the Country.
- 2600 Tons of Liquid Medical Oxygen Transported from ECoR jurisdiction.
- 1010.09 Tons Oxygen carried towards Haryana & Delhi Areas.
- ECoR arranged food packets for the crew members on the way to the destinations.
- Priority given for running of Oxygen Special Trains.

Karnataka. East Coast Railway is providing Food packets and water bottles for the Crew Members of all Oxygen Express Special Trains going to various States in ECoR jurisdiction. Apart from the Crew members, the staffs of Road Vehicles carried in Trains are also being taken care in ECoR jurisdiction. Steel Plants like Tata Bhusan Limited and Jindal Steel & Power Limited at Angul and Tata Steel Limited at Kalinga Nagar have contributed majorly in Oxygen loading from ECoR jurisdiction. Till now, 33 Oxygen Express Trains loaded with

LMO sent from Angul area, 06 from Kalinga Nagar area and 01 from Visakhapatnam area towards various States from ECoR jurisdiction for saving life of patients affected in Covid-19 infection in this pandemic. East coast Railway has taken all precautions for safe running of Oxygen Express Special Trains from its jurisdiction and sending these trains at the earliest. Apart from this, Oxygen Special Trains from other Steel Plants beyond ECoR jurisdiction have also been given priority as in "Green Corridor" for safe running and early movement to their destinations.

EPFO Allows Members To Avail 2nd COVID-19 Advance

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 31: To support its subscribers during the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic, EPFO has now allowed its members to avail second non-refundable COVID-19 advance. The provision for special withdrawal to meet the financial need of members during pandemic was introduced in March 2020, under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY). An amendment to this effect was made by Ministry of Labour & Employment in Employees' Provident Funds

Scheme, 1952 by inserting therein sub-para (3) under paragraph 68L, through notification in the Official Gazette. Under this provision, non-refundable withdrawal to the extent of the basic wages and dearness allowances for three months or up to 75% of the amount standing to member's credit in the EPF account, whichever is less, is provided. Members can apply for lesser amount also. The COVID-19 advance has been a great help to the EPF members during the pandemic, especially for those having monthly wages of



less than Rs. 15,000. As on date, EPFO has settled more than 76.31 lakh COVID-19 advance claims thereby disbursing a total of Rs. 18,698.15 crore. During the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic, 'mucormycosis' or black fungus has been declared an epidemic recently. In such trying times, EPFO

endeavours to lend a helping hand to its members by meeting their financial needs. Members who have already availed the first COVID-19 advance can now opt for a second advance also. The provision and process for withdrawal of second COVID-19 advance is same as in the case of first advance. Consider-

ing urgent need of members for financial support in these trying times, it has been decided to accord top priority to COVID-19 claims. EPFO is committed to settle these claims within three days of their receipt. For this, EPFO has deployed a system driven auto-claim settlement process in respect of all such members whose KYC requirements is complete in all respects. Auto-mode of settlement enables EPFO to reduce the claim settlement cycle to just 3 days as against the statutory requirement to settle the claims within 20 days.

Generation donation for Sri Lingaraja's Chandanayatra

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 31: Mahaprabhu Sri Lingaraja's Chandanayatra continues while the lockdown is on because of the corona. Mahaprabhu two-day-long boat was dark due to the poor generator on the boat during the Chandanayatra. Knowing this, Aditya



Mohapatra, a social worker from Old Bhubaneswar, donated a wordless generator to the temple administration. The

service thanked Aditya, who is now connected to the Chandanayatra by connecting the power to the pressure boat.

Doorstep COVID Vaccination Of Citizens Above 45 Years Begins In Capital

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 31: Doorstep COVID-19 vaccination of people age above 45 years began in the state capital today. Currently, the inoculation drive is underway at six apartments coming under in three zones. Tenants aged above 45 years are being administered with both the first and second jabs. Earlier, the Residents Welfare Associations (RWAs) had requested for doorstep vaccination. The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corpora-

tion (BMC) has targeted to vaccinate 200 people from each apartment. "The BMC is reaching out to the RWAs for hassle-free vaccination of citizens above 45 years. Today, the drive is underway at six apartments, including Balaji Apartment at Jharpada, BMC Bhawani Enclave at Saheed Nagar and Cosmopolis at Dumduma," said the urban local body. Earlier, BMC had conducted doorstep COVID test in several apartments here.

EDITORIAL

F.R.I.E.N.D.S

Handle? I can handle it. Handle is my middle name. Well, actually it's the middle part of my first name." Well, in case you forgot, that's your Chandler Muriel Bing. But when Friends met all over again recently, it was a flurry of activity. Matthew Perry's poor health concerns notwithstanding, who was seen slurring his speech during the "Friends Reunion" episode, the zing of the show was very much alive even after 17 years the show stopped airing. One of the most watched and loved sitcoms to date, F.R.I.E.N.D.S ran for 10 years from 1994. It has been the most awaited reunion in the history of television around the globe. Finally, the whole cast of F.R.I.E.N.D.S came under one roof. The much-awaited episode, aired on May 27 after years of abated breaths and scintillating suspense, started with the appearance of Ross Geller == David Lawrence Schwimmer == followed by Phoebe Buffay == Lisa Valerie Kudrow == and then the other main elements Rachel Green, Jennifer Joanna Aniston, Joey Tribbiani, Matthew Steven LeBlanc, Monica Geller, Courtney Cox, and then sarcasm king Chandler, Matthew Langford Perry, meeting each other and reliving the wonderful moments. The F.R.I.E.N.D.S were together after 17 years. The moment was magical, just as so many of us had been imagining for long, feeling not only for them to meet, touch and hug one another but also as we all secretly have a wish to climb into the arms of our loved ones from our younger days. They had tears in their eyes, the actors, and so did the viewers. James Corden, the host, as you all must have seen, hosted it in front of the iconic fountain which is present in the title track. To help re-enjoy the moments of the show, there were the "Joey and Chandler" chairs when they sit on the chair together and say "Aww...". The reunion show starred as a highlight the Q&A session hosted by Ross, wherein Monica and Rachel lose their apartment to the fumbling Chandler and Joey. The aficionados would remember, to the answer to a question, that Rachel "on a break" then had written "18 pages, front and back", to Ross. Lovely, moving, and heartbreak then? Does it help if our friend Chandler says in one of the episodes: "I'm not great at advice. But can I interest you in a sarcastic comment?"

Bonhomie

India has unequivocally hitched itself to the Quad wagon, going by the statement of Foreign Minister S Jaishankar after his physical interaction with the Biden Administration in Washington over the weekend. Quad today fills a very important gap that has emerged in contemporary times, where there are global or regional requirements, which cannot be filled by a single country, the Minister said, adding it cannot even be filled by one bilateral relationship, and which is not being addressed at the multilateral level. With this, the turnaround in India's policy in the East is complete. It began with Prime Minister Narendra Modi departing from previous policies of strategic co-operation with China and adopting an aggressive posturing following the unending Ladakh standoff. India's bond with Quad — the US, Japan and Australia being the other three members — makes it party to the multilateral body's commitment not only to keep the India-Pacific free and open, but also unquestionably — and even if not said in so many words — makes India to be part of the US-led exercise to counter China in the Indian Ocean and, equally, in the South China Sea. The importance of Quad in India's Look East policy becomes paramount because of what it can give to India and what the latter can give Quad. Among the four, India is the only developing country and by dint of its location becomes the only one with advantages of size and stature to challenge China in the long term and that India alone can be the counterbalancing factor in the region. The Quad understands India's unique placement and that is why there will be a commitment from the body to help India to be self-sustained in its security and economic requirements. India has bilateral tie-ups with the members, but they would make a greater impact if they are formally sourced through Quad to assist India in fields as varied as defence and agriculture, economy and climate, technology and education. However, for it to fructify, Quad cannot continue to not discuss China or the threat it poses to the region's security or the nature of the standoff India has been witnessing for quite some time now with no sign of de-escalation by China. Unless it opens itself up to the subject of China, India's relevance to Quad will not come to the talking table; the multilateral body's commitment to India's progress will not be seriously forthcoming till then. The March 12 virtual Quad Summit discussed not China, but vaccines, cyber security and maritime security. And perhaps as a sign of things to come, the Quad will be helping India with the manufacture of COVID-19 vaccine, Japan and the US giving the financial support and logistical support from Australia.

India's misreading of the Chinese situation

One reason why Communism did not cross the borders of Kerala and West Bengal in India is equality. It is a contradiction of the Hindu ethos of karma and liberty. The Chinese army, or the PLA, is not a national force but belongs to the Communist Party of China. Its genesis was in first allying with the country's nationalist party the Kuomintang (KMT) led by General Chiang Kai-shek against the Japanese invaders. Thereafter, the PLA fought the KMT in a civil war and defeated them to complete the communist revolution by October 1949. Supposing the Indian Army had belonged to the Congress or any other ruling party; would it have become the crack professional force it now is? Moreover, fighting for one's country and obeying a political boss are not the same thing. Hypothetical outcomes or differences would be seen in the battlefield, if we go deeper into some figures. In 1962 the Chinese invasion was a sorry tale for India. Nearly, 5,000 soldiers were killed while about 4,000 were wounded or captured alive. But even here, the Chinese admitted that they had lost nearly 750 killed and 1,700 wounded. It is evident that the Indian soldiers, despite being badly clothed and equipped, fought bravely. Else, the Chinese should not have had so many casualties. During the Korean War in 1951-53, China found the communist North Koreans having to retreat in the face of the overwhelmingly powerful US army aiding South Korea, and went to North Korea's help. By 1953, the PLA had lost an estimated 1,52,000 soldiers killed and 383,000 wounded. In 1967, just five years after its successful 1962 attack on India, China once again tried to grab Indian territory at Nathu La, but was beaten back by the Indian army, suffering 450-500 casualties to just over



Prafull Goradia

70 on the Indian side. In 1979, China decided to invade communist North Vietnam but despite the size of the PLA, it suffered over 60,000 casualties and had to go back in ignominy. Since its 1979 Vietnam misadventure, the PLA has had no combat experience. Its recent attempts at bullying India, first in Doklam and then Ladakh, have met with not only failure but also combat casualties. This history does not speak well of the efficiency of the Chinese army. In fact, communist militaries are not known to be efficient. Josef Stalin claimed to have played a major role in defeating Hitler's Germany. But such a claim conveniently overlooked the enormity of the Soviet casualties, of over 20 million in the four years 1941-45. Besides, it also ignored the enormous American aid of war material supplied under the Lend-Lease scheme. There is an ideological block with communist militaries; they are unable to develop a proper officer corps. Karl Marx defined the core of his ideology as "from each according to his ability to each according to his need". He

forcefully propagated the equality of the entire working class or proletariat, as he termed it. But all other classes of people stood excluded from this unity; even peasants were overlooked; if they had even an acre or two of land, it was collectivized or taken away. Landlords and urban rich were eliminated. Stalin did all this by killing over 30 million Soviet people during his reign that lasted from 1924 to 1953. Coming to militaries, officers must be respected by their soldiers and not be treated as equals. Implicit obedience is essential for obedience especially on the battlefield. Communism has destroyed the essence of discipline by prescribing equality. If both soldiers and their commanders are to be political equals as 'comrades', off goes the military, or any organization for that matter. One reason why Communism did not cross the borders of Kerala and West Bengal in India is this bug of equality. It is a contradiction of the Hindu ethos of karma and liberty. One cannot prevent a person from performing bet-

ter and better karma nor help to boost an individual's poor Karma. One of the first steps after 1949 by Mao's regime was to take over the ownership of farming land but, unlike Stalin, it simultaneously leased it back. Communists could not trust any class except those who worked for industries or those dependent on state employment. Ideally, they preferred party service to that of the state. This explains why the army in China is owned by the party. One may briefly linger what the great leader of Singapore Lee Kuan Yew had said about China in the second volume of his autobiography. In the next 50 years Lee said, the Chinese would have to move from a planned to a market economy, from a rural to an urban base. China's political structures would have to allow its citizens more participation and control over their lives. A third factor would be the widening differences in incomes, growth rates, and quality of life between the wealthy coastal and riverine provinces and the disadvantaged inland provinces. The fourth and most profound factor will be the different values and aspirations of the next generation. Several problems can cause serious disruptions: a breakdown of the banking system, huge unemployment following reforms of state-owned enterprises. However, the most pernicious problem is corruption. Much of China's economic breakthrough has been export oriented. Its new factories, small and large, manufacture products that are mostly exported. Many of the larger factories have been set up by foreign entrepreneurs. In such a situation, the country's rulers should ensure friendly relations with nearly all countries, especially the importing ones. But, as it happens, the current regime has earned the wrath of most nations of the world. What then would eventually happen to China's exports?

Philippines new victim of China's sovereign ambition

Makhan Saikia

For China, the SCS is peaceful and the nations, including the Philippines, are living there in complete harmony. The reason behind such bizarre thinking of the Beijing monarch is that all the smaller neighbours in the SCS are resigning themselves to a new normal, heavily pushed by the former's muscle power and money in all these years. China's violent forays into the South China Sea (SCS) are turning out to be threats to the neighbouring nations. China's constant provocation towards the Philippines has forced the latter to embrace the US security umbrella. Nearly a swarm of 220-armed Chinese fishing vessels entered the Whitsun Reef in the SCS. This particular zone falls rightly within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and continental shelf of the sovereign territory of the Philippines. It is not about withdrawing China's "maritime militia" from the EEZ's of the Philippines in the SCS for now. The moot point is why the Xi regime is militarising the international navigational lines? China must respect the freedom of navigation across the SCS by the neighbouring nations and the rest of the world. However, Filipino President Rodrigo Duterte has refused to be drawn into the big power competition in the SCS. He urged the global leaders to refrain from pursuing their interests at the expense of smaller countries. Duterte said that the world appeared to be hurtling back to the era of heightened big power competition that adds another layer of complexity to long-standing security issues in the region. Further he highlighted that his country is not blind to the geopolitics of diversification and decoupling. However, the Philippines does not see the need to take sides in the ongoing geo-economic competition among big powers. It is worth noting the background of the SCS conflict at this mo-

ment. This will offer a window of opportunity to understand the original cause behind the clash between China and Philippines and other claimants in the region. The maritime dispute with Philippines has its roots lying in China's controversial nine-dash line claim. Indeed, its official appearance was noticed for the first time in a map Beijing submitted to the UN in the year 2009. This map appears to encapsulate major part of the contested SCS. But the SCS concerns competing maritime and territorial claims. At the centre of the conflict, four groups of geographical features are contested, which are the Pratas Islands, the Paracel Islands, the Macclesfield Bank and Scarborough Shoal and the Spratly Islands. The most controversial one is the Spratly Islands claimed in their entirety by China, Taiwan and Vietnam, and in part by the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei. In March 2013, the Philippines brought a case against China over its grand claims and activities in the SCS. The case was heard by the arbitral tribunal under the United Nations Conventions for the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The final verdict that came in July 2016 was a major victory for the Philippines against China in regard to resource rights. The Hague-based tribunal overwhelmingly backed the Philippines and ruled that the rocky outcrops claimed by China, some of which are exposed only at low tides, can't be used as the basis of territorial claims. It said some of the waters were within the EEZ of the Philippines because those areas are not overlapped any possible entitlement of China. The tribunal found that China had violated the Philippines' sovereign rights in those waters by interfering with its fishing and petroleum exploration and by construct-

ing artificial islands. But then President Xi claimed that China's territorial sovereignty and marine rights in the seas would not be affected by the ruling. He insisted China was still committed to resolving disputes with its neighbours. Thus China outrightly rejected the ruling given by the international tribunal. Currently, the Philippines and China have called for Bilateral Consultation Mechanism (BCM) to ease tension in the SCS. Both the countries have met for the sixth round of talks on the latest incursions of Chinese vessels into Philippines' territory. During the virtual meet, they cited the importance of dialogue in "easing tensions and understanding each country's position and intentions in the area" and "addressing differences in an atmosphere of openness and cordiality to pave the way for practical cooperation and initiatives". But how the bilateral dialogues will push back China from the Philippines' territory is a big question. Will Beijing abide by the guidelines of such talks? Do they matter to the rogues in the power corridors of China? First of all, the opacity in Chinese public policy making is an old game since the establishment of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in October 1949. Nevertheless, starting from Chairman Mao Zedong till the coming of current President Xi, China has always suffered from its old dream of making an empire in modern Asia. The way China is behaving in the SCS is weakening the international law in the sea. It's a blatant violation of the UNCLOS. It is also known as the Law of the Sea Treaty or Law of the Sea Convention. Simply it is an international treaty that clearly establishes a regulatory framework and guide-

lines for using the seas and oceans. Its aim is to ensure the use and conserve marine resources and also to preserve and protect all living organisms in the sea. Further, the UNCLOS highlights the rules of the high seas for the purpose of international navigation and establishes the rights and responsibilities of nations in the protection of the marine environment. On November 16, 1982, the UNCLOS was signed at the Montego Bay, Jamaica, as a result of the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea. However, the law came into force only in 1994. But way back in 1973, such proposals for international sea laws surfaced at the UN. And today, more than 160 nations across the world recognise these global sea laws, and China violating the same is no less than an outrageous act. In March, the US warned China against what the Philippines and Taiwan see increasingly aggressive moves towards them from Beijing. Washington clearly reminded Beijing of the former's obligations to its partners in the Pacific. The State Department clearly said: "An armed attack against the Philippines' armed forces, public vessels or aircrafts in the Pacific, including in the South China Sea, will trigger our obligations under the US-Philippines Mutual Defence Treaty." Further the report of the State Department highlighted that America is aware of the concerns of the Philippines regarding continued massing of the PRC maritime militia near the Whitsun Reef. More than 200 Chinese boats were first spotted near the Whitsun Reef in March, nearly 320 kilometres west of Palawan Island in the contested SCS. However, these islands wherein Chinese vessels entered belonged to the SEZs of Philippines. Despite repeated appeals from Manila, Beijing refused to withdraw its vessels from the area.

Paradip College Holds National Webinar

(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, May 31: The Department of History of Paradip College organised a national level webinar on May 30, 2021 Sunday on the theme of "Epidemic & Pandemic, Lessons from History". Professor Dr. Nigamananda Das of Nagaland university Dr. Bikash Chandra Dash, Asst. prof., Pol. Sc of Assam university, Diphu campus and Sidhartha Sankar Rath, Dpt. of

History, UNS College, Mugal, Jajpur graced the occasion as Resources persons. All discussed the issue from a very close quarters and brought home the lessons from history with regard to pandemics. Dr. Suprema Kanungo, principal, Paradip College delivered welcome address. Ltcd. Akshaya Chandra Mishra, HOD, History, Paradip College introduced guests and gave keynote ad-

dress on the topic. G. Patra, coordinator, IQAC moderated the session. More about hundreds participants were present on virtual platform and more three hundred participants had registered for the event. Good number of faculties were extended their cooperation for the webinar and the program was a grand success, informed Paradip college's History dept. HOD Ltcd. A.C. Mishra.

The SDC chairperson inaugurated the supply of drinking water to the village of MV-91

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 31: Drinking water has been provided to MV-91 village of Malkangiri, Chalanguda panchayat today. In this regard, Malkangiri Special Development Council Chairman Manas Madkani and Chalanguda Sarpanch Mrs. Pushparani Padiami have inaugurated the drinking water tap and dedicated it to the villagers. A drinking water project has been constructed at Gandhipalli Ar-



arrangements have been made to supply drinking water to every Sahib in the village by pumping water from the ground by electricity. Now that the wa-

ter crisis is rife everywhere due to the summer season, the 14th Finance Commission fund of Chalanguda Panchayat has been provided with clean drinking water to the villagers of MV-91 at the expense of the fund. As a result, there is a wave of joy in the minds of the villagers. Among others, former Sarpanch of Chalanguda Panchayat Ima Padiami, village chief Gurdas Bala, Akhil Mandal and women of the village were present.

Diptimayee lost in corona after birth a baby girl



(A.O. Bureau) Kukudakhandi, May 31: It is very difficult to say's that who's will be next. Another corona warrior lost her life in the deadly co-

rona. Diptimayi Devi an anganwadi worker from Padarwali Chowk in Kukudakhandi block, has breathed her last. Ironically, she lost her



life in the battle of corona but motherhood has won today. The diptimayee gave birth to a baby girl this morning. Even the period of pregnancy during that crucial time of pandemic she continued her fight against corona. Engaged herself in public service. While

since last Friday. He was positive after undergoing the Covid test and she was admitted to MKCG Medical in Berhampur under treatment. Not only that, but she was also in pregnancy stage and she was given special treatment by the district administration. She breathed her last this morning after giving birth to a baby girl. Such incidents have been the subject of much speculation throughout the Kukudakhandi area today, with shadows of mourning all around.

Feed the needy campaigns by SURABHI

(A.O. Bureau) Berhampur, May 31: The second wave of the covid is at his peak spreading everywhere. The administration and government implements lockdown in the state. Many people have been affected by the lockdown. However, those who are daily laborers who have been working in the city of Berhampur for their daily basis needs rickshaw pullers or rooting in various places many different beggars their lives are greatly affected today. It is very difficult for them to collect the daily food. In this case, the SURABHI, a leading women's organization in Berhampur town, they running the program feed the needy program. SURABHI



ORGANIZATION has given food to the faces of some of the poor and needy. When all the shops, markets, temples are closed, the helpless, the poor cannot do any work or begging. SURABHI Progressive Organization, a leading non-governmental organization in Berhampur, smiled with some food on their faces by serve the food. Under the supervision of Usha Patnaik founder of SURABHI,

She along with all members disturbing the cooked food for the helpless and distribute the food pockets among the hungry people at the Berhampur railway station, old bus stand and other major places Berhampur town. Pushpalata Behera, Sasmita Patnaik, Pragya Shubhadarshani, Shikha Patnaik, Sasmita Dakua, Subrata Patnaik and all the member's conducted the program feed the needy.

Dry Food, Cooking Food, Mask, Sanitizer Distributed By Smile Charitable Trust



(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, May 31: Again Smile Charitable Trust, Paradeep, Distributed Dry food packets, Mask & Sanitizer to 50 physically/Mentally and poor needy Families at Kujang, Balarampur, Mangarajpur and

taladanda area, and also again 100nos cooking food packets distributed to physically, mentally and poor/needy peoples at Paradeepgrah, Atharabanki, dochhki, paradip bus stand, seabeach area, and Afternoon, also Dry food

packets distributed to 30 bramahins at Paradeep in presence of Sri Sachitra Kumar Rout (President), Adv. Sanjay ku Behera (Advisor) Adv. Suresh ch Das (Chief Adviser) and Rashmi ranjan Sahoo (Joint-Secretary) Manoj Mohapatra (Treasurer), Biswamber Pradhan (Coordinator) and adv. Damodar Swain (Convenor- Satya Sai Seva Group-Jagatsinghpur District) and supported by M/s. TM International Logistics Ltd, Paradip, in this crises on lock down period of 2nd wave of Covid-19 and also President- Sachitra Rout told Cooking food, Dry food, Mask and Sanitizer distribution programme will continue at Paradeep area by turst till Lock down continue.

Congressional support for the families of those died in the boat sinking

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 31: A total of 11 members of the families of Ramesh Badnayak, Sudhir Khara and Satibabu Khil of Chitrakonda block Gunthabeda and Kandhaguda villages, who had gone to Telangana state for employment, were stranded due to lockdowns. On

the 24th, they were returning home from a riverboat when two boats crashed into a river, killing eight people. The family of the deceased was visited today by District Congress President Govind Patra, Mathili Block Chairman Laxmipriya Nayak, District Women Congress President Kamala Baral,



Pran Krishna Mandal, Chitta Patnaik, Devendra Das, Mangu Khila many Congress workers visited and meet the family of Kandhaguda and Gunthabeda. They provided rations to each victim families also expressed their condolences to the bereaved family.

Central University of Odisha Observes World No Tobacco Day

(A.O. Bureau) Koraput, May 31: In pursuance of the directives of the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, the Central University of Odisha observed 'World No Tobacco Day' today through virtual mode on 31.05.2021 with the theme for this year 'Commit to Quit', which assumes significance in the present times of COVID-19 pandemic. On this occasion, World No Tobacco Day Pledge was taken by all students, teaching and non-teaching staff through virtual mode. Dr. Ritu Duggal, Professor & Chief, Centre for Dental Education & Research, AIIMS, New Delhi and Dr. K. V. V. Prasad, Professor, Department of Public Health Dentistry, SDM College of Dental Science and Hospital,



Dharwad, Karnataka joined the programme and administered the pledge in Hindi and English languages respectively and elaborated the effect of tobacco in human life. Prof. I. Ramabrahmam, Vice-Chancellor of the University inspired the University community to quit tobacco for good health. Prof. Sharat Kumar Palita, Dean, School of Biodiversity and Conservation of Natural Resources presided over the programme and deliv-

ered the welcome address. Dr. Duggal described tobacco as a silent killer. She said, "habit of tobacco is changed to behavior and behavior later changed to addiction. This addiction can affect the entire family. So this is the time to quit tobacco from one's life". She advised that it needs to start from you (the individual), for a change not to use tobacco and thereby spreading the message of change to the world. Be positive, focused

and be in good health by quitting tobacco. Dr. Prasad highlighted the effect of tobacco by giving statistical data on mortality rates all over the world due to consuming tobacco products. He said "smoking or chewing of tobacco affect our skin, face, memory power, strength, mind, heart, lungs, blood pressure and it reduces blood cell, blood vessels and creates the number of bad effects. It slowly develops the cancer cell in the body. To live

a long disease free life one has to leave tobacco". He also pointed out that "consuming tobacco by women is more vulnerable than men" He suggested proper education from the school level to the University level on the effect of tobacco and legislation for controlling the use of tobacco. Dr. Ram Shankar, Controller of Examination extended the vote of thanks. Large number of students, faculty, Officers and staff were present on the occasion.

Retired Farewell Party

(A.O. Bureau) Nayagarh, May 31: Mr. Laxmidhar Mohapatra (Kalia Sir), a senior employee of swaach Bharat mission, as nodal officer retired today from government service. The inaugural function was held at the conference room under the chairmanship of executive officer santosh Kumar Jena, Mayer Baidhar Rout, Revenue Officer Kailash Chandra Jena, labour



union leader Hazrat ali khan delivered keynote speeches highlighting kalia sir's biography, skills and art. All staff were present. He was honored with certificate, northeners and gifts.

When Kajol declared that she can't 'look poor' in films: 'I just look rich'



Mumbai, May 31: Kajol in a 2014 appearance on Koffee with Karan said that she can never look poor in films, even if she wears a 'ghagra-choli'. Actor Kajol was last seen in the film Tribhanga, which released on Netflix earlier this year. During her sabbatical in 2014, she was asked if she wanted to make a comeback with an unusual film. In an appearance on Koffee with Karan, host Karan Johar asked Kajol if she was being 'extra choosy' about deciding on her 'comeback' film. He noted that the rare criticism that has been directed at her has

been about her not being 'very experimental' with roles. Agreeing that she does roles that are in her comfort zone, she said, "I decided very early on that I just look rich. I don't look poor. Whatever I do, at the end of the day, even if I'm wearing a ghagra-choli (which I was wearing in Hulchul), I looked at myself and said, 'I don't look poor'." Karan said, "Kajol, I think you're quite wrong. You have a self-elevation opinion of yourself, because I want to tell you, you have looked quite poor in a few films." Kajol eventually returned to

the big screen with Dilwale, opposite Shah Rukh Khan. The actor spoke about her career in an interview with Hindustan Times earlier this year. She said, "I am lucky and I believe that it has to do with how much you love yourself and how much you believe in yourself. I think it has to do with how honest you are to your work. I don't think that it would work if I kept living on my laurels all the time. I never did. I just had to keep working, keep going ahead and keep thinking about what lies in the future rather than living in the past."

High on nostalgia: Time for a reunion of cult Indian shows!

New Delhi, May 31: The Friends Reunion has left fans wanting for more and many have taken to social media to express their desire of watching the cast of their favourite Indian TV shows get together one more time. Let's see what the actors from some of the popular shows have to say about the idea. The list includes high school series Hip Hip Hurray, comedy series about the Diwan family Dekh Bhai Dekh, young adult series Remix, urban family comedy Sarabhai vs Sarabhai and the cult series about the Mathur family, Hum Paanch and eccentric Gujarati joint family comedy, Khichdi. Let's see what the actors from



the young adult series. I'd love to get together with all the guys. Raj Singh Arora (Yuvraj Dev) is in the US, I'm not sure when he's going to be back, it's going to be a task to get all of us together. I know Priya Wal (Anvesha Banerjee) and Karan Wahi (Ranvir Sisodia) are in town. So, it'll be difficult but it's not

have to take this initiate and get it done. One we all get together, I'm sure it's going to be blast like the older times.

HIP HIP HURRAY: Vishal Malhotra, who played John in the high school drama. I've been getting that these requests a lot forever. It has been on our mind since we did our last shoot and we're trying to manifest it. We want to make sure that we give the people what they deserve. When you leave an impression that's so rare like our show did, where every character is great, you've to ensure that when you come back — whether for a whole series or for a documentary like Friends did — you do full justice to it. I'm very open to the idea and so are a lot of my co-

actors. DEKH BHAII DEKH: Deven Bhojani, who played Kareema, the Diwan family house help in the comedy series. There's a lot of interest about the show even now and it was a fabulous experience working on the show. The entire unit gelled so well and became friends. I'd definitely love to be a part of the reunion, whenever it

Kumar, who played Roshesh Sarabhai in the urban family comedy. When we did it, that after 16 years also it will be so popular. I feel that obviously very elated. We also are praying that ek season toh aur banta hi hai before we all grow old and not able to play our characters. Hopefully ho jana chahiye. We keep doing some activities together, we did something



happens and whoever organises. Last year, we did something when the rerun of the show happened during the lockdown, but it was just for a select media. I'd like to do a grand reunion — be it an episode or just normal chitchat with one another.

SARABHAI VS SARABHAI: Rajesh

last year too. But it wasn't like a complete reunion. Practically it might not be possible right at this moment because Sumeet Raghavan (Sahil Sarabhai) is shooting and show and so is Rupali Ganguly (Monisha Sarabhai). But I am hoping that in the coming one year, we can get together yet again.

Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar: Parineeti Chopra and Dibakar Banerjee dissect the 'bank manager scene'

New Delhi, May 31: Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar had a rather subdued release due to the ongoing pandemic but the film has got a new life ever since its release on Amazon Prime Video. In a conversation with indianexpress.com, director Dibakar Banerjee and actor Parineeti Chopra spoke about the representation of traditional gender roles and how the film cuts through that in a unique way. Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar challenges gender stereotypes right from the beginning, even as it introduces its lead characters — Sandeep, played by Parineeti Chopra, and Pinky, played by Arjun Kapoor. In a significant scene in the film, a pregnant Sandeep is attacked by a predator (the bank manager) as she finds herself trapped in his cabin. For those who have seen the film, this scene is a big jolt as it changes Sandeep's tra-



jectory in the story. Talking about the genesis of that scene, co-writer and director Banerjee shared that during his discussions with co-writer Varun Grover, they knew that "at one point, somehow, we want Parivartan Bank to rape Sandy, at a very core structural level." Banerjee elaborated, "So from there, probably, came the concept of the bank manager who represents the power (he has) over her, which is the power of money, finance, patriarchy. Sometimes, we write something from

deep within our conscience, and those things end up scaring us. So we went there and it was scary." Parineeti, who has performed rather brilliantly in this scene, was quick to point out that this scene was possible only because she is a woman and the character of the bank manager was that of a man. "It can only be written because I am the girl and he is the boy," she shared. At this point in the story, Sandeep has negotiated a deal with the bank manager wherein he will let her

hack into the system, in exchange for money. The situation shifts drastically when he attempts to rape her. "If I was a man, or if Arjun was in this scene, the bank manager would never have done it. Or if the bank manager was female, and the character who goes to do the hacking was male, this scene couldn't have been written. If the bank manager was a girl and I am a girl, they would have had a cup of tea, done the hacking, and moved on," Parineeti explained the possibilities. The Saina actor fur-

ther spoke about the "inherent patriarchy" that's accepted in our society. "Through Arjun and my characters, and Raghu sir (Raghubir Yadav) and Neena Ma'am's (Neena Gupta) characters, there is this very inherent, accepted patriarchy in India (that's shown). This is what a woman does, and this is what a man does, and the roles can never be reversed," she shared. "The fact that women in India have to constantly live like this, where it's accepted that 'I can't do something because I am a woman and only a man can do this' is the reason why I signed this film and I am so proud its come out so well. Sometimes, you make a film and the impact is not what you wanted, but the impact of this film is what we wanted it to be. I am on such a high because I feel like we have done what we set out to do," she said.

Chhavi Mittal opens up about postpartum weight-loss, stretch marks

Mumbai, May 31: Actor Chhavi Mittal has opened up on her journey of postpartum weight-loss. Chhavi has two children - son Arham and daughter Areeza. Chhavi shared glimpses of her weight-loss journey in a video clip on Instagram, and wrote, "Fitness is my passion. Postpartum weight loss was just a side effect. My body has its good days and bad days, but I love my body the way it is! And why not, it gave me two amazing babies who define my whole world! . FYI, today is a good day #postpartumweightloss." Chhavi also responded to a fan who wanted to know how many months she took to get back in shape. "How many months it took u?," a fan asked and Chhavi wrote in response, "@bhav_prd i didn't count to be honest.. maybe around 9-10." Many others also

wanted to know about Chhavi's diet. Asked about her stretch marks, Chhavi promised her fans that she will post a video about getting rid

questions mothers were asking and it wasn't possible to write it down on a blog. Also, a lot of them don't like to read. So video was a good



of those soon. "How did you get rid of stretch marks?," wrote a fan and Chhavi responded with, "I'll do a video about it." Chhavi often shares videos on fitness and motherhood. Talking about her posts, she told Hindustan Times in an interview last year, "It might just help someone. There were a lot of

medium. I got a really good response. My intention was to help them and not to make them feel inferior. If I'm on social media and followed by even a thousand people then we should take responsibility that we don't say things that might hurt people and are adding value."

Shilpa Shetty aces Yoga's Mandukasana to focus on 'second brain', positive vibe

New Delhi, May 31: Fitness enthusiasts have been eagerly waiting for early morning Yoga sessions with Shilpa Shetty Kundra every Monday and after her family recovered from Covid-19, the diva is back with rejuvenated zeal to boost workout motivation in fans. Starting the new work week by dispelling negativity, Shilpa was seen performing Yoga exercise Mandukasana to focus on "second brain" and bring in positive energy.

Ever wondered why they say 'Go with your gut feeling'? Shilpa explains it in her new fitness video as she shared the steps and benefits of Mandukasana or Yoga's Frog Pose. Giving us the much-required Monday motivation, the actor was seen in her signature pink spaghetti top, teamed with a pair of grey tights and hair pulled back into a high ponytail to ace the athleisure look as she gave fans a sneak-peek of her rigorous exercise

session this morning. Taking netizens through the steps of the asana in the video, Shilpa shared its benefits in the caption. She revealed, "To support all kinds of healing processes, the main source of energy comes from the core of our being. So, the Mandukasana is a very important asana as it focuses on your navel centre, which also happens to be your life-force centre called the second brain (sic)." Explaining the



need to depend on one's gut feeling, Shilpa elaborated, "It has the ability to give you the energy to combat all weaknesses. That's why they say, 'Go with your gut feeling'

(sic)." She added, "In difficult times like these, we need to focus on ourself; so we can dispel all negativity and bring in positive energy to the center of our core chakra called the

'Manipura chakra' (sic)." The simple exercise carries immense health benefits and Shilpa penned her advice writing, "Take in a deep breath and exhale while

going down, stretching the spine and pressing on the navel. You will feel the energy flow to your solar plexus. Focusing on your navel will help you open your mind and reduce blood sugar levels as it works on the pancreas. It also helps improve the flexibility and mobility of the knee & ankle joints. Moreover, the frog pose helps reduce fat from thighs, belly, and hips (sic)." Collecting close to 4 lakh views within an hour of

sharing the fitness video while still going strong, Shilpa wrapped up with a note of precaution that read, "Please remember: people with knee, ankle, and back pain issues should avoid this asana (sic)." The target points of Mandukasana are one's thighs, abdomen, thorax, ankle, inguinal region, psoas major muscle and throat and we are inspired to give this seated asana a try today. What about you?

Kyle Jamieson recalls 'interesting experience' of leaving IPL abruptly | WTC decider will be like WC final for Wagner

London, May 31: New Zealand pacer Kyle Jamieson says leaving the IPL amid the raging pandemic in India was an "interesting" experience but he remained confident that the "good people" around him would ensure a safe passage to England for his first UK tour. Jamieson, along with New Zealand captain Kane Williamson, chose to fly to Maldives from Delhi before they were to take a flight to the UK as they felt unsafe in India's national capital, then the hotspot of COVID-19 in the country. "It was an interesting one. It is not something that you could plan for. We were sort of informed right through. We had some pretty good people around us, the BCCI and IPL teams," said Jamieson in a media interaction on Sunday. The lanky pacer plays



for RCB in the IPL. The tournament was suspended after multiple cases of COVID-19 were found in its bio-bubble. "We just had to do the right thing by ourselves. Obviously the situation in India was pretty dire and we were mindful of that what is going outside our bubble. Once it (the virus) got inside

it was the right decision to postpone it. "We just had to keep trusting in those people and control and we had some pretty good people around us to help us get to England." Jamieson is excited about his maiden UK tour which begins with the first Test against England at Lord's before culminat-

ing with the World Test Championship final against India, which is scheduled to be held from June 18-22. Asked if it is hard not to have one eye on the WTC final before the two Tests against England, Jamieson said: "Not really at all. If you look too far ahead you can get caught in the bounce a little bit. "It

is my first trip to England. I am playing cricket for first time at Lord's. If I get distracted by something in two three weeks time then I would end up not being in great shape. "I am just trying to be as mindful as I can around this Test and enjoy. Who knows if it ever happens again for me. So just focusing on this Test and Edgbaston and then the final (against India). It is not going to go away or come any closer so I will take care of this one first." The IPL will resume in September in the UAE. Asked if he would be available for that, Jamieson added: "To be fair I have no idea really. That news came out couple of days ago, we have not had any conversation about it. Our mind is on the Test against England and the final against India. Don't want to look too far ahead."

New Delhi, May 31: New Zealand pacer Neil Wagner feels the upcoming World Test Championship (WTC) final against India in Southampton from June 18-22 is like a World Cup summit clash for him as he has never played a white-ball game for Black Caps. In an interview with ESPNCricinfo, the world number three bowler in ICC Test rankings, Wagner said: "Yeah, it is like a World Cup final for me. The biggest disappointment, I guess, in my career is that I've never really played a white-ball game for New Zealand or never been able to crack into the T20 or the One-Day game." "That ship has probably sailed now and I don't think the opportunity will ever come. For me now, it's about putting all my focus and en-

ergy into Test cricket and to be able to play in a World Test Championship final is like a World Cup for me," he added. Indian spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who won the ICC World Cup in 2011 but plays just one for-

in Edgbaston, said he is excited to be the part of the 'special occasion' against India but is not thinking far too ahead. "I know this final is the first and there isn't a lot of history around it, but it's the start of something



mat now for India, recently referred to the WTC final as a World Cup for him. Wagner, who is already in England and preparing for the two match Test series against the Poms, which starts from June 2 at the Lord's followed by second game

that's pretty big. To play in a one-off Test final against India - one of the best teams in the world, if not the best team in the world - to be able to test yourself against the best on the highest and biggest stage, that's what it's about."

Blue is the colour

New Delhi, May 31: Havertz's first half strike was enough to help Chelsea shatter dream of Guardiola's Man City to win Champions League. Chelsea won the Champions League for the second time in their 116 year history with a narrow yet effective 1-0 victory over Premier League champions Manchester City in an all-English final played at Estadio do Dragao in Porto on Saturday. Thomas Tuchel, who was appointed as replacement for sacked Frank Lampard in January got the better of his Man City counterpart Pep Guardiola for the third time in a row to bring European club football's biggest prize back to Stamford Bridge for the first time since 2012. The young German prodigy Kai Havertz, who made a big money move from Leverkusen to West London scored the all important winner three minutes before half-time when he collected a defence-

club may have finished fourth in the Premier League, a huge 19 points behind the champions City, but this, remarkably, was their third win over Guardiola's side in six weeks. They ended City's hopes of a domestic treble when they triumphed in the FA Cup semi-finals in April and then delayed their title celebrations with victory in Manchester. Now, in a final watched by a limited crowd of just over 14,000 fans who created a raucous atmosphere, they have denied City the first Champions League crown they and Guardiola so craved. "It was an incredibly tough fight. They were determined to win this. We wanted to be the stone in their shoe," Chelsea coach Thomas Tuchel told BT Sport. "The effort was huge. We overcame some difficult moments and had a fantastic attitude to defending." City have had to wait 13 years since being taken over by Abu Dhabi's Sheikh



splitting pass from Mason Mount to round City stopper Ederson Moraes and score. It leaves City still searching for the Champions League, the trophy that has always eluded them, and Guardiola cannot escape scrutiny for his part in this defeat after taking a tactical gamble which backfired. The three time Premier League winner with Man City surprisingly decided against utilising either Rodri or club captain Fernandinho as a defensive midfielder, leaving City with a muddled game plan that reduced their effectiveness and rarely presented Chelsea with any problems. Chelsea had the better opportunities throughout, Timo Werner wasting two good chances before Havertz struck and substitute Christian Pulisic squandering another in the second half. City, who lost star midfielder Kevin De Bruyne to injury midway through the second half, threw on club greatest goalscorer Sergio Aguero for his final appearance but there was no fairytale ending for the Argentine as Chelsea closed out the win. And for Tuchel it was elation after the disappointment of losing last year's final as manager of Paris Saint-Germain. The Lon-

Mansour just to get to the Champions League final. They are now the seventh consecutive team to lose in their first appearance at this stage. The same misfortune befell Qatar-owned Paris Saint-Germain last year as well as Tottenham Hotspur when they were beaten by Liverpool in the last all-English final in 2019. "It is the first time we're here, we'll learn, we'll come back," Guardiola told RMC Sport. "The players did everything, they wanted to do well, to win this competition, sometimes you perform well, sometimes not." Chelsea also lost when they first got to the final, on penalties against Manchester United in Moscow in 2008. They overcame the final hurdle by beating Bayern Munich in a shoot-out in 2012 and now they have their second European Cup to move level with Juventus, Benfica and Porto as well as another English side, Nottingham Forest. Their transformation into one of Europe's super clubs has been down to the riches of Roman Abramovich, their Russian oligarch owner who was in attendance at the game in Portugal.

Personal equations don't matter when you're playing for India: Mithali

New Delhi, May 31: Personal likes or dislikes don't matter when one is playing for the country, India's Test and ODI captain Mithali Raj said on Sunday, insisting that she and head coach Ramesh Powar have 'moved on' from a bitter past to take the team forward. Mithali and Co is currently quarantining in Mumbai ahead of the UK tour and the full-fledged series comprising India's first Test in seven years will also be Powar's first assignment as head



coach. The former India spinner returned to the role after he was sacked following India's semi-final defeat in the 2018 World T20. Mithali was controversially dropped from that game and relations between the two went south with both

accusing each other of unprofessional conduct. Asked if their past will come in the way of their present and future, Mithali said, "...We can't be living in the past." "I've played for so many years, I don't have an ego or I don't

give attention to my personal likes and dislikes. I've never done that." "And 21 years has been a long time for me to sort of, go through many challenges. When it comes to playing for India, it's like serving your country, so personal issues, I don't really give any weightage (to those)," she said. In quarantine, the team has had multiple zoom calls discussing plans for the upcoming tour. Mithali said the World Cup is the primary goal at the moment and everyone is

aligned with that. "He is the coach, and he has his set of plans, it's important that both of us are aligned on the same page to take the team forward. Because even his goal is the same: that the team does well in the World Cup. It's everybody's goal in the team," she said. So the ice is already broken? "Yeah, we have meetings, discussions regularly so clearly we have moved on," said the leading run-getter in ODI cricket.

French Open 2021: Birthday girl Iga Swiatek wins to start title defense

New Delhi, May 31: Defending French Open champion Iga Swiatek has picked up right where she left off last year in winning the title: running yet another opponent this way and that on the red clay of Roland Garros in a take-no-prisoners straight-sets victory. Her best friend on the tennis circuit, Kaja Juvan, was the victim on Court Philippe Chatrier on Monday as Swiatek emphatically kicked off her campaign to become the first woman since Justine Henin in 2007 to defend the French Open title. Playing on her 20th birthday, Swiatek treated herself to a 6-0, 7-5 victory — her eighth straight-sets win in a row at Roland Garros, having also not dropped a set in winning last year as an unseeded 19-year-old. Meanwhile, Evergreen 39-year-olds Serena Williams and Roger Federer will be attempting to roll back the years on Day 2 of the French Open, where first-round play

is underway on the sun-kissed clay courts and Iga Swiatek will begin the defense of her title. Federer, the oldest player in men's singles this year, is scheduled for the third match on Court Philippe Chatrier. It will be the first Grand Slam match since the 2020 Australian Open for the holder of 20 major titles, making a comeback from double surgery on his right knee. Federer plays Denis Istomin from Uzbekistan. Istomin reached the main draw via the qualifying competition. He has not advanced beyond the second round in 10 previous Roland Garros appearances. Federer is seeded eighth this year. Williams plays after Federer vs. Istomin, in the last match on Philippe Chatrier, not scheduled to start before 9 p.m. Matches at last year's tournament — held exceptionally in autumn — also stretched late into the night on newly floodlit courts.

BCCI in talks with CWI to advance start of CPL and avoid clash with IPL

New Delhi, May 31: The BCCI is trying to convince Cricket West Indies to advance the start of the Caribbean Premier League by a week or 10 days to ensure a seamless bubble-to-bubble transfer of players for the IPL's re-

scheduled to get underway from August 28 with the final to be played on September 19, while the remaining part of IPL is likely to be held from September 18 to October 10, not leaving the players with any time to settle down. "We are in

velopment, told PTI on Sunday. If the BCCI and CWI fail to reach an agreement over dates, some of the biggest players could miss the initial few matches or may be the first half of the IPL. The big names involved in both the T20 leagues are Mumbai Indians' five-time IPL-winning influential all-rounder Kieron Pollard, the swashbuckling Chris Gayle, seasoned all-rounder Dwayne Bravo, Shimron Hetmyer, Jason Holder, Nicholas Pooran, Fabien Allen, Keemo Paul, Sunil Narine and Trinidad and Tobago coach Brendon McCullum, who is also at the helm of affairs in Kolkata Knight Riders. The upcoming edition will be the CPL's ninth season and will feature some of the format's biggest superstars from across the world. The IPL's resumption was approved during the BCCI's SGM on Saturday, less than a month after the league was suspended because of COVID-19 cases in its bio-bubble.



sumption in the UAE come September. Suspended midway into its 14th season owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the BCCI on Saturday approved the resumption of the lucrative Indian Premier League in the UAE in the middle of September. The CPL is

talks with Cricket West Indies. We are hoping that if CPL can be finished a few days in advance, it would help in bubble to bubble transfer of all players to Dubai and in time to complete the mandatory three-day quarantine," a BCCI source, privy to the de-

Art of Giving's Global Outreach Reaches Another Height

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 31: There is a special joy in the 'Art of Giving' and Prof. Achyuta Samanta, the founder of KIIT & KISS, has made it to another global fame for his obsessive bend towards humanitarian causes. His 'Art of Giving' has won the second position in the 2021 MacJannet Prize for Global Citizenship by Talloires Network and McJannet Foundation, USA as exceptional community work and civic engagement initiative by KIIT & KISS under the guidance of Prof. Samanta. The award in the second position in the world matters a



lot apart from the financial support of \$5,000 USD to bolster program activities. The amount has been transferred to KISS Foundation as per the request of Prof. Samanta. Out of 28 nominations from 15 countries, Art of Giving is placed in the second position among the 10 selected finalists from 8 countries. The first prize was won by Rhodes University, South Africa, and the third prize by the University of

Manchester, UK. The Award Secretariat determined the winners after in-depth scrutiny by a Selection Committee comprising leaders in higher education civic engagement. Art of Giving, a philosophy to spread peace and happiness in society based on the foundation of compassion and humanitarianism was founded by Prof. Achyuta Samanta in 2013. Since then, it has become an active movement with dynamic campaigns throughout the year and observation of International Day of Art of Giving on 17 May across the globe.

Vedanta Rolls Out Vaccination Program For Employees, Families



(A.O. Bureau) New Delhi, May 31: Delivering on its commitment to ensure the health and well-being of its people, Vedanta has launched a mega vaccination drive across its locations to cover all employees, their families and business partners. The company has received 50,000 doses of the vaccine and employees and family members are being inoculated across business units. Vedanta is procuring an additional 2 lakh

doses to complete the inoculation plan, which covers Business Partners, along with family members. More than 1.2 lakh people will be vaccinated under the program. Employee-centricity is at the core of Vedanta which has taken up employee friendly initiatives to promote health and safety of its people, especially during the current pandemic. The company is spending around Rs 12.6 crore to procure vaccines in bulk for the

Vedanta family. Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal said: "The safety and well-being of every single member of Vedanta and the extended family of business partners is of paramount importance. Our vaccination drive will ensure 100 per cent of our people are inoculated. We stand firmly with the central and state governments in contributing towards the country's vaccination program." Meanwhile, to provide a sense of security to em-



- Business Partners covered by inoculation drive across business locations
- Company introduces best-in-class Term Life Insurance Policy for employees

employees and their families, the company has introduced a best-in-class Term Life Insurance Policy with world-wide coverage for all executives across the group. The policy provides with coverage of 5x fixed pay of employees which is equivalent to annual salary for 5 years. The Term Life insurance provides financial security for the dependents of the employees in the unfortunate event of death and is in addition to Medclaim and Group Personal Accident insurance policies currently provided to support the

employees in emergencies. The Medical insurance cover has also been enhanced to 1.5 times the existing eligibility. Vedanta is extending all support that is required and corporate floater cover is introduced for any employee that exceeds their eligibility. It is rolling out 10 Vedanta Cares Field Hospitals for Covid patient across the country. The Field Hospital project - an initiative of Anil Agarwal Foundation - is being rolled out in Delhi NCR, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Odisha, Jharkhand, and Tamil Nadu.

All indian council of human rights (Odisha) Chairman's Covid Services

(A.O. Bureau) Baragarh, May 31: The corona epidemic and black fungus has somehow weakened the state of India. Amidst all this the chairman of All indian council of Human rights Dr. Jasbir Singh Saini is helping poor covid patients to get oxygen, bed, ICU and blood in this period of pandemic. Since then he has been helping many people



around Odisha and all over the India through the "Listen Manzil" social organization. Dr. Saini is also providing school bags, books, notebooks and phones for online

study to meritorious students who are financially unstable. He has also adopted Gangadhar Nangai's primary school under the scheme of Mo School Abhiyan of Government of Odisha. He is also involved with different social activities related to road safety and sports along with the different administration. He has been working along to help cancer patients.

World's 1st Nano Urea Introduced by IFFCO for the farmers across the World

(A.O. Bureau) New Delhi, May 31: World's 1st Nano Urea Liquid is introduced for the farmers across the world by Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) in the presence of its RGB members in its 50th annual general body meeting held online-offline mode in India. This is an inspiration taken from the call of the Prime Minister of India for reducing the use of Urea in the soil. The Nano Urea Liquid is indigenously developed after many years of dedicated and sincere research of IFFCO's Scientists and Engineers through a proprietary technology developed at Nano Biotechnology Research Centre, Kalol, in the tune of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Atmanirbhar Krishi'. IFFCO Nano Urea Liquid found effective and efficient for plant nutrition. This increases the production with im-



proved nutritional quality. It will also give a huge positive impact on the quality of underground water, very significant reduction in the global warming with an impact on climate change and sustainable development. Translation of Nano Urea Liquid for farmers use will boost balanced nutrition program by reducing the excess use of Urea application in the soil. The excess urea causes an environmental pollution, harm soil health, and making plant more susceptible for disease & insect infestation, delayed maturity of the

crop & production loss. Nano Urea Liquid make the crops stronger, healthy and protect them from lodging effect. IFFCO Nano Urea Liquid is easy on the pocket of farmer and will be effective in increasing farmers income. A 500 ml bottle of IFFCO Nano Urea Liquid will replace at least one bag of conventional Urea. Hence, it will reduce the input cost to farmer. Due to the small size of Nano Urea Liquid, it's bottle can be kept in the pocket and will significantly bring down the cost of logistics and warehousing also. IFFCO Nano

Urea Liquid is now included in Fertiliser Control Order (FCO, 1985) on the basis of multi-location and multi-crop trials undertaken under National Agriculture Research System (NARS) at 20 ICAR research institutes, State Agriculture Universities and KVKs on 43 crops. To test its efficacy around 11,000 farmer field trials (FFT's) were undertaken on more than 94 crops across India. In the recent countrywide trials conducted on 94 crops, an average 8% increase in yield has been witnessed. IFFCO Nano Urea Liquid is devel-

oped to replace conventional Urea and it can curtail the requirement of the same by at least 50%. It contains 40,000 ppm of Nitrogen in 500 ml bottle which is equivalent to the impact of nitrogen nutrient provided by one bag of conventional Urea. The production of IFFCO Nano Urea Liquid will commence by June of 2021. The commercial rollout will start soon thereafter. IFFCO has priced Nano Urea at ₹240 per 500 ml bottle for the farmers which is 10% cheaper than the cost of a bag of conventional Urea. The Cooperative has planned a massive countrywide campaign exercise to demonstrate & train the farmers about its usage and application. It will be primarily available to farmers through its cooperative sales and marketing channel apart from its sale on IFFCO's e-commerce platform www.iffcobazar.in.

IIFL Finance launches "Gold Loan Refer & Win" scheme



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 31: IIFL Finance, one of India's leading non-banking financial companies has launched 'Gold Loan Refer & Win' scheme. Existing customers of IIFL Finance across the country can benefit from the 'Refer & Win' scheme under which they can recommend friends, colleagues, and family members for IIFL Gold Loan and can win 10-gram 24 Karat gold coins, iPhone 11 and more than 6000 attractive gifts as lucky draw prizes. Mr. Saurabh Kumar, Business Head - Gold Loans, IIFL Finance said: "Three out of every four IIFL Gold Loan customers come back to us. They prefer us because we do Seedhi Baat. That is, we are completely honest and transparent in our dealings, besides offering interest rate as low as 0.79% per month. The Refer &

- Gold Loan is becoming a favoured means of financing
- IIFL Finance has launched "Refer & Win" scheme
- Over 6,000 gifts to win including 10g gold coins and iPhone 11

Win scheme is an opportunity for our customers to refer their friends and family members to IIFL and help them in realising their dreams by getting easy finance." IIFL Finance offers Gold Loan at attractive interest rates, with a commitment of quick processing of loan in just 5 minutes, maximum loan value and easy digital payment options. Mr. Saurabh Kumar said, "During this lockdown, gold jewellery has proved to be a boon to the common man. We have businessmen, professionals, housewives and farmers availing gold loan and recommending it to others." Benefits of taking a gold loan go beyond just low interest rate and quick disbursal

of funds. With gold prices rising again, Gold Loan has now become one of the most favoured ways of raising funds and fulfilling dreams. IIFL Finance said that it has seen a considerable growth in gold loans. IIFL Finance, through its subsidiaries, offers a wide spectrum of products such as Home loan, Gold loan, Business loan, Microfinance, Capital Market finance and Developer & Construction finance to a vast base of about 30 lakh customers both retail and corporate clients. IIFL Finance has widened its pan India reach through an extensive network of 2,563 branches across 600+ locations and various digital channels.

Robbery Endowment, Four arrested with pistol

(A.O. Bureau) Aska, May 31: After a few days of peace, the criminals are preparing to re-establish their existence by criminal activities. However, due to strict police patrols in and around the city, including the city of Aska, criminals have always failed to expand their criminal empire as planned. Aska SDPO Umashkar Singh informed that four

numbers of persons arrests were taken to Aska court. At the time of petrolling Aska IIC Prasant Sahu leading the team under Chariamaili square near village Dasanapali public rest shed a squad four number's of criminals arrested along with an imitation hand pistol bombs with arms Khand (sward) knife and two number of motorcycle with some



black masks. One of them successful to escape from the raid place. They gathered there to create big robbery plan. Arrested four of them are professional criminals. Next those who will be try to create any criminal activities all are forcedly opposed by the police. No criminal activities should be defendable at any cost said by SDPO Aska.