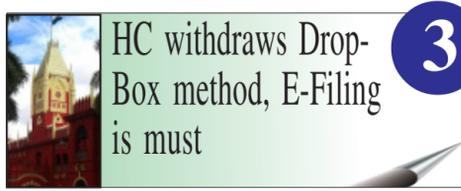
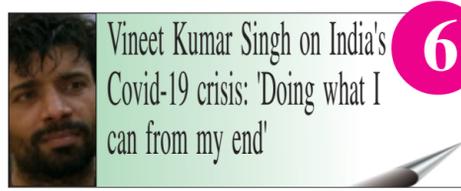




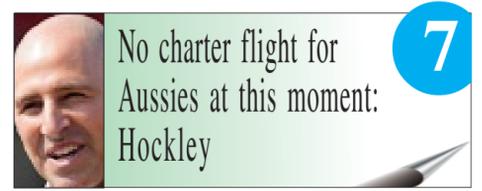
Scientist Manas Bihari Verma, key man behind Tejas, dead



HC withdraws Drop-Box method, E-Filing is must



Vineet Kumar Singh on India's Covid-19 crisis: 'Doing what I can from my end'



No charter flight for Aussies at this moment: Hockley

## PM Modi says 'productive' virtual summit with Boris Johnson

New Delhi, May 4: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that they discussed ongoing cooperation on the Covid-19 pandemic and reiterated commitment to ambitious climate action to meet Paris goals in the run-up to COP26. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that he had a productive virtual summit with his British counterpart Boris Johnson where they adopted an ambitious Roadmap 2030 for elevating India-UK ties to a "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership". Taking to Twitter, PM Modi said that the duo discussed ongoing cooperation on the Covid-19 pandemic and reiterated commitment to ambitious climate action to meet Paris goals in the run-up to COP26. "We welcomed launch of an Enhanced Trade Partnership as a roadmap to



a comprehensive FTA, with a target to more than double the bilateral trade by 2030. We also agreed upon several new initiatives in health, technology, energy, etc.," the prime minister tweeted. Had a productive Virtual Summit with my friend UK PM @BorisJohnson. We adopted an ambitious Roadmap 2030 for elevating India-UK ties to a Comprehensive

Strategic Partnership. — Narendra Modi (@narendramodi) May 4, 2021 India and the UK issued a joint statement after the virtual summit, saying the prime ministers agreed on a common vision of a new and transformational Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two countries. They adopted the ambitious India-UK Roadmap to 2030 to

steer cooperation for the next ten years. As India is facing an unprecedented public health crisis owing to the coronavirus disease (Covid-19), both leaders acknowledged the difficult circumstances caused by the pandemic. According to the ministry of external affairs, PM Modi and Johnson offered their deepest condolences for the loss of lives and

expressed the deepest sympathy with the families of the victims of the pandemic in India, the UK and the rest of the world. Prime Minister Modi thanked Johnson for the prompt assistance provided by the UK in the form of critical medical equipment in the fight against Covid-19, the ministry said. As per the joint statement, the duo agreed to expand and enhance the existing vaccine partnership and highlighting the "successful collaboration between Oxford University, Astra Zeneca and the Serum Institute of India". "They emphasized that the international community should learn lessons and agreed to work together to reform and strengthen WHO and the global health security architecture to strengthen pandemic resilience," the statement read.

## Odisha Government declares summer vacation for higher education institutes from May 5

Bhubaneswar, May 4: The State government today declared summer vacation for all higher education institutes from May 5 to May 31. A notification in this regard was today published by the Higher Education Department. "Higher education institutions, coming under the administrative control of

Higher Education Department, shall have summer vacation from 05.05.2021 to 31.05.2021. Standard vacation arrangements should be put in place for functioning of the institutes during the summer vacation, including the Covid-19 related Lockdown/Shutdown period falling within the summer va-

cation," read the notification. The department further clarified that even online classes and examinations will not be held during the summer vacation. However, pre-scheduled viva-voice/interviews of PhD and other research scholars, falling within the summer vacation period will be held on the scheduled dates.



## Odisha Amends Lockdown Guidelines; 2-Wheelers Without Pillion Riders Allowed



Bhubaneswar, May 4: Ahead of the 14-day state-wide lockdown to prevent spread of second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Odisha government today amended its lockdown order issued earlier. Anyone on two-wheeler without pillion rider will be allowed to travel to and from place of residence to Covid testing centre and vaccination centre during the lockdown period, an order issued by the Special Relief

Commissioner's Office stated. Similarly, four-wheelers, auto-rickshaws, taxis, including cabs/auto-rickshaws by aggregators like Ola, Uber etc. are allowed with driver plus up to two passengers in the back seat during the lockdown. As per the SRC office, people are permitted to travel from their residence to COVID testing centre, vaccination centre, airport/ railway station, emergency medical requirements, personnel of

essential services, marriage, funeral/ last rites etc during the 14-day lockdown. The Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) will operate with limited number of services to and from airport and railway stations during lockdown period. The SRC office further stated while going to the airport/railway stations, such buses will only pickup passengers for these destinations only and not for any in between stops. Similarly, such services from airport/ railway station will not pickup any passenger en route. The services will be operated with up to seating capacity of the bus only. No standing passengers are allowed, mentioned. The 14-day lockdown in the State comes into effect from 5 AM on May 5, 2021 to 5 AM on May 19, 2021.

## Lockdown In Odisha: Dial 100 And Get Your Complaint Registered At Doorstep

Bhubaneswar, May 4: As a 14-day state-wide lockdown comes into force from 5 AM tomorrow, Bhubaneswar DCP Umashankar Dash today urged people to take the benefit of e-assistance in case they fail to provide an identity card or a document mentioning their purpose of being out of home during the lockdown period. The DCP said if anyone has some urgent work to finish, but unable to produce a document validating the concerned person's purpose of being out of home during the lockdown, the per-

son can call up 100. Dash further said the same person will provide personal details and reasons behind going somewhere in the city. The person will then receive an e-assistance SMS on his/her registered mobile number. With the help of the e-assistance message, the same person can visit the place in the city to where he/she wants to go and complete the urgent work. Barring the persons from the exempted category as decided by the State government, everyone else will be stopped and asked about the reasons



for being out of home during the lockdown period. Persons from the exempted category will be allowed to visit different places in the city during the lockdown by producing identity cards provided to them by their organi-

zations. Dash further said in order to minimize visit of people to police stations during the lockdown, the Commissionerate Police will reach the doorstep of those who want to lodge a complaint. Anyone who wants to

file a complaint can dial 100 and provide the details on the nature of his/her complaint. A police officer along with some necessary documents will reach the doorstep of the complainant and take down the details. Afterwards, the FIR copy will be given to the complainant electronically via either WhatsApp or email. There will be no compromise in the investigation, the Bhubaneswar DCP informed. During the lockdown a total of 20 platoons of police and 200 police officers will be deployed in the city, the DCP stated.

## OSHB donates 20 lakh to CM Relief Fund

Bhubaneswar, May 4: Odisha State Housing Board (OSHB) donated Rs 20 lakh to Chief Minister's Relief Fund on Monday. Board Chairman Priyadarshi Mishra handed the cheque to Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra in terms of a cheque in a min at the Lokseva Bhawan yesterday. The Chief Secretary



praised the social responsibility of the board receiving the cheque. Mishra requested Mohapatra to spend the donation for Covid care. In another oc-

casation Sri Marble pledged Rs 1,11,000 to the CM Relief Fund for Covid care. Its owner Lalchand Maheswari donated the cheque to the Chief Secretary.

## RTPCR Test Must Not Be Repeated In Someone Who Tested Covid +Ve Earlier: ICMR

New Delhi, May 4: Amid second wave of Covid-19 pandemic, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) today stated RTPCR test must not be repeated in any individual who tested positive either by Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) or RTPCR. While issuing guidelines on RTPCR testing, the ICMR said no testing is required for Covid-19 recovered individuals at the time of hospital discharge in accordance with the discharge policy of the Ministry of Health and



Family Welfare (MoHFW). The medical research organization further stated the

need for RTPCR test in healthy individuals undertaking inter-state domestic travel may

be completely removed to reduce the load on laboratories. Non-essential travel

and interstate travel of symptomatic individuals should be essentially avoided to reduce the risk of infection. Also, the ICMR said States should augment RTPCR testing through mobile systems. While advising the government to ramp up testing through Rapid Antigen Test, the ICMR said the RAT may be allowed at all available government and private healthcare facilities. It also advised to set up dedicated RAT booths in cities, towns and villages.

## 'Like an ostrich': Delhi high court's contempt notice to Centre on oxygen supply

New Delhi, May 4: The high court directed Piyush Goyal and Sumita Dawra, additional secretaries in the ministries of home affairs and industrial promotion, respectively, to be present in court on Wednesday. The Delhi high court on Tuesday issued a show-cause notice to the Central government over the "non-compliance" of its order from last Saturday to provide 700 metric tonnes (MT) of medical oxygen for the treatment of patients of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) in Delhi. The high court directed the presence of Piyush Goyal and Sumita Dawra, additional secretaries in the ministries of home affairs and industrial promotion, respectively, before it on Wednesday to answer the notice. The notice, it said, was also over the "non-compliance" of the Supreme Court's order from May 2, directing the Centre to rectify the issue of shortage of medical oxygen in the



Capital's hospitals, on or before the midnight of May 3. "You can put your head in sand like ostrich, we will not," the high court remarked on Tuesday. "During the course of the hearing, it has been brought to our notice that Delhi has still not received 700 metric tonnes (MT) of oxygen even though the Supreme Court had directed compliance by the Union of India by midnight on May 3," the court said during the hearing, also noting that the Centre has submitted that it will file a compliance affidavit in the apex court on Wednes-

day. 'You may be blind, but we are not': HC slams Centre over scant oxygen in Delhi "We fail to understand what good compliance affidavit would do when 700 MTs oxygen is not being delivered to Delhi. Even 590 MTs per day has not been delivered for a single day," the bench further said. It also noted that though the Centre has submitted that the apex court has not directed supply of 700 MTs, a "complete reading" of the order shows that the Union government was directed to supply medical oxygen in the said

quantity. The persual of the Supreme Court order, the bench said, shows that it has recorded the Delhi government's statement that against the demand of 700 MTs, the manufacturers have been able to supply only 445 MTs of oxygen. "Supreme Court also took note of the allocation in favour of Delhi which was 490 MTs, which is sufficient to show that it directed that the Delhi government should be given 700 MTs," the high court said. Pointing to the Supreme Court taking note of the "heart rendering" situation in

Delhi and assurance given by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to meet the Delhi government's demands, it rejected statements that "Delhi is not entitled to receive 700 MTs." "It pains us that the aspect of supply of oxygen for the treatment of Covid-19 patients in Delhi should be viewed from the way it has been done by the Central government," the court said. Several hospitals in Delhi have, in recent days, approached the Delhi high court complaining of shortage of medical oxygen; there have also been instances of patients losing their lives due to its shortage. According to a health department bulletin on May 3, the city-state's Covid-19 tally stands at 1,212,989, after 18,043 more people tested positive on the day. The tally includes 1,105,983 recoveries, 89,592 active cases and 17,414 related fatalities.

## DRDO to install medical oxygen plants in Delhi; equipment arrives at AIIMS, RML

New Delhi, May 4: These medical oxygen plants are designed for a flow rate of 1,000 litres per minute to tackle the surge in coronavirus disease (Covid-19) cases and subsequent oxygen shortages. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is setting up five medical oxygen plants using the fund al-

derway at AIIMS and RML. The technology for the medical oxygen plant has been developed by DRDO based on the On-Board Oxygen Generation for LCA, Tejas. The technology for the medical oxygen plant has been developed by DRDO based on the On-Board Oxygen Generation for LCA, Tejas. These oxygen plants have been

derway at AIIMS and RML. The ministry said two of them reached Delhi on Tuesday and the installation process is already underway at AIIMS and RML. These medical oxygen plants are designed for a flow rate of 1,000 litres per minute to tackle the surge in coronavirus disease (Covid-19) cases and subsequent oxygen



located from Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations, or popularly known as PM Cares. The ministry of defence on Tuesday announced that the five medical oxygen plants will be installed within the first week of May in hospitals in and around Delhi. Those five plants will be installed at AIIMS Trauma Centre, Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital (RML), Safdarjung Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College and one at AIIMS in Jhajjar, Haryana. The ministry said two of them reached Delhi on Tuesday and the installation process is already un-

supplied by M/s Trident Pneumatics Pvt. Ltd., Coimbatore, a technology partner of DRDO. The company has been given an order of 48 medical oxygen plants. Apart from these, the government has placed an order for 332 plants with M/s Tata Advanced Systems Limited and the delivery is expected to start from mid-May. "The delivery schedule is being monitored very closely to deliver before the plants time. Sites are being prepared at each hospital in parallel," the ministry of defence said in a statement. The ministry said two of them reached Delhi on Tuesday and the installation process is already un-

shortages, according to the ministry. The system is expected to cater to 190 patients at a flow rate of 5 litres per minute and charge 195 cylinders per day. The technology for the medical oxygen plant has been developed by DRDO based on the On-Board Oxygen Generation for LCA, Tejas. The ministry stressed that these plants will overcome the logistics issues of oxygen transportation and help the Covid-19 patients in emergency. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has also ordered 120 medical oxygen plants through its industries.

## Gujarat adds 13,050 new Covid-19 cases, 131 more deaths

Ahmedabad, May 4: Gujarat on Tuesday reported 13,050 fresh coronavirus positive cases and 131 fatalities, including 23 in Ahmedabad, taking the count of infections to 6,20,472 and the toll to 7,779, the state health department said. At the same time, 12,121 patients were discharged during the day, raising the number of recoveries to 4,64,396, it said in a release. With this, the

state's recovery rate has improved slightly to 74.85 per cent. Gujarat is now left with 1,48,297 active cases, the department said. At 4,754, Ahmedabad reported the highest number of new cases, followed by 1,574 in Surat. Among other districts, Vadodara reported 943 infections, Jamnagar 727, Bhavnagar 472, Mehsana 459, Gandhinagar 309, Navsari 200, Kheda

and Sabarkantha 198 each, Mahisagar 195, Junagadh 176 etc. At 23, Ahmedabad recorded the highest number of Covid-19 fatalities in the state in the day, followed by Jamnagar and Rajkot which reported deaths of 14 patients each. While 13 patients died in Vadodara, Surat and Bhavnagar each reported 10 deaths. A total of 1,27,03,040 people have been vac-

inated in Gujarat so far of who 26,82,591 beneficiaries have received the second dose of Covid-19 vaccines, the department said. A total of 52,528 people from the age group of 18 to 44 years were vaccinated on Tuesday. In the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, the total number of Covid-19 cases rose to 8,329 with 192 fresh infections. With 229 patients getting

discharged during the day, the number of recovered cases in the UT rose to 6,541. A total of four patients have died so far in the UT, which is now left with 1,784 active cases, officials said. Gujarat's Covid-19 figures are as follows: Positive cases 6,20,472, new cases 13,050, death toll 7,779, discharged 4,64,396, active cases 1,48,297, people tested so far - figures not released.

## NCW asks Bengal DGP to probe incidents of attack on women in Nandigram



New Delhi, May 4: In a letter to the director general of police (DGP) of the state, the NCW has sought immediate action against those accused in the violence, and demanded a time-bound investigation in the matter. The National Commission for Women (NCW) on Tuesday said it has taken suo motu cognisance of videos purportedly showing women being beaten up in West Bengal's Nandigram after the assembly election in the state. West Bengal was in the throes of widespread violence on Monday that allegedly

left several BJP workers dead and injured in clashes, and shops being looted, prompting the Centre to seek a factual report from the state government on the incidents of attack on opposition workers. In a letter to the director general of police (DGP) of the state, the NCW has sought immediate action against those accused in the violence, and demanded a time-bound investigation in the matter. "The National Commission for Women (NCW) has come across several Twitter posts wherein some goons can be seen

beating up women in Nandigram, West Bengal, post elections. The commission is deeply perturbed and has viewed this incident seriously as it questions the safety and security of women in the state," a statement from the commission said. "Chairperson Rekha Sharma has written to Director General of Police, West Bengal, to take immediate action and arrest the accused persons without any delay," it added. A team headed by the NCW chairperson will be visiting West Bengal for further inquiry into the matter, the statement said.

## Scientist Manas Bihari Verma, key man behind Tejas, dead

New Delhi, May 4: Aeronautical scientist Manas Bihari Verma (78), who played a key role in the development of the country's first light combat fighter aircraft (LCA) 'Tejas', passed away on Monday night at Darbhanga in Bihar. Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar expressed grief over Verma's demise and said his role in the field of aeronautical engineering will always be remembered. "The demise of the famous scientist Padma Shri Manas Bihari Verma ji is very sad. His death has caused irreparable damage to the science world. The nation will always remember his contribution. May God grant peace to the departed soul," the CM tweeted. People close to Dr Verma's family said he died after suffering a massive heart attack at around 11.45 pm at

his home at KM Tank locality of Laheriasarai in Bihar's Darbhanga town. "Verma was deeply involved in LCA project definition and under his guidance the requirements of full-scale engineering development (FSED), phase-I activities, were achieved," said Narayan Jee Choudhary, a social activist and close associate of Dr Verma. Verma, who also worked closely with former President APJ Abdul Kalam during his 35-year long career, set stringent goals for integration of weapons, multi-mode radar (MMR) and initial operation clearance for Tejas during his stint at Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) in Bengaluru. Conferred with the Padma Shri award in 2018, Verma seamlessly

transitioned into the role of an educationist working in the rural region after his retirement as an eminent scientist. He was born on 29 July 1943 in Bour, a small village in Ghanshyampur block in Darbhanga district. After his schooling in the village, Verma pursued his graduation from Bihar College of Engineering—presently known as National Institute of Technology (NIT) Patna. He worked with several aeronautical engineering es-

tablishments in the country and went on to become a programme director of Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), Bangalore between 2002 and 2005. Here, he got a chance to work with former President Kalam, the architect of India's nuclear programme. After his retirement from ADA Bangalore, Verma chose to return to his native village in Darbhanga, where he was actively involved in addressing issues

of illiteracy. Later on, he extended support to Viksit Bharat Foundation that was started by Dr Kalam in mid 90's to build scientific temperament among school students, especially in rural pockets through Mobile Science Laboratory (MSL). During his first visit to Darbhanga on December 31, 2005, Kalam had advised Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar to take Verma's help for Bihar's development.



## 14-day quarantine mandatory for people coming to Odisha from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 4: The State government today made 14-day quarantine mandatory for people returning from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The decision to impose mandatory quarantine for people coming from both the states was taken after virulent variant of Covid-19 is in

people in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. An order in this regard was today published by the office of the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC). Collectors of Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur have been directed to put Border Check Posts (BCP) on all inter-state roads

(NH, state roads and local roads) along Andhra Pradesh and Telangana border with immediate effect. The district administrations have also been asked to ensure border tracking for all the major and minor entry points for incoming people from states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana adjoining their districts.

## Amway India bolsters the spirit of entrepreneurship among women

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 4: In its endeavor to empower women and to build a strong gig economy ecosystem in the country, Amway India one of the country's leading FMCG Direct Selling companies announced the successful completion of the first phase of project Nari Shakti. Launched last year, project Nari Shakti is part of Amway's 10-year growth vision, with a clear focus on supporting women to unleash the spirit of entrepreneurship. Initiated in the East region, project Nari Shakti is aimed at bringing Amway's women Direct Sellers to the forefront by enhancing their existing skills to run their Amway businesses independently. The project gave women an opportunity

to own and operate their businesses while exploring their passions around fitness, healthy living, cooking, or beauty among others. Commenting on this initiative, Mr. Chandra Bhushan Chakraborty, Senior VP - East & West region, Amway India, said, "We believe that women entrepreneurs are key to our future in India and we are committed to fostering an environment of growth by offering opportunities for women to realize their full potential. We initiated project Nari Shakti with the objective of providing a platform to women to explore their true potential and hone their talents. As the first phase of the project successfully concludes, we're thrilled to have contributed towards helping



women gain the confidence to become independent business owners. Through a series of training workshops, project participants were able to increase sales and engagement through digital and social media platforms by building online communities, thereby accelerating social commerce. Since the launch, Amway India witnessed that not only did a significant number of women grow their business digitally, but a majority also increased their revenue. Additionally, almost all participants conducted training sessions to further empower

women in their teams. "During this first phase, we also conducted an interactive feedback session to map the project's progress and impact. It is heartening to see that all participants appreciated Amway India's efforts to support them and also shared their interest areas and skills they would like to learn, especially around social selling," he added. In the past few months, Amway India has hosted multiple training sessions and workshops under the project, ranging from best business practices, product trainings to usage of various business tools and social com-

merce. The project participants were mentored by senior women Amway Direct Sellers from the East region - Ms. Sunita Kumari, Ms. Saswati Dasgupta, Ms. Pratima Payal Singh, Ms. Mahua Ghosh, Dr. Jayshree Rath and Ms. Sagarika Chakraborty. Amway initiated project Nari Shakti with select women direct sellers from East India to empower and train them and intends to further extend it to other women direct sellers across regions in the coming months. Over the years, aligned with its core philosophy to empower women by providing them the right platform, Amway India has been consistently investing in upskilling women through multiple online and offline trainings and workshops.

## Experts advise Odisha government to use lockdown properly to control transmission of COVID

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 4: As 14-day lockdown comes into force from Wednesday, health experts called upon the government to utilise the period optimally by strengthening its strategy of prevention and control as per the current situation and planning for future with lessons learnt in the past. Additional Pro-

fessor of Community Medicine and Dean (Research) of AIIMS-Bhubaneswar Dr Binod Kumar Patro said all testing sites should be supplemented with pulse oximeter for monitoring oxygen saturation and respiratory rate along with sample collection by trained allied health professionals to identify patients requiring

immediate attention. "All patients who have provided samples for rapid antigen test must be informed about the result within 30 to 60 minutes. This will help in reducing the transmission of infection between the sample collection and result period. A 48-hour sample turnaround time for RT-PCR shall be optimal in the districts which do not

have the facility while in districts where RT-PCR testing is being done, a 24-hour turnaround time needs to be explored," he stressed. Stating that microbiological test (RT-PCR) is still the gold standard for diagnosis of Covid-19, Dr Patro said, "The success of tuberculosis control has been attributed to microscopic diagnosis. The same pro-

cedure has to be emphasised among the health practitioners and general public." The community medicine expert said all Covid treatment centres set up during the first wave of the pandemic should immediately be re-activated and a real time information system be put in place for admission and referral of patients.

## Check Price Rise & Black Marketing : Samajwadi Party Writes To C.S.

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 4: Due to Lockdown tomorrow till 19th May Panic Buying has started in markets. General Public is rushing to buy essential food items like Rice, Dal, edible oil, Potato and Onion etc. Due to this rush the unscrupulous traders are taking the advantage. They have increased the price of few food items like edible oil, tea and sugar. In some markets news coming that there is no potato and onion. Artificial hoarding as

already started and prices have gone up. Samajwadi Party Odisha State Committee President Mr. Rabi Behera has written a letter to Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra, IAS to check prices of essential food items and edible oils and stop black marketing of onion and potato. In his letter Mr. Behera has also told people in the market places, bus stands and Railway Stations are not abiding by the Corona guidelines. Govt. should take tough action in this regards urged Mr. Behera.

## Refrain from panic buying: Pleads Odisha Special Relief Commissioner



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 4: Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) PK Jena on Monday appealed people to refrain from panic buying and overcrowding shops ahead of the Statewide lockdown starting from May 5. The SRC said shops selling grocery items, fish, vegetables, milk, food and other essential commodities would remain open from 6 am to 12 noon from Monday to Friday. Stating there is sufficient stock of essential commodities, the SRC said transportation of food items and other goods is also continuing. "Supply of essential items will continue unabated. There is no

need for panic buying. Going to crowded places will infect you and ultimately your family", he said and added such behaviour will defeat the purpose of the lockdown. Jena said Aahaar centres across Odisha will remain open during the lockdown for takeaways only. Under the Aahaar scheme of the State government, cooked meals are sold to the poor and needy people at an affordable `5 per person. The SRC said educational institutions managed by the Central government like IITs, IIMs and others will be allowed to keep their hostels open with strict adherence to Covid protocols.

## Lack of coupe management erodes away bamboo forest from Odisha

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 4: Bamboo forest contributes about 30 percent of Odisha forest with dense patches of green grown bamboos. Now, a small patch of bamboo forest is rarely seen in the protected sanctuaries. Lack of coupe management erodes away bamboo forests from the environment of Odisha. Bamboo forests were seen in large tracts of forests of Odisha except Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Nawarangpur districts. It occupied about 17,792 Sq. Kms. in miscellaneous forests and 374 sq. Km as pure bamboo forest. Hilly districts situated in the moist area of springs and rivers contained the most common Bambusa bamboos in plenty. Other forests were also enriched with other four Indian com-

mon bamboos including Nutan, Vulgaris, Tulda and D-strictus species. Forest bamboo in Odisha was managed and exploited to meet the need of the paper mills. Long term leases were granted to the paper mills till 1st October 1988. In the mean time, bamboo was nationalized to be harvested and marketed by the state authorities. Accordingly almost 98 percent of bamboo extracted from the state forests were being supplied to paper mills. The Titagarh Paper Mill, Kolkata and the Orient Paper Mill managed to propagate and harvest bamboos from the forest on long term lease. The other bamboo patches were being managed by the forest department and the harvested bamboos were being utilized for domestic uses. On a regular



basis, the forest sectors with dense resources of bamboos were groomed with caring the bamboo clumps. New culms were being taken care of in the rainy season recouping the dried stumps out. In the secondary stage, they were being protected from felling with stone made walls. In case of scarcity of rocks in a certain coupe, logs of wood are put around the new clump in order to straighten the new culms. Meanwhile, two major bamboo consum-

ers, the Orient Paper Mill and the Titagarh Paper Mill shut down in 2001. As a result, bamboo sector of Odisha forest including Purunakote and Raigoda Range in Angul, Jhandatopha Range in Athmallik Forest Division could not be maintained as before. No regular bamboo harvest was also undertaken from that sector for years. At the same time, the forest department cancelled the permit of villagers to collect firewood and dry bamboos from the nearest forest. As

a result, bamboo forest grew wild, flowered and vanished after years. On the other hand, Odisha Bamboo Development Agency and the Forest Sector Development wing could not invest working capital to develop bamboo coupes due to loss of revenue. While, the state exchequer was getting Rs 23.55 million for 3.45 million tons of bamboos in early eighties, it reduced to almost zero in the fiscal year 2001-02 and touched Rs 0.7 million in 2002-03.

## HC withdraws Drop-Box method, E-Filing is must

(A.O. Bureau) Cuttack, May 4: As a preventive measures against Corona, the Orissa High Court has issued fresh guidelines on filing of new cases. E-Filing system has been made mandatory instead of drop-box method which was notified earlier. Registrar, Administration has issued fresh notice in this connection on Monday. As per the notification,



clients can file cases through e-mail, telegram, WhatsApp and other digital applications without coming near the drop-box. On the other hand, Court work amid the summer vacation will be performed on virtual mode with optimum number of indispensable human resources. At the same time, the High Court dispensary will remain operational.

## Regular 'Mo Bus' Service To Remain Suspended During Lockdown Period

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 4: The Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT), which operates 'Mo Bus' service in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Puri cities of the State, today announced regular city bus service will remain suspended from May 5, 2021 to May 19, 2021. The move came after the

Odisha government announced a state-wide lockdown from May 5-19, 2021 to prevent the spread of deadly Covid-19 virus. The CRUT, however, stated in order to facilitate the movement of incoming passengers, 'Mo Bus' service will be provided for Cuttack and Khordha from railway station.

Similarly, shuttle service will be available from the Biju Patnaik International Airport to railway station. The CRUT added no standing of passengers will be allowed in the restricted number of city buses during the lockdown period. Besides, mask has been made mandatory for the passengers.

## EDITORIAL

## Crunch time

The Centre must plan meticulously before it agrees to the SC's advice for another lockdown. Devastated by COVID-19's second wave, the nation is anxiously looking for solutions but seemingly can't find any. The Prime Minister, who had last year announced a hard lockdown, is now advocating a "micro-containment" strategy while the Supreme Court recently asked the Centre to consider imposing another lockdown. But considering the ferocity of the second wave — the exponential rise in cases, mounting death toll, shortage of medical oxygen, vaccines and hospital beds — and the loss of crucial time in the conduct of the Assembly elections and the Mahakumbh, the moot question is: Would another lockdown help contain the infection? There has been no significant improvement in Delhi even after a two-week lockdown — now extended for a third week — as the positivity rate continues to be alarmingly high. Further, even if a pan-India lockdown is imposed as a knee-jerk reaction to the court's suggestion, its impact on breaking the transmission chain is debatable. There's no doubt, however, that it would be a death blow to millions of underprivileged citizens already facing an existential crisis. We have seen how the hapless migrant workers again rushed back home from big cities fearing a lockdown, even before it was announced. It is the duty of the Centre to make adequate arrangements for the return of these workers if it plans to enforce another lockdown. It must ensure that these people are not stuffed into trains or buses like last year because that would be another super-spreader. A reasonable period, at least two weeks, must be allowed for their safe return before the lockdown is effected. The Government should also transfer some funds via the DBT schemes into their bank accounts. Also, with the Supreme Court observing that no person shall be denied hospitalisation for lack of identity proof, the Centre must now consult States and formulate a national policy within two weeks. The situation is already out of hand and the entire population must be vaccinated as early as possible. With vaccine shortage and an uneven pricing policy haunting the States, getting the desired outcome from the inoculation drive is easier said than done. With reports that the second wave may hit its peak between May 11-16 before declining by May end, we must be prepared for the worst.

## Emphatic victory

It's a classic case of "glass half full" battle of jibes for both the BJP backers and their critics. For the supporters of the saffron outfit, the victory in Assam and Puducherry and the massive rise in both the vote percentage and the number of seats in West Bengal are a reflection of the BJP's unmatched electoral management and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity. The saffron baiters have their own arguments. They contend that the BJP's victory against the Congress in Assam was predictable because the latter is no more a potent political force. Similarly, in Puducherry, it's the personal victory of All India NR Congress (AINRC) leader N Rangasamy and the BJP has merely benefited from the alliance. But in Bengal, where the real battle of 2021 took place, the BJP came a cropper. After all, it had thrown in everything it had in its ever-growing kitty of resources — political, financial and others. The Prime Minister himself addressed 18 rallies and Home Minister Amit Shah held dozens of massive road shows. Several other Chief Ministers, MPs, MLAs and party president JP Nadda camped in Bengal for months together and tried to create the necessary media buzz to defeat the TMC in the psychological space. Coincidentally, several initiatives of the CBI and the I-T department against the TMC leaders also came in handy for the BJP. Mamata and her supporters also kept alleging that the Election Commission was acting as a player rather than an arbiter. On the other hand, Mamata got little support from the anti-BJP bandwagon. Though the Congress-Left alliance threatened to cut into her Muslim votes, a few erstwhile UPA leaders came in to campaign for her. Devoid of any serious policy and programme narratives, the campaign became highly personalised with Modi greeting Mamata with "Didi o Didi" catcalls and the TMC supremo hurling the choicest invectives at Shah. The BJP lost the plot when it focused more on damning Mamata than advancing its core political agenda. The Bengali-identity politics turned out to be far more assertive and lethal for the BJP which didn't realise that Lord Ram would not threaten a woman who epitomised goddess Durga for millions of Bengalis. In fact, the more the BJP leaders ridiculed Mamata, the more sympathy she drew from the people of the State. The presence of a leader who could give a face to identity politics cost the saffron party in a big way. Most of the borrowed players — described as "rotten eggs" by Prashant Kishor — were seen as opportunists even by the BJP's own supporters. It's obvious that any cadre-based party can't assimilate such an overnight influx without alienating a section of its own supporters. The lesson for the BJP is loud and clear: Wherever the party is pitched against sa-traps, it would need to focus more on local issues and identity politics. The record of the last seven years shows that the BJP has not been successful in winning against powerful regional players in the State-level elections.

## Ignoring the warning signs

We were wilfully unprepared for this tsunami of an outbreak of COVID-19, though the telltale marks were all in plain sight. Anybody who has seen videos of the horrific 2004 tsunami that killed an estimated quarter of a million people, and there are several of these on YouTube, might have noticed in some videos that as much as 10-15 minutes before the tsunami actually hit the shore, water had started withdrawing from the beach. The students of middle-school geography will remember that it is taught as a classic warning sign of an impending tsunami; and we are actually taught at a very early age that one needs to find higher ground in such a situation. This lesson is redoubled in many coastal areas. Maybe some people did seek shelter when they noticed this, many did not. Yes, the tsunami might have gotten many of those who escaped anyway; it was so devastating that running away could do only so much. But even if it saved a few lives, the lessons in school would have been worth it. That was a real tsunami, what we have in India right now is not a second wave of COVID-19 infections. We have an overwhelming tsunami of COVID-19 infections and, in Delhi and in many other cities across India, the healthcare system is overwhelmed. We know that at least 3,500 people are dying every day, at least in official statistics. India is inching up to 2,50,000 deaths and almost every family in Delhi at least knows either a loved one or a close friend who has died from the Coronavirus Tsunami. While the authorities now struggle with managing the



Kushan Mitra

situation, we have to start taking into account as to why we all ignored the warning signs. And these were there. These were there for all of us to see and read about in the news. We knew there was a deadly new British variant doing the rounds; we knew that there was a new "double mutant" variant. Even with limited testing, we knew that there were hotspots emerging in and around Mumbai and Pune. But instead of herding people to a higher ground and safety, like we should have if this were a real tsunami, we were mesmerised and walked into the exposed seafloor, trying to pick up coral and seashells. We travelled to Goa, crowded planes and airports and instead of managing travel from hotspots like the United Kingdom, or even domestic travel, we "celebrated" the rising numbers of air passengers through tweets. Instead of restricting air travel, either within India, from India or into India, we allowed hundreds of people

to come in likely carrying new and exotic variants of the virus. The world, however, is scared of the new variants emerging from India and has pretty much closed its doors to India. Some of us had read about the sudden rise in cases in Brazil, starting with the Amazonian city of Manaus and spreading across that South American country, and wondered whether India too could see such a tremendously debilitating tsunami of cases. Instead, we were told stories of Indian exceptionalism, how India had beaten back the virus and taking a cue from our leaders, across fields from politics to sports, we all let our guard down. Instead of understanding why India was spared the "full" impact of the original Coronavirus, we rolled out a gradual vaccine programme and indeed made a song and dance about exporting millions of vaccines abroad. Nothing against India's generosity to the world,

but maybe here following a more selfish American philosophy might have ensured that more people in India were vaccinated and the death toll from this outbreak might have been less. Yes, a large majority of those who have died were elderly and had led full lives, and while many of them might have died in this tsunami also, the issue is that a large number of people who died need not have died had the arrangements for more beds and oxygen been made earlier. Yes, the system might still have been overwhelmed, meaning that those who caught the disease early benefited from more resources but if the special COVID-19 hospitals in Delhi and Mumbai had been established a week earlier, if a proper logistical programme had been thought out for oxygen transport a month earlier, many lives might have been saved. The Government is going around tommorrowing India's "low" COVID-19 Fatality Rate; in fact, with a bit of planning and organisation, it could have been lower still. The fact of the matter is that we saw the warning signs but chose to ignore these; we all bought into the story of Indian exceptionalism. We blithely chose to ignore what was happening elsewhere in the world and believed that once we all start getting vaccinated, things will get even better. We went ahead and planned for massive religious functions like the Mahakumbh, we had parties on Holi and we put ourselves at risk. We ignored the warning signs, even though these were in plain sight for all of us to see. No wonder, now we find ourselves drowning in a tsunami.

## DMK won TN polls, but only just. It must be smart about coalition partners

Kannan Sundaram

The DMK has returned to power in Tamil Nadu after 10 years in opposition. The party's main ideological adversary, the BJP, has been stopped in its tracks. While the cadre broke into spontaneous celebrations despite COVID-19 restrictions, party intellectuals were largely silent, breaking it only to hail Mamata Banerjee's grand victory in West Bengal! Murmurs in DMK circles about the wisdom of handing over the election strategy to a north Indian Brahmin, Prashant Kishor, were audible early on. Kishor is now blamed for failing to lead the party to a 200-plus seat victory — the DMK alliance won only 158 out of a total of 234 states in the assembly. For several decades now, the Tamil intellectual class has been partisan towards the DMK. Several independent commentators and centrists threw their weight behind the DMK this time largely because of their desire to keep the BJP out of Tamil Nadu. The media space, including the social media, barring the limited number of pro-BJP voices, has almost become an echo chamber, and somewhat out of step with the public mood. In the assembly elections of 2006, 2011 and 2016, their predictions were in favour of the DMK. Despite the rout of the ruling AIADMK in the 2004 general elections, the DMK could form only a minority government in 2006, winning only 96 seats out of a total 234. In 2011, the DMK lost even the opposition party status winning only 10 per cent of the total seats. In 2016,

it was predicted that the party would form the government. However, it lost the polls. Since the late 1990s, the BJP has almost always been in an electoral alliance with both the DMK or AIADMK. On its own, the party has found it tough to save its deposit. It was in alliance with the DMK (2001) that the BJP first won four seats in Tamil Nadu assembly. After a two-decade hiatus, the BJP has entered the assembly with the support of the AIADMK, but the seat tally is the same despite its near-total dominance of national politics. However, the BJP has provided interesting twists in TN politics. Murugan is to Tamil Nadu what Kali is to West Bengal. A few years ago, a Periyarist group called the Karuppar Kootam (black crowd) launched a campaign against Murugan. Tamil Nadu was familiar with such acts by rationalists and the devout take it in their stride. But with the rise of Hindutva and the ripples it has produced even in Tamil Nadu, the response was different. Besides, Murugan was seen as a Tamil God. So, the response was swift and furious. The DMK disassociated itself from the group. The members of the group were arrested and imprisoned, freedom of expression be damned. The BJP seized this opportunity to brand DMK yet again as an anti-Hindu party. Instead of taking this insinuation head-on from its professed rationalist ideological position, the DMK caved in. On the campaign

trail, DMK leaders posed with a Vel, the divine spear that Lord Murugan holds. When K Veeramani, the leader of the Dravidar Kazhagam, the organisation of Periyar, hit the campaign trail, some DMK candidates, keen not to be seen as associating with an organisation perceived as anti-Hindu, were conspicuous by their absence. The BJP, too, discovered that they could not garner votes in Tamil Nadu in Modi's name. As the campaign progressed, Modi's images on posters and graffiti were replaced by those of Jayalalithaa and MGR. The outgoing chief minister, Edappadi K Palaniswami, has many reasons to be happy even in his defeat. In this election, he seemed more keen on holding the party together than winning the polls. He did not try to build up a large alliance: In fact, he let demanding allies such as the DMK and Puthiya Thamizhakam walk out of the alliance and refused to tie up with the AMMK — the breakaway Sasikala faction of the AIADMK — despite pressure from the BJP. The AMMK was wiped out in the polls. OPS (O Panneerselvam), his rival who often worked at cross purposes in the party, now stands on a weak wicket. Palaniswami has now emerged as the leader of the AIADMK. As was widely predicted, the AIADMK's decision to align with the BJP cost the party. It was not an alliance the party

wished to engage in for electoral gains — after the rout in 2004, Jayalalithaa had ruled out any alliance with the BJP. The AIADMK was very much aware that the alliance would hurt its prospects. It was a forced marriage with the central government breathing down its neck as the struggle to hold the party together post Jayalalithaa was in progress. The alliance with the PMK, an anti-Dalit party, did not work — for both the AIADMK and PMK. It bodes well for Tamil Nadu politics that the PMK has been limited to five seats. Within the DMK front, there has been an unexpected development. For the first time, the allies can boast of a better strike rate than the DMK and even bigger victory margins. In 2004, the DMK joined the UPA and cornered big ministries in the Manmohan Singh government. It was repeated in 2009. However, when the DMK formed a minority government with Congress support in Tamil Nadu in 2006, it refused to share power. This time, the Congress has won 18 of the 25 seats it contested, and another ally, the VCK, has won four of the six seats it contested. A coalition government of the DMK, Congress, VCK and the communist parties would be a watershed moment for Tamil Nadu politics. If the DMK refuses to invite them to join the government, they may prefer to sit in the opposition benches. The DMK, which has a small majority of seven seats (and eight others who won on a DMK symbol), has to make an intelligent choice.

## Rayagada Journalists Vaccinated Today

(A.O. Bureau) Rayagada, May 4: Chief Minister Mr. Naveen Pattnaik declared the journalists as the frontline warriors. Today dated Tuesday, May 4th, 2021, the Superintendent of Police Mr. Vivekanand Sharma inaugurated a separate vaccination center to

provide vaccines for the Frontline Warriors (Journalists) at Ashok Kalyan Mandap, Rayagada. The vaccination was done following all the covid norms, wearing masks and maintaining social distance. Superintendent of Police Mr. Vivekanand Sharma, District Collector Mr

Saroj Kumar Mishra and PD DRDA Maheshwar Chandra Nayak were present at the vaccination center and urged the journalists to take proper care during the news coverage following the covid protocols keep social distance, wear masks during this tough pandemic time.



## PPT & State's Former Volleyball Player Pradipta Samantray Passes Away

(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, May 4: Paradip Port Trust (PPT) and Odisha state's former volleyball player Pradipta Kumar Samantray (67) popularly known as Khoki bhai passed away in Paradip on Monday. He was undergoing treatment for cancer. He is survived by wife Nirupama Samantray and two sons. Late Samantray represented the PPT volleyball team for 20 years as a player since 1980. He also represented the Odisha state volleyball team in 1990 to participated in



the Guwahati national volleyball tournament. For his athletic, amicable and friendly personality, he was a well known figure in the sports field over the

state including Paradip. On his sad demise, a condolence meeting was organised by Gopabandhu Krida Sansad (GKS) of PPT in the premises of

Gopabandhu stadium on Tuesday adhering all COVID-19 protocols. GKS president Dharmendra Nath Sondhi, working president Dr. Durga

Prasad Sethy, sports advisor Rabintra Kumar Das, treasurer Rudra Narayan Mishra, secretary Ranjan Rashmi Beura, senior volleyball coach Sanjay Kumar Das and many sports personalities were present and participated in the condolence program. Similarly, ex municipal chairperson Basanta Biswal, businessman Mayadhar Rout, former volleyball player Nakul Behera, Kalandi Nath, Sudarshan Pattnaik, Sasanka Acharya and others were condoled to the sad demise of late Samantray.

## Inpr Bhabananda Pradhan joined as Incharge jarda police station today



(A.O. Bureau) Jarada, May 4: Inpr Bhabananda Pradhan joined Jarada police station as IIC today. Mr. Pradhan was in charge of the DPO at the headquarters of the Berhampur SP

office. Mr. Pradhan is a very desent and public friendly officer. Mr. Pradhan told to all the staffs of jarada PS try to make a plan How there a relationship between the general public and the

police is very convinient. Today in the occasion of joining at Jarada police station as incharge of that PS he request People should not take the law into their own hands under any circumstances

they inform to the police if any criminal activity occurs. The police will always work for the service and convenience for the people. While joining Shri Pradhan police station today, all the officers and

staff along with some intellectual deligates with some local dignities of the Jarada and Patrapur area welcomed him with a bouquet of flowers. Mr. Mrityunjaya Swain who is currently working as IIC jarada has been transferred as IIC to Chikiti Nuagaon Police Station, where as he is also a highly skilled police officer. While the moment taking charge today, Mr. Pradhan thanked Sri Pinak Mishra H'nble SP of Berhampur Zilla police and said that he would try the level best work for the people to protect his faith and work for controlling the crime.

## Covid Awareness Chariot inaugurated by Dist Admin, Trade Union & UJA MKG



(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 4: The district administration, trade unions and the Utkal Journalists' Association inaugurated the corona Awareness chariot at Subashbosh Chowk in Malkangiri Sadar sub-division. Malkangiri Additional District Magistrate Birsen Pradhan was the chief guest. PD DRDA Bal Mukund Bhuiyan, Sub collector Rameshwar Pradhan, District Chief Medical Officer Dr Praful Kumar Nanda, Tahsildar Dr Gunanidhi Nayak, Adarsh ??Police Station Officer Ram Prasad Nag, Trade Union President suresh kumar Somani were present as the distin-

guished guests and flagged off the green flag. The UJA President sri Duryadhan patra conducted the programme. the Utkal Journalists' Association is planning to travel to various rural villages in seven blocks of Malkangiri district to raise awareness among the people, with masks and hand-washing soaps. sanitising social distancing There is also a month-long tour of all the blocks, panchayats and villages in the district. At the event, guests and members of the public at Subash Bose Chowk closed the event by wearing masks on their faces, observing the rules of covid, and maintaining social distance.

## Van Dhan Yojana, A Way To Secure Livelihoods Of Tribals In Odisha

(A.O. Bureau) New Delhi: As a part of TRIFED's "Sankalp se Siddhi" - Village & Digital Connect Drive, teams (comprising officials from TRIFED and State Implementation Agencies/ Mentoring Agencies/ Partners) have been visiting villages to activate and understand the status of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras. The visits are taking place across the country and have helped Team TRIFED to oversee the ground-level implementation of the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras. A state where the implementation of the Van Dhan Yojana is gaining quick ground is Odisha.



With 660 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras, subsumed into 22 Van Dhan Vikas Kendra Clusters, more than 6300 tribals are being positively impacted in the state. Over the past few months, training, procurement of machinery required for processing, branding and packaging has been going on in these clusters which are spread

across the state in Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Rayagada, Sundergarh and Koraput. Production and processing of raw materials by the tribals has commenced earlier this month. In Mayurbhanj district, tribal beneficiaries in three clusters, Luguburu VDVKC, Maa Dharithri VDVKC and Bhimakund VDVKC will work on

processing sal leaf, sal seeds, kusum seeds and wild honey to produce plates, cups made of sal leaves, Kusum oil and processed honey. In Keonjhar districts, tribal beneficiaries of the Anchalika Khandadhar VDVKC will process raw mango, mustard and turmeric into Aampapad, mango pickle, turmeric powder and mustard oil. In Ban Durga VDVKC cluster the MFPS which will be value added are tamarind, sal seeds and char seeds to be made into deseeded tamarind, tamarind cake, sal shampoo and packed char seeds. Other value-added products that will be pro-

cessed in the VDVK clusters in the districts of Koraput, Rayagada and Sundergarh include tamarind cake, mahua oil, organic packaged rice, Mahua oil, neem oil, neem cake, deseeded chironji and turmeric powder. Among the many initiatives, TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing to generate employment and income generation among the tribal population is the Van Dhan tribal start-ups programme, a component of the the 'Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) & Development of Value Chain for MFP' Scheme.

## 7 shops in Chhatrapur sealed for Covid-19 norms violation

(A.O. Bureau) Chhatrapur, May 4: Intensifying enforcement against Covid violations, the Chhatrapur NAC officials and police on Tuesday sealed around seven shops, including a private finance company for 15 days. The administration also imposed penalty from the shop owners. According to reports, the local administration today conducted a surprise raid and found that so-



cial distancing was thrown to caution in the markets. Besides, the costumers were found without wearing masks. Earlier the district administration issued notice to shopkeepers

across the town instructing them to follow the Covid norms and adhere to guidelines relating to social distancing. The shopkeepers were warned of legal action if they failed to do so.

## Odisha faces more than 11,000 migrants from outside the state

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 4: The second wave of the corona is in full swing across the country. The death toll is rising at an alarming rate every day. Frightened by this, many expatriate Oriyas are returning to their homes! The state borders of Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are bordering Malkangiri district. Expatriates working in the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are entering Odisha through the motu border. In all, thousands of migrants throng every day. Police, Revenue and Health Department officials were present under the supervision of Motu Tahsildar Shashank Kumar Mishra and left the district after ex-

amining the health of the returning migrants! To date, according to the district administration, 11,170 migrants have arrived in total. Of these, 557 are from Malkangiri district! 4817 are from other districts while 783 are from Bihar. The administration has deployed 13 IRT teams in the district and is focusing on active surveillance. To date, 521 people have been tested for the corona virus, of which 326 have been infected. Among the identified, 25 were from Padia block, 43 from Malkangiri municipality, 35 from Malkangiri block, 12 from Balimela advertised area, 45 from Mathili block, 27 from Chittrakonda block, 31 from Korukonda block, 31 from Kalimela block 54 and from Khairput block. There are 55 people.

## Senior BJD activists Akshay Mahant is died in Carona

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 4: The number of cases of coronary heart disease is on the rise in the tribal-dominated Malkangiri district, a district inhabited by the tribals. A BJD activist died of corona disease while being treated at Covid Hospital. Akshay Mahant, a retired Malkangiri municipality employee and a senior BJD activist, had been suffering from coronary heart disease for the past few days and was being treated at the District Covid Hospital. Fol-



lowing the news of his death yesterday, there was widespread mourning among the district BJD and the towns people. His last rites are

performed amidst the coronation. Today, the BJD party organized a mourning rally in the presence of the late Mohant and offered a

two-minute silent prayer for the well-being of his soul. The late Mohant was a social worker with a true BJD activist, and his untimely death has

cast a shadow of mourning over the city of Malkangiri. The district attorney's office did not give any report or comment regarding his death

## Twinkle Khanna urges fans to donate oxygen concentrators for those in need



Mumbai, May 4: Twinkle Khanna has shared a message, as India battles the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, that many people are 'begging for air'. She asked people to work collectively to procure more oxygen concentrators. Author and former actor Twinkle Khanna shared a message urging fans to donate towards procuring oxygen supplies. She and her husband, actor

Akshay Kumar, recently procured and donated oxygen concentrators as well. On Tuesday, she asked people to work collectively to procure more oxygen concentrators. Taking to Instagram, she posted a video saying, "My day began at 6.30 am, with a school friend messaging me looking for an oxygen cylinder for her grandmother. This is the story across the country, with friends, rela-

tives, and strangers begging for air. This is what we have come to. It's not like these pleas go unanswered. There are people from all walks of life who organise medicines, and oxygen, and hospital beds for people they don't know and are likely to never meet...This is not about you, it's not about me, it's about what we can do collectively. And yeah, I know, these are difficult times, but every

little action, every contribution adds up..." She captioned her post, "Help them breathe When India is gasping for air, every little action matters, every contribution counts. Our first shipment of oxygen concentrators has landed in Delhi this morning and now we need your help to procure more oxygen concentrators largely for hospitals that are still desperately in need. Please go to the link in

my bio for more information and to contribute. A big thank you to @annada\_outreach for joining hands with @daivikfoundation toward this life-saving cause. #helpthembreathe." Last week, Twinkle revealed that she and Akshay have donated 100 oxygen concentrators. Speaking about the donation, Twinkle had said that she was 'in a bit of a hole' in the last few weeks, as the members of her own family were ill. She had urged people 'to do whatever (they) can so we can look back at this bleak moment and at least say it took the worst but it brought out the best in all of us'. Akshay recently recovered from Covid-19 and Twinkle shared the news of his health with her fans in a unique way. She had shared a caricature with her husband and said, "Safe and sound and good to have him back around. #allizwell." Akshay was hospitalised after contracting the coronavirus in April.

## Ryan Reynolds' Maximum Effort signs first-look deal with Paramount

Washington, May 4: No projects were announced, but the Maximum Effort-Paramount deal covers motion picture development for all Maximum Efforts projects, at all budget levels. Hollywood star Ryan Reynolds and his Maximum Effort Productions recently signed a three-year first-look development deal with Paramount Pictures. According to The Hollywood Reporter, this move reteams the actor with many of the key executives that formerly ran 20th Century Fox, Reynolds' home studio of not just his previous deal but also the Deadpool movies that trampled the actor to new heights of stardom. Reynolds launched the banner in 2018 with George Dewey, a former exec in Fox's digital theatrical marketing division. No projects were announced, but the deal covers motion picture development for all Maximum Efforts projects, at all budget

levels. Emma Watts, Paramount's motion picture group president, said in a statement, "Ryan is 100 percent committed to entertaining the audience and works tirelessly to do so. His company is aptly

sights and instincts. Moviegoing deserves a comeback, and we're excited to help make it happen with Jim, Emma and the rest of the Paramount team." Reynolds and Maximum Effort next have



named, and I'm thrilled to have Maximum Effort in the Paramount fold." Reynolds said: "We are so happy the next chapter of Maximum Effort will be written at Paramount. The Deadpool movies would never have happened without Jim Gianopulos and Emma Watts and personally, I've come to rely on Emma's incredible in-

Free Guy, the long-awaited video game adventure made by Fox that Disney, after several delays due to the pandemic, will release August 13. As per the Hollywood Reporter, Maximum Effort recently wrapped production on The Adam Project, a time-travel action movie for Netflix in which Reynolds also stars.

## Single Covid vaccine dose ups protection against variants in previously infected

New Delhi, May 4: The researchers looked at the UK and South Africa variants, however, they think it possible that the findings will apply to other variants in circulation, such as the Brazil (P.1) and India (B.1.617 and B.1.618) variants. A single dose of COVID-19 vaccine boosts protection against SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus variants, but only in those previously infected with the disease, according to a study. The researchers looked at the UK and South Africa variants, however, they

healthcare workers at Barts and Royal Free hospitals following their first dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine. They found that people who had previously had mild or asymptomatic infection had significantly enhanced protection against the Kent and South Africa variants, after a single dose of the mRNA vaccine. In those without prior COVID-19, the immune response was less strong after a first dose, potentially leaving them at risk from variants. "Our findings show that people who

original strain of SARS-CoV-2, as well as the Kent (B.1.1.7) and South Africa (B.1.351) variants of concern. Along with antibodies, the researchers also focused on two types of white blood cell: B-cells, which 'remember' the virus, and T cells, which help B cell memory and recognise and destroy cells infected with coronavirus. They found that after a first dose of vaccine, prior infection was associated with a boosted T cell, B cell and neutralising antibody response, which could provide effective protection against SARS-CoV-2, as well as the Kent and South Africa variants. However, in people without previous SARS-CoV-2 infection, a single vaccine dose resulted in lower levels of neutralising antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 and the variants, potentially leaving them vulnerable to infection and highlighting the importance of the second vaccine dose. It remains unclear precisely how much protection is offered by T cells. The mutations in the Kent and South Africa variants resulted in T cell immunity which could be reduced, enhanced or unchanged compared to the original strain, depending on genetic differences between people. "Our data show that natural infection alone may not provide sufficient immunity against the variants," Boyton said.



think it possible that the findings will apply to other variants in circulation, such as the Brazil (P.1) and India (B.1.617 and B.1.618) variants. The findings, published in the journal Science, show that in those who have not previously been infected and have so far only received one dose of vaccine, the immune response to coronavirus variants of concern may be insufficient. The researchers at Imperial College London, Queen Mary University of London and University College London, looked at immune responses in UK

have had their first dose of vaccine, and who have not previously been infected with SARS-CoV-2, are not fully protected against the circulating variants of concern," said Rosemary Boyton, Professor of Immunology and Respiratory Medicine at Imperial College London, who led the research. "This study highlights the importance of getting second doses of the vaccine rolled out to protect the population," Boyton said. The researchers analysed the blood samples for the presence and levels of immunity against the

## Emily in Paris season 2 begins production across different locations in France

New Delhi, May 4: Emily in Paris is the story of Emily Cooper, a young and ambitious marketing executive from Chicago, who moves to Paris for a social media strategy job. Production is underway on the second season of the dramedy series, Emily in Paris, starring Lily Collins, in France. Netflix has announced. In a press release, the streamer said filming on the project began on Monday in Paris, St Tropez and other locations in France. Emily in Paris follows Collins' Emily, an ambitious 20-something marketing executive from Chicago, unexpectedly lands her dream job in Paris when her company acquires a French luxury marketing company -- and she is tasked with revamping their social media strat-



egy. Her new life in Paris is filled with intoxicating adventures and surprising challenges as she juggles winning over her work colleagues, making friends and navigating new romances. The show hails from creator, writer and executive producer Darren Star, known for Younger and Sex and the City. Collins said it

is an honour to be associated with a project that provided people with some much-needed relief during a trying time when everyone was looking for a reason to smile and laugh. "Not only did playing Emily teach me more about myself, but also about the world around me. I couldn't be happier to be back in

Paris for Season 2 to expand upon those lessons, to continue to grow, and learn even more about this beautiful city and all of its character with Emily," the actor said in a statement. Star said the team is excited to bring more joy to fans as they start production on the new season. "From the beginning we always wanted

to create this beautiful cinematic view of Paris. The timing of the series release was fortuitous for us as everyone around the world was able to become arm-chair travelers and live vicariously through our cast," the creator said. The show also stars Ashley Park, Philippine Leroy Beaulieu, Lucas Bravo, Samuel Arnold, Camille Razat, Bruno Gouery. Kate Walsh, William Abadie and Arnaud Viard feature in recurring roles. Emily in Paris is produced by MTV Entertainment Studios, Darren Star Productions, and Jax Media. In addition to Star, Tony Hernandez and Lilly Burns of Jax Media, and Andrew Fleming serve as executive producers with Collins also serving as producer on the series.

## Vineet Kumar Singh on India's Covid-19 crisis: 'Doing what I can from my end'



Mumbai, May 4: As India struggles with the second wave of coronavirus pandemic, actor Vineet Kumar Singh believes people should come together to help each other rather than indulging in blame game. The 36-

year-old actor, who is recovering from Covid-19 in his home town Varanasi, said right now the focus should be on making the situation in the country better. "It is not the time to blame anyone, it is time to help others.

People can brainstorm (on what went wrong). I am doing what I can from my end," Singh told PTI. "Those who have this responsibility on them must think why, how it all happened and what could have been done (to pre-

vent it). It is time to help others, be empathetic," he added. While the country is seeing a huge crunch in healthcare facilities such as oxygen cylinders, medicines and ICU beds, Singh said social media is playing an important role in bridging the gap between the demand and supply. "I would often hear and see so much negativity on social media but amidst these trying times, we must look at the positive side of the platform where everyone is helping everyone," he added. The Mukkabaaz star said through his team of volunteers he is trying to help as many

people as possible from the confines of his home as he recovers from the disease. "I am not someone who will turn a blind eye to what is happening after my work is done. I can feel and understand the circumstances of people. I am trying my best to help people in whatever way possible. It started with helping one person and then it led to helping others." On the work front, Singh has four films in his kitty -- social drama Aadhaar, producer Manish Mundra's feature directorial debut Siya, Tryst With Destiny, and an untitled Tamil movie.

## Now SRH's Wrddhiman Saha tests positive for COVID, IPL match against MI unlikely



New Delhi, May 4: Now SRH's Wrddhiman Saha tests positive for COVID, IPL match against MI unlikely. Sunrisers Hyderabad's wicketkeeper-batsman Wrddhiman Saha has tested positive for COVID-19 and it is unlikely that his team's IPL game against Mumbai Indians here this evening will go

ahead. The development was confirmed to PTI by a source in the SRH team who also said that the entire squad has gone into isolation. "He had fever and had been in isolation for the past five days. We are also being asked to stay in the room," the source said. This comes after Wednesday's IPL game between Chennai Su-

per Kings and Rajasthan Royals was postponed after CSK bowling coach L Balaji tested positive for the virus. On Monday, the match between Kolkata Knight Riders and Royal Challengers Bangalore was also postponed after KKR bowlers Sandeep Warrier and Varun Chakravarthy tested positive for the infection.

## COVID strikes IPL: CSK-RR clash to be rescheduled due to Balaji's positive report

New Delhi, May 4: The BCCI will reschedule Wednesday's IPL match between Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals here as CSK has been forced into hard quarantine after bowling coach L Balaji tested positive for COVID-19. As per the Board's Standard Operating Procedure, anyone who has come in contact with an infected person has to undergo six days of hard quarantine and return three negative RT-PCR reports during the course of it. "Tomorrow's match at the Arun Jaitley Stadium between CSK and RR will be rescheduled as per SOP rules. As Balaji was in contact with the players, all of them have gone into hard quarantine. They are supposed to be tested everyday,"



a senior BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity. When CSK CEO Kasi Viswanathan was contacted, he said that CSK had informed

BCCI about Balaji's RT-PCR result. "From our end, we had informed that Mr Balaji has tested positive and as per SOP our players have been isolated,"

Viswanathan said. This is the second IPL match to be rescheduled after Monday's Kolkata Knight Riders vs Royal Challengers Bangalore game was postponed owing to a

couple of KKR players - Varun Chakravarthy and Sandeep Warrier -- testing positive. Delhi is hosting Mumbai Indians vs SunRisers Hyderabad clash this evening.

## No charter flight for Aussies at this moment: Hockley



Melbourne, May 4: Cricket Australia currently has no plans to arrange a charter flight to bring its players back home from Covid-19-ravaged India once the IPL gets over, its chief Nick Hockley said on Monday. Hockley insisted that Australian players are feeling safe and secure in the IPL bio-bubble but his comments came before it emerged that two KKR players have tested positive for the dreaded virus. Mumbai Indians batsman Chris Lynn had recently requested Cricket Australia to arrange for a charter flight for Australia players after the tournament concludes on May 30. "There's no suggestion at the moment of any charter flight," Hockley told Melbourne radio station SEN. "We're working closely and talking closely with the Australian Cricketers' Association, with the players and with the BCCI to make

sure everyone's okay and the people have got full information. "We've been in touch with the players there and they are generally in good spirits. The work the BCCI has done around the (bio-secure) bubble means they are feeling safe and secure, and those we've talked to are generally planning to complete their playing commitments." The Cricket Australia boss said they are monitoring the situation and a decision will be made but not immediately. "The BCCI have come out and said they understand and want to support the players in making sure they get home safely at the end. "The tournament doesn't finish until the 30th of May, so for the moment it's monitor the situation and as we get closer to the end of the tournament we'll need to see where the situation is at," he said.

## Balaji's +ve test inside bubble puts Delhi IPL games in fix

New Delhi, May 4: Chennai Super Kings bowling coach Lakshmipathy Balaji testing positive for Covid-19 has left the BCCI in a fix about the next few IPL games in Delhi after postponement of Monday's evening match between Kolkata Knight Riders and Royal Challengers Bangalore in Ahmedabad. While the entire KKR team has gone for a six-day hard quarantine, starting Sunday, after Varun Chakravarthy and Sandeep Warrier returned positive, Balaji, who is a regular feature in the Chennai Super Kings dug-out has gone into isolation after returning with two RT-PCR positives on Monday. "Balaji's positive report is certainly a cause of concern although the CSK players have tested negative. But normally, a lot of people start showing symptoms from the fifth or sixth day. There are discussions whether it is safe to go ahead with the next two matches in Delhi," a senior BCCI

source said. While DCA president Rohan Jaitley told PTI that he hasn't been informed about any re-scheduling, the problem is CSK having played Mumbai Indians last Saturday. "Balaji was in the dug-out and also before and after the match, he interacted with Mumbai Indians players which is natural. Now you can test everyday but just like KKR's match has been postponed, it's prudent if MI's match against SunRisers Hyderabad on Tuesday and CSK's game against Rajasthan Royals on Wednesday is rescheduled," the influential official said. Since KKR team is doing everyday testing with six days of hard quarantine, many believe that the same rule should be applicable for CSK also before they play their next match. In the late development on Monday, Delhi Capitals team was asked to quarantine after two Kolkata Knight Riders players tested positive for the virus.

## Slater leaves IPL bio-bubble, lands in Maldives: Report

Melbourne, May 4: Cricket-turned-commentator Michael Slater has left the IPL's bio-bubble and flown to Maldives after Australia suspended flights from India till May 15 because of the unprecedented rise in COVID-19 cases there. 'The Australian' newspaper reported that Slater has escaped to Maldives after the government made it clear that Australians, who are engaged in the IPL, will have to make their own arrangements to return. It was after reaching Maldives that Slater launched a scathing Twitter attack on Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison for not allowing its citizens to return from India, calling the travel ban a "disgrace". "If our Government cared for the safety of Aussies they would allow us to get home. It's a disgrace!! Blood on your hands PM. How dare you treat us like this. How about you sort out quarantine system. I had



government permission to work on the IPL but I now have government neglect," Slater had tweeted. Morrison said Slater's comments were "absurd". "No, that's obviously absurd. This is about getting more people home safely, preventing the third wave here in Australia," Morrison told the 'Nine Network'. "Every system is going to face its stresses and I'm not going to break the system. What I'm going to do is take proportionate action to protect the system so I can bring more Australians home and keep Australians safe for the longer term," he said. Australia has shut

its borders and not allowing any commercial flights from India because of the massive COVID-19 surge there. India is currently recording over 3 lakh cases everyday and more than 3,000 daily deaths. Threatening a five-year jail term or hefty fine, the Australian government temporarily barred its citizens from entering the country if they happened to be in India within 14 days of their intended arrival. Three Australian players left the IPL before the travel ban came into force. As many as 14 Australian players were competing in the IPL.

## Buoyant Mumbai stand in SRH's slippery path

New Delhi, May 4: Back in the groove after two consecutive wins, defending champions Mumbai Indians will be firm favourites to put it past the turbulence-hit and bottom-placed SunRisers Hyderabad here on Tuesday. Mumbai will enter the game after their four-wicket win over in-form Chennai Super Kings courtesy Kieron Pollard's blitzkrieg. SunRisers, in contrast, suffered a humiliating 55-run loss to Rajasthan Royals, their sixth in seven games this season. Mumbai opens Rohit Sharma (250 runs) and Quinton De Kock (155 runs) would be itching to give the five-time champions another strong



platform and also convert their starts into big scores. Mumbai's hard-hitting middle-order has clicked in the last two games, which would be quite pleasing for the team management. Pollard (168 runs), who blazed his way to a match-winning 87 off 34 balls in the last game, would be keen to continue from where he left. The

likes of Krunal Pandya (100 runs), Hardik Pandya (52 runs) and the flamboyant Suryakumar Yadav (173 runs) can be destructive on their day and the trio would be aiming to fire in unison. However, the Mumbai bowlers would need to forget the hammering received at the hands of the CSK batsmen and start

afresh. The pace duo of Jasprit Bumrah (6 wickets) and Trent Boult (8 wickets) have been exceptional at the death and would pose a big threat to the SRH batting unit, which has been inconsistent at best. Leg-spinner Rahul Chahar (11 wickets) has been the MI's main wicket-taker, but he would need support from Krunal, who has just three scalps. However, there are problems aplenty for SRH. They are over-reliant on their top-order, especially Jonny Bairstow (248 runs), but their middle-order has faltered most often. Against RR, they dropped Warner and opened with Manish

Pandey and Jonny Bairstow, with Williamson coming in at three. If they persist with the same line-up, the three need to fire on all cylinders. Also, the likes of Vijay Shankar (58 runs), Kedar Jadhav (40 runs), Abdul Samad (36 runs) and Mohammed Nabi (31 runs), if he plays, will have to get some runs for the side to have any chance of building a momentum. On the bowling front, star leg-spinner Rashid Khan has been the pick of the bowlers with 10 wickets but pacers Bhuvneshwar Kumar (3 wickets) and Khaleel Ahmed (4 wickets) would need to find their form too.

## Slater lambasts Aus PM



New Delhi, May 4: Cricketer-turned-commentator Michael Slater, who is currently doing commentary in the IPL here, has launched a scathing attack on his country's Prime Minister Scott Morrison for not allowing its citizens to return from Covid-19 hit India,

calling the travel ban a "disgrace". Australia has shut its borders and not allowing any commercial flights from India because of the massive Covid-19 surge here which has led to all the players, support staff and commentators, who might have wanted to leave the IPL in a fix.

"If our Government cared for the safety of Aussies they would allow us to get home. It's a disgrace!! Blood on your hands PM. How dare you treat us like this. How about you sort out quarantine system. I had Government permission to work on the IPL but I now have Government neglect," Slater tweeted. Threatening a five-year jail term or hefty fine, the Australian Government temporarily barred its citizens from entering the country if they happened to be in India within 14 days of their intended arrival.

## Oil Marketing Company Strengthens India's Indigenous Power by Making Alternative Fuels - Dharmendra Pradhan



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 4: The country's oil marketing companies (OMC) are alternative fuels. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's self-confidence was encouraging India's vision by strengthening India's indigenous power. This was stated by Mr. Pradhan on Tuesday at the launch of the first high-speed diesel mixed bio-diesel from cooking oil (UCO) used by Indian Oil's Delhi

Tikrikalan terminal. "Mr Pradhan said the EOI (Expression of Interest) scheme was launched in 2016 to collect bio-diesel produced from cooking oil used on the occasion of World Biofuels Day. "In this regard, the launch of bio-diesel high-speed diesel today is a good step in India's biofuels sector. "This fuel will have a positive impact on the environment. "The move will reduce the supply of indigenous biodiesel, reduce dependence on imports

and create jobs in rural areas. "It simply came to our notice then. Biofuels are one of the four green fuel initiatives being encouraged by the Ministry of Petroleum to look for alternative energy, he said. The Union Minister also lauded the work of oil companies towards sustainable fuel availability even in the difficult times of the Karona epidemic. Oil companies are gaining new milestones in biofuels and are constantly strengthening

- Biodiesel from cooking oil used from Indian Oil's Tikrikalan terminal
- Supply was the beginning "Biodiesel is made from cooking oils used in the EOI scheme
- The production of this fuel will have a positive impact on the environment
- The Ministry of Petroleum is encouraging the search for alternative energy
- Covid strengthens coping by setting up captive oxygen plant in hospital "Oil and gas company
- Praise to oil and gas companies for their continued fuel availability during the epidemic

India's indigenous potential for alternative fuels. "Mr. Pradhan said that oil and gas companies are working day and night to strengthen the country's COVID-16 by setting up captive oxygen plants in hospitals and states as well as working for the progress of the country. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Science and Technology and Surface Science on August 10, 2018 to turn Informable,

Used Cooking Oil (UCO) into biodiesel and create an eco-system for the development of related industries. The Expo of Interest (EOI) was launched to collect bio-diesel produced from cooking oil used on the occasion. To date, Indian Oil has issued 23 LOIs for its biodiesel plant. It has a total capacity of 22.65 crore liters (557.56 tpd). As per the move, Indian Oil had received 51 kL of cooking oil-biodiesel at the Delhi Tikrikalan terminal by March 31 this year.

## Five Pairs Of Special Trains To Be Cancelled For Poor Patronisation & For Restriction Of Corona Virus Infection

(A.O. Bureau) New Delhi, May 4: Due to poor patronization in five Special trains originating from East Coast Railway jurisdiction and keeping in view the surge of Covid19 infection, it has been decided to cancel the services of following trains as mentioned below.  
08417/08418 Puri-Gunupur-Puri Special from Puri w.e.f. 5th May and from Gunupur w.e.f. 6th May, 2021 will remain cancelled till further advice.  
08303/08304 Sambalpur-Puri-Sambalpur Special from both the directions w.e.f. 5th May, 2021 will remain cancelled till further advice.  
08425/08426 Puri-Durg-Puri Special from Puri w.e.f. 5th May and from Durg w.e.f. 6th May, 2021 will remain cancelled till further advice.  
09371/09372 Indore-Puri-Indore Special from Indore w.e.f. 4th May and from Puri w.e.f. 6th May, 2021 will remain cancelled till further advice.  
02204/02203 Secunderabad

May to 2nd June, 2021. This train will provide stoppage at Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam Road, Palasa, Brahmapur, Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, and Bhadrak in ECoR jurisdiction along with impor-

Secunderabad Special from Secunderabad from 3rd to 31st May and from Visakhapatnam from 4th May to 1st June, 2021 will remain cancelled. Special Train Between Secunderabad &



Guwahati: Railways have decided to run a Special Train between Secunderabad & Guwahati. 07030/07029 Secunderabad-Guwahati-Secunderabad Special from Secunderabad will leave at 0730hrs on every Sunday between 9th May to 30th May, 2021. In the return direction, This train from Guwahati will leave at 0645hrs on every Wednesday from 12th

stations between Secunderabad & Guwahati. Apart from this, Railways is running two Special trains towards Danapur from Mysore and Vasco-da-gama. 07313 Vasco-da-gama-Danapur Special will leave from Vasco-da-gama at 1100hrs on 6th May, 2021. Similarly, 06216 Mysore-Danapur Special from Mysore will leave at 1100hrs on 6th May, 2021.

## Suspended IFS officer Abhay Kanta Pathak gets compulsory retirement

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 4: President of India Ram Nath Kovind has approved the compulsory retirement of suspended IFS officer Abhay Kanta Pathak who has been accused in a high profile job scam by the Crime Branch and is in judicial custody since November, 2020. As part of its zero tolerance policy towards corruption, Odisha government had recommended to the Centre in December, 2020 for compulsory retirement of Pathak. The State Vigilance had also charged him for amassing wealth disproportionate to his known sources of income. Official sources said the President of India has approved compulsory retirement of Pathak from service ac-



cepting the recommendation of the State government. Pathak, a 1987-batch IFS officer, was arrested and subsequently suspended from his service after vigilance found that he had allegedly amassed huge property disproportionate to his known sources of income. Subsequently, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik recommended sending the official on compulsory retirement. His son Akash Pathak was accused of conspir-

ing with expelled BJD leader and Gopalpur MLA Pradeep Panigrahy and cheating several job seekers to the tune of crores of rupees on the pretext of employing them with Tata Motors. To dupe the job aspirants, Pathak had allegedly impersonated himself as the MD of the company. The government has so far given compulsory retirement to 118 officials on alleged charges of corruption.

## Dalmia Cement (Bharat) sets up a 15-bed quarantine centre, tightens safety protocols to safeguard its employees from the second wave of Covid-19

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 4: Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Ltd. (DCBL) has recently taken various initiatives to control the spread of coronavirus in and around DCBL's Kapilas Cement Manufacturing Works (KCMW) at Tangi, Cuttack. The company has set up a 15-bedded quarantine centre which is being run by a team of trained doctors and nurses. The company is also conducting maximum RT-PCR/Antigen tests daily to screen all the people. These initiatives are being taken to safeguard the employees of Dalmia Bharat (Cement) from the second wave of Covid-19. The com-

pany has further tightened safety protocols in and around its plant area after a few employees tested positive for COVID-19 during the middle of April 2021. To break the chain of the virus, all plant operations were suspended immediately for a week which was followed by strict precautionary measures. These operations have been restarted with 30% capacity after thoroughly sanitising the plant and its periphery. All these efforts and prudent practices have helped the company to control the spread of the virus. No new positive case has been reported over the past 10 days. "For us, our employees are

our biggest assets and we are very much concerned about their health and safety. Recently after detecting a few positive Covid-19 cases, we immediately stopped all plant operations for a week and followed it up with extensive testing and took other precautionary measures. We have also ensured that the plant is sanitised at regular intervals, set up a quarantine centre, provided special medical assistance to employees, and supplied food packets to the families of Covid positive employees. Fortunately, we have not seen any new positive case since the past 10 days or so and we believe our consis-

tent precautionary efforts will further help us to improve the situation." said Mr. Ramawtar Sharma, Unit Head, Kapilas Cement Manufacturing Works. To further ensure the safety of all employees, the company has formed a special monitoring and supervision team in collaboration with the area hospital Bhagatpur for observing the health of people on a day to day basis. All the positive patients in quarantine centres and home isolation are being supported by this team and are being provided with medicines, food, health advice, and other essential items. The company has made several other provisions

to further curb the spread and control the situation by using PPE kits, installing self-sanitising machines across plants, putting special posters of Do's and Don'ts in the key locations of the plant, setting up thermal screening and ensuring everyone uses a mask and adheres to strict social distancing before entering the plant. Dalmia Bharat Group has also answered the Prime Minister's clarion call and contributed Rs. 25 crores towards the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM-Cares Fund) to assist the government's massive efforts against COVID 19.

## Odisha Samaj UAE Hosts Eleventh Anniversary Celebration

(A.O. Bureau) New Delhi May 4: Odisha Samaj United Arab Emirates (O.S.U.A.E.) hosted a glittering online Ceremony recently to observe its eleventh anniversary and Utkal Divas. Entitled as 'UTSAV', the virtual Festival witnessed the participation of representatives of Odia Samajs in different Countries, prominent non resident Odias and distinguished Odisha lovers from across the Globe. Chief Guest the Speaker of Odisha Legislative Assembly Dr. Surjya Narayan Patro inaugurated the celebration by lighting



the traditional lamp. The participants observed one minute silence in memory of covid victims. Addressing the meeting through video conferencing Dr. Surjya Narayan Patro lauded the efforts of OSUAE in mitigating the multiple miseries faced by migrant labourers, students and distressed

people during covid period. Particularly Dr. Patro had high praise for the office bearers and volunteers of the Samaj, who successfully organised the repatriation of more than 2000 stranded workers from Dubai to Bhubaneswar by hiring chartered flights at the advent of Corona last year. Dr.

Patro appealed to non resident Odias to remain united and extend helping hands to their motherstate Odisha to tackle the unprecedented crisis created by Pandemic. In a video message during the occasion spiritual Guru Dr. Chandrabhanu Satpathy wanted the mankind to arouse self

realisation, scientific prowess, administrative authority and spiritual bliss to get relief from covid calamity. Speaking during the Internet Session the higher education and agriculture Minister of Odisha Dr. Arun Sahoo expressed satisfaction over the unusual and awesome attachment and affection shown by Non Resident Odias towards their motherstate. Dr. Sahoo gave a clarion call to Odia Diaspora worldwide to undertake their solemn duty of giving back the indebtedness they all owe towards their place of Birth at this hour of grave health emergency.

## The district administration sealed off the Bhairavi bar for violating Covid Rules

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 4: The outbreak of the second wave of the Karona epidemic has

Malkangiri Sadar disregarding social distance. After the news reached the district administration and the

spot and sealed off the liquor shop. The state government has announced a shutdown in the state



been so intense that some covid breakers in Malkangiri have been busy queuing up to buy foreign liquor near the bus stand

police administration, Tehsildar Dr Gunanidhi Nayak and Adarsh police officer Ram Prasad Nag reached the

from tomorrow, citing a shortage of alcohol in the coming days so there was que line for purchase foreign liquor.