



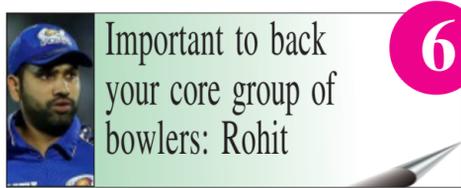
Govt appoints Ravi Sankar as next RBI deputy governor

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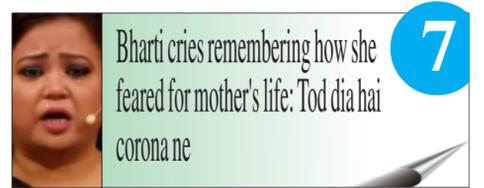
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TMC sweeps Bengal, Modi Congratulates Didi

New Delhi, May 2: West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam, Puducherry Election Results 2021 Live Updates: The Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress (TMC) pulled off a spectacular victory in a high-stakes electoral battle, trouncing BJP to form the government for a third consecutive term in West Bengal. As per the latest data from the Election Commission, TMC is on its course to win over 210 seats in a 294-member Assembly, while BJP is likely to win 77 seats. However, the suspense over the hotly-contested Nandigram verdict continues with CM Banerjee and BJP's Suvendu Adhikari being engaged in a neck and neck contest. In Tamil Nadu, MK Stalin is set to become the state Chief Minister with the DMK-led alliance leading in at least 145 seats. In Kerala, the Pinarayi Vijayan-led LDF government scripted history by retaining power, the first time in four decades that the same grouping will form the government for the second consecutive time. The CPM-led LDF alliance is projected to win around 97 seats in the 140-member assembly, while the Congress-led UDF al-



liance had a dismal performance as it is expected to grab only 43 seats. For the BJP, Assam emerged as the lone bright spot with the ruling NDA projected to win 77 of 126 seats to retain power in the state. Meanwhile, in Puducherry, the NDA looked set to form the government with NR Congress winning eight seats and its ally BJP securing four seats in the 30-member House. The elections were held amid a surge in Covid-19 cases across the country – a second wave that has ridden the country to an unprecedented crisis. You can therefore expect the results this time to be much slower. **West Bengal assembly election results 2021:** Following an intensely polarised elec-

tion - and the state's longest (eight phases) - all eyes are on who will emerge victorious in Bengal. Will Didi hold fort or will the BJP go beyond what exit polls are predicting and win a comfortable majority in Bengal? In the current assembly, the BJP has three seats with a vote percentage slightly above 10 percent. All exit polls have predicted it will cross the three-figure mark, if not get a clear majority to form government, and record a jump in vote share to somewhere around 40 percent. For the Trinamool Congress, which had won 211 of the 293 seats it contested in 2016, the few months ahead of elections proved expensive. It lost several of its party leaders to the BJP. Battling incumbency, the

Mamata Banerjee-led party is hopeful of retaining power for a third term. **Tamil Nadu and Puducherry election results:** Tamil Nadu and Puducherry voted in a single-phase election conducted on April 6. Tamil Nadu will see its first election without the two towering figures - J Jayalalithaa and M Karunanidhi - putting current chief minister and Jayalalithaa loyalist Edappadi K Palaniswami and Karunaidhi's son M K Stalin - in the ring. All exit poll surveys have given the DMK a clear majority, and if they hold true, Stalin will emerge as the next chief minister of the state. In 2019, the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance swept the Lok Sabha elections winning 38 of

the 39 seats. In power since 2011, the AIADMK, part of the BJP-led NDA, will hope to win a third term despite the incumbency and instability within the party following the death of its leader. In Puducherry, exit poll surveys have predicted a victory for the AIADMK-BJP-NR Congress alliance. The Congress lost power weeks ahead of elections after party MLAs resigned reducing the strength of the ruling alliance to 11 against the opposition's 14. Congress Chief Minister V Narayanasamy had to resign ahead of the trust vote on February 22. **Kerala Assembly election results:** In Kerala, it's 'thudarbharanam' (re-election) vs 'adiazhukkukal' (un-

| TAMIL NADU | 234/234 | KERALA | 140/140 |
|-------------|---------|--------|---------|
| DMK+ | 144 | LDF | 95 |
| ADMK+ | 89 | UDF | 44 |
| AMMK+ | 0 | BJP+ | 0 |
| WEST BENGAL | 292/294 | ASSAM | 126/126 |
| TMC+ | 215 | BJP+ | 77 |
| BJP+ | 76 | Cong+ | 48 |
| Left+ | 0 | AJP+ | 0 |

dercurrents). With exit poll surveys giving the LDF a historic win, the Pinarayi Vijayan-led alliance is hopeful of ending the state's political tradition of voting out the incumbent. For the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF), the high-octane election campaign by the Gandhis is what they're banking on

account in the state, winning one seat. The half-way mark is 71. **Assam Assembly election results:** The BJP-led alliance comprising the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) and the Gana Suraksha Party (GSP) are confident of retaining power in the northeastern state - hop-

issue of the immigrant influx in Assam, often accusing the previous Congress governments of harbouring illegal Muslim immigrants in exchange for political support. The state voted in three phases - March 27, April 1 and April 6 - and saw a 79.93 per cent, 80.96 per cent and 82.33 per cent turnout respectively.

CM Naveen Patnaik declares journalists frontline Covid warriors



Bhubaneswar, May 2: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Sunday declared working journalists of the state as frontline Covid warriors. Approving a proposal to this effect, the Chief Minister said working journalists are doing a great service to the State by providing seamless news coverage and making people aware of

issues relating to Covid in this very trying hour. They are a great support in our war against Covid, he added. The Chief Minister said the decision will benefit 6944 working journalists of the State. All of them have been covered under G o p a b a n d h u Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana. They will

get a health insurance cover of Rs 2 lakh each, he said. Besides, an ex gratia of Rs 15 lakh is also being provided to the next of kin of journalists who die of Covid in the line of duty. So far, 11 journalists have died during the second wave of corona in the state. In the first wave, four journalists had lost their lives due to corona.

Odisha government announces 14-day lockdown from May 5 to May 19

Bhubaneswar, May 2: As Covid-19 situation continues to worsen at an alarming pace in the state, the Odisha government on Sunday announced 14-day lockdown in the state entire state to break the chain of transmission. The lockdown will be in force from May 5 to May 19. Announcing the lockdown decision, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, however, said that the



weekend shutdowns will continue in all urban areas of the State starting from 6pm on Fridays to 5am of Mondays. Public transport by buses, inter-state and intra state will remain

suspended till May 19, he said. But all agricultural and related activities will be allowed during the period. Sowing, nursery and land preparation, irrigation, planting, harvesting, thresh-

ing, processing and packing will be allowed, Mahapatra said. Besides, the Chief Secretary said that all industries operating in urban and rural areas, brick kilns in rural areas, workshops of Indian Railways and construction activities in both government and private sectors will be allowed. The Chief secretary maintained that the lockdown and shutdown will not be appli-

cable to election related work such as movement of poll related personnel from their place of residence to place of training, disbursal, polling station and back, movement of election materials and all election related activities for by-election to Pipili assembly constituency scheduled on May 16. During the lockdown period, street corner and road side

Contd...P/3

COVID Vaccination Continue During Lockdown



Bhubaneswar, May 2: The Odisha government today announced lockdown in the state

from May 5 to 5 am of May 19 in view of the second wave

Contd...P/3

CM Naveen Patnaik Congratulates Parties Emerged Victorious In Four States

Bhubaneswar, May 2: As soon as a clearer picture emerged on who will assume the throne in West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu and Kerala during counting of votes of the Assembly polls today in the four States, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik congratulated the leaders of the winning

political parties. In a tweet, Patnaik congratulated TMC President and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for the party's triumph in the West Bengal Assembly election for a consecutive third time. He wished West Bengal will scale new heights under the leadership of

Mamata. "Heartiest congratulations @MamataOfficial ji on #WestBengalAssemblyElection for a third consecutive time. I am sure under your leadership the state will scale new heights. Best wishes," Patnaik's tweet read.

Increase allocation of Remdesivir to Maharashtra: Bombay HC tells Centre

Nagpur, May 2: The Bombay High Court here on Sunday asked the Central government to increase the supply of Remdesivir injections to Maharashtra observing the current reduction in the allocation of the crucial drug is not consistent with the number of active COVID-19 cases as of May 1. In a special hearing, the bench of Justices SB Shukre and Avinash Gharote heard a bunch of petitions on the shortage of medical oxygen and Remdesivir, which is in high demand for treating COVID-19 patients. The bench said the high court came to know about the reduction in the allocation of Remdesivir to Maharashtra from May 1 to May 9. "For the earlier period of ten days, the allocation was 4,30,000 vials, and the same for the next 10 days is 3,74,500. This

means a reduction of 60,500 vials of Remdesivir for Maharashtra," the judges said. The bench observed that such a reduction in the allocation of Remdesivir vials to Maharashtra is not consistent with the number of active cases in the state. "On April 30, the number of active cases in Maharashtra was 6,72,000 while the same is 6,64,000 as of May 1, which means active cases reduced hardly by about 1.2 per cent, whereas the reduction in the allocation of vials to Maharashtra for the aforesaid period is by 14.5 per cent. "This mismatch needs to be reconsidered and removed by the Central government," the bench said. The high court also said that the Additional Solicitor General of India Uthas Aurangabadkar would take instructions from



the Union government on this issue and apprise the bench. In the same vein, the bench asked the Centre to reconsider its decision regarding the state-wise allocation of Remdesivir for the aforesaid period of ten days (from May 1 to 9) and increase the quota for Maharashtra to make it consistent with the reduced number of active cases. Maharashtra FDA Commissioner Parimal Singh submitted in the HC that they will issue

new orders ensuring that the districts affected by Remdesivir shortage will get the supply and the backlog is cleared. Singh told the HC the FDA will meet representatives of pharma companies and ensure they follow the directions at the district level. The bench directed that no pharmaceutical company, which is duty-bound to supply Remdesivir vials as per the Centre's orders dated April 24 and May 1 to different states and

Maharashtra, shall supply the drug to private purchasers unless the daily quota of the supply allocated to each of these companies is fulfilled. "Only after that and in case of any remaining balance of Remdesivir vials, the pharma company concerned shall supply the vials to private purchasers till the fulfilment of orders received by them," the bench said. The bench directed the health secretary of Maharashtra and state FDA commissioner to ensure that these directions are followed by pharmaceutical companies concerned. The HC also directed the pharma firms to send their daily production figures to the state FDA commissioner and also upload them on respective websites. The bench warned of strict legal action for violation of its orders.

Mamata behind TMC's astounding performance, BJP will have to introspect: Vijayvargiya

Kolkata, May 2: BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya on Sunday credited Mamata Banerjee for the TMC's astounding performance in Bengal elections, and said his party would introspect the poll results.

Vijayvargiya, who is also the BJP's Bengal minder, also said that he has received a call from Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who enquired about the party's poor show. The senior BJP leader stated that he was shocked to see

what went wrong, whether it was organisational issues, lack of face, insider-outsider debate. We will see what went wrong," he said. The ruling TMC looks set to retain power in West Bengal with its candidates leading in



Earlier in the day, he had claimed that initial trends were not the real indicators of the final outcome, and exuded confidence that his party will win the elections.

BJP MPs Babul Supriyo and Locket Chatterjee trailing. "The TMC won because of Mamata Banerjee. It seems people have chosen Didi. We will introspect

201 of the state's 292 constituencies that went to polls against BJP's 82, according to the trends available for 287 seats on Election Commission website at 3pm.

Govt appoints Rabi Sankar as next RBI deputy governor



Mumbai, May 2: The government has appointed RBI Executive Director T Rabi Sankar as the fourth deputy governor of the central bank. Sankar fills the vacancy created by the retirement of BP Kanungo on April 2, after completing one-year extension. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet on Saturday cleared his appointment for a three-year tenure or till he superannu-

ates, whichever is earlier. The other three deputy governors are Michael D Patra, who heads the all-important monetary policy department; Mukesh Kumar Jain, the commercial banker turned central banker; and Rajeshwar Rao. Sankar's portfolio may include the departments headed by Kanungo, which included fintech, information technology, payments sys-

tem and risk monitoring. He had joined the central bank as a research officer in September 1990. Sankar has a Master's degree in science and statistics from the Banaras Hindu University and a diploma in development planning from the Institute of Economic Growth, according to a LinkedIn post. Last year, Sankar was appointed as the chairman of the Indian Financial Technology and Allied Services, an RBI subsidiary. Before that, he also worked with the International Monetary Fund on bond markets development for the government and also with the central bank of Bangladesh.

Rajasthan Assembly bypolls: Congress retains Sahara and Sujangarh, BJP keeps Rajsamand

Jaipur, May 2: The Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) managed to retain the Assembly constituencies in the bypolls to three seats, the results of which were declared Sunday. While the Congress retained Sahara and Sujangarh seats, the BJP retained Rajsamand seat. On two of these seats, the incumbent MLAs had died due to Covid-19 while the third MLA had died while undergoing treatment following a stroke. In October last year, Congress MLA from Sahara, Kailash Chandra Trivedi, had died of post-Covid complications and the party fielded his wife Gayatri Trivedi for the bypoll. In November, Sujangarh MLA and Cabinet minister in the Ashok Gehlot government, Bhanwarlal Meghwal, had passed away while undergoing

treatment following a paralytic stroke in May. His son, Manoj Kumar, was fielded by the Congress for the bypolls. Also in November, BJP MLA Kiran Maheshwari had died of Covid-19. She was considered close to former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje and was a minister during her tenure. The BJP gave a ticket to her daughter Deepti Kiran Maheshwari from the seat. By Sunday evening, Trivedi's margin against BJP's Ratan Lal Jat Sahara stood at 42,200 votes while Kumar had a margin of 35,611 votes against BJP's Khemaram in Sujangarh. Interestingly, Hanuman Beniwal's Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP) performed well in Sujangarh with its Sitaram Nayak winning 32,210 votes, or about 20 per cent of all votes. In Rajsamand,

Deepti Maheshwari's margin against Tansukh Bohara of Congress stood at 5,310. When compared to the 2018

Assembly elections, Congress managed to increase its vote share in all three constituencies. In Sahara, it increased from 38.11 per cent to 58.21 per cent; in Sujangarh, it increased from 46.26 per cent to 49.3 per cent and in Rajsamand, it increased from 40.54 per cent to 46.21 per cent. BJP could increase its vote share only in Sujangarh, where it went up from 24.83 to 27.15 per cent. Congress state presi-

dent Govind Singh Dotasra said that Congress increasing its vote share is indicative of good governance and party's popularity in the eyes of the people. CM Gehlot extended wishes to all the three winning candidates. On Rajsamand, he said that it "was also fought unitedly and the BJP's margin of victory here has been quite normal." He also thanked the voters for "blessing" and supporting the Congress party. For Gehlot, besieged by a rebellion and court cases last year and attacks by Centre, including an FIR against his Officer on Special Duty, the two wins come as a necessary breather. BJP state president Satish Poonia said that the party workers worked hard in adverse circumstances and were able to retain the Rajsamand seat and did not allow Congress a win. He said that the party will review the losses on two other seats. In 2018, Congress had cornered 46.26 per cent of the vote share in Sujangarh with 83,632 votes, which was 38,749 votes more than the votes polled for BJP's Khemaram. In Sahara, with 65,420 or 38.11 per cent of all votes, Congress' Kailash Chandra Trivedi had defeated BJP's Roop Lal Jat by 7,006 votes in 2018. Similarly in Rajsamand, with 89,025 votes, BJP's Kiran Maheshwari had defeated Congress' Narayan Singh Bhati by 24,623 votes.



3.19 lakh candidates elected unopposed in UP panchayat elections: SEC

Lucknow, May 2: A total of 3.19 lakh candidates have been elected unopposed in the Uttar Pradesh panchayat elections, the State Election Commission said on Sunday. "As many as 3,19,317 candidates have been elected unopposed in the panchayat elections. This includes seven members of zila panchayat, 2,005 members of kshetra panchayat and over 3.17 lakh members who have been elected unopposed in this panchayat election. As many as 178 candidates for the post of pradhan of gram panchayats were also elected unopposed," the SEC said in a statement. In Ballia, Shailesh Singh (45), a candidate for the

post of pradhan of Rampur village panchayat under Maniyar block, died on Sunday morning. Family sources said Singh's condition deteriorated suddenly and he was taken to a doctor who declared him dead. Counting of votes for the panchayat polls in Uttar Pradesh began on Sunday morning, an official said. "The counting of votes will continue till all the ballots are counted. The entire process may take two days," a senior SEC official told PTI. The State Election Commission (SEC) had said the candidates and their agents will be allowed to enter the counting centres only if they have tested negative for

COVID-19 in the 48 hours prior to the commencement of the counting process or taken both doses of the vaccine. The Supreme Court on Saturday had refused to stay the counting process. In a special urgent hearing on a holiday



(Saturday), a bench of Justice AM Khanwilkar and Justice Hrishikesh Roy passed the order after taking note of several notifications and assurances of the SEC that

the COVID-19 protocols will be followed at all the 829 counting centres. The court directed that there will be a strict curfew in the entire state till Tuesday morning and no victory rallies will be permitted. It also asked the SEC to fix the responsibility for observation of COVID-19 protocols at the counting centres on gazetted officers. The bench directed the poll panel to preserve the CCTV

footage of the counting centres till the Allahabad High Court concludes its hearings on the related petitions before it. It also ordered that the government officials, candidates and their agents will have to produce RT-PCR test reports to show that they are COVID-19 negative before entering the counting centres. The SEC official said generally counting of votes takes place in eight-hour shifts. The SEC said at every counting centre, a health desk will be established where a doctor will be present with medicines. Those showing symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, cold and cough will not be allowed at the counting centres.

COVID: Israel bans travel to India, six other countries

New Delhi, May 2: Israel barred its citizens from travelling to India and six other countries, citing high COVID infection rates there. In a joint press release issued by the Israel Prime Minister's Office and the Health Ministry on Friday, it was said that Israelis will not be allowed to travel to Ukraine, Brazil, Ethiopia, South Africa, India, Mexico and Turkey. This regulation will come into force on May 3 and will remain in place until May 16. Non-Israelis, however, will be able to travel to these countries, provided they plan to reside there permanently, the press release said. The regulation will not be applicable to those who stay at airports in transit in one



of these countries for a time period of up to 12 hours while waiting for a connecting flight. The Israeli government has also authorised its health and interior ministers to appoint representatives to head an appeal committee and the panel reviewing special cases. Meanwhile, the Health Ministry proposed that those returning from the seven countries enter a two-week mandatory quarantine, even if they

have been vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19, local media reports said. Those who have received two negative COVID-19 test reports will be required to be in a 10-day quarantine, they said. These additional restrictions are also expected to come into force on May 3, but are subject to the approval of the Knesset's (Israeli parliament) Arrangements Committee.

Government Decision Welcome to Journalists: Sambadika Milita Mancha

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 2: Journalists are now frontline fighters. The Odisha state government has been sincerely thanked and congratulated by the Sambadika Milita Mancha Journalists' Coalition for the decision. Journalists who are not on the list have been asked to be included. Similarly, the announcement of Rs 5 lakh in the case of



front-line fighters in the case of warriors will increase the welfare

fund of journalists from Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 5 lakh, increase the amount of health insurance to Rs 5 lakh, and include the parents of journalists in health insurance. Applications are being made to join the Health Welfare Scheme said Sambadika Milita Mancha Convenor Mr Lingaraj Sahoo, also called on journalists to be vaccinated as soon as possible. May 3 is

World Press Freedom Day. Journalists have been urged to be vigilant on this occasion. Many journalists have lost their lives in Odisha in the second wave of the corona. Many journalists have contracted the disease. "It simply came to our notice then. The Journalists' Joint Forum pays deep tribute to the bereaved. Repeated demands for the enactment of the Journalist Protection Act.

Odisha logs 8,015 new COVID-19 cases, 14 fresh fatalities



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 2: Odisha on Sunday registered 8,015 new COVID-19 cases, pushing the tally in the state to 4,62,622, while 14 fresh fatalities raised the toll to 2,068, a health department official said. Of the 8,015 new cases, 4,568 were reported from various quarantine centres and the rest were detected during contact tracing, he said. Khurda district, of which state capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported the maximum number of fresh cases at 1,275, followed by Sundergarh at 735 and Angul at 525. Other districts which reported over 100 cases include Cuttack, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda and Puri. Taking to Twitter, the health department said, "Re-

gret to inform about the demise of fourteen COVID positive patients while under treatment in hospitals." Four deaths were recorded in Rayagada district, two in Keonjhar and one each in Bhadrak, Bolangir, Boudh, Deogarh, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Khurda and Sundergarh. This apart, 53 other COVID-19 patients have died in the state due to comorbidities, the official said. Odisha currently has 69,453 active cases, while 3,91,048 people have so far recovered from the infectious disease. The positivity rate stood at 4.50 per cent. As many as 1,01,80,678 samples have been tested in the coastal state thus far, including 46,560 on Saturday, the official added.

Odisha exempts pregnant and disabled employees from attending office

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 2: In the wake of the massive spike in Covid cases in Odisha, the State government has decided to exempt employees with disabilities and pregnant women staff from attending office with immediate effect. As per a notification issued by the General

Administration and Public Grievances department, such employees will continue to work from home until May 31 and they must be available to attend to any office work of urgent nature at short notice and be available on the telephone. The state government had earlier

decided that its offices in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack will function with 50% staff strength and ensure that office work does not suffer. The departments and heads of offices will decide which employees will attend office and accordingly prepare roster duty. However, the officers of Deputy

14 More Persons Die Of COVID-19 In Odisha, Toll At 2068

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 2: COVID-19 claimed 14 more lives in Odisha as the toll mounted to 2068, official sources said today. Odisha reported 8015 new COVID-19 cases during the last 24

hours as the tally in the state mounted to 462622. Khurda registered the highest number of cases as 1275 more persons in the district contracted the virus, followed by Sundargarh (735) and Angul (525).



Administration and Public Grievances department, such employees will continue to work from home until May 31 and they must be available to attend to any office work of urgent nature at short notice and be available on the telephone. The state government had earlier

Secretary rank and above will attend office regularly. The employees, who have been provided with VPN, have been asked to work from home if not directed to attend office. An order issued by the General Administration and Public Grievances department said all State government

The departments have been asked to ensure that Covid-19 guidelines are strictly followed by the employees to prevent further spread of coronavirus. Private firms and organisations have also been asked to reduce their staff strength in view of the prevailing situation.

Covid-19 vaccination for 18 years plus group commences in Odisha, online slot booking opens

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 2: Amid the short supply of vaccine from the Centre, free Covid-19 vaccination for 18 years plus group commenced in Odisha on Saturday with 96 beneficiaries getting jabs at Bhubaneswar. Health department sources said all 96 beneficiaries were administered the first dose of Covaxin as part of a trial run on the first day of the Phase III vaccination strategy. The drive will continue from Monday onwards. The State government had received 1.5 lakh doses of Covaxin from Bharat Biotech on Friday evening as the first consignment of the State's own procurement for vaccination of 18-44 years age group. Covaxin will be used in Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) limits for which slots have been opened on CoWIN portal. Odisha has sought 40 lakh doses of Covishield from Serum Institute in May and has not received the scheduled date of dispatch. Additional Chief Secretary of Health, PK



Mohapatra said the software has been tested during the symbolic trial run and the vaccination slot for eligible beneficiaries in 30 districts will be opened after initial doses of Covishield arrive. The state government has placed orders for 3.77 crore doses of Covishield and 10.34 lakh doses of Covaxin for the vaccination of 1.93 crore people, aged 18-44 years. The vaccination has been suspended in the weekends for sanitisation of vaccine centers. So far 58,57,628 doses of vaccines have been administered and the state has 46,220 doses of Covishield and

3,21,630 doses of Covaxin in stock from the Central quota. Besides, it has 1,49,900 doses of Covaxin in stock from its own procurement. The BMC, which announced the opening of slots in the city made it clear that no beneficiary will be entertained at the session site without registration and booking of slot for the inoculation. BMC Commissioner Prem Chandra Chaudhary said booking of slots online for the registered beneficiaries on the CoWIN portal is highly essential to avoid unnecessary crowds at the vaccination centers. As per the time schedule announced by the

BMC, beneficiaries in the age group of 18-44 years will be administered vaccine between 8 am to 1 pm while the vaccination of the 45+ age group will be conducted between 3 pm and 6 pm. Beneficiaries can take the vaccine only at the center they had opted for during registration and slot booking, BMC officials said. As the BMC had kept limited slots open for the 18 to 44 age group, many beneficiaries were deprived of booking slots on the first day. The civic body, however, assured that more slots at vaccination sites will be opened in the coming days. "There is no scarcity of vaccine in

the city and we are trying to open the maximum number of slots in the Government managed session sites," the Municipal Commissioner said. He, however, urged the city residents to follow Covid appropriate behaviors all the time at vaccination centres and other places to check the spread of the virus. Odisha on Saturday recorded its biggest single-day spike of 10,413 new Covid-19 cases and 11 deaths. Khurda and Sundargarh districts reported more than 1000 cases each. The active cases stood at 61,452 after 5634 patients recovered. The daily infection count in Bhubaneswar crossed 1000-mark for the second day in a row as 1,093 more individuals tested positive for the virus in the last 24 hours. Four more deaths were also reported in this period. The new infections have pushed the tally of active cases in the city to 8,168. Eligible beneficiaries can register themselves on cwin.gov.in and selfregistration.cwin.gov.in for vaccination.

Continued from Page 1...

Odisha government

shops, stand alone shops dealing with food and essential items, vegetables, fish, meat, eggs and milk are allowed to operate between 6 am to 12 noon. Such shops will have a minimum 30 feet distance and local authorities will demarcate the areas. However, such relaxation will be permitted on week days only and not during the shutdown on Saturdays and Sundays. However, weekly and daily haats will remain closed during the lockdown period. The new guidelines issued by the state government maintained that the district collectors and municipal commissioners will make all efforts to disperse the vegetable vendors in such a manner that no person is required to travel more than 500 meters for purchase of vegetables. Restaurants and road side dhabas will also be allowed take away and home deliv-

ery only. Shops for educational books for students will be allowed. The Chief Secretary said all facilities in the supply chain of essential goods whether involved in manufacturing, wholesale or retail of such goods will be allowed to function with strict adherence of social distancing norms. The Chief Secretary announced that all health services including AYUSH like hospitals, nursing homes, clinic and telemedicine facilities will be functional during the lockdown period. Inter and intra state movement including by air of all medical and veterinary personnel, scientists, nurses, para medical staff, laboratory technicians, midwives and other hospital support services including ambulances will also be allowed during the period. Earlier, on April 20 the government had imposed weekend shutdown in all the urban areas in Odisha.

COVID Vaccination Continue.....

of COVID-19. However, COVID-19 vaccination across the state will continue during the period. "During this period, subject to availability, vaccination shall continue in places as notified by the Health Department from time to time. Eligible persons shall travel to the Covid Vaccination Centres (CVCs) on their own. Such person(s) shall be allowed to travel to the designated CVCs in their vehicles/taxis/ auto-rickshaws by following guidelines. Health Depart-

ment/District Collectors/ Municipal Commissioners may facilitate alternative ways through Call Centres/ IT solutions to ensure that such persons smoothly travel to and from the CVCs," an official notification of the state government said. "Persons desirous of/required to undertake testing for Covid-19 shall be allowed to travel to designated Government/Private Covid-19 Testing Centres in their vehicles/taxis/auto-rickshaws by following guidelines to that effect," the notification added.

Thunderstorm Warning Issued For 16 Odisha Districts

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 2: As many as 16 districts of Odisha are likely to experience thunderstorm today, the Regional Meteorological Centre forecasted. "Thunderstorm with lightning and gusty surface wind speed reaching 40-50 kmph very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Keonjhar,



Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi,

Rayagada, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Rayagada, Kandhamal, Gajapati, Nayagarh and at one or two places over the rest districts of Odisha, it said. Maximum temperature (Day temperature) very likely to gradually fall by 2-3°C during next 3-4 days over the districts of Odisha, it added.

EDITORIAL

Double standards

As the Centre and States come in for stringent criticism for being caught napping when the pandemic's second wave hit the country and the subsequent mismanagement of the situation, the Uttarakhand Government has announced the suspension of the Char Dham Yatra. Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat said the gates of the four Himalayan temples — Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri — would open on May 14 as scheduled, but only for the priests. Though it is heartening that yet another super-spreader event has been averted, what is saddening is that the Government didn't do this on its own accord. The decision came a day after the Rawat Government was castigated by the Uttarakhand High Court (HC) for mishandling the outbreak. The court said, and rightly so, that the State had become a "laughing stock" by allowing the Kumbh Mela to take place in the midst of a raging pandemic. To its credit, the HC has been trying to make the Government see sense and repeatedly taking it to task over its irresponsible decision to continue with the yatra in the midst of a highly contagious outbreak, calling it "frightening". One only wishes that had such better sense prevailed on the Government earlier, it would have stopped the Kumbh Mela even before it began. Because, make no mistake, the Kumbh was as much a super-spreader as the Assembly polls. Daily COVID cases saw a 6,000 per cent increase between March 1 and April 22 in poll-bound Bengal and a 450 per cent spike between April 1 and April 17, when the Kumbh congregation dispersed. Why is it that our leaders, who certainly should know better, have to be forced by either the judiciary or the PMO to take decisions that should come to them naturally? Are our representatives so short of common sense or is it that political considerations take precedence over the well-being of citizens? What else can explain the local body elections in Uttar Pradesh and Telangana which will also turn out to be super-spreaders. If the Madras High Court thinks that the Election Commission officials should be "booked for murder" for the spiralling Corona cases in the poll-bound States, then what about the Uttarakhand CM? When everything is shut, as it ought to be, what is the justification behind holding the Kumbh, the Assembly polls and the local body elections? Shouldn't the CMs of such States also be "booked for murder"?

A free rein

The COVID-19 surge has exposed the bitter social and economic divide that has existed in India for centuries and which still persists despite tall claims by the so-called stakeholders of our democracy. Some recent events in the pandemic era amply highlight this sad truth. The District Magistrate (DM) of West Tripura, Sailesh Kumar Jadav, is in the news for barging into a banquet hall and disrupting a wedding ceremony to enforce the COVID-19 protocol. The DM acted as a law unto himself, disregarding the fact that due permission had been taken to host the wedding. The errant official apologised only because the ruling party MLAs demanded his scalp after a public outcry. Shift to Bihar, and a Minister's son holds a big fat wedding with hundreds of guests in attendance making a mockery of the strict guidelines issued to contain the surge of Coronavirus. The lack of sensitivity to the suffering of the common citizen also found a reflection in the way policemen reportedly snatched an oxygen cylinder from a person who kept pleading with the cops to let him take the cylinder to save his dying mother. There are myriad versions of the Agra story with the unifying theme that the cops snatched the cylinder from the wailing person who fell at their feet. Compare this to the treatment meted out to India's powerful personalities who can walk into any hospital where beds are reserved for them and top doctors are in attendance round-the-clock to monitor their condition. Reports that in certain States the police have been told to crack down on hospitals who report oxygen shortage to the media and to book people for seeking medical help on social media have triggered public outrage. We all know that despite all the cover-ups by different State Governments, the ground situation remains pretty grim. Blaming the whistleblowers, the media in this case, for highlighting anomalies in the number of deaths or shortage of hospital beds, oxygen cylinders and ventilators is not going to help. Rather, the Governments should be happy that the whistleblowers are exposing the loopholes in the system. In the process, if they commit a faux pas or two, it should be overlooked. The country must not be bogged down in settling petty political scores at a time when a tragedy of this magnitude has befallen us. It's unwise to think that there is no crisis and the people are using social media only to spread unrest against the Government. What would you say about the SOS tweet posted by Union Minister Gen VK Singh seeking a hospital bed for his brother or, for that matter, his ministerial colleague Sanjiv Baliyan's claim that doctors and medical staff are running away from hospitals? If the property of a "mischievous" social media post in the name of creating panic, should not the Governments also face the music for making misleading claims about the condition of hospitals or availability of drugs/oxygen? Don't forget: Accountability starts at the top, not from the bottom.

Armenian genocide: A question of nomenclature

For Turkey, the massacre of Armenians is an unfounded slander and the current American pronouncement is emerging simply from the country's internal political calculations. However, it's high time Turkey came up with a credible answer to explain the organised killing of Armenians during the Ottoman Empire. On April 24, the Armenian genocide completed its 106th anniversary. As the parties involved in the conflict are restless, the mud-slinging game is on. Joe Biden is the first American President to recognise the Armenian killing as genocide. And this has sparked a new war of words between Washington and Ankara. The diplomatic spat between the two countries has now involved senior functionaries in the administration of both the countries. Although Biden's historic recognition is not laced with any economic sanction or diplomatic isolation, his explosive statement will certainly rock the already tense relations between the two nations. In fact, President Biden called up his Turkish counterpart the day before he made the announcement. Earlier American Presidents did not take the risk of infuriating Turkey, a key NATO ally and a strategically critical country, straddling West Asia and Europe. Though the US' new position is symbolic, it equates the Armenian massacre with the genocide under Hitler, and the Cambodian genocide by the Khmer Rouge under Pol Pot from 1975-79 and finally the Rwandan genocide against the Tutsis in April 1994. Elated at President Biden's declaration, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has reacted by saying that is a "... powerful step on the way to acknowledging the truth, historical justice and an invaluable support for the descendants of the victims of Armenian genocide". However, moments after the release of Biden's statement on Armenian genocide, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said, "The words cannot change or rewrite history. We have nothing to learn from anybody on our own past. Political opportunism is the greatest betrayal to peace and justice. We entirely reject this statement based solely on populism." This hints at Turkey's sharp denial of the Armenian genocide. For Turkey, this massacre is an unfounded slan-



Makhan Saikia

der and the current American pronouncement is emerging simply from the country's internal political calculations. Thus, the Turkey's Government says there was no policy of extermination to deal with the Armenian subjects under the Ottoman Empire. Key officials of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan claim that the current American stand on the Armenian genocide is simply to malign the global image of Turkey. The Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs says the demographic studies show that fewer than 1.5 million Armenians lived in the entire Ottoman Empire before the First World War. Hence, there is no question of the death of 1.5 million Armenians only in Eastern Anatolia. Again, alongside the loss of the Armenians, more than 2.5 million Muslims died in the Anatolian region in the same period, they claim. Finally, the Ministry says, "Documents of the time list intercommunal violence, forced migration of all ethnic group, disease and starvation as causes of death." Therefore, Turkey officially does not recognise the killings as genocide. For a fact, the killing of more than 1.5 million Armenians and other Christian minorities between 1915 and 1917 by the Young Turk administration in Anatolian Peninsula is widely labelled as "genocide". These Armenian Ottomans were killed while they were being deported from Anatolia to the Syrian desert in the peak of the First World War. The Young Turks also known as Jon Turkler (in Turkish language) were the proponents of a political reform movement that took place in the early

20th century. The Young Turks wanted to replace the absolute monarch in the Ottoman Empire in those days. The principal aim of this movement was to establish a constitutional form of government. They led a movement known as Young Turk Revolution against the Ottoman Sultan Abdul Hamid II in 1908 which culminated in the foundation of a constitutional government in Turkey. And by January 1913, the most militant members of the Young Turks like Talat Pasa and Enver Pasa took over the regime from their liberal colleagues in a coup d'état. It must be noted here that these young revolutionaries belonged to a small group called Committee of Union and Progress (CUP), an organisation belonging to the greater Young Turks Revolution. And only during the rule of these radicals, the mass killing of the Armenians took place during the First World War. The history, legacy and tragedy around this mass murder is shrouded in controversies and contested narratives. However historical records of the later part of the 19th century show that even Sultan Abdul Hamid advocated pan-Islamic ideals for his empire. The year 1894 witnessed brutal killing of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire. The same year, rising agitations by the Armenians demanded political reform which forced the Sultan to use brutal forces to normalise the law and order situation. Contemporary historical records indicate the massacre of 80,000 to 300,000 Armenians and 25,000 Assyrians in a period of three

years. Subsequently, the New York Times referred to the mass killings under Sultan Hamid as "Armenian Holocaust" in the year 1895 and popularly termed it as "Hamidian massacre". Therefore, it is not the only regime during the First World War but also the earlier that Sultans carried out atrocities against the Armenians and other smaller ethnic and religious groups in the Ottoman Empire. One can possibly read what was there in the mind of Talat Pasa when he once said: "What on earth do you want? The question is settled. There are no more Armenians." An attempt to create a pan-Islamic and a pan-Turkic State finally led to the killing of all these Armenians. It was the hatred towards the Christians when the Ottoman Empire suffered a humiliating defeat in the historic Balkan War between 1912 and 1913. The young Turkish rulers were always suspicious of the Christian Armenians. The hardliners of the CUP strongly felt that the Armenians were collaborating with the foreign powers to harm the Ottoman Empire. After the humiliating defeat in the First Balkan War, when the Empire lost almost all their possession in Europe, the European leaders imposed a major set of reforms over the Ottomans, asking them to allow the supervision of the inspectors in eastern part of it. This directly resulted into a pure misconception among the Ottoman rulers thinking that only the Armenians were there behind this conspiracy. Thus, a sense of insecurity grew in the ruling elite that the Armenians could be working towards undermining the sovereignty of the Ottoman Empire. And all these above reasons and probably a growing movement of self-assertion among the Armenians led to the extermination of them by the Young Turk regime. It is hard to access the exact number of Armenians lived in the Ottoman Empire during the First World War. But the Encyclopedia Britannica sources quote that there were around 2.5 million Armenians in the beginning of the 20th century in the Ottoman Empire. But today the modern Turkey has an estimated population of 70,000 of them only. The Armenians initially lived in the six provinces in the Eastern Anatolia, what is today known as Eastern Turkey.

The message of the pandemic

Hiranmay Karlekar

Elements of Nature like water, air, fire, plants and animals sustained our existence but an exploitative approach is recoiling on humankind. The report of the World Health Organisation-appointed team of international researchers that visited Wuhan, China, in January-February 2021 leaves one in no doubt that the COVID-19 virus originated from animals. Submitted on March 30, 2021, it described as "extremely unlikely" the possibility that the virus had leaked out from a laboratory in Wuhan. While saying that the virus had most probably travelled from one animal to another before afflicting humans, it also examined the possibility of the virus travelling directly to people from the original host animals or from the supply chain of frozen or refrigerated foods. Animals and plants are parts of Nature. The question arises whether the COVID-19 virus, now in its devastating second coming in India, is fundamentally a part of humankind's growing conflict with it. Like global warming, it is part of Nature's counter-offensive against our relentless, colonial exploitation of almost every aspect of it, not for just survival but even luxuries. It would have been different otherwise. To quote Mahatma Gandhi's famous observation: "The world has enough for everyone's need, but not enough for everyone's greed." A failure to recognise this and confining oneself to an instrumental response to the

pandemic would not — even if it succeeds — prevent another major or similar calamity from striking us. The instrumental response is, doubtless, critically important in its consequences in the present instance and, equally without doubt, has been grossly inadequate. There has been an obvious failure to anticipate the fearful extent and ferocity of the current surge — if not the very advent. As has been said, a major problem here has been insufficient knowledge about the virus and the dynamics of its mutations and spread. Hence, some part at least of the response has been on the basis of the knowledge of previous virus outbreaks. However, lockdowns and measures like curfew and other restrictions on movement, while providing some breathing space in the interim, cause substantial economic damage and social disruption in the form of events like the return of migrants. While this is the best that could be done under the circumstances, matters have been made worse by the inadequate administrative action leading to acute shortages of vaccines, oxygen cylinders, beds in hospitals and intensive care units, ventilators and cremation facilities. This has been the result of complacency and inadequate prioritisation of the fight against COVID-19. Particularly unfortunate has been the role of the Election

Commission of India. It should not have spread out the elections in phases, which extended campaigning over weeks in West Bengal and increased the time span of the resultant spread of infection. This might have had a less disastrous impact had the ECI disallowed, from the beginning, the holding of large rallies and insisted that both those attending and addressing the ones permitted, wore masks. Realising that neither of these was happening, it should have, after due warning to all concerned, banned the holding of mammoth gatherings. It did nothing of the sort. It is perhaps not a coincidence that the ban on the holding of victory rallies came after the Madras High Court had lambasted its role in contributing majorly to the spread of the present surge. The ECI had either not realised the implications of its decisions or was under pressure to do what it did. It is unbelievable that the former was the case; a person with minimal common sense would have known. Nor can the latter, if it has happened, be an excuse. It had a responsibility to resist pressure and act independently. In either case, its conduct has left much to be desired. Be that as it may, the question of humankind's relationship with Nature remains. Its own

spiritual and biological attributes, and emergence and evolution in the matrix of Nature, had made its conflict with the latter inevitable. As to the former, MN Roy points out in the second of his Twenty-two Theses of Radical Democracy, "Quest for freedom and search for truth constitute the basic urge of human progress. The quest for freedom is the continuation, on a higher level — of intelligence and emotion — of the biological struggle for existence." Elements of Nature like water, air, fire, plants and animals sustained human existence; those like floods, cyclones, droughts, fire, wild animals and diseases threatened it. Humans survived by achieving mastery over, and harnessing, natural forces, to achieve ever-increasing levels of comfort and luxury. In the process — lip service notwithstanding — it has come to regard Nature as something to conquer and exploit. The COVID-19 pandemic is a result of its abuse of animals. Individual liberty is important. Modern democracies, however, emphasise that harmonious social existence requires the imposition of some consensual limits on it to maximise freedom for all. The concept has to be extended to Nature, and human activities that damage it beyond the minimum needed, disallowed. No doubt non-human constituents of it, like animals, devour one another and/or plants. They, however, do not play the kind of havoc that humans do.

Hinjilicut admins show's humanity



(A.O. Bureau) Ganjam, May 2: The state government has issued a number of legal sacrifices as Corona 2nd Stain grows day by day. There has also been a weekly shut-down in the state to dismantle the Covid Chain. Ganjam district has moved from the green zone to the red zone a few days ago, the migrants returned to

their hometowns. An unfortunate incident has been reported in Samarjhol village under Hinjilikatu block of Ganjam district. A person who settled at paradip since one week he returns to his village since he is facing cough and fever and died at around 2am last night but the villagers couldn't reach near the family for the final colonel procees

or support the family in such a crucial time. Some volunteer and social workers inform to the block administrator. After that the Block Development Officer of Hinjilicut Subrat Kumar Jena and the Hinjilicut executive officer Manoranjan Sahu along with fire brigades officer with the help of some local volunteers the final rituals done in vedic procees.

About 60 person admitted in hospital after drinking poisonous lassi

(A.O. Bureau)

Malkangiri, May 2: More than 100 people are drinking poisonous lassi in Kaldapalli panchayat under Padia block. As a result, all have been admitted to the field hospital. Drinking poisonous lassi appears to have made him ill. According to the information, there was a huge crowd there as there was a market yes-

terday. Many people drank lassi at the market. After returning home, everyone who drank lassi was vomited and then vomited. After receiving the news, the fire department team came to the place and with the help of the fire department team, rushed to the field hospital. To date, more than 60 patients have been treated.



Journalist as Covid frontline warrior" with silent prayers for journalists who lost their lives in Covid by UJA



(A.O. Bureau)

Malkangiri, May 2: "Journalists have been risking their lives to raise awareness about the Covid epidemic, and have been raising awareness at various times across the village to town to get rid of coronary disease." "Unfortunately, many media persons in our state are suffering from coronary disease and some have lost their lives." Amourning meeting was held today at the Malkangiri District Utkal

Journalists Association office for the rest of their souls. The meeting also urged the families of the journalists who died or admitted in hospital to be patient during this pandemic time. The UJA Association has thanked the state government and the Honourable chief minister Sri Nabeen Patnaik for declared the journalists as frontline Covid warrior announcing to the press today he appreciated the news of the activi-

ties of journalist for awareness and he condolence for deaths of journalists in corona. The meeting was presided by President Duryodhana Patra, and participated the Secretary Satyanarayana Das, Treasurer B Srinivasa Patra, Joint Secretary Sanu Anugu Office secretary P. Kishore Kumar UJA Association advisor Simanchal panigrahi and more than 30 members of the UJA Association.

INS Chilika to Extend Helping Hand to Civil Administration By Setting up a Covid Care Centre



(A.O. Bureau) Chilika, May 2: INS Chilika to Extend Helping Hand to Civil Administration By Setting up a Covid Care Centre -(Khordha) As India reels under a massive second wave of covid-19 infection re-

sulting in increase number of Covid positive patients the Indian Navy through it's abinitio Training Establishment at INS Chilika and under the aegis of Naval Officer -in-charge Odisha is all geared up to assist the

state administration close coordination with Mr. Sanat Kumar Mohanty, Collector Khordha in setting up a Covid care facility for the patients of Khordha district. In order to tackles the increasing surge in the Covid

cases a 150 bed isolation centre for mild symptomatic patients has been created in the trainees accommodation buildings within the Naval station Chilika. Additionally 15 bed with oxygen facility have also been made available at the colocated INHS Nivarini the hospital at INS Chilika for patients requiring oxygen support. A dedicated Covid care centre along with doctors, paramedical staff's from the district medical authorities will be functioning 24*7 at the Covid care centre facility. Easy to understand pamphlets are planned to be distributed

among the patients for making them aware about safety norms to be followed. All basic amenities will be provided by INS, Chilika to the patients to ensure a safe and comfortable stay. Furthermore all preparatory actions have been stepped up by the units to prepare the Covid care centre. The single point of contact for patients seeking admission would be the Balugaon community Health care centre. All precautions and steps as per policies for infection control within the station in conjunction with isolation and quarantine protocol's for the station community have already been put into place.

Special isolation arrangements were made by the Berhampur Press Club, which will benefit journalists and their families



(A.O. Bureau)

Berhampur, May 2: The Niara effort of the Berhampur Press Club. Isolation center Press club has been set up at Berhampur by the Press Club for journalists and their families. The isolation center, which was opened by the Press Club has four beds. Sisir Panigrahi former president and senior journalist of the Berhampur Press Club, said, We want oxygen cylinders, pulse accelerators, infrared thermometers and other devices to make it easier for journalists and their family members to stay apart during

the Covid symptoms. Last year, eight journalists from Berhampur were covid positive and faced a lot of problems during home insulation. In the second wave in Berhampur, three local journalists were covid positive. Efforts were also made to set up the center last year, but it was not possible due to some problems, Mr. Panigrahi said. However, the administration has not provided any assistance to journalists during the coup. Now this efforts from BPC has been widely praised by members of the press and media ventures.

Collector Review Covid-19 Situation in Khordha District

(A.O. Bureau) Khordha, May 2: Collector Khordha Sanat Kumar Mohanty on Saturday reviewed the covid-19 situation in Khordha district through videoconferencing. During the meeting Collector Mr. Mohanty was appraised about testing, the availability of beds, medicines, vaccine's and manpower etc. for the Prevention of corona virus and proper treatment of infected patients. He also directed the officers and Sarapanchas of the district to provide all possible assistance to the peoples of Khordha district with full sensitively. Stressing upon Test, Track and Treat the Collector Mr. Mohanty said that like the first wave the



same strategy has to be adopted to win over the virus. He also emphasised on making contact tracing and test reports of infected persons available at the earliest. He directed the officials to discharge all the responsibilities towards

patient's living in home isolation and the families in a sensitive manner. Through video conferencing public Representatives and officials of Khordha district administration informed the Collector Mr. Mohanty about the

preparation made in the district for the protection and treatment of covid-19 patients. In this review meeting Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Khordha Manoj Kumar Padhi, Additional District Magistrate (Revenue) Anuj

Kumar Das Pattnaik, Project Director District Rural Development Agency, Khordha, Digant Routray, Sub Collector Bhubaneswar, Debabrata Sahoo and others officers are remain present.

Rescue the body in front of the truck

(A.O. Bureau)

Rengali, May 2: The body of a young man was found lying in front of a truck under the SH-10 over bridge near Rengali Shyam Metalik in Sambalpur district. Doubts have been raised about the young man's death from the surrounding conditions at the scene. Ghaziabad UP was reportedly hit by a CG15AC 0108 truck under the overbridge near SH-10 Shyam Metalik late on Satur-



day night. Ramesh Yadav, 46, suffered head injuries, broken limbs and died at the scene. Rengali police have registered a case and sent the body to Burla Hospital

for autopsy. Rengali police said Ramesh Yadav was the driver of the vehicle and the truck was seized and the owner would be called and questioned.

COVID Patient Found Dead In Watercourse In Odisha

(A.O. Bureau) Angul, May 2: A COVID-19 patient was found dead in a watercourse at Rajjharan village under Chhendipada Block in Angul district of Odisha. The deceased

person has been identified as Santosh Gochhayat (43) of Rajjharan village. Police source said that Gochhayat was working as a contractual labourer at the Jindal Plant in

Angul. Three days ago, he had tested positive for COVID-19. The 43-year-old man was missing from his home since afternoon on Saturday. At around 10.00 AM today, the villagers found



his body floating in a watercourse within an irrigation project area at Rajjharan following which they informed the police and his family. On receiving information, Industrial Police Station

(Nisa) IIC Priti Manjari Mendholi, Chhendipada BDO Sanjay Kumar Acharya and Additional Tehsildar Prakash Chandra Nayak reached the place and recovered the body. A

bicycle of the deceased person has also been recovered from the irrigation project site. Though the reason of death is yet obscure, the police has registered an Unnatural Death case.

Ankita Lokhande, boyfriend Vicky Jain are a couple in love

New Delhi, May 2: Ankita Lokhande on Sunday shared two pictures with boyfriend Vicky Jain with messages of love as her caption. See them here. Actor Ankita Lokhande on Sunday shared two new pictures with boyfriend Vicky Jain. The two looked clearly in love. Sharing one of them, she wrote: "Worlds change when eyes meet." The picture showed the two of them looking at each other. On a table in front of them is a cake and several lit candles. Many of her friends reacted to the pictures. Actor Sana Makbul wrote: "My cutie e e e s s @lokhandeankita and my BFF @jainvick god bless you both." TV actor Ashita Dhawan said:

"Beautiful edit." Her fans also reacted to the picture; one said: "Aahhhh Finally was waiting for this one." Another said: "Bonds everlasting God bless you and your family." Sharing another photo, Ankita wrote: "'The tides move in harmony with you.'" Actor Amruta Khanvilkar wrote in the comments section: "Love to both." Many fans reacted to these pictures too; one said: "Divinity. All my love for you." Another said: "A gentleman treatin' her like a QUEEN which she deserves God bless you." A third fan said: "How Cute Viank." Earlier last month, Ankita and Vicky had celebrated three years of togetherness. Sharing a video,

she had written: 'Teen saal 3 years of togetherness'. The video showed the couple dancing to romantic songs. Ankita, on several occasions, has thanked Vicky for being her support system. Last year, after the death of her ex-boyfriend Sushant Singh Rajput, in an Instagram post she had written: "I can't find the words to describe my feelings for you. One thing which come in my mind when I see us together is I'm grateful to god for sending u in my life as a friend, partner and as soul mate." Prior to dating Vicky, Ankita had been in a six-year old relationship with Sushant, which ended in a breakup. Speaking about it, in a recent in-



terview to Bollywood Bubble, she had said: "For me, it was very difficult but my family stood by me. My life was finished. I did not know what to do after that. I am not blaming anyone.

He chose his way. I gave him the full right, 'Chal, yeh teri zindagi hai (it's your life), you can go on.' But then, I was battling with something very badly and my family stood by me. I came out very strongly."

Anushka thanks fans for birthday wishes, says why she didn't celebrate



Anushka Sharma on Sunday took to Instagram to thank fans for her birthday wishes. She also added that her husband Virat and she would be doing their best to help the society fight Covid-19 crisis. Actor

Anushka Sharma on Sunday released a video on Instagram to thank fans for the birthday wishes she had received. She also said why she did not celebrate her birthday. Anushka turned 33 on Saturday. In the

video, Anushka said: "Hi guys, I hope you all are safe. I just want to say a 'Big Thank You' for all the lovely birthday wishes. It truly made my day special. But in the midst of all this pain and suffering, it just did not feel right to celebrate my birthday. But I have seen your special messages to me and now I have an important message for you. I would like to appeal to everyone, to unite and support our country in this hour of crisis." She also hinted that Virat Kohli and she were planning something. "Virat and I are coming together to do our bit. We will share details

soon so that you can also become part of this movement. Remember we are all in this together, guys please stay safe and take care of yourselves." On Saturday, friends and colleagues of the actor took to social media to wish her on her birthday. Kareena Kapoor shared a monochrome picture of Anushka, wishing her a happy birthday. Sonam Kapoor dug out a throwback photo with Anushka and shared a heartfelt birthday wish for her Instagram. Calling her a "trailblazer", Sonam wrote, "Happy Happy birthday, you trailblazer. May every day start with a "clean slate" and be filled with only

laughter, love and joy." Jacqueline Fernandez also wished Anushka on her Instagram story with a throwback picture and along with it, she wrote "Love you @anushkasharma." Riteish Deshmukh and Vivek Oberoi also wished her on the occasion. Anushka and Virat were blessed with a baby girl named Vamika in January this year. The actor has been away from the limelight for the past two years. She was last seen in Zero with Shah Rukh Khan and Katrina Kaif. She has recently produced two projects - Amazon Prime Video web series Pataal Lok and Netflix movie Bulbul.

'Playing Nalini is challenging'

New Delhi, May 2: Geetanjali Tikekar, who plays Nalini Pratap Singh in SET'S Kyun Utthe Dil Chhor Aaye, tells MUSBA HASHMI how she got on board the project, how the character is the toughest one till date and that her conscious choices helped her not get stereotyped

What is your role about? The post-partition era saw our country go through a drastic change. Families were displaced and were now refugees in their own country. For them to find their ground all over again and rebuild their lives was a challenge. Royal families too had a fair share of ordeals to deal with then. My character is set against these very challenges. Nalini Pratap Singh is the Queen of a province with a legacy she's proud of and would go to any lengths to safeguard it. The only heart-ache in her life is her strained relationship with her only son and how his crazy shenanigans and bid to outwit her constantly keep her on her toes. How did you come on board the project?

It's sheer luck and faith of my producers in my potential that I got this show. The way Shashi ma'am narrated the character I knew I had to do it. And I am. I feel Kyun Utthe Dil Chhod Aaye is an amazing and unique concept and this show is going to be a different experience for me. Other than that I wanted to be a part of the show which stands out from all the other shows I have done in past. I am overwhelmed to work with such a well-known production house and wonderful channel. This is a great opportunity for me. I am looking forward to a new journey of my life with the entire team.

What is the hardest part of playing Nalini Devi? Playing Nalini Devi's character though not easy is a very fulfilling experience.

ence as an actor. Who

doesn't wish to portray a larger than life character? It's what every actor dreams of. It's very different from not just all the characters that I played before but it's different from all the other characters on television per se.

Is there a lesson that you learnt the hard way in the industry?

The hardest lesson that I learnt was that one must not get overly attached to one character because once the show ends, that void hurts.

Having played so many varied roles, which one was the toughest?

Every character is tough and challenging in the initial stages of a show. But once you completely embrace it and let it become your second skin, it's like having parallel life altogether. For me, Nalini is still a challenge. And I'm working towards owning her completely. She just might be the toughest character I've ever played.

You have played both positive and negative characters. Which one do you prefer?

It's not the shade of a character that matters. It's the depth, the weightage, the screen space and above all the opportunity to perform that matters. I've played every shade, totally black, totally white and a bit of both, grey. Not to brag but my conscious choices in choosing a show have not stereotyped me as positive or negative.

Is there anything in the pipeline?

It's a conscious effort to be a part of one show at a time. I don't pursue anything else as it takes a toll on what's on hand.

And in these trying times, to be able to work in a safe and healthy environment, I feel blessed.



Bharti cries remembering how she feared for mother's life: Tod dia hai corona ne



Mumbai, May 2: Bharti Singh was seen crying on stage as she spoke about the devastation caused by Covid-19 in India. She was on stage on Dance Deewane 3 when the incident happened. The episode was shot likely before the lockdown in Mumbai due to the deadly second wave of the pandemic. Bharti was seen in the video saying in Hindi: "Corona is making us weep, taking so many lives. My mother had tested positive. My

mother would call and, in one such a call, revealed how there was a 'uncle' in the neighbourhood who had died. She would cry, I was fearful thinking 'will I get a phone call?'" She continued:

"Itna zyada tod dia hai Corona ne (Corona has broken us all)." On the episode, which will air on Sunday, Sonu Sood and Nora Fatehi will be seen as special guests. In the clip, as Bharti spoke, Sonu and Nora were seen wiping tears from their eyes. The second wave of Covid-19 pandemic has caused havoc in India. The pandemic has taken lakhs of lives with there being a severe shortage of hospital beds, ventilators and medical oxygen.

Here's why there is a need to screen people over-50s for cannabis use

Washington [US], May 2: According to research published in peer-reviewed The American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse, older people who, or the ones above the age of 30 use cannabis to relieve or treat health problems are failing to discuss their substance use with doctors. This is despite some using cannabis every day of the year and others having mental health problems, according to a study of more than 17,000 people aged 50 and over in the US. The research is the first to identify where older users get cannabis with the majority saying obtaining it was easy. Those taking cannabis for health reasons are more likely than non-medical (recreational) users to buy it at a medical dispensary (20% vs 5%) and less likely to get it for free (25% vs 46%) or from other sources such as parties (49% vs 56%). The authors say the findings have significant clinical and



policy implications especially as more US states are legalizing cannabis, which is leading to a rapid rise in uptake among older people. They want doctors to screen older people routinely for cannabis and other substance use, check cannabis users for mental health problems, and recommend treatment when necessary. Educating this group about the risks of obtaining cannabis and cannabis products from unregulated sources is also vital, say the authors. "Cannabis is readily available and accessible to older

cannabis users for medical or non-medical purposes," says Namkee G. Choi from the University of Texas at Austin, US. "The findings suggest that some medical users may be self-treating without healthcare professional consultation. "All older people who take cannabis should consult healthcare professionals about their use. As part of routine care, healthcare professionals should screen for cannabis and other substance use, and for mental health problems. "They should also recommend services or treatment when

indicated. Given the increase in THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) potency, healthcare professionals should educate older cannabis users, especially high-frequency users, on potential safety issues and adverse effects." Cannabis use among older US adults has more than doubled between 2008 and 2019 including to relieve pain and treat health issues. But little is known about where they get cannabis and how much they discuss their use with doctors, which this study aimed to establish. The research was based

on responses from 17,855 men and women aged 50 and older to the 2018 and 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). This annual federal government survey, which is the largest of its kind, measures substance use and misuse and mental illness across the US. The University of Texas researchers analysed responses including on cannabis use frequency, the proportion taking it for medical and non-medical reasons, where they obtained it, and how much they utilized healthcare services. Overall, the study found that nearly one in ten (9%) used cannabis over the past year. Nearly a fifth (19%) of these used cannabis for a medical purpose to some extent, e.g., to treat chronic pain, depression or diseases like arthritis, and the rest (81%) were recreational (non-medical) users. The authors found people who reported using cannabis for medical reasons were

more than four times more likely than non-medical users to discuss their use with a healthcare professional. However, only a minority of medical users did this, which the authors say implies some are self-treating without consulting a doctor. Other findings include higher odds of medical users taking the drug more frequently with 40% using it between 200 and 365 days a year compared with non-medical users. A higher proportion of older cannabis users had a mental illness, alcohol use disorder, and nicotine dependence compared with their age peers who did not use cannabis, although medical users were less likely to have alcohol problems compared to recreational users. As well as calling on doctors to do more, the study authors say the NSDUH needs updating to 'reflect changing cannabis product commercialization,' e.g. cannabidiols, topical solutions and edibles, all of which are available to older people.

Important to back your core group of bowlers: Rohit DC elect to field against Punjab Kings

New Delhi, May 2: Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma on Saturday said that playing at the Arun Jaitley Stadium suits his

side's style of play but it is important to back the bowlers who will be under pressure at smaller grounds. All-rounder

Kieron Pollard (87 off 34 balls) blazed away to the fastest half-century of the ongoing league as Mumbai Indians beat Chennai Super Kings by four wickets in the IPL. It was MI's second win in as many games here with a couple of matches more to go. The defending champions had struggled at the Chepauk, where they managed to win only two of their five games. "It suits our style of play, and yes, the bowlers will be under pressure, but that's where you back the bowlers. There will be games where the bowlers will go for runs, but it's important to back your core group of bowlers," Rohit said after the high-scoring match. Talking about the game in which the Mumbai bowlers gave away 218 runs, Rohit said: "I know it's always tough for the

bowlers on a good pitch and smaller ground. We wanted to stay positive once we finished (bowling out) 20 overs. "We got a good start and saw what happened. I mean we just had a brief chat (at the innings break) and said it was a good pitch. We had shot-makers in our batting line-up and we just wanted to take the game in the end." The skipper backed the decision to send all-rounder Krunal Pandya at number four. "Brilliant partnership at the top and Krunal-Polly partnership was also there. We backed Krunal (at No.4) and he's coming off good form in domestic cricket. A left-hander always makes a difference even though they [CSK] have an off-spinner." CSK skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni felt his side wasn't able to execute its

plans well and also rued dropped catches. "It was a brilliant wicket. The difference was the execution. Not being too tough on bowlers, we dropped catches at crucial intervals. The bowlers would execute better and learn from this. "If you look how it went. We were very off target when it came to execution. It is important to do that. The wicket was easy to hit. In a tournament like this, you will win and lose a few close games. When you are under the pump, you learn a lot. "Irrespective where we are in the points table, we take one game at a time. We hardly ever focus where we are standing on the table. That has been our good point along the way," Dhoni added.



Ahmedabad, May 2: Delhi Capitals skipper won the toss and elected to bowl against Punjab Kings in the IPL here on Sunday. Delhi opted to go with the same playing XI. For Punjab, Mayank Agarwal will be captaining the side in place of regular skipper KL Rahul, who has been diagnosed with acute appendicitis. Punjab also decided to hand England's David Malan his IPL debut, leaving out of form West Indies batsman Nicolas Pooran.

Teams: Delhi Capitals: Prithvi Shaw, Shikhar Dhawan, Steven Smith, Rishabh Pant (captain), Marcus Stoinis, Shimron Hetmyer, Lalit Yadav, Axar Patel, Kagiso Rabada, Avesh Khan, Ishant Sharma. Punjab Kings: Mayank Agarwal (captain), Prabhsimran Singh, Chris Gayle, Dawid Malan, Deepak Hooda, Shahrukh Khan, Harpreet Brar, Chris Jordan, Riley Meredith, Ravi Bishnoi, Mohammed Shami.



Man City on brink of title

London, May 2: Manchester City are on the brink of clinching the Premier League title after a 2-0 win against Crystal Palace, while Brighton virtually assured their survival with victory over Leeds on Saturday. Pep Guardiola's side moved 13 points clear at the top thanks to second-half goals from Sergio Aguero and Ferran Torres at Selhurst Park. City will be crowned En-

minute when he ran onto Benjamin Mendy's long pass and slammed a half-volley into the roof of the net from 10 yards. It was only Aguero's fourth goal of what will be his final season with City after the club's record scorer announced he will leave in the close-season. City hope Torres will be part of a new generation of stars capable of building on the foundations laid by the likes of

against Paris Saint-Germain. "We can start to think about it and put it in the fridge. The Premier League is already there, it is in our hands. We need one more victory," Guardiola said. "I'm absolutely delighted with that after the Champions League. We could not play with much rhythm. We struggled a little bit but in the second half we deserved it. "I will check on the Liverpool game. It's



lish champions for the third time in four seasons if second-placed Manchester United lose at home to Liverpool on Sunday. If United avoid defeat, City can seal the title with a victory against Chelsea at the Etihad Stadium next Saturday. It is a matter of when, not if, City regain the title they surrendered to Liverpool last season. They shook off a tepid first half in south London and put Palace to the sword with two goals in the space of 84 seconds. Aguero, making only his sixth league start in an injury-plagued season, broke the deadlock in the 57th

Aguero. The Spanish forward gave a glimpse of his potential when he fired home from the edge of the area after a flowing City attack in the 59th minute. That was enough to seal an 11th successive away victory in the Premier League, equalling the English top-flight record. City were languishing in 14th place in late November but a blistering run since then has carried them to the brink of a third title in four seasons. On Tuesday, City will attempt to reach their first ever Champions League final when they defend a 2-1 lead in the semi-final second leg

in our hands and now we will give everything to beat PSG." At the Amex Stadium, Brighton broke a three-game goal drought when they took the lead through Pascal Gross's 14th minute penalty. Ezgjan Alioski was penalised for bringing down Danny Welbeck and Gross found the bottom corner with the resulting spot-kick. Graham Potter's side struck again through Danny Welbeck's excellent solo effort in the 79th minute to seal a 2-0 win. Brighton are now 10 points clear of the relegation zone with four games left.

Atleti survive major scare

Madrid, May 2: Atletico Madrid were given a huge let-off on Saturday as Elche missed a 91st-minute penalty, allowing the La Liga leaders to escape with a 1-0 win and go five points clear at the top of the table. Elche's Fidel Chaves struck the post with his injury-time spot-kick in what could

prove a pivotal moment in Spain's thrilling title race, with Real Madrid, Barcelona and Sevilla all still in the hunt to be crowned champions. Marcos Llorente gave Atleti the lead at the Estadio Martinez Valero but they failed to make the result secure and Elche twice could have equalised in the final

minutes. First, Antonio Barragan volleyed over from close range and then Llorente's handball gave Fidel a golden opportunity from the spot but he too squandered the chance. Diego Simeone leapt into the air when the ball came back off the post, his side pulling further clear and putting pressure on

the others, with Real Madrid at home to Osasuna before Barcelona travel to Valencia on Sunday. Sevilla, who are now six points behind, play their game in hand on Monday against Athletic Bilbao. After a frantic week that saw Real Madrid draw at home to Real Betis,

Atletico lose against Athletic and Barcelona defeated by Granada, any victory, even one as marginal as this, will be welcome for Atleti. They are now guaranteed to be ahead of Barca when they kick off at Camp Nou next Saturday, the only question now how significant their advantage will be.

Hope Manchester United's progress can convince Pogba, Cavani to stay: Solskjaer

Manchester, May 2: Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said he hoped the club's progress this season would convince French midfielder Paul Pogba and Uruguayan striker Edinson Cavani to extend their stay at Old Trafford. "He knows my feelings about him and that I want him to stay," Solskjaer, whose side are second in the Premier League and in a good position to reach the Europa League final, told reporters. "It's about cre-

ating an environment that we thrive in... and a team that challenges for trophies." The contract of Pogba, who joined United from Juventus for 89 million pounds (\$122.94 million) in 2016, is set to run out in 2022. Cavani arrived at United on a one-year contract in October with an option of another 12 months, but remains undecided about his future after a difficult season which included a social media faux pas that resulted in a three-game ban.

Bottas denies Hamilton 100th pole in Portugal

Portimao, May 2: Valtteri Bottas took pole position for the Portuguese Grand Prix with seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton completing a Mercedes front-row lockout in qualifying on Saturday. Hamilton's pursuit of a 100th pole at the track where last year he notched up his record 92nd win was delayed when Bottas earned the 17th of his career. "It's a good feeling to be on pole," said Bottas. He added: "Feels like it's been a

while. It's been a weak point for me in the first two races. The team have been working hard all weekend and we have a good position for tomorrow." Red Bull's Max Verstappen, one point off Hamilton in the drivers' standings, took third on Sunday's grid with his teammate Sergio Perez alongside him on the second row in Portimao. Carlos Sainz for Ferrari came in fifth ahead of the Alpine of Esteban Ocon, Lando Norris, in a McLaren, and Charles Leclerc in the second

Ferrari. Hamilton paid tribute to Bottas "and our team" for us both to be on the front row. "It was not expected. We have to be happy for that, it was not the perfect lap but I gave it everything. "You can never be satisfied, we exist to keep moving forward but I'm happy with what we're doing and the steps we're taking." Hamilton narrowly leads the 2021 championship after he won the opener in Bahrain before his Dutch rival Verstappen hit back in the Emilia Romagna GP at Imola.

Aditi Mutatkar: The girl who lived in Saina Nehwal's shadow

Mumbai, May 2: "Being a wife to Chinmay and a mother to Agastya now has made me a much better and a happier human being," says Aditi Mutatkar. When a friend who Aditi Mutatkar had not spoken to for years called her last month and guffawed "Teri wajah se Saina ko chaataa padaa", the 33-year-old was intrigued. The movie 'Saina' had had its theatrical release and a shadow had propped up from Aditi's distant past. What's more, there had been a dramatic slap on the big screen - when Saina's angry mother raises her hand on her daughter, for losing to Aditi - and Aditi didn't quite remember witnessing any of it. It was only when she nervously watched the film on an OTT platform that Aditi would grapple with a



memory that seemed seared in both the minds of the winner and the one who lost. "Watching it was a trigger. Though I understand I was just used as a prop (in the plot) to show how she couldn't take a loss against me and it proved to be a sort of a turning-point," Aditi says. While her name was used, she wasn't contacted by

the filmmakers. "There was no negative reference so that's ok. But when I saw it, I felt I want to tell my story as well, so I got down to penning my thoughts." Saina had risen to stratospheric heights and earned herself a biopic. Aditi was content to tease out a thread of that walk-in part, and flesh it out in a blog-post. "It triggered a

string of emotions in me and took me back to a period - the last time I was India's No. 1 without doubt. Everything shifted after that match. I had my knee injuries and Saina just shot up to another level winning the World Juniors by 2008," she says. The comparison would wreck her mind. "Look, me and Saina will always be a painful memory for me. She was extra-ordinary. I wasn't extra-ordinary. It is not easy to accept that someone is so good that you don't have a chance at all. I could never break through that aura of Saina," Aditi says, in what is a mix of staggering awe and cutting sorrow. "Saina and I were part of the Indian junior team for the European circuit. That was one fun trip and the beginning of the many trips we

would make as Indian team players and room-mates." "What they showed was that the two shake hands, Saina's pretty happy but her mother is angry. I'm on the podium and then comes the slap. But frankly it wasn't in public. I never saw the slap. What I remember is I had proven a point to myself and my coaches that I had not given up. I was back," Aditi recalls. At the 2002 junior nationals in Guntur, weeks before the sub-juniors at Patna, Aditi had received a hammering from Saina. "I'd never lost to her before that, but she ran past me in that match," Aditi concedes, of a time when she was India's top junior and Assam's southpaw Krishna Dekaraja was No.2.

Tata COVID Hospital at Sitalapalli in Ganjam gets inaugurated

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 2: Tata Steel, as a responsible corporate, has been at the forefront of combating the spread of the Coronavirus in Odisha while actively engaging with all its stakeholders through multiple interventions and supporting the government's effort. The company has set up several medical facilities in Odisha to tackle the Covid 19 pandemic. Its COVID Hospital at Sitalapalli, near Berhampur, Ganjam was inaugurated on April 30, 2021 in the presence of Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu, Member of Lok



Sabha, Berhampur, Shri Bikram Panda, MLA, Berhampur, Shri Vijay Amruta Kulange, District Magistrate and Collector, Ganjam, Chairman of Hi-Tech Hospitals Shri Tirupati Panigrahy and Shri Rocky Martin, Unit Head, Tata Steel Foundation. Shri Debashis

Jena, Chief Resident Executive, Tata Steel and Shri Sourav Roy, Chief CSR, Tata Steel had also joined digitally for the inauguration. Funded by Tata Steel, the hospital has been handed over to the district administration to be run under their guidance by M/s Hi-Tech Hospitals. The 200-bed hospital includes 55 ICU beds with ventilators. The well-equipped Tata Steel Medica Covid Hospital with ICU facility, located at Duburi in Jajpur district, is also fully functional and has been catering to patients of Jajpur and nearby districts.

Jungle Cry wins the 'Best Film' Award at the Dada Saheb Phalke International Film Festival 2021

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 2: Jungle Cry won the 'Best Film' (Jury) award at the 11th Dada Saheb Phalke International Film Festival 2021. Based on the inspiring true story of 12 students from Kalinga Institute (KISS) 'Jungle Cry' follows their triumphant journey to the International Junior Rugby Tournament held in the UK in 2007. They go on to win the prestigious U14 Rugby World Cup in England. Jungle Cry is a story that defines nothing is impossible and promotes that education, sports and helps eradicate poverty and create patriotism for every nation, as KISS does. The Rugby film, helmed by Sagar Ballary of "Bheja Fry" fame and Prashant Shah of Bollywood Hollywood Productions chronicles the journey of 12 students of KISS. KISS a home for 30,000 tribal students was established for tribal children empowerment through education also focused on sports as a tool for empowerment. Rugby



was introduced in 2005 in KISS by its Founder Dr. Achyuta Samanta. In 2007, 12 KISS boys Rugby team represented India in U14 Rugby World Cup in England and created that history. Since then KISS has promoted and popularised the game of Rugby all over India. This unique achievement of KISS is very beautifully depicted in Jungle Cry. Expressing happiness Dr. Samanta, congratulated Prashant Shah, Producer and Sagar Ballary, Director for this recognition. Also he thanked the Jury for this deserving tribute to the film. "I am very glad that the Jungle Cry, a movie on how KISSians won the U-14 Rugby Championship in England braving all geographical, cultural and strategic barriers in 2007".

Online Legal awareness camp on world labour day by DLSA

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 2: Malkangiri District Legal Services Authority organized a Online legal awareness camp on "World Labor Day" in Malkangiri on date 01-05-21. Awareness Campaign for labour law roles and responsibilities facilities schemes of Govt. The online awareness program was carried out at

the behest of the government, and the function was attended by Mr. Krishnachandra Nayak, Incharge Secretary and Registrar of DLSA and Dr. Ranjan Kumar Swain, Professor and Social Worker. The workers' wages were discussed at the national and state levels, as well as the services provided to workers by the Na-

tional Insurance Service, and the 10 new schemes proposed by the National Legal Services Administration to resolve the case through free legal services, mediation and compromise. Finally requested all participants to obey Covid rules and regulations also use mask and maintain Social distance.



Sanjay Kumar Mohanty Takes Over As New Member (O&BD) Of Railway Board

(A.O. Bureau) New Delhi, May 2: Shri Sanjay Kumar Mohanty has taken over as the New Member, Operations & Business Development (O&BD), and ex-Officio Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Railways, Railway Board. Prior to this, Shri Mohanty was rendered his valuable service as General Manger, South Eastern Railway, Kolkata. Shri Mohanty has worked in various important capacities in Indian Railways like Principal Executive Director, Traffic Transportation at Railway Board, New Delhi, Senior Deputy General Manager and Chief Vigilance Officer, Chief Transportation Planning Manager (CTPM) in East Coast Railway, Regional General Manager of IRCTC, Bhubaneswar and



Divisional Railway Manager at Khurda Road. Shri Mohanty's contribution towards making Khurda Road Division the leading freight loading Division of Indian Railways is noteworthy. Shri Mohanty is an alumnus of the Delhi School of Economics and belongs to the 1985 batch of Indian Railways Traffic Service

(IRTS). He is the youngest son of Late Krushna Prasad Mohanty, the well known advocate of Balasore. Shri Sanjay Kumar Mohanty has also worked with distinction in various senior posts at Mumbai, Nagpur, Jhansi and in Konkan Railway and well-known as a system-builder and for innovations in administration.

MCL will achieve 163 MT coal production in 2021-22: Mr PK Sinha, CMD

(A.O. Bureau) Sambalpur, May 2: Mr P K Sinha, Chairman-cum-Managing Direc-

as the May Day is celebrated in Coal India, Mr Sinha appreciated coal miners for the con-

record breaking performance of the company in the last financial year, he said, "I have confi-

148.01 million tonne (MT) and the highest ever coal despatch of 146 MT in year ended March 31, 2021. A record over-burden removal of 174.5 million cubic meters (MCuM) during last fiscal has set a strong foundation for enabling Coal India achieve the target of one billion production by 2024. Referring to the negative impact of COVID19 on business across the globe, the CMD said "Our country is facing second wave of corona virus, which is paralysing many businesses. In this scenario, we all have to be very cautious and stay safe to ensure that coal supply to power plants remains uninterrupted". During the celebration

organised on virtual mode, Mr Sinha also appreciated doctors, medical staff, maintenance staff and all others directly involved in management of COVID19 patients. He advised everyone to follow COVID appropriate behavior at workplace. Mr OP Singh, Director (Technical/Operations), Mr K R Vasudevan, Director (Finance), Mr Keshav Rao, Director (Personnel) and Mr Baban Singh, Director (Technical/P&P) participated from headquarters while trade union leaders, Area General Managers, Heads of various departments and other employees joined from respective places.



tor, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) said the company will achieve its coal production target of 163 million tonne in the financial year 2021-22. Extending his greetings on "Miners Day",

tributions in ensuring energy security in the country by producing and supplying adequate quality of coal to consumers, particularly in the power plants, even during the corona pandemic. Highlighting the

dence in the dedication of my Team MCL, and I am sure that coal miners in MCL will also achieve production target of 163 MT in the current fiscal." MCL had achieved highest ever production of

Uptick in cases: Surat textile shops, powerlooms to shut for a few days

Surat, May 2: Federation of Powerloom Weavers' Welfare Association (FOGWA) has decided to keep factories shut from May 1 to May 15 after a meeting on April 30. With the rapid rise in Covid-19 cases, textile trading shops will remain shut for eight days and powerloom factories will be closed for 15 days in Surat. The diamond industries in the city will continue to operate with 50 per cent of the staff. The textile trading shops in Surat city were closed on

April 28 and will reopen on May 5. "The shops will remain closed to prevent further spread of infection. For that we are ready to sacrifice our business for a few days," said Federation of Surat Textile Traders Association secretary Champalal Bothra, adding that there are over 4 lakh people working in the 65,000 shops in 175 textile trading markets in Surat. Federation of Powerloom Weavers' Welfare Association (FOGWA) has decided to keep factories shut from May 1 to May 15

after a meeting on April 30. FOGWA president Ashok Jirawala said, "The cases are rising day by day, and all other textile-related bodies



have decided to shut down the shops. We can only run factories if trading activities are done by

the textile traders." However, the diamond industries will continue to operate as there is a rise in demand of polished diamond in the in-

ternational market, Surat Diamond Association president Nanubhai Vekariya said.

"We have appealed to the factory owners to run factories with 50 per cent staff by following the Covid-19 guidelines," he said. However, Surat diamond workers' union vice-president Bhavesh Taank, has on Saturday submitted a memorandum to the district collector requesting that all the diamond factories should be closed for 15 days to prevent further spread of Covid-19 and the salaries of the diamond polishers should be paid by the factory owners during this period.

First Oxygen Express Reaches Hyderabad From Odisha



(A.O. Bureau) Hyderabad, May 2: The first Oxygen Express for Telangana, with five tankers loaded with 124.26 tonnes of liquid oxygen, arrived at Secunderabad Railway Station here on Sunday from Angul in Odisha. The five empty tankers were sent from

Secunderabad on April 28 and after getting filled with liquid oxygen, commenced their journey back to Secunderabad on Saturday. According to the South Central Railway (SCR), the liquid oxygen being transported in these tanks is a cryogenic cargo which has many limitations like

maximum speed at which it can be carried, maximum acceleration and deceleration and loading restrictions like availability of liquid oxygen tankers, loading ramps etc. The route mapping of the train along with green corridor is done taking in to consideration of all these factors including ensuring adequate clearance along the route in terms of curves, RoBs and FOBs, etc. The Oxygen Express trains have been started by the Indian Railway to provide safe, secure, hassle-free and fast transportation of oxygen to the different parts of the country during these critical times.