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Election Commission Defers By-Poll To Pipili Assembly Seat In Odisha



New Delhi, May 3: In view of the raging second wave of Covid-19 pandemic, the Election Commission of India (ECI) today deferred the bye-election to Pipili Assembly constituency in Odisha and two other Assembly constituencies in West Bengal. The bye-election to the three Assembly seats was scheduled to be held on May 16, 2021. In a statement, the poll panel stated, "Commission after taking all material facts and inputs of CEO West Bengal and CEO Odisha in consideration and taking note of lockdown/re-

strictions under Disaster Management Act, 2005, as issued by NDMA/SDMA has decided to defer the schedule poll and extend the period of elections in 110-Pipili Assembly constituency of Odisha and 58-Jangipur and 56-Samserganj Assembly constituencies of West Bengal." The Election Commission further stated fresh notification will be issued after assessing the pandemic situation. The model code of conduct in the three Assembly constituencies has been lifted with immediate effect. The same will be in force

from the next date of notification, the statement added. A PIL was filed in the Orissa High Court seeking adjournment of bypoll to Pipili Assembly constituency. Senior lawyer Suryakant Padhi filed the petition in the court appealing the court to issue an order to defer the bye-election at least for four months as part of precautionary measures to prevent spread of COVID infection. The Assembly seat in Pipili has been lying vacant since death of sitting MLA Pradeep Maharathy in October last year. The bypoll to the constituency was scheduled on April 17. During the period of poll campaign, Congress candidate Ajit Mangaraj succumbed to Covid-19 following which the bye-election was rescheduled for May 13. Again, the bypoll date was deferred to May 16 due to Eid festival.

CM Naveen Patnaik Sanctions Rs 10 Cr To CMC For COVID Management

Bhubaneswar, May 3: In view of the spike in COVID-19 cases, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today sanctioned Rs 10 crore to Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) for better management of COVID-19 situation in the city. The fund has been sanctioned from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) to



strengthen the fight against the virus in CMC area, said the official order. The city has been witnessing a steep rise in positive cases in the last couple of days with 587 cases reported today. Earlier, the CM had allocated Rs 10 crore to Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) for COVID management.

Highest Ever GST Of Rs 1126.67 Cr In April 2021 Odisha Collects

Bhubaneswar, May 3: In a major breakthrough, Odisha Government has recorded the highest ever OGST Collection since inception of the GST during the month of April this year. The state collected a whopping Rs 1126.67 crore as against Rs 927.60 crore in April 2019 and Rs. 360.36 crore during period in 2020. Last month, Rs 954.62 crore OGST was collected. The sharp rise in OGST collection during April this year is a result of better compliance, increased collection from

iron and steel sector as well as collection from matured GST demand made by tax officers after return scrutiny, said an official statement issued by Commissionerate of CT and GST, Cuttack. There is also collection of Rs 952.43 crore in CGST, Rs 1157.05 crore in IGST and Rs 613.33 crore in Cess. The total GST collection during April 2021 is also highest ever with Rs 3849.48 crore as against Rs 2955.60 crore collected during April 2019 and Rs 774.29 crore during April 2020. Since all

VAT paying dealers (petrol and liquor) had paid tax till March 25 during the month of March itself, the balance collection of remaining 5 days i.e. Rs. 218.95 crore was collected during April 2021 as against Rs 130.11 crore during April 2020 and Rs 183.92 crore during April 2019 with growth rate of 68.28%. Out of the above, collection from pe-

troleum products registered a growth of 175.31% with collection of Rs 166.87 crore in April 2021 against Rs 60.61 crore in April 2020. The CT & GST has been focusing on increasing the tax-base of GST with regular survey and registration. Total 52,210 numbers of new registrants have been brought under the

GST fold in the financial year 2020-21. All circles have been instructed to ensure 90% return filing within due date. The total waybill generated during April 2021 was Rs 15.28 Lakh as against Rs 11.91 lakh during April 2019 and Rs 3.56 Lakh during April 2020. During the recent review with tax officials, CT & GST Commissioner Sushil Kumar Lohani instructed all the field officers to detect the wrong return filers by applying data analytics and collect all taxes from them as per the provisions of law.



Thunderstorm warning for Odisha for next four days

Bhubaneswar, May 3: Odisha is likely to witness increased thunderstorm activity across several districts till May 7, the IMD said on Sunday, predicting a fall in temperature by 2 to 3 degree Celsius during the next three to four days. The MeT department has issued an orange warning for thundersquall with wind speeds reaching upto 50 km/hr to 60 km/hr at one or two places in Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Kendrapara, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Balasore, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts on Monday. The IMD cautioned that the thundersquall might cause damage to unse-



cured structures and standing crops. Thunderstorm with lightning and gusty surface winds reaching up to 30 km/hr to 40 km/hr is likely to occur at isolated places in Khurda, Nayagarh, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Ganjam, Gajapati, Angul, Kandhamal, Boudh, Rayagada,

Malkangiri and Koraput districts on Monday. It has also predicted thunderstorm with lightning and gusty surface winds reaching up to 40 km/hr to 50 km/hr at one or two places in Cuttack, Khurda, Nayagarh, Puri, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara,

Jagatsinghpur, Gajapati, Ganjam, Mayurbhanj, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Malkangiri and Koraput districts on Tuesday. Heavy rainfall is likely to occur at isolated places in Koraput, Gajapati, Ganjam, Malkangiri and Rayagada districts during the period. In the last 24 hours, maximum temperature wit-

nessed a marked fall at one or two places in interior north Odisha and appreciable fall at isolated places in the interior districts of the State. The daytime temperature was appreciably below normal at one or two places in north interior districts, below normal at isolated places in interior and north coastal districts during the period. "The thunderstorm activity will increase under the influence of possible convergence of moist and dry winds will likely take place over the State leading to the rainfall activity," said Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre Scientist, Umasankar Das.

Odisha Govt. plans to stop child marriage during COVID-19 crisis

Bhubaneswar, May 3: As chances of child marriage amidst COVID-19 pandemic and on Akshya Tritiya - an occasion when mass marriages take place - lurk high, the State government has asked district level task forces to stay vigilant to protect vulnerable girls from unlawful marriages. The Department of Women and Child Development and Mission Shakti has sought intervention of Panchayati Raj and Law departments in framing guidelines and issuing appropriate instructions prohibiting religious institutions like temples and marriage mandaps from solemnisation of such weddings. The religious heads and temple priests will be sensitised to verify birth certificates while solemnising marriages. Submission of birth certificate or school leaving certificate will be made mandatory to stop child marriage. This was discussed at the State-level PCMA (Prohibition of Child Marriage Act) Committee



meeting chaired by Principal Secretary (Woman & Child Development) Anu Garg here on Friday. It was decided that religious heads and temple authorities will be requested to put up information board with the message that "the temple authorities do not support child marriage" to discourage people against this social aberration. "The State Strategy Action Plan envisages ending child marriage by 2030 and the department is making consistent efforts to achieve the target. As on March 31, 2021, 3,007 villages have been declared as child marriage free," Garg said. The State level committee appreciated the innovative programmes taken up by the district administration of Koraput, Ganjam, Nayagarh and Kandhamal. As schools remain

closed and girls are more likely to drop out of education, the meeting decided that as a post intervention effort of linking the rescued adolescents girls either with schools or appropriate skill training opportunities and making them economically independent to reduce their vulnerability to child marriage. Admitting that job losses and increased economic insecurity during COVID-19 pandemic are forcing families to marry their daughters to ease financial burdens, sources in the department said district, blocks and panchayat level task forces are being regularly sensitised to take up district specific programmes and campaigns with the support of partner agencies to create awareness among people on the emotional, physical and mental hazards of child marriage.

AIIMS chief warns against going for CT scan in mild Covid cases, says it may do more harm than good

New Delhi, May 3: The AIIMS chief on Monday warned against rushing for CT scan in cases of mild Covid-19, saying it has side effects and can end up doing more harm than good. Amid a staggering surge in Covid-19 cases in the country, AIIMS Director Dr Randeep Guleria at a press conference said that CT scans and biomarkers are being misused and they can be harmful as well. Stressing



that there is no need for doing CT scans in mild Covid-19 cases, he said that many people are opting for the test the moment they find out they are posi-

tive for Covid-19 and added that misuse of CT scans and biomarkers may cause damage. "One CT scan is equivalent to 300 to 400 chest x-rays.

According to data, repeated CT scans in younger age groups increase the risk of cancer in later life. Exposing yourself to radiation again and again may cause damage. So, there is no point in doing CT scan in mild Covid-19 if the oxygen saturation is normal," Guleria said. Even in mild illness and according to a study, even in asymptomatic cases, a CT scan may show patches which go away on

their own without treatment, he said. He advised that CT scans should be done in cases of moderate disease, when hospitalised. "And if there is a doubt, one should opt for a chest x-ray," he said. Guleria further said that several blood tests for biomarkers are also not needed in mild illness or in home isolation if the oxygen saturation is fine, fever is not high and there are no other symptoms.

Navy chief lists initiatives against Covid-19 during meeting with PM Modi



New Delhi, May 3: As India struggles against the fatal second wave of coronavirus disease (Covid-19) the armed forces have also stepped up their measures to manage the situation. The Indian Navy is opening up its naval hospitals for use of civilians in various cities, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh informed Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday. Admiral Singh also ap-

prised the Prime Minister of other initiatives being undertaken by the Navy to better handle the devastating Covid-19 situation in the country as the massive leap in the number of infections has brought the healthcare infrastructure to its knees. To assist the country in such unprecedented times, the Navy has redeployed medical personnel at various locations to manage Covid duties, Admiral Singh briefed PM Modi.

The Navy is also providing aid to increase oxygen availability in Lakshadweep as well as in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, he added, according to a statement from the Prime Minister's office. The Navy is also transporting oxygen containers as well as other supplies from Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and Singapore to India, Singh briefed the Prime Minister. "Indian Navy has reached out to all

state administrations and have offered help in terms of hospital beds, transportation and other such things," Admiral Singh told PM Modi as per the statement. The Indian Air Force is already at the task of transporting oxygen containers from different parts of the world to the country to boost the supply of the life-saving gas. The IAF's heavy-lift transport aircraft on Monday airlifted four empty cryogenic oxy-

gen containers from Frankfurt in Germany and landed in Hindon base in New Delhi. The forces have also rolled out an operation called 'CO-JEET' towards its efforts towards fighting coronavirus by boosting medical infrastructure and oxygen supply chains. Under 'CO-JEET' the personnel of the three wings of the armed forces – the Army, the Air Force and the Navy – have been pressed into service to help restore oxygen supply chains, set up Covid beds and provide help to the civilian administration in its fight to control the pandemic," PTI quoted Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Medical) Lieutenant General Dr Madhuri Kanitkar, as saying. More than 368,000 new Covid-19 cases pushed the active cases tally to over 3.4 million on Monday. With a fatality rate of 1.1%, the country lost 3,417 lives due to the viral disease in the last 24 hours, as per the Union health ministry data.

Mamata Banerjee to take oath as West Bengal CM for third term on May 5

Kolkata, May 3: Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo Mamata Banerjee, whose party secured a dominant win in the recently held assembly elections in West Bengal, will take oath as the chief minister for a third term on May 5, senior TMC leader and minister Partha Chatterjee announced on Monday. Banerjee is scheduled to meet West Bengal governor Jagdeep Dhankhar to stake claim to form the government, as announced by Dhankhar on Sunday as votes were counted for assembly elections in four states, including West Bengal, and the Union territory of Puducherry. Tomorrow at 7pm, the honourable CM will be calling on me at Raj Bhawan," the governor tweeted on Sunday evening. The TMC chief, though,

lost from the assembly constituency of Nandigram, from where she pitted herself against her former aide, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Suwendu Adhikari. After a close contest, which went down to the wire, Adhikari even-

the state's 294 assembly constituencies, with the BJP winning 77. Counting was held for 292 seats, as voting for two seats will take place at a later date. The polling for the assembly elections took place in an unprecedented eight phases,



actually won by 1,956 votes, as per the Election Commission of India (ECI) website. Banerjee later said she will challenge the result in the Supreme Court even as the ECI rejected the TMC's petition demanding a re-counting in Nandigram. Overall, the TMC won 213 of

between March 27 and April 29. Banerjee became the chief minister of the eastern state for the first time in 2011 when the TMC unseated the Left front which had been in power continuously for 34 years. Five years later, she successfully won a re-election, repeating the feat.

Delhi to receive 205 tonnes of liquid oxygen in Railways' biggest single-day load

New Delhi, May 3: Delhi is scheduled to receive around 205 tonnes of liquid medical oxygen on Tuesday morning as the Union ministry of railways has deployed 10 tankers onboard two Oxygen Express trains. This is railways' biggest single-day load since the special operation to ferry oxygen tankers began amid the shortage, the ministry said. "Railways is set to deliver its biggest single-day load of nearly 205

is struggling with an acute shortage of oxygen supply for the past few weeks. Several hospitals in Delhi sent out desperate calls to authorities to replenish their oxygen supplies when they dropped precariously, threatening lives as the health infrastructure was crumbling under the pressure of an unprecedented rise in the number of Covid-19 patients requiring oxygen or ICU support. Till Sunday, Delhi received 454 MT of

agency supplies. "EG 2 group decides oxygen pipeline for states. The Empowered Group 2 (EG2, a group formed by the PMO and comprising officials from different ministries and experts), on Thursday, set the ball rolling for mapping the sources of medical oxygen and their production capacity to match the requirement of 12 high-burden states and developed a framework to guide them," a railway ministry spokesperson said. "Oxygen pipeline is a railway operation term, it means Oxygen Express trains on hand with us for various destinations (states) of the country. We have an online real-time monitoring system to monitor the movement (pipeline) of Oxygen Express trains. EG 2 group is already working for long and is closely monitoring the situation in the country. Officials of our ministry are also part of it," he explained. The national transporter has delivered around 1125 tonnes of LMO in 76 tankers to various states, thus far. "Seven Oxygen Express trains are on the run currently with 422 MT LMO in 27 tankers. Haryana will receive its fourth and fifth trains carrying nearly 72 MT of liquid medical oxygen from Angul and Rourkela in Odisha," the ministry said.



tonnes to Delhi by tomorrow morning," the ministry said in a statement on Monday. One train from Durgapur, West Bengal ferrying 120 tonnes of liquid oxygen is scheduled to reach the national capital's Tughlakabad railway station on Tuesday at 9:30 am while another, ferrying 85 tonnes of liquid oxygen, will reach Gurugram via Hapa, Gujarat, the ministry said. The train from Hapa will halt at Gurgaon and the LMO will be transferred to trucks of the Delhi government and taken to the city, officials clarified. The move is expected to give a breather to the national capital which

oxygen against its increased quota of 590 MT. The Delhi government has demanded a total of 976 MT of medical oxygen to add 1,200 ICU and 15,000 oxygen beds. The ministry also said one 'Oxygen Express', carrying 30.86 tonnes of LMO will arrive in Delhi from Angul in Odisha by Monday evening. But this lot is meant for supply in Haryana, it clarified. Last week, the central government directed states to ensure free movement of vehicles carrying liquid oxygen amid reports of some states diverting the vehicles for local use even as hospitals sent out frantic appeals for emer-

Italy sends oxygen generation plant for ITBP hospital, team of medical specialists

New Delhi, May 3: The specialists who arrived on the flight include a team from the Maxiemergenza 118 emergency service of Piedmont region, a doctor from Lombardy region and a representative of the Italian health ministry. A special flight from Italy brought in an oxygen generation plant and a team of specialists on Monday to support India's response to a massive surge in Coronavirus infections that has stretched the resources of healthcare facilities in many cities. The oxygen production plant, capable of supplying an entire hospital, will be deployed at the ITBP hospital in Greater Noida, the Italian embassy said in a statement. The Italian support package also includes 20 ventilators. The specialists who arrived on the flight include a team from the Maxiemergenza 118 emergency service of



Piedmont region, a doctor from Lombardy region and a representative of the Italian health ministry. Italian ambassador Vincenzo De Luca and European Union (EU) Ambassador Ugo Astuto greeted the medical delegation at the New Delhi airport. De Luca said, "Italy stands with India in the fight against Coronavirus. This is a global challenge that we must tackle together. The medical team and equipment provided by

Italy will contribute to saving lives in these terrible moments." The Italian support package is part of the EU's coordinated response to the Covid-19 situation in India. Italy is the third country, after France and Germany, to include an oxygen generation plant in its support package. A severe shortage of oxygen has been listed by experts as one of the biggest constraints in providing specialised care to Covid-19 patients in

New Delhi and other cities. Twelve patients, including a senior doctor, died at the intensive care unit of Delhi's Batra Hospital due to an 80-minute disruption in oxygen supply on Saturday. The Italian support mission was coordinated by the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism, which was recently activated to respond to the crisis in India. The oxygen production plant was made available by Italy's Piedmont region and the ventilators were donated

by the Extraordinary Commissioner for the Coronavirus Emergency. The materials and personnel were brought in by an Italian Air Force C-130 military transport aircraft as part of the Italian defence ministry's support for combating the pandemic. So far, several EU member states have sent support packages to India. France airlifted eight large oxygen generating plants, each of which can make a hospital autonomous in oxygen supply for more than 10 years, and 28 ventilators, while Ireland donated more than 1,200 oxygen concentrators, one oxygen generator and more than 400 ventilators. Finland has provided 318 oxygen cylinders, Austria has sent 5,521 vials of the antiviral medication Remdesivir, 238 oxygen cylinders and 1,900 oxygen cannulas, and Belgium has provided 9,000 doses of Remdesivir.

Gujarat records 12,820 fresh Covid-19 cases; caseload climbs to 607,422

Ahmedabad, May 3: The number of Covid-19 cases in Gujarat reached 607,422 on Monday after 12,820 people were detected with the infection, while the day also saw 140 deaths and 11,999 people getting discharged, an official said. The state's toll stands at 7,648 and the recovery count is 452,275, the official said, pointing out that the daily addition of cases and deaths were on the decline, while the number of people getting discharged was ris-

ing. The state's active caseload is 147,499, of which 747 are on ventilator support. "Ahmedabad reported 4,671 cases, Surat 1,656, Vadodara 936, Jamnagar 712, Bhavnagar 571, Rajkot 524, Gandhinagar 317, and Junagadh 280. Ahmedabad also led in the number of deaths with 26, followed by 16 in Rajkot, 14 in Vadodara and 13 in Surat," the official said. A release said 12,573,211 Covid-19 vaccination doses had

been administered so far, with 26,31,820 patients being given the second dose as well. The number of people covered in the 18-44 segment on Monday was 27,272, it added. In neighbouring Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, the Covid-19 tally rose to 8,139 with 119 new cases, while the recovery count increased by 226 to touch 6,312. The UT has seen four deaths from the infection so far and has an active caseload of 1,829, an



official said. Gujarat's Covid-19 figures are as follows: Positive cases 607,422, new cases 12,820, death toll

7,648, discharged 4,52,275, active cases 147,499, people tested so far - figures not released.

Markets in Cuttack to remain open as usual before lockdown

(A.O. Bureau)
Cuttack, May 3: Market committees and traders' bodies in Cuttack have withdrawn their decision to close shops and business establishments daily at 2 pm after the government announced to impose a 14-day lockdown across the State from May 5. In an emergency meeting on Sunday, the traders' bodies and market committees decided to open shops and businesses as usual on Monday and Tuesday to facilitate people to buy essential commodities before lockdown comes



into force. "We have withdrawn our earlier decision in view of the State government's declaration in respect of imposition of lockdown. Shops and business establishments will remain open as usual on Mon-

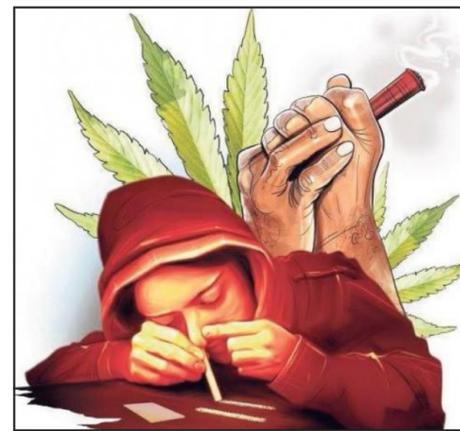
day and Tuesday to avoid rush and enable people to buy commodities without any hassles," said general secretary of Cuttack Chamber of Commerce Prafulla Kumar Chhatoi. While all markets across the city will remain open

as usual, shops at Malgodown will open from 10 am to 7 pm on the two days. The decision to open the shops from 6 am to 2 pm was taken to prevent rush at markets. "But considering the possibility that

people might rush to the markets to purchase goods and other commodities during the stipulated business hours in view of imposition of lockdown, we changed our decision," said Chhatoi. In a voluntary move to impose self-restrictions for checking spread of COVID-19 in the city, different trader associations and market committees including the Cuttack Chamber of Commerce, Malgodown and Chhatra Bazar traders' body had decided in a meeting on Thursday to close all shops and business establishments at 2 pm from May 3 to 18.

Two held with brown sugar worth Rs 1 crore

(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, May 3: The Special Task Force (STF) of Crime Branch arrested two persons on charges of drug peddling and seized over 1 kg brown sugar worth Rs 1 crore from their possession. Acting on a tip-off, the agency officers conducted a raid at Sahadevkhunta in Balasore on Saturday and apprehended Manas Mukhi along with his associate Kamalkanta Das of the district from the spot. "The accused were procuring the contraband from West Bengal and supplying to various



parts of Odisha. A stolen motorcycle was also seized from them," said a STF officer. In the last one year, STF has seized over 30 kg

brown sugar/heroin, more than 64 quintal of ganja and arrested at least 100 drug peddlers from various parts of Odisha.

Odisha Civil Services Exam Postponed

Cuttack, May 3: In view of lockdown declared by Odisha Government across the State with effect from May 5 till May 19, Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) postponed

the OCS preliminary (written) examination-2020. The details of programme of Odisha Civil Services (OCS) Examination will be notified in due course, the OPSC said in a

release today. The candidates are advised to visit the website of the OPSC (<http://opsc.gov.in>) regularly for further information about the examination.



Bhubaneswar: 81% Of Total Fresh COVID Cases Are Local Contacts

(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, May 3: As many as 823 more persons in the state capital were found positive for COVID-19 today. As per the information shared by Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), of 1258 positive cases detected in Khordha district, 823 belong to Bhubaneswar. While only 150 were quarantine cases, remaining 673 local contact cases, which is 81.7% of the total fresh cases. Highest 36 local



contact cases were from Old Town area, 31 from Chandrasekharpur, 21 from Bomikhal and 20 from Dumduma. It is

pertinent to mention here that Director of Health Services Bijaya Mahapatra recently cautioned that community

transmission like situation has arisen in the Twin City of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. "One single

person can infect many others. As there are many returnees in the Twin City from outside the state, the number of cases is increasing in the two places. The number may increase or decrease in coming days," the official had said. Meanwhile, 709 more COVID-19 patients recovered from the virus. Currently, the tally of the state capital stands at 47,140, including 8490 active cases and 38,361 recovered cases. So far, 268 persons have succumbed to the virus in the city.

Odisha Class 9, 10 Exams: School Heads Asked To Submit Tabulation Register

(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, May 3: Following cancellation of Class 9 and Matric Examinations for the session 2021 in Odisha, the Board of Secondary Education (BSE) has begun process to award marks to students based on school tests and pre-board examination results respectively. As notified by the BSE, the headmasters of schools have been asked to submit the Tabulation Register of Class 9 and 10

examinations in a prescribed format. The format as given by the BSE may be prepared in three copies within next one or two days at the Mentor school. As per decision by the Board, each copy will be prepared for DEO, Mentor school and Individual school. Worth mentioning that the State Government has cancelled the annual Matric examination for the year 2021 and Class 9 examination in view of



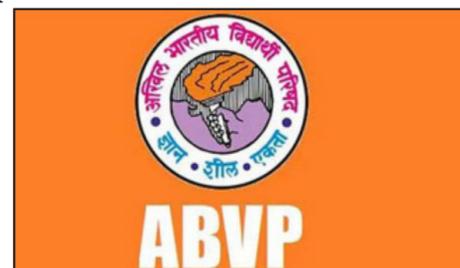
rapid spread of COVID infections in second wave of the pandemic. The results of

Class-X Board will be prepared on the basis of an objective criterion to be developed by the

BSE, Odisha, the School & Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash had told while announcing the cancellation of Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) Examination on April 21 this year. "Any candidate, who will not be satisfied with marks awarded to him/her on this basis, will be given an opportunity to sit in an examination as and when the conditions are conducive to hold the examination," the Minister had said.

ABVP issues helpline numbers for farmers in Odisha

(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, May 3: Amid the resurgence of Covid-19 cases in the state, India's largest Student Union Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) issued several helpline numbers to address the problems of the farmers of the state. The helpline numbers, issued by the ABVP Agrivision Forum, will be functional



with immediate effect from today. The members will address the problems related to horticulture, fisheries, forestry, and veterinary to the farmers. This

will benefit the farmers as every day, farmers can discuss about their agriculture related issues through phone calls and get guidance.

Vaccination session to continue during lockdown

(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, May 3: The Covid-19 vaccination sessions will continue uninterrupted in all districts of Odisha from Monday to Saturday (including gazetted holidays) subject to availability of vaccines during the lockdown and shutdown period,

said the Health Department today. "No sessions shall be planned on Sundays and all CVCs must be properly sanitized on Sunday to reduce the transmission of Covid-19 infection. The eligible persons will be allowed to travel to CVCs in their own vehicles, taxis, auto rick-

shaws following guidelines," stated a notification issued by the Health Department. The CVC wise due list of 2nd dose beneficiaries shall be prepared by districts and health team shall mobilize them through telephonic contact to CVC to vaccinate them on priority.



Aahara Centers To Function During Lockdown, But Only For Takeaways

(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, May 3: In its earlier order regarding 14-day statewide lockdown starting from Wednesday, the Odisha government has made slight modification allowing all Aahara centres in the State to operate. However, only takeaways will be permitted and no dine-ins will be allowed, a notification issued by the Spe-



cial Relief Commissioner stated. Similarly, Central government institutes like IITs and IIMs will be allowed to operate their

hostels. "All Aahara Kendras in the State will remain open for only takeaway. Institutions of Government of India like

IITs and IIMs and others are allowed to keep their hostels open with strict adherence to covid safety protocols," the notification read. All the activities relating to Pipili By election are permitted as per instructions/guidelines issued by ECI, GoI/CEO odisha, the notification added. It is pertinent to mention here that, the Aahara centres had remained closed during the

lockdown last year. The Odisha government on Sunday had announced a lockdown in the state as Covid-19 cases continue to rise sharply. The lockdown will remain in force with effect from May 5 till May 19, 2021. Meanwhile, the SRCPK Jena appealed to the people to avoid panic buying as the state has a stock of adequate amount of essential food items.

People Trust Regional Parties: BJD On WB Poll Results

(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, May 3: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) today said the regional parties in their respective States still enjoy a political clout which is quite clear from the just announced Bengal poll results. The Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool

Congress (TMC) secured a landslide victory and is all set to form government for third consecutive term even as a resurgent BJP, which pressed all its heavyweights including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and poll strategists Amit Shah into service, failed



to hit the target as set earlier. It is evident from the results that people still

have trust on the regional parties, BJD vice president Debi Prasad Mishra said. "Mamata Banerjee-led TMC's victory in Bengal was a remarkable poll result as the Bengal citizens have reposed faith in Mamata once again. The results indicate that the regional

parties have a strong base and presence in the state. The wave of central parties works to some extent in parliamentary elections, but in the Assembly polls, things see just the opposite," Mishra added. The result has got a country wide ramification, Mishra said.

EDITORIAL

In third, but slow

Hiccups greet the vaccination drive's latest phase, which is poised to gather steam later this month. The much-awaited third phase of the anti-COVID inoculation drive for all adults sputtered to life on May 1. Ironically, at a time when India seemed to have got over its vaccine hesitancy — if the rush to register on the Co-WIN app is anything to go by — the Governments were unable to provide the citizens the shots they need to beat the virus. As a result, despite the alacrity shown by young India to get the jab, the drive has begun in fits and starts. While States like Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat began inoculating a lucky few, some States announced vaccination for different age groups also (such as for those above 35 years) while others told the people not to line up outside vaccination centres as they have not received enough stocks of the shots. Chief among the latter were Delhi, Odisha, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab, who plan to launch the drive later this month. In the meantime, the Centre, trying its best to save face, has assured the people that the campaign will soon be operational across India as "any new exercise takes time to pick up pace". Even though the Union Health Ministry remains upbeat about the vaccine supply and 1,50,000 doses of the Russian-made Sputnik V landed in Hyderabad on May 1, this is just a drop in the ocean and in no way comforting. The million-dollar question is how many months will it take to inoculate all Indian adults? Of our 138 crore population, the 0-14 age group share is 26.16 per cent, 15-65 age group is 67.27 per cent and 6.57 per cent are more than 65 years old. What an uphill task lies ahead can be gauged by the fact that ever since the inoculation drive began on January 16, we have been able to fully vaccinate only two per cent of our citizens and 11 per cent have got just one dose. So, in order to be able to cover all the adults, India will have to administer 6.5 million doses per day till the end of this year. This is a big task, but do we have any other choice? Maybe it is time to listen to top US epidemiologist Anthony Fauci, who suggests ramping up vaccine production in India and a total lockdown for a few weeks to stop the surge. But not for six months like last year, because our economy cannot afford a body blow like that again. It may be worthwhile to listen to him. We don't have anything more to lose, do we?

Comeback time

Ravaged by COVID-19, scandalised by foreign media and treated as a pariah by the world, which has cut all air links with New Delhi fearing the spread of the contagion, India faces a unique challenge that may have few parallels in its post-Independence history. It's one thing to face a period of economic slowdown, a bout of some epidemic, foreign aggression or domestic turmoil, and quite another to confront a challenge of this magnitude. Due to rising cases and mounting deaths, it's but natural that foreign media will turn its focus towards India after the end of the chaotic Trump era in the US. As long as Trump was in the saddle, he gave more than enough for the news-hungry media to dine and sup, but now that the US has managed to control the pandemic and the White House is no longer a source of media entertainment, the global newshounds have enough free time to shift their focus to another happening zone — India. With grim stories of patients dying on the pavements and being cremated in canine crematoriums, hospital running out of beds and oxygen cylinders and Remdesivir fetching as much as 10-fold its basic price in the black market, the media has more than it could ask for. The matter has been made worse by the Tughlaqi diktats issued by some States to crack down on sharing of information on social media. Even the Mahakumbh and Assembly elections provided a perfect cocktail of religion and politics to the foreign press. The sceptics may call the foreign media coverage biased and conspiratorial but the fact remains that the Western press, by nature, has a tendency to turn even a dull menu into a spicy fare. Why would they miss the opportunity when they have all ingredients, and more. In a relatable narrative, dozens of countries have cut links with India and asked their citizens to return home. With its failing health infrastructure and chaos, India is today seen as an untouchable land. It is the same country which, in the pre-Corona days, had emerged as a challenger to the world's superpowers. But Corona has quickly turned the perception on its head. While much of the debate in foreign media is focused on the so-called absence of governance, what has been overlooked is that the man on the street is equally responsible for the spread of the virus. It's obvious that we Indians follow protocols or guidelines only when these are enforced with the application of punitive measures. It's important to note that our leaders have also failed to set an example in self-discipline, but that's nothing new. But now that India faces a serious image crisis, the leaders and the common man must come together to take tangible steps and change this perception. Forging a strong political unity would go a long way in sending the right message to the world community. It's time for the parties to realise that the nation is bigger than their political goals — they, and they alone, can mobilise the masses to fight this perception battle that has tarnished our image in the global arena.

Nepal gets the cold shoulder

Lurching from one crisis to another, the Oli-led unfocused Govt has lost the plot both at home and on the foreign policy front. A common element in Nepalese politics has been the uncertainty and unpredictability of political moves. These moves are often far removed from national welfare and have severely damaged its diplomatic endeavours. The KP Oli-led incumbent Government has neither been able to focus on domestic priorities nor bothered about strengthening its foreign policy. While Nepal is witnessing a surge in COVID-19 cases and panicking to manage the supply of vaccines from India and China, the country is experiencing diplomatic isolation. Diplomatic isolation: Nepal's absence at the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi, the BOAO Forum meet in China and the Climate Summit convened by the US has sparked a debate whether this Government is serious on the foreign policy front. While Nepal is yet to assure India of greater cooperation, China seems to have given a second thought to blindly relying on Oli to meet its strategic interests. The US, on the other hand, is irked by Oli after he showed no interest in joining the Millennium Challenge Cooperation (MCC), which aims to provide affordable and green transportation, electricity, regional security, peace and development to partners, only because China calls it a military platform. No-show invite: Nepal stands on the verge of severe climate challenges. The devastation caused by the 2015 earthquake to implications on Mount Everest, forest fires, toxic air quality and the scarcity of freshwater supply in the country are a few examples where Nepal re-



Rishi Gupta

quires international aid. Under the Biden Administration, the US has re-affirmed its commitment to climate change, and the Paris Declaration and the recent climate summit were a fresh effort in this regard. While an invitation to Nepal was obvious at the summit, the diplomatic mishandling over the MCC by the self-centred Oli saw no ticket to the show for Nepal. The US has often requested Nepal to consider the MCC on priority. Still, all successive Communist Governments have made it a US versus China deal. The Government has announced the Sagarmath Sambad (Everest Dialogue) as a multi-stakeholder dialogue forum committed to deliberating on the prominent issues of global, regional and national significance. The first Sambad was to be convened on April 2-4 but it has been postponed due to the pandemic. Although Nepal has invited the US, India and China to participate in the deliberations, a no-show for Nepal at the Climate Summit says a thousand words of an increasing unease in Washington DC towards Nepal. For the

record, Nepal has prioritised climate change as a "national security threat" in its first-ever National Security Policy 2016; it stands as a political manifestation to seek international funds to the cause. Soured ties: With India, Oli has left no stone unturned in capitalising on soured ties. As a next-door neighbour, India has stood with Nepal in all rough seasons. India was at the heart of bringing the guerrilla Maoist fighters down from the hills for the dialogue which ultimately resulted in the establishment of democracy in Nepal. Yet, all the previous Governments and the Oli-led Government have misused India's goodwill for political benefits. At the time India provided help to Nepal in fighting against COVID-19, Oli was engaged in a border fiasco with India to appease China. As a responsible neighbour, Nepal could have used diplomatic channels to discuss the border issues, but it chose to demonise India. Bonhomie in question: The Nepalese Prime Minister may swear upon the so-called

"peaceful intentions" and cooperation with China and defend its micromanagement of Nepal's domestic affairs, but Beijing is not at all pleased with Oli. He played a masterstroke by inviting Chinese President Xi Jinping to Nepal, where several pacts were signed in 2019. However, China did not get what it wanted during Xi's visit. Beijing was expecting an extradition treaty with Kathmandu, which would allow China greater control to suppress the "free Tibet" voices of the Tibetan refugees living in Nepal. With mounting international pressure from the UNHCR, human rights organisations and the Opposition at home, the treaty was taken off the table at the last minute, which has not gone down well with China. In the joint statement, Beijing had conveyed its hopes for the treaty in a shorter span. While the Oli-led Communist Government may have surrendered before the Chinese interests, Beijing will not bargain for anything less than the extradition treaty as it concerns its Tibet policy. Conclusion: Politics and diplomacy are two sides of the same coin, and they require equal attention at the mint. In Nepal, the personal and party interests have been prioritised over national interests. Leaders like Oli have spared "special relations" with India for electoral gains and surrendered diplomatic autonomy to Chinese interests. While Nepal is a landlocked country and requires assistance from India and other friendly countries, its diplomatic conduct towards them has been shortsighted. A furbished relationship with India and the US will help Nepal keep China in balance. As Nepal's politics and politicians remain unreliable, its people will have to take the lead in charting the course of its destiny.

ETMC win can give new life to anti-BJP politics, but Opposition needs greater clarity about intent

Suhas Palshikar

In the absence of clarity on why they oppose the BJP, the non-BJP parties will be doing a great disservice to the democratic character of our politics even if they choose to come together to form a non-BJP front. Seldom would one be analysing the outcome of a round of elections while facing deaths and suffering on a scale that victories and defeats make no sense. Of course, the democratic practice of elections needed to go on, but the Election Commission owes us an explanation for the protracted schedule in West Bengal (except that it suited the ruling party at the Centre). Some damage could have been avoided if the elections concluded a fortnight earlier and restrictions were imposed on mass campaigning. So, in the backdrop of what is happening in the country and what the irresponsible campaigning may bring to these states in the near future, the election outcomes need to be seen with absolute sobriety. The outcomes have humbled a mighty party no doubt, but the humiliation that the pandemic will continue to cause is something that the new governments will do well to attend single-mindedly. Politically, too, only a sober reading can help us make sense of the outcome. Understandably, there will be considerable jubilation in the anti-Modi camp. Given the increasing strength of the BJP, the value of TMC's victory cannot be overstated. Like the Mahagathbandhan victory in Bihar in 2015, the TMC win now can be a focal point for politics against the BJP. However, this is where both sobriety in reading the outcome and maturity in building on it might be badly needed,

but, alas, found wanting. It must be remembered that while the outcome (particularly in West Bengal) has fallen far short of the BJP's boast, the party has not done badly either. It has retained Assam, almost managed to breach the cosy bipolarity of Kerala by consistently polling over 10 per cent vote, and, above all, in West Bengal, it is now the only force to take on the TMC in the future. Yes, it is important that a state party has fought back the full might of the BJP and the central government. But it would be naïve to ignore the expansion of the BJP in West Bengal. The BJP increased its vote share from 10 per cent in 2016 to 40 per cent in 2019 and then, retained almost all of that after two more years. Now, the Trinamool Congress will be ruling West Bengal with a notice served to it. Add to this scepticism about the democratic commitment of the TMC and the outcome begins to look only like a pyrrhic respite from complete takeover by the BJP. It will be an exaggerated expectation that the TMC will change its style of internal functioning or governance. The embers of violence and hatred will dot the political skies of the state, giving little opportunity to any civilised competition. What the West Bengal outcome suggests is a possible shift, where one could see a new non-BJP configuration shaping up. This possibility is strengthened by the inability of the Congress to begin its comeback. There are many excuses for this, but the unwillingness of Congress to address organisational issues on an urgent basis is the root cause for its inability to bounce back. With its defeat in Kerala and failure to wrest back Assam, the Congress

has yet again lost an opportunity to be a node around which non-BJP politics could take shape. In this sense, we are likely to witness a rehash of the 1989 moment when state parties played a pivotal role (though, back then, there still was a larger but loosely structured party called the Janata Dal). As state parties are rushing to congratulate Mamata Banerjee for her feat, the moot question is whether she has the skill to coordinate these disparate non-BJP forces or does she only symbolically represent the spirit of the fight against the BJP. There are at least two more points of introspection for the opponents of the BJP. One is the BJP's second consecutive victory in Assam despite the negative atmosphere it had to face on account of the CAA-NRC issue. Overcoming that negativity was not easy, but the BJP managed to retain power. Similarly, despite its expected failure to make many gains in Kerala, the BJP can draw satisfaction from the fact that it has contributed to the rupture in the predictable alternation in that state between LDF and UDF. Of course, this has happened also because of the consistently good record of the LDF government in handling crisis after crisis in the past five years. But let us not forget the defensive stance both the Congress and LDF had to take on the Sabarimala issue and one realises how the BJP's presence is producing a chum in public discourse in the state. Looking at Assam, West Bengal and Kerala, an interesting pattern about the BJP's entry and entrenchment in new states emerges. In 2014, it was mainly a party

of west and north (plus central) India. Since then, it has entered a number of new states by finding ways to combine regional identity with Hindutva. This has not meant the dilution of Hindutva but its diversification and hence greater acceptability. Second, in terms of competitive politics, it has first sought to disrupt the rhythm and framework of state-level competition by both bringing in an all-India rhetoric and the image of a supreme leader. Once the rhythm is disrupted, it diminishes the state-level forces either by opposition or by coalition. Only then the ideological intervention begins. By setting aside the Congress in Odisha and the Left in West Bengal, the BJP ensured that it is now located at a position of advantage in these states. The only state where this is yet to happen is Tamil Nadu. In all other states, the BJP has altered the framework of competition or the framework of polemic, or both. Apart from this homogenisation (notwithstanding the superficial state-specificity that this model allows), the larger and more challenging dimension of the BJP's politics has always been its majoritarianism. A populist style of politics and authoritarian practices are only the entrées about which much scholarship and commentary is being spent. Both these are not exclusive characteristics of the BJP either. What has historically distinguished the BJP and continues to distinguish it from all other parties is the project of majoritarianism. In Assam, the BJP did not require it this time but has already manoeuvred a space on that basis; it is extending that project in Kerala with much caution due to demographic constraints, but in West Bengal it explicitly brought forward this project.

73 corona positive patients were identified in Malkangiri district

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 3: In Malkangiri district, 73 people have been diagnosed with corona disease today! Increased to 327 According to the information received, 73 people have been identified in Malkangiri district today, including 5 in Malkangiri municipality, one in Balimela NAC, three in the Malkangiri block, five in the Korukonda block, 14



in the Mathili block, 16 in the Khairput block, seven in the Kalimela block, six in the Padia block and 16 in the Chitrakonda block have been found to be infected with the Karona virus! In Malkangiri district, 5,707 people have been infected with coronary disease, while 5,355 have been cured. Currently, 327 coronary disease patients are being treated

Kalyani Sanghamitra joined the Kukudakhundi Tahsildar

(A.O. Bureau) Kukudakhundi, May 3: Kalyani Sanghamitra, who works as the Mohana tehsildar of Gajapati district, has joined his work as the Kukudakhundi tehsildar after being transferred to the Kukudakhundi tehsil office. Former tehsildar Episita Priyadarshini Mishra, who has been working for the past three months, has been accused of abusing local elected representatives of the three-tier Payatiraj constituency in the local bloc.



While the committee meeting was being held in the Kukudakhundi block area in October last year, the sarpanch committee members present asked some questions about the tehsil office. Since then, elected Panchayati Raj representatives have not approached the tehsil office demanding his expulsion. Similarly, four people, including a young engineer, were killed in an explosion of explosives stored for smuggling in a stone crossing that

took place just 1 km from the tehsil office on the morning of the 14th. Replaced. However, Kalyani Sanghamitra, the Mohana tehsildar, has been replaced by the Kukudakhundi tehsildar. Kalyani Sanghamitra, who has taken over as the new tehsildar, is expected to make some changes to his position. However, during his talks with him, he emphasized the importance of fulfilling his responsibilities as per the rules and sought everyone's cooperation.

An ambulance driver rescued the patient as an angel



(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 3: A similar scene was seen in Pandripani, Malkangiri district. According to sources, a call came from a village near Gotijodi village near Pandripani health center yesterday that a man

was feeling very ill, and as soon as he received the information, 108 ambulance crews tried to reach the village, but the road was blocked. The ambulance did not seem to be able to reach the village as there was no full road, so ambulance crews parked the

vehicle half a kilometer away, carrying the patient on a stretcher himself, first to Pandripani Medical and then to the district main hospital and saved his life. The district people are praised to the ambulance driver for this good work.

COVID-19: Officials help cremate suspected victim in Ganjam district

(A.O. Bureau) Berhampur, Apr 3: As fear of infection continues to deprive COVID victims and suspects of a dignified funeral in Ganjam district, one D Gobinda Dalai who died suspectedly of COVID, was denied to be touched by his own family members. Dalai of Samajhola village Hinjili block had COVID symptoms before his death on Saturday. The BDO, Executive Officer of Hinjili Municipality, the local fire officer and gram rozgar sevak of Badakhundi gram panchayat besides, two volunteers carried the body to the Samajhola cremation ground and conducted the last rites on Sunday. While the reason behind Gobinda's death is yet to be ascertained, villagers said he had all the symptoms of COVID-19. Meanwhile, BJD volunteers of 'Odisha Mo Paribar' programme on Sunday opened a helpdesk at Neelakantheswar cremation ground to assist in

cremation of COVID victims with dignity. Berhampur MLA Bikram Kumar Panda will oversee the work on a daily basis. The district saw 169 new cases including 91 in BeMC limits and one death in the last 24 hours. In view of the rising cases, Berhampur Police urged people not to visit police stations to register grievances. They can do so by calling the grievance cell of police or send complaints through WhatsApp. Berhampur SP Pinak Mishra said the police helpline will be open round the clock. "Once the cases are registered, our team of officers will get in touch with the complainants," he added. Locals of Berhampur are all praises for Dr Nihar Ranjan Sahoo, an assistant professor of MKCG MCH, who returned to COVID duty in less than 24 hours of his father's demise. Dr Sahoo said, under the current circumstances, duty comes first.

Dilip Maharana of Berhampur was awarded the Asian Grand Master by visiting the world's smallest wooden Ram temple

(A.O. Bureau) Berhampur, May 3: Dilip Maharana the youngest son of Bhagwan Maharana, a resident of San Redika Sahi in Berhampur, was named Grand Master of the Asian Book of Records at the age of eighteen only. On the occasion of Ram Nabami this year, Dilip was inspired by his uncle Sanyasi Maharana and elder brother Manoj to create an exact replica of a Sri Ram Temple in wood. The wooden temple, however, received a lot of praise. The wooden temple, which is 3 inches high and 5 inches long the model one of is exactly the same as the Ram temple in Ayodhya. Today, Dilip's art has twice recommended and admired him the prestigious title of Grand Master of India



Book and Asia Book of Records both globally and nationally, bringing glory to the soil of Berhampur. The locals are very happy for Dilip's art and hope that Dilip will bring glory to Berhampur by making such art again in the coming days.

The SHGs gave a complaint letter to DM office to remove the liquor shop

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 3: The Women's Self-Help Group members ready to fight against the foreign liquor shop was set up in Salbagan village, Kalimela, in Kalimela block of Malkangiri district. Today they 3 women SHG group members came to the District collector office and submitted a written complaint letter to the office. few days ago the three SHGs strongly opposed the set up of wine shop in the street and gave a letter also to BDO Kalimela saying in a statement to the Kalimela Block Development

officer a few days ago that "every good people student are living in the area, then if there is a liquor store in the area, there will be an unpleasant situation." The letter said it would have an impact on the three, but did not respond to a request for comment "Women's self-help groups such as Jay Maa Lakshmi, Jai Maa Durga and Sonakshi have demanded that the liquor shop be relocated to the new area instead of in the area," they, urging and requested to the district magistrate take necessary action to settle down

Sri Chandan Kumar Mohanty Has assumed the Charge of Regional Manager of Odisha Gramya Bank, Chandikhole Region

(A.O. Bureau) Jajpur, May 3: Sri Chandan Kumar Mohanty Has assumed the Charge of Regional Manager of Odisha Gramya Bank, Chandikhole Region on 30/04/2021. He has joined the bank on 19/12/2011. There after he has served at Nabakalebar Road, Chandanpur & kanas branch. He has also



served at Puri Branch from 8/6/2016 to 21/06/

2020. There after he served at OGB Inspec-

tion Cell, Pipili from 23/06/2020 to 27/04/2021

. Chandikhole Region is having 69 Branches in different areas of Jajpur & Kendrapara District. Better Customer service, Quality lending & Recovery of Bad Loans will be his utmost priority area during his tenure. Highest ever effort will be given to develop the rural economy by financing the Priority sectors like Agricultural, SHG & MSME. Sri

Govinda Chandra Sethi, RM, Chandikhole Retired from his service on 30/04/2021 from Odisha Gramya Bank after serving 39 years 2 months. He is always loved by his colleagues due to his cordial behaviour to staff & creating a peaceful working environment. He has joined the bank on 20/02/1982 at Pattamundai Branch.



ASHA worker, fisherman on mission 'COVID awareness' in Odisha's Jagatsinghpur district

(A.O. Bureau) Jagatsinghpur, May 3: Even as the government and district administrations are making all-round efforts to keep second COVID wave in control, contribution of people at ground level in creating awareness about the virus cannot be missed. In Jagatsinghpur district, different communities like fishermen and ASHA workers are coming up with innovative ways to create awareness about COVID-appropriate behaviour, at places where people are throwing all precautions

to the wind despite repeated appeals by the government. In Taratang panchayat under Jagatsinghpur block here, Jyotirmayee Mishra, an ASHA worker is blowing conch to gather people and educate them about the virus. She has been doing this since last year when the pandemic first struck. With the second wave, her commitment has only got stronger as she goes on to convince people to mask up, avoid crowd and maintain hand hygiene to avoid getting infected. Sources said, as many as four people



got infected after coming in contact with a migrant worker who returned to Taratang from West Bengal and flouted all rules and roamed freely. Sarpanch of Taratang Rangadhar Bhoi vouched for Jyotirmayee's contribu-

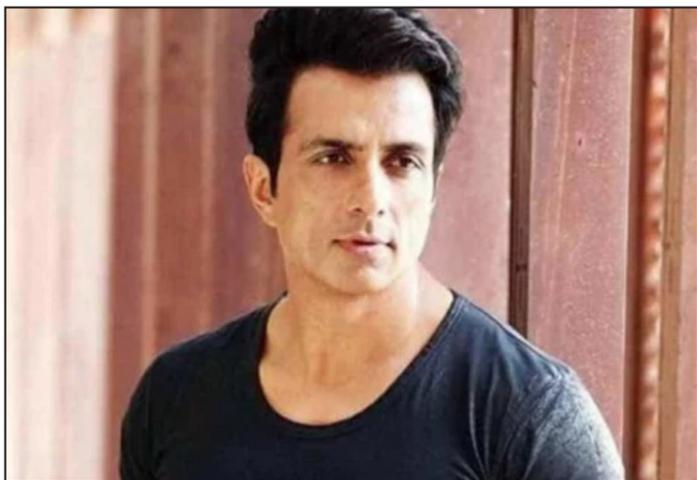
tion towards COVID awareness in the p a n c h a y a t. "Jyotirmayee's innovative efforts as an ASHA worker are effective in driving home the message of safety guidelines," he said. Jyotirmayee said she re-

sorted to blowing conch as a way of educating and convincing people about coronavirus as most often, they do not pay heed to the official guidelines. "I am seeing people violate shutdown norms. Even returnees are flouting mandatory quarantine. They need to be convinced in whichever way possible. I am just doing my bit," she said. Similarly, fisherman Kulamani Tarai along with his son Hiranya are singing Odia folk songs across slums in Paradip, to make people aware about the grave situation and convince them to

stay at home and adopt needful safety measures. Tarai is also persuading people to get vaccinated. "I am using songs to deliver social messages. I go from door to door selling fish and utilise it as an opportunity to spread awareness," she said. Sources said, there is a perceptible degree of acceptance among public when local communities rather than officials interact with them for awareness drives. People are way more receptive to ground-level educators because of personal interaction, they said.

Sonu Sood fights back tears while talking about oxygen shortage in India

New Delhi, May 3: Sonu Sood, who has dedicated his time to help those in need during the pandemic, recently discussed the shortage of oxygen and medical supplies in India. During the conversation, Sonu was emotionally emotional. Sonu Sood was seen fighting back his tears while discussing the shortage of India's medical resources and its impact on the citizens. The actor has been at the forefront since the pandemic began, helping people across the country with resources. In a recent conversation with journalist Barkha Dutt, Sonu emotionally recounted the numerous phone calls he receives, requesting help. The actor noted that the country has learned the importance of a good healthcare system but at



a big cost. "My heart breaks when I see all that. I have been listening to all these people and when I see those visuals, I can imagine myself," he said, before adding, "Now I sometimes thank god that they are no more (his parents). I imagine they would have been so helpless and running for them, you feel failed like

a failed human if you are not able to oxygen for your loved ones, a bed in the hospital for your loved ones. You fail as an individual, aapko lagta hai zindagi mein aapne kya kiya (you feel like you've done nothing in life)." Sonu shared that has received calls for help even from 'all well-established people, living in best of

houses in Delhi.' "We all have failed as humans, mujhe lagta hai hum log bhi fail ho gaye hai ki jab hum aise drishya dekhte hai saamne. (I feel we've failed when I see such sights.)" Sonu said. He explained that growing up, he heard that hospitals should a country's healthcare system should be strong. He said that the country has

learned the importance of the healthcare system but at the cost of numerous lives. Sonu noted that enforcing laws to help citizens fight the pandemic and its aftermath after six months will not help. "I feel helpless every single day, mujhe nayee problems logo ki pata chalti hai and I feel ki 'yaar, kis desh mein reh rahe hai hum log (I learn about newer problems and I feel what kind of country are we living in)," he added. Sonu's philanthropic efforts have been lauded by citizens and fellow Bollywood stars. Priyanka Chopra recently shared a post, calling the actor 'visionary philanthropist' and supported his appeal to provide free education to children who lost their parents to Covid-19.

Now is the time to stand up for our country: Bhumi Pednekar

Mumbai, May 3: Bhumi Pednekar opens up on the virtual plasma drive initiated by her, stresses on the need to be emotionally detached from those you strive to help. Two days after testing negative for Covid-19, Bhumi Pednekar took to social media to start a plasma donation drive for those battling with the coronavirus. She has been identifying resources for those who are struggling for hospital beds and oxygen cylinders amid the health crisis. At a time when patients and their families are in dire need of urgent medical supplies, the actor says that she wanted to make good use of her social media reach. "In the times that we are, my biggest resource is the reach that I have. And that's exactly what I'm trying to do. I don't feel



pressurised as a person of influence but I feel overwhelmed just as a citizen much like any volunteer. We're trying to help as many people as we can. I hope I can motivate people to come out and help as many people as possible," she shares. Stressing on the importance to donate plasma, the Durgamati (2020) actor says, "Plasma donation is of utmost importance right

now. Those who've recently recovered, they can reach out to me via social media. I'm guiding people through the process and save somebody's life. I don't want anyone to be lazy right now. Now is the time to stand up for our country." Pednekar believes that it's important to stay detached from patients who she has been trying to help. "My body is in auto mode.

Mini Mathur gives it back to troll who asked if husband Kabir is bankrupt now

Mumbai, May 3: Former VJ and actor Mini Mathur has replied to a Twitter troll who asked her about her husband, filmmaker Kabir Khan's financial condition. Actor and former VJ Mini Mathur has asked a Twitter troll to utilise their time more productively. After Mini shared a message

1983, it was supposed to release last summer. Later, the release date was changed to June this year but the future of the movie is again uncertain amid the second wave of the pandemic. Last year, Mini had also spoken about her marriage with Kabir in the interfaith-relationships context. After a jewellery

ried for 22 years. Speaking about how they met each other, Kabir recently told Neha Dhupia on her show No Filter Neha, "There was a channel called Home TV and they were doing this very big show at that point in time where the first prize for that show was like a flat in Bombay and that's how

Priyanka called Sonu a 'visionary philanthropist'

New Delhi, May 3: Actor Priyanka Chopra reposted Sonu Sood's video appeal to the Indian government, asking them to provide free education to children who have lost parents for Covid-19. Sharing the video, Priyanka called Sonu a 'visionary philanthropist'. "Have you heard of visionary philanthropists? My colleague @sonu_sood is one such. He thinks and plans ahead. Think this one out carefully because the impact is long-term and it involves children—amongst the many horror stories of the pandemic, this is regarding those children who have lost one or both parents due to COVID-19. The disruption, for many, sadly leads to a complete stop in their education due to the combination of loss and economic factors due to that loss," she wrote in her message.



"Firstly, I am inspired that Sonu made this critical observation. Secondly, in typical Sonu style, he has also thought of a solution and come up with some suggestions for action. Sonu's suggestion is to both the state and central governments to ensure free education for all children affected by Covid. Whatever stage of studies they are at—school, college, or pursuing higher studies. The aim is not to allow a pause and definitely not

for the lack of finance. If ignored, a huge number of children would be left without the opportunity as adults," she added. "For those outside govt, I appeal to your compassion combined with generosity and be the philanthropists, knock on institute doors or anyone who can help to make an impact that will matter. Adopt the education of a child if you can. I fully support Sonu's ideas and I will actively work towards finding ways to support

education because I have always believed that #educationforeverychild is a birthright. And we cannot as a society let the virus change that," she said. Union minister Smriti Irani also commented on her post, sharing a child helpline number. "Kindly call 1098-Childline in case you or any organisation finds a child who is orphaned. Every state government and district authority is on alert to help provide support to children in need and distress. Ev-

ery district has been directed to ensure that Child Welfare Committees in the district prioritise such children. Withholding such information would be detrimental to the needs of the child hence my plea," she wrote. Priyanka's followers lauded Sonu's initiative, and even wanted him to become the next Prime Minister. "We need a prime minister like Sonu sood," wrote one. "Respect for him...he thinks so much for others... And try to solve problems even at ground level," wrote another. Not just Sonu, Priyanka has also started a fundraiser to provide aid to Indians affected by the second wave of the pandemic. She intends to raise \$1 million with her fundraiser, and the amount will be used to buy medical supplies for Indians suffering from the disease. So far, 75.5 crore have been raised.



seeking medicines for a person, a troll commented on it, asking her about the financial condition of her husband, filmmaker Kabir Khan. "Heard ur husband has become bankrupt due to investment in 83. Is it true," they wrote. Kabir's 83 was supposed to release last year but has been indefinitely delayed due to the pandemic. Replying to the person, Mini wrote, "Use your extra time to help someone in distress please." The person later deleted their comment. 83 stars Ranveer Singh in the lead role as former Indian cricket captain Kapil Dev, while Deepika Padukone plays his wife Romi. Based on India's first-ever cricket World Cup win in

brand was forced to remove their TV commercial on a marriage between a Hindu woman and a Muslim man, Mini talked about how her life has been in an interfaith marriage. She said she received 'even more love' in her 'multicultural marriage'. "By not speaking up, you are party to normalising of hate between communities. Also, why and how does religion matter? What role does it/should it play in our generation? I'd rather the world turn atheist that have hate as religion. And wanting peace and harmony in our country does not make me or any of us, less of a patriot," she added. Mini and Kabir have been mar-

we met. I was a freelance camera person and Mini was a presenter and actually, we both went to the production house office to say that we might not be able to do the show because we both had date issues. We didn't know about each other's date issues, we met for the first time in that office, in that meeting, and in the course of that meeting our date issues sort of disappeared and we decided that we do want to do this show and that was fun because they made us travel all over India together and we got to know each other in the course of that journey and that's how it started."

Study links heart rhythm disorder with fish oil supplements

New Delhi, May 3: A new study suggests that omega-3 fatty acids or fish oil supplements may be associated with an increased risk for atrial fibrillation, the most common heart rhythm disorder. People with the disorder have a five times greater likelihood of having a stroke. According to a new analysis by the European Society of Cardiology, omega-3 supplements are associated with an increased likelihood of developing atrial fibrillation in people with high blood lipids. The findings were published in European Heart Journal - Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy, a journal of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC). Author of the study, Dr Salvatore Carbone of

Virginia Commonwealth University, US said, "Currently, fish oil supplements are indicated for patients with elevated plasma triglycerides to reduce cardiovascular risk." "Due to the high prevalence of elevated triglycerides in the population, they can be commonly prescribed. Of note, low-dose omega-3 fatty acids are available over the counter, without the need for a prescription." Some clinical trials have suggested that omega-3 fatty acids may be associated with an increased risk for atrial fibrillation, the most common heart rhythm disorder. People with the disorder have a five times greater likelihood of having a stroke. These studies tested



different formulations of omega-3 fatty acids at different doses. The authors, therefore, performed a comprehensive meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials to answer the question of whether fish oils were consistently related to a raised risk for atrial fibrillation. The analysis included five randomised controlled trials investigating the effects of omega-3 fatty acid supplementation on cardiovascu-

lar outcomes. Participants had elevated triglycerides and were either at high risk for cardiovascular disease or had established cardiovascular disease. A total of 50,277 patients received fish oils or placebo and were followed up for between 2 and 7.4 years. The dose of fish oils varied from 0.84 g to 4 g per day. The researchers found that omega-3 fatty acid supplementation was associated with a significantly in-

creased risk for atrial fibrillation compared to placebo with an incidence rate ratio of 1.37 (95 per cent confidence interval 1.22-1.54; p<0.001). Dr Carbone said, "Our study suggests that fish oil supplements are associated with a significantly greater risk of atrial fibrillation in patients at elevated cardiovascular risk." "Although one clinical trial indicated beneficial cardiovascular effects of supplementation, the risk for atrial fibrillation should be considered when such agents are prescribed or purchased over the counter, especially in individuals susceptible to developing the heart rhythm disorder," Carbone added. (ANI)

Sri Lanka all-rounder Perera retires from international cricket



Colombo, May 3: Sri Lanka all-rounder and former captain Thisara Perera on Monday announced his retirement from international cricket with immediate effect. Perera, in his letter submitted to Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), said that he feels the time is right for him to step aside and pave the way for the younger crop. The 32-year-old, who represented Sri

Lanka in six Tests, 166 ODIs and 84 T20s, is expected to keep playing franchise cricket around the world. "I take pride in the fact that I was able to represent Sri Lanka in seven cricket World Cups and be a contributing member of the 2014 T20 World Cup win against India in Bangladesh. Easily the highlight of My Life," Perera men-

tioned in his letter to SLC. SLC acknowledged Perera's contribution to the success of the national team. "Thisara was a brilliant all-rounder, who has contributed immensely as a player to Sri Lanka Cricket and played a part in some of the glorious cricketing moments of the country," said SLC CEO Ashley De Silva in a statement.

COVID hits IPL: KKR-RCB match postponed after Chakravarthy, Warrier test positive

New Delhi, May 3: The COVID-19 storm struck IPL on Monday with Kolkata Knight Riders' Varun Chakravarthy and Sandeep Warrier testing positive for the dreaded virus, forcing postponement of the team's game against Royal Challengers Bangalore in Ahmedabad this evening. The match will be rescheduled some time later during the tournament, which will conclude on May 30. Leg-spinner Chakravarthy and pacer Warrier, both 30, have been isolated and the rest of the KKR contingent has returned negative reports for now. Of the two, Warrier has not yet made the playing XI in any of the seven matches KKR have played. "Two members of the contingent have tested positive for COVID but we are waiting for their second test reports to avoid the false positive scenario that happened with

Anrich Nortje of Delhi Capitals earlier," the source said on conditions of anonymity. KKR last played on April 29 against Delhi Capitals in Ahmedabad and the development is bound to trigger some anxiety in the league, which had been going along smoothly so far. "Now, the DC players will also have to be tested and every member of the team contingents that came in contact with Chakravarthy and Warrier will also be contact traced through the app watch that has been given to everyone," the source said. "The other members of KKR contingent have tested negative but since the second RTPCR report of these two cannot be out before evening, the match couldn't have gone ahead at 7.30pm," he added. According to IPL's Standard Operating Procedure for COVID-19 management, any close contact of an infected person has to isolate for six



days and return three negative tests on days 1, 3 and 6. It is learnt that KKR's pace spearhead Pat Cummins revealed the latest development to all the Australian players in the IPL after Chakravarthy, while undergoing some shoulder scans for a niggle after Thursday's game, tested positive for the virus. The source said BCCI top officials are currently discussing the situation

over a conference call. Chakravarthy has appeared in all of KKR matches so far and been one of their most successful players with seven wickets under his belt. IPL had dealt with positive cases before the tournament started, including some high-profile names like Axar Patel and Devdutt Padikkal. However, this is the first instance of positive cases in the

middle of the tournament. Just days before this, three Australian players had pulled out of the league, citing COVID-19 concerns amid a devastating second wave of the global pandemic that has overwhelmed the medical infrastructure of the country. India are currently recording over 3 lakh cases everyday and more than 3,000 daily deaths.

Buttler's maiden T20 hundred (124) sets up Royals big win against Sunrisers

New Delhi, May 3: Jos Buttler announced his return to form with belligerent maiden T20 hundred as Rajasthan Royals made a mince-meat of an out-of-sorts SunRisers Hyderabad, winning Sunday's IPL encounter by a whopping 55-run margin. Opening the innings, Buttler smashed a breathtaking 124 off 64 balls while Sanju Samson was effective in his 48 off 33 deliveries which powered Rajasthan to a commanding 220 for three. Even a change in captaincy couldn't bring in luck for SRH as they could manage only 165 for eight in their 20 overs. Chris Morris (3/29) and Mustafizur Rahman (3/20) did the bulk of the work with the ball while Kartik Tyagi (1/32) Rahul Twetia (1/45) picked a wicket apiece. With the win, the Royals moved up to fifth spot while SRH continued to stay at the bottom, having won only one match all

season. Looking to register their second win of the season, SRH raced to 57 for no loss in the first six overs. However, Bangladesh pacer Rahman struck right after the first strategic time out, getting rid of Manish Pandey (31). The dangerous Jonny Bairstow (30) and Vijay Shankar (8) soon followed. With the pressure mounting, skipper Kane Williamson (20) went for the big shot only to be caught at deep midwicket by Morris off Tyagi as wickets tumbled at regular intervals. Mohammad Nabi (17 off 5) injected some hope in the SRH camp, as he smashed Tewatia for two sixes in the 14th over. However, the Afghan was back in the dug out after a quick cameo. With 91 needed in the last five overs the lower and middle order struggled. In the end, the top heavy SRH did not have enough firepower to pull off the mammoth chase. Ear-



lier, put in to bat, Buttler and Samson stitched a 150-run partnership for the second wicket after the Royals lost opener Yashasvi Jaiswal (12) cheaply. While the Englishman hit the ball 11 fours apart from eight maximums, Samson also had four fours and two sixes to his credit. For SRH, Rashid Khan (1/24), Vijay Shankar (1/42) and Sandeep Sharma (1/50) picked a wicket each. The Royals were off to a sedate start as they managed just five runs of the first two overs. Williamson, searching for wickets early on in the innings, introduced spin in third over by bringing in star bowler Rashid. Jaiswal

smashed three fours, before the Afghan showed his class and trapped the youngster leg before. RR skipper Samson, who was dropped on 23 by Manish Pandey in the 10th over, announced his arrival with a six over mid-wicket off pacer Khaleel Ahmed. At the other end, Buttler, who looked in sublime touch, also hit Bhuvneshwar Kumar for two boundaries in the sixth over as the Royals amassed 42 runs for the loss of one wicket in the Powerplay. The duo continued to hit boundaries at regular intervals at the small Feroz Shah Kotla ground, collecting 18 runs, which included two sixes, off all-

rounder Vijay Shankar in the seventh over. Having successfully navigated Rashid's four overs, Buttler and Samson upped the ante in the 13th over, plundering 17 runs. The Englishman muscled a six over wide long on before lofting one over extra-cover for boundary. With all bowlers leaking runs, Williamson turned to Mohammad Nabi, who is playing his second game of the season, but Buttler hammered the off-spinner for two sixes and as many fours. Vijay Shankar managed to get rid of Samson in the 17th over with young Riyan Parag (15 not out) walking in. There was no stopping Buttler, who was in complete control, as he continued to hit boundaries at will. Sandeep Sharma, eventually brought his innings to an end of the penultimate over but he had inflicted the required damage by then. SRH were guilty of being sloppy in the field, dropping catches and missing run outs.

CA to donate AUD 50,000 to support India amid COVID-19 mayhem

Melbourne, May 3: Cricket Australia on Monday pledged 50,000 Australian dollars to support India's fight against the devastating second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and will also raise more funds in partnership with its players' association and UNICEF. India's daily cases have been upwards of 3 lakh on most days for the past couple of weeks and have also breached the 4 lakh mark. The death toll has been rising by over 3,000 everyday, according to official figures. "Australian Cricket will throw its support behind India's COVID-19 Crisis Appeal, with Cricket Australia, the Australian Cricketers' Association and UNICEF Australia partnering to raise much needed funds," CA said in a statement. "Australian Cricket has been deeply saddened by the devastation caused by this second coronavirus

wave to hit India, a country with which Australians share a strong friendship and connection. "Cricket Australia will make an initial do-

tion Plants in hospitals to treat seriously ill patients, providing testing equipments in heavily impacted districts and supporting the distribution of



nation of AUD 50,000 and encourage Australians everywhere to give generously at this crucial time in India's COVID-19 response." The funds raised by CA will be donated to UNICEF Australia, which will utilise it in various relief initiatives in India. "UNICEF Australia's India COVID-19 Crisis Appeal is procuring and installing Oxygen Genera-

COVID-19 vaccine via the COVAX initiative," the CA added. The second wave of COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc in India with the health-care infrastructure across the country struggling to cope with the case load amid shortage of oxygen supply and essential medicines. Several Australian cricket stars are currently in India participating in the IPL.

Rahul diagnosed with appendicitis

Ahmedabad, May 3: Punjab Kings skipper K L Rahul has been diagnosed with acute appendicitis and has flown to Mumbai for surgery and further treatment, which will likely keep him on the sidelines for at least two weeks and might even force him out of the tournament. "K L Rahul complained of severe abdomen pain last night and after not responding to medication, he was taken to emergency room for

further tests which revealed that he was diagnosed with acute appendicitis," the team said in a statement. "It will be resolved surgically and for safety measures, he has been transferred to the hospital for the same," it added. Rahul is expected to be operated on Sunday night at the Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai. His franchise expects him to return to action within a week or 10 days.

Star-studded RCB stand in way of KKR revival

Ahmedabad, May 3: Star-studded Royal Challengers Bangalore would look to get their mojo back when they face struggling Kolkata Knight Riders who need a complete overhaul for their revival here on Monday. From leading the table with four wins on the trot, the Virat Kohli-led team has slipped to third spot at the halfway stage after suffering two defeats from their last three matches. In fact, RCB would have lost three in

a row if pacer Mohammed Siraj had not defended 14 runs in the final over against Delhi Capitals' explosive duo of Rishabh Pant and Shimron Hetmyer. The onus would be on their famed batting lineup of Kohli, AB de Villiers and Glenn Maxwell to start firing once again and put pressure on the KKR batsmen. Talented opener Devdutt Padikkal would also be keen to get back among runs as he has not

clicked after his unbeaten 101 against Rajasthan Royals. Having started the season with much promise under Eoin Morgan, KKR so far have failed to inspire, suffering five defeats in seven matches. They are at the seventh spot in the eight-team table, starting at early elimination for a third season in a row. The biggest letdown for KKR this season has been their top-order batting as the top three Shubman Gill, Nitish

Rana, Rahul Tripathi have failed to give the team a decent start. Supremely-talented Gill is struggling in the T20 scheme of things and has failed to convert his starts at the top, while the likes of Nitish Rana and Rahul Tripathi have been patchy. Head coach Brendon McCullum had questioned their batsmen's "intent" after they posted a below-par 154/6 to go down to Delhi Capitals by seven wickets in their last match. At the same stage,

under Dinesh Karthik in IPL 2020 in UAE, the team had fared a shade better with four wins and three defeats, before he relinquished the captaincy to let English World Cup-winning skipper Morgan lead the side. Given the current scenario, skipper Morgan needs to take some tough calls with regards to his top-order, something he has stuck to since match number one against Sunrisers Hyderabad this season. It's a pity that KKR are

yet to give an opportunity to new signing Karun Nair who has a strike rate of 155.49 and has two centuries as a T20 opener. They also have uncapped talented batsman Venkatesh Iyer. The bowling on the other hand has impressed, especially the spin duo of Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarthy. Their eight overs against the likes of Kohli, De Villiers and Maxwell would be key as they look to avenge their first leg defeat.

JSPL's Angul Plant supplying every day 100 tonnes of Liquid Medical Oxygen across India to fight Covid-19 pandemic

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 3: Responding to the shortage of oxygen for treatment of COVID-19 affected persons in the Country, leading Steelmaker Jindal Steel & Power Ltd (JSPL), since April has been supplying Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) from its 6 MTPA mega steel complex at Angul, Odisha. Several hospitals across the country have received oxygen despatched through tankers as per the Govt advice "JSPL has been always standing with the Country and Countrymen during calamities and emergencies and will continue to do so during this Pandemic. For us, it is Nation First. I am sure together we shall defeat the Pandemic," JSPL's Chair-



man Shri Jindal had stated a few days before. "We are improving our efficiency. Government is also ensuring the best way to tackle logistics on oxygen supply," he adds in a Twitter message. The company continually produces LMO at its

oxygen plant within the steel complex at Angul and tankers are filled in round the clock. The tankers are being dispatched to several States who need medical Oxygen like Andhra Pradesh, Telengana, Delhi NCR, Madhya

Pradesh and Maharashtra and several other states as per the advice of the Government. A dedicated team, under the direct supervision of JSPL's Chairman Shri Naveen Jindal, are working day and night to ensure the timely dispatch of oxygen as per Government directive. An Oxygen Express run by the Indian Railways also carried LMO tankers to other States. Similarly, two tankers airlifted from Maharashtra were also filled with LMO from JSPL Angul recently.

329 Tonne Lmo Carried Through RoRo Service From ECoR Jurisdiction

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 3: East Coast Railway has carried 329 tons of Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) from different Steel Plants in its jurisdiction towards different States like Maharashtra, Telengana, Haryana and Delhi and taken it as a challenge to supply Oxygen at the earliest during the current COVID upsurge for

- Introduced RoRo Service to run Oxygen Express for life-saving of patients
- Ensured uninterrupted supply of essential commodities consistently across the Country
- RoRo Service of Oxygen Express through Green Corridor will reach destination at the earliest without delay
- Coal, Foodgrains e.g. wheat and rice are being loaded from different loading points in its jurisdiction.
- 329 Tonne of LMO carried in 19 Containers through six RoRo Service



Senior citizens, people with co-morbidities in Dhenkanal seek COVID-19 vaccine at home



(A.O. Bureau) Dhenkanal, May 3: Senior citizens and people with co-morbidities have urged the district administration to provide them with vaccines at their homes to avoid inconvenience and life risk for critical patients. People battling hypertension and other complications are unable to reach the nearest hospitals given their condition and expensive private cabs. Apart from incon-

venience, spread of infection cannot be ruled out, said Debadutta Patnaik, a social worker who has a 61-year-old cousin with critical illnesses. "My older brother is undergoing dialysis and suffers from hypertension and heart disease. He is unable to get vaccinated inspite of being advised to as he is immobile. District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) also denied to send any staff home for adminis-

tration of vaccine," said another local Mayadhar Sahoo. Contacted, Chief District Medical and Public Health Officer (CDMPO) Dr Sujatarani Mishra said vaccine cannot be administered at home as no such instruction has been given by the government. "We can vaccinate people with co-morbidities even if they are seated in a vehicle on the premises of the hospital," she said.

Doctor 'assaults' male nurse at COVID hospital in Sambalpur

(A.O. Bureau) Sambalpur, May 3: A doctor has landed in soup for allegedly attacking a male nurse at the COVID hospital on the premises of Sambalpur District Headquarters Hospital on Saturday. A case has been registered in this regard at the Town police station. The male nurse works at the COVID facility run by a private hospital. He said when he reported to duty on Saturday, he was assigned to the ICU instead of the general ward due to shortage of staff. "When I went to the ICU, a patient was to be intubated. I told the doctor that I am a fresher and was not aware of the procedure, but he got angry and rebuked me," he alleged. Later during the intubation of the patient, when the doctor asked for equipment, The nurse accidentally dropped the saline pipe. "The doctor got infuriated and started thrashing me on my back. When I questioned his behaviour, he misbehaved with me again," Prakash alleged. Inspector-in-charge of Town police station, Ramesh Dora said the matter is under investigation.



saving life of patients. A total of 187 Ton of LMO has already been transported from Tata Bhusan Siding Angul. Similarly 105 Ton of LMO has been transported from Rashtriya ISpat Nigam Limited, Visakhapatnam and 31 Ton of LMO from Jindal Steel Angul. Different Hospitals in various States are in need of Oxygen on priority basis. Getting requests from Different State Governments, Indian Railway has prepared itself for providing oxygen transportation services to all the states in need. Green corridor has been provided for the faster movement of the Oxygen Express. Indian Railway is ensuring that the medical oxygen is made available to Covid-19 patients across the country through Oxygen Express, thus bringing respite to the needy. The

first Oxygen Express loaded with 105 Tonne of LMO was left from Visakhapatnam in 7 Tankers. The Second Oxygen Express from ECoR was loaded with 32 Tonne of LMO in two tankers from Tata Bhusan Steel Plant for, Haryana. The third Oxygen Express from Tata Bhusan Steel Plant at Angul loaded with 63.6 Tonne of LMO in five tankers and left for Telengana by RoRo service of Indian Railways. 30.6 Tonne of LMO in Two Tankers from Tata Bhusan Steel Plant, 30.86 Tonne in two Tankers from Jindal Steel Plant and again 60.23 Tonne of LMO in four Tankers from Tata Bhusan Steel Plants were sent to Faridabad, Delhi Cantt and SNAG respectively through RoRo service. More Empty Liquid Medical Oxygen Tankers from

different States are on the way to carry LMO from ECoR jurisdiction. East coast Railway has taken all precautions for safe running of Oxygen Express Special Trains from its jurisdiction and sending these trains at the earliest. Liquid Oxygen being a cryogenic cargo utmost care have been taken about the maximum speed at which it can be carried, maximum acceleration & deceleration. East Coast Railway General Manager Shri Vidya Bhusan earlier instructed officials to take it as a challenge to supply Oxygen at the earliest during the crisis for life-saving of patients. He has stressed upon proper lashing and packing of the tankers on the rake. ECoR is in full preparedness for providing oxygen transportation services to all the states in need.

Vedanta Lanjigarh extends support to District Health Authorities during second wave of COVID-19

(A.O. Bureau) Lanjigarh, May 3: Vedanta Limited, Lanjigarh, India's premier producer of metallurgical grade alumina, has come forward to support the Government and District Administration in their fight against COVID-19. As part of its efforts, the unit has provided 100 sets of RT-PCR testing kits to the District Hospital in Bhawanipatna. Each set contains 100 kits. These sets will cater to the testing of 10000 people. On behalf of the company, Mr. G.G. Pal, Deputy CEO-Alumina Business, Vedanta Limited handed over the testing kit sets to the hospital authorities on 2nd May 2021. Mr. T. Ashok Kumar, Divi-

sional Forest Officer, South Division, Kalahandi and Nodal Officer (COVID Operations), Kalahandi, Mr. Abani Kumar Sahu, District Project Manager, Kalahandi and Mr. Nabal Kumar Sharma from Vedanta Lanjigarh were present on the occasion. Speaking on this occasion, Mr. G.G. Pal, Deputy CEO-Alumina Business, Vedanta Limited, further highlighted, "We are taking all necessary steps to combat this pandemic in and around our areas of operations. Vedanta Lanjigarh is deeply appreciative of the effort being undertaken by the district administration in ensuring preparedness in the face of this global pandemic. The company is doing its bit in



this by providing all possible support. As part of this effort, we provided the RT-PCR testing kit sets to the district hospital, which will support the government in combating with the pandemic. We stand with the government and local bodies in this crucial time and are ready to extend every possible support to the local communities." In its effort to prevent the spread of the infection,

Vedanta Lanjigarh has joined hands with the District Health Administration of Kalahandi, Odisha, to conduct COVID-19 vaccination drive for the community. Conducted in collaboration with the Community Health Centres of Lanjigarh and Biswanathpur, the drive will cover more than 60 villages in the periphery of Vedanta's alumina refinery plant, reaching out to more than 3000

people. Besides, awareness drive is being carried out by the unit through its Mobile Health Unit, digital and mobile messaging etc. Appreciating the company's efforts, Mr. T. Ashok Kumar, Divisional Forest Officer, South Division, Kalahandi and Nodal Officer (COVID Operations), Kalahandi said, "Vedanta Lanjigarh has come forward with all required support in

the prevention of COVID-19, since the outbreak of the pandemic, in supporting the district health authorities. The spread of the disease can be contained with large-scale testing and timely isolation and treatment of the COVID positive patients. The provision of the RT-PCR testing kits by Vedanta will facilitate the testing process for the general public in the district. This reflects on the responsibility and commitment of Vedanta towards the community." Also, the company's 20-bedded hospital is in a state of preparedness to support the district administration. Earlier, the hospital has been identified as the first Private COVID Vaccination

Centre (PCVC) in Kalahandi. Like previous year, a 24x7 telephonic helpline has been set up by Vedanta hospital to address any queries or concerns on COVID-19 from the community. The hospital has also started a Telemedicine Facility, wherein the patients can get connected to the doctors through phone calls or WhatsApp voice calls and get consultation and e-prescription. Vedanta's social interventions in the domains of sustainable livelihood, women empowerment, quality education, health, water and sanitation, bio-investment and community infrastructure reach out to a total of 69 villages in Lanjigarh and nearby areas, benefiting

about a lakh people in a year. It empowers more than 3000 women from 305 self-help groups (SHGs), provides healthcare services to about 30,000 people annually, gives educational support to more than 2800 students, has planted more than 5.4 lakh trees in the community, and built 500 plus infrastructural projects at community level. Vedanta is the largest producer of aluminium in India and remains the premier manufacturer of metallurgical grade alumina. The company operates a 2 MTPA (million tonnes per annum) capacity alumina refinery in Lanjigarh (Kalahandi district, Odisha), India since 2007 and an associated 90 MW captive power plant.