

AROUND ODISHA

Truth in true form

RNI Regd No: ODIENG/2019/77780

BHUBANESWAR

www.aroundodisha.com

VOLUME - 2

ISSUE - 284

PRICE- Rs.2/-

FRIDAY

07 MAY 2021



Developers of single shot Sputnik Light vaccine say it will be produced in India **2**



Dharmendra Pradhan emphasizes on improving health ... **3**



Lulia Vantur on singing 'Seeti Maar' in Radhe: 'Salman Khan always comes up ...' **6**



COVID-19 positives Hussey and Balaji flown to Chennai in air ambulance **7**

Odisha Govt Sanctions More Funds To 3 Districts For COVID Management



Bhubaneswar, May 6: In view of devastating situation due to COVID-19 in second wave across Odisha, the State Government sanctioned an additional amount of over Rs 7.50 crore to three districts from Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) for COVID management. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik approved sanction of an

additional fund of Rs 7,62,80,692 for Puri, Subarnapur and Sambalpur districts. While an additional fund of Rs 2 crore was sanctioned for Puri district, Rs 1 crore has been sanctioned for Subarnapur district and Rs 4,62,80,692 for Sambalpur district, Chief Minister's Office said in a release today. Earlier, the CM had released an amount of Rs

14,59,74,408 for Puri district, Rs 2.50 crore for Subarnapur district and Rs 11.50 crore for Sambalpur district. With this additional release, Puri district has now received a total amount of Rs 16,59,74,408, Subarnapur district Rs 3.50 crore and total release from CMRF to Sambalpur district has become Rs 16,12,80,692.

Odisha Govt & Bharat Biotech To Setup Vaccine Manufacturing Unit In Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar, May 6: The State Government today announced that construction of a Vaccine Production Unit has started at Andharua on outskirts of Bhubaneswar. Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra directed officials to expedite the construction for commencing production of vaccines by June, 2022. The unit will produce around ten types of advanced vaccines including the vaccine for Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Malaria. The statutory clearances and permissions required for the unit have been granted, said Mahapatra while addressing the State level Bio-Tech implementation committee meeting here today. Secretary, Science and Technology, Manoj Mishra outlined the administrative and financial issues at the meeting. The anchor vaccine unit at Andharua is being set up through Bharat Biotech Interna-

tional Ltd (BBIL). The company has experience in producing improved vaccines against severe rotavirus diarrhea, malaria, Japanese encephalitis, rabies, pandemic influenza and drug-resistant staphylococcus aureus. The proposed unit at Andharua will produce at least ten types of vaccines including malaria and COVID-19 vaccine. The Chief Secretary directed the department to set up a professional directorate of Bio-Technology for having a focused and fastened approach towards incubation and setting up new industries in the sector. Mishra said, "The Government has made provisions for extending different incentives to biotech incubation and startups in shape of the land allotment, exemption of stamp duty, land conversion, training subsidy, capital investment subsidy, interest subsidy etc, under Odisha Biotechnology

Policy of 2018. The extension of subsidies needs to be managed professionally for optimizing the outcomes." "Ease of doing business", the institutional mechanism of IPICOL and Industries department would be authorised to monitor implementation of IDCO has created a State of the Art 'O Hub incubation center' near Infocity, Bhubaneswar. Two floors with around 28 thousand sq ft space can be made available in this center for incubation facilities. It was decided to further develop the center with modern fa-

ilities and house the incubation units of MS & ME, IT and Biotechnology in the same building so as to create an advanced and mutually-boosting ecosystem of incubation. Mahapatra directed to decide the reasonable time period of extension of benefits like subsidized accommodation and other

facilities in the incubation center for one unit. Startups in Odisha are doing well and many of them have already acquired patent of their innovations. As of now around 775 startups are operating in various incubation centers out of whom around 65 incubates have acquired patent, trade mark and copy writ etc. Around 75 startups are incubating in biotech and health sector. Development Commissioner PK Jena, Additional Chief Secretary Forest and Environment Dr Mona Sharma, Principal Secretary Industry Hemant Kumar Sharma, Principal Secretary Finance Ashok Kumar Meena, Principal Secretary Energy Nikunja Bihari Dhal, Principal Secretary MS&ME Satyabrata Sahu, along with senior officers and industry representatives participated in the meeting.



these subsidies till operationalization of a dedicated professional directorate of Biotechnology. Around Rs 15 crore has been allocated under the 'Fund of Funds' of MS&ME department for providing equity support to the incubating units in Biotechnology sector. IDCO CMD, Sanjay Singh said

Thunderstorm Alert Issued For 16 Odisha Districts

Bhubaneswar: The Regional Meteorological Centre has issued thunderstorm warning for as many as 16 districts of Odisha today. "Thunderstorm with lightning and gusty surface wind speed reaching 30-40 kmph very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Rayagada,



Gajapati, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara and

Jagatsinghpur," the Meteorological Centre forecasted. Light to moderate rain or thunder-

shower very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Malkangiri, Koraput,

Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Gajapati, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and at one or two places over the rest districts of Odisha, it said. Temperature Forecast: No large change in maximum temperature (day temperature) during next 3-4 days and gradually rise by 2-3 degree Celsius thereafter over the districts of Odisha.

Ajit Singh, former union minister and RLD chief, dies of Covid-19

New Delhi, May 6: Rashtriya Lok Dal chief and former union minister Ajit Singh passed away on Thursday after losing battle to Covid-19, his son Jayant Chaudhary confirmed on Twitter. He was 82. Singh was undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Gurugram after been diagnosed with the infection. Ajit Singh was a seven-time Member of Parliament from Bahgat, and served as Union Minister for Civil Aviation, Agriculture, and Food Processing Industries in different gov-



ernments. He had served in the governments of VPSingh, PV Narasimha Rao, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh. Ajit Singh, the son of former prime minister Chaudhary Charan Singh, quit the computer industry to

return to India and join politics. He became a Rajya Sabha member in 1986. Expressing grief, PM Narendra Modi tweeted, "Singh was always devoted to the interests of the farmers. He efficiently discharged the responsibilities of several departments at the center. My condolences to his family in this hour of mourning." Many political leaders, including Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah, also expressed their condolences.

SC asks Centre to prepare for third Covid wave, create buffer of medical oxygen

New Delhi, May 6: The Supreme Court Thursday asked the Centre to start preparing for the third wave of coronavirus pandemic by creating a buffer stock of medical oxygen. "We may enter stage three and if we prepare today, we may be able to handle it. Whatever stocks procured

Chandrachud as saying during the hearing of Centre's response to non-compliance of its direction to supply 700 MT of oxygen to Delhi. "What is the problem in enhancing the supply (of oxygen)? If it's not required then it can be stored. But then it can be said that there is no need

ter, said the third wave of Covid-19 was "inevitable" given the high levels of the circulating virus and that they couldn't predict a time frame for it. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, told the court that it has ensured a supply of 730 MT to Delhi for treating Covid-19 patients. He also submitted a detailed plan to the court on the procurement and supply of oxygen to various states. The SG argued that if the Centre supplies 700 MT of oxygen to Delhi then they will have to take it from some other state's share. "If there is an adverse consequence then we can't be held responsible because of someone else's incompetence," he said.



needs to be sent to the hospitals. It's not about allocating it to the state but also the logistics to see that it is distributed to hospitals," Bar and Bench quoted Justice

for oxygen panic. This will be a buffer for Delhi," he added. His remark comes a day after Dr K V Vijay Raghavan, the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Prime Minis-

Orissa High Court for decentralisation of power in education

Cuttack, May 6: The Orissa High Court has called for greater decentralisation of powers and active involvement of local communities and panchayats to ensure the required attention to elementary education in the State. The Court said the involvement of local communities and panchayats is imperative because the purpose is not only to have funds but also to spend them most honestly and gainfully with effective administrative measures along with academic reforms. Justice BR Sarangi said, "Children in elementary schools should be our first concern. When the base is weak, everything remains weak in later years. In half-hearted primary education, all efforts to reform sec-



ondary or higher education will prove to be futile exercise." "Unfortunately, the authorities of the system do not seem to realise this natural phenomenon, because, they themselves have no stakes in this system. They follow for their wards the 'other' system of public and model schools which often has a sound basis. However, for the general run of the people, the only resort is the prevalent system run by different authorities, who swim

or sink in it", Justice Sarangi observed. "Now, the authorities are shedding crocodile tears to have a primary education in mother tongue, but they are granting permission in free hands for establishment and recognition of institutions in other medium, which may be a reason for reduction of students' strength in the existing schools", he said. "As it appears, Delhi government has taken drastic steps to uplift primary schools in

the Union Territory and that is the best example for other states to follow, so as to keep elementary education accessible to each child having the minimum infrastructure available in the locality", he added. The observation came on Tuesday in a 102-page judgment in which Justice Sarangi quashed the School and Mass Education department's notification on merger of schools with low students roll strength with bigger schools. Justice Sarangi said, "As it appears, in the State of Odisha, many categories of teachers exist - confirmed teachers, unconfirmed teachers, ad-hoc teachers, tenure teachers, teachers on contractual basis, volunteer teachers, and so on. No other kind of em-

ployees or workers has such divisions. This clearly indicates the extent of regard the planners and policy makers have for education. So the teaching profession is to be taken as a full-time job." "Earlier, ET and Certified Teacher (CT) training teachers with less qualification were being appointed and they got their institutional commitment. But, now appointments are being made to different categories of teachers with multifarious activities and utilising them with a paltry sum of money. Consequentially, the objectives are not being achieved. This may be one of the reasons for reduction of strength of a particular school. But this can be eradicated in effective manner," he opined.

Developers of single shot Sputnik Light vaccine say it will be produced in India

New Delhi, May 6: Sputnik Light demonstrated 79.4% efficacy, according to an analysis of data gathered 28 days after the shot was administered as part of Russia's mass vaccination programme between December 2020 and April 2021, the vaccine's developers said in a statement. The developers of Russia's Sputnik Light Covid-19 vaccine, the single shot version of Sputnik V, said on Thursday that India will be among the countries where the new variant will be produced in the coming months. Russia's health ministry and Gamaleya National Research Center of Epidemiology and Microbiology and the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), the developers of the vaccine, announced on Wednesday that Sputnik Light had received authorisation for use in Russia. Sputnik Light demonstrated 79.4% efficacy, according to an analysis of data gathered 28 days after the shot was administered as part of Russia's mass vaccination programme between December 2020 and April 2021, the



vaccine's developers said in a statement. Gamaleya Center had also demonstrated during laboratory tests that Sputnik Light had proven effective against all new strains of the coronavirus, the statement said. Phase I and II of the safety and immunogenicity study of Sputnik Light had demonstrated that it can elicit the development of antigen specific IgG antibodies in 96.9% of individuals on the 28th day after vaccination, and that elicits the development of virus neutralising antibodies in 91.67% of individuals on the 28th day after immunisation. No serious adverse events were registered after vaccination with Sputnik Light, the statement said. The infec-

tion rate among vaccinated subjects from the 28th day from the date of the injection was 0.277%. Over the same period, the infection rate among unvaccinated adults was 1.349%. The Phase III clinical study involving 7,000 people was conducted in multiple countries, including Russia, the UAE and Ghana. The interim results are expected in May. RDIF CEO Kirill Dmitriev told a news briefing that Sputnik Light could be a "key solution for many countries with viral surges" as it had resulted in "100% protection against severe infections". "Sputnik V will be the core vaccine while Sputnik Light will be cheaper and more affordable, and ensure that

more people can be vaccinated quickly. Sputnik Light will be registered in several countries by next week and we are talks with regulators in several countries," he said. "We hope that the 64 countries that have registered Sputnik V will also register Sputnik Light," he added. Dmitriev named India, South Korea and China among the countries that will produce Sputnik Light. "We have partnerships with more than 20 producers in 10 countries and they will make both versions of the vaccine," he said. He said Sputnik Light works well with all existing mutations of the Coronavirus as it "includes all the mutations in its code". Sputnik Light can also be used as a

booster shot for other vaccines and trials are currently underway with AstraZeneca, he said. "Sputnik Light makes a greater booster shot with other vaccines. We are doing trials with AstraZeneca but it can also be used with others. It can be a booster shot to upgrade other vaccines for all mutations, subject to additional trials," Dmitriev said. "Regardless of politics, all countries should come together to fight the virus. It is now a fight between mutations and vaccines," he said. The cost of Sputnik Light globally will be less than \$10, and it has simple storage requirements, at +2 +8, which provide for easy logistics, the statement said. The developers of Sputnik V, which has been granted approval for emergency use by India's drug controller, have tied up with Indian pharmaceutical firms such as Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Gland Pharma, Hetero Biopharma, Panacea Biotec, Stelis Biopharma and Virchow Biotech to manufacture more than 850 million doses a year.

Maharashtra sees 62,194 Covid-19 cases, Mumbai's daily caseload falls to 3,028

Mumbai, May 6: With this, Maharashtra's Covid-19 tally has risen to 4,942,736, a health department bulletin showed. The death toll, meanwhile, rose to 73,515, with 853 more people suc-

showed. The related death toll, meanwhile, increased by 853, taking the total death toll to 73,515. On Wednesday, the western state saw 57,640 fresh infections and 920 fatalities, the sec-

nessed a marginal fall, as 277,086 tests were conducted on the day as against 279,200 on May 5. The total number of samples tested thus far stands at 28,661,668. The state's capital city of



cumbing to the disease. Maharashtra's tally of cases of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) rose to 4,942,736 on Thursday as 62,194 more people tested positive on the day, making it for the first time since May 1, that more than 60,000 people were positive for Covid-19 in a single day, a health department bulletin

ond-highest death toll in a single day. On April 28, 985 deaths were reported. In terms of recoveries, 63,842 more people defeated the virus, taking total recovered cases to 4,227,940, the bulletin showed. The number of active cases, meanwhile, has risen to 639,075. Number of samples tested for the day wit-

Mumbai, meanwhile, registered a sharp fall in its new cases, with 3,028 more people testing positive, down from 3,882 on Wednesday. The death toll reached 13,580 with 69 more fatalities in the metropolis. Thus far, 668,085 residents of the city have tested positive for the viral disease.

Kerala lockdown from May 8 to 16 as Covid-19 surge shows no signs of slowing down

Thiruvananthapuram, May 6: The Kerala government on Thursday announced a full lockdown in the state from May 8 to 16 in view of the rising cases in the second wave of Covid-19. The decision was announced a day after the state reported a record 41,953 infections. The lockdown will come into force at 6 am on Saturday. The state had earlier brought in strict restrictions that prevented unnecessary travel and reduced attendance in offices. However, health experts and police departments advised the government to impose a complete lockdown as the current measures were failing to bring down the state's

Covid-19 graph. Kerala's active caseload is 3.75 lakh, the third highest in India. Its test positivity rate on Wednesday was 25.69 per cent. With the number of patients admitted to hospitals increasing, the state's health infrastructure has come under im-

PSA plants, oxygen concentrators and ventilators. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a letter, to advise the External Affairs Ministry to allot the required quantity of imported liquid medical oxygen partially from



mense pressure. The state government recently urged the Centre to allot it 1,000 MT of imported liquid medical oxygen, apart from demanding tankers,

the current tranche of imports and the balance from future imports, in view of the depletion of storage due to the heavy daily demand.

Jammu and Kashmir separatist leader Ashraf Sehrai buried at native village

Kashmir, May 6: Sehrai, 77, a close confidant of hardliner Hurriyat Conference leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani, was incarcerated at the district jail in Udhampur since July 13, 2020 under the Public Safety Act. Jammu and Kashmir separatist leader Ashraf Sehrai was buried at his native village in Jammu Kashmir's Kupwara amid tight security early on Thursday. Only close relatives were allowed to participate in the funeral at Tekipora Lolab in Kupwara, his native village. Jailed Tehreek-e Hurriyat chairman died in Jammu Government Medical hospital on Wednesday afternoon and his body was handed over to rela-



tives in the evening after a post-mortem. Police said Sehrai had tested Covid positive in a RT-PCR test report, which came after his death. He had earlier tested negative in a rapid antigen test. PTI quoted officials claiming he had Covid-19 symptoms and his oxygen levels had fallen. From Jammu, the body of Hurriyat leader was directly taken to Tekipora for burial. In-

spector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said Sehrai's funeral was done as per Covid protocol in presence of his family members. Sehrai, 77, a close confidant of hardliner Hurriyat Conference leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani, was incarcerated at the district jail in Udhampur since July 13, 2020 under the Public Safety Act. He complained of breathlessness

on Tuesday and was taken to the district hospital before being shifted to Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), Jammu, after his health deteriorated, said officials. He was the incumbent chairperson of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat having replaced Geelani in 2018. Sehrai was one of those detained during ahead of the revocation of special status to Jammu and Kashmir and its bifurcation into two union territories in August 2019. He was finally arrested under the PSA from his Barzaulla residence in Srinagar in July last year. The All Parties Hurriyat Conference claimed Sehrai, suffering from multiple

ailments, was left unattended despite requests by his family for medical attention. However, officials rejected the allegations as "baseless", saying he was taken to hospital after he complained of health issues. Last year, Sehrai's son Junaid, joined the Hizbul Mujahideen terror outfit and was killed in an encounter in the old city. Meanwhile, the Kashmir Bar Association questioned the circumstance of the separatist leader's death. "Sehrai was detained under PSA last year and his habeas corpus petition is still pending disposal before the J&K high court at Srinagar.

'Need to accept people's mandate and stop spreading Covid': Mamata tells BJP

Kolkata, May 6: West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee blamed the Bharatiya Janata Party leaders and Union ministers directly for spreading coronavirus disease (Covid-19) in the state. She also asked the BJP leaders to "stop provoking" the people of Bengal and accept the mandate of the people. The chief minister also said that Union ministers travelling to the state will also have to get a negative RTPCR report and the rule will apply to special flights as well. "If ministers reach Bengal they also have to present a RT-PCR negative report even if they arrive via special flights. The rules are the



same for all. Covid-19 is on the rise because BJP leaders are visiting the state almost regularly," Mamata Banerjee was quoted as saying by news agency ANI. "They should be visiting people in hospitals. Their leaders are going places and spreading Covid," she

further added. She also said that the party is unable to accept its defeat in Bengal and alleged that they are provoking people. "BJP's leaders are roaming around and are provoking people. The new government is not even a day old and they are sending teams, letters and their leaders.

They are not ready to accept the mandate, I request them to accept the mandate of the people of Bengal," she said. Mamata also targeted the Prime Minister over the allocation of funds for vaccination purposes. She said that the money should be allocated for free vac-

cines rather than building statues and constructing a new Parliament building. "Where is the PM CARES Fund? Why are they risking the lives of young people? Why are they not allotting ₹30,000 crore for vaccination and spending that money to build a new Parliament building and erecting statues, spending ₹20,000 crores behind these projects?" The West Bengal chief minister and the BJP have continued their war of words after the TMC won the recently concluded elections. BJP leaders have visited the state following allegations of post-poll violence in the state.

POCSO court awards 20-year jail to 18-year-old for 'raping' minor girl in Gujrat

Surat, May 6: A special POCSO court in Surat on Wednesday convicted an 18-year-old man of raping a 14-year-old girl and sentenced him to 20 years strict imprisonment. According to police, the girl went missing on June 5, 2020, after she went to a shop to purchase some household items. Her family searched for her and found that she was chatting with a youth from the same area on phone. The girl's father reached the youth's house and found him also missing, after which he lodged a police complaint. Police said the accused took the girl from Surat to his native place in Bhavnagar — 390 kilometres away — in a goods tempo vehicle and stayed at his sister's place.



A team of Surat police reached there on June 7 and brought the youth and the girl back. After medical examination, it was found that the girl was raped on June 6, 2020. The police have arrested the accused under Indian Penal Code sections 363, 366, 376 (1), 376 (2)(n) and 376 (3) as well as Protection of Children from Sexual Offence Act 4, 5 (1), 6. The girl was handed over to her parents, while the accused was sent to judicial custody. Police have submitted a chargesheet in the case with medical evi-

dence and statements of the accused and the victim. Special POCSO court Judge PS Kala on Wednesday convicted the 18-year-old for kidnap and rape, and ordered him to pay Rs 7 lakh to the girl. The judge, while passing the order, mentioned that "the incident will leave an impact on the remaining life of the minor girl... The offence of rape not only affects the body but also the soul". Assistant Public Prosecutor KV Revaliya said, "We are happy with the court order, which will help prevent people commit such offences in future."

Dharmendra Pradhan emphasizes on improving health infrastructure with testing, vaccination, ventilators and oxygen systems in the state



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 6: Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday held a video conference with the Chief of the Central State Enterprises (PSUs) run in Odisha through "Officials from government, health organizations, banking and railways have discussed various aspects of the preparation and management of healthcare in Odisha. "During the meeting, Mr. Pradhan called on all to increase the number of tests, ventilators, vaccina-

tions and oxygen in the state and to focus on health infrastructure. "Mr Pradhan said everyone's cooperation was needed to develop Odisha's health care system. "The PSU, central health institutions, banking sector and corporate sector in Odisha need to play an important role in this epidemic and build the health infrastructure as needed. "Strengthening health infrastructure in Odisha, increasing the capacity of insulation beds" "Everyone needs

to work together to increase the number of beds in the ICU and oxygen, and to coordinate with the government." All partners need to be prepared to deal with the current situation of testing, vaccination facilities, veterinarians, oxygen supply, ICU bed arrangements and other important medical equipment. "I urge the two leading RMRCs and the Institute of Life Sciences in the state to step up their testing," he said. "Similarly, to expedite the third phase of the vaccina-

- Review with the Chiefs of Central PSUs of Odisha, State Government Officials, Health Organizations and Chiefs of Banking and Railways
- Everyone needs to work together to improve the health care system in Odisha
- Advice to the RMRC and the Institute of Life Sciences to increase testing
- The central bodies of Odisha are ready to deal with the cowardly situation
- Buy PSU vaccines and arrange for people over the age of 18 to be vaccinated
- Make healthcare a priority in Odisha and give priority to the most coveted areas.

tion campaign in the state, he emphasized the need to vaccinate PSUs by vaccinating their employees and vaccinating people over the age of 18 in the society. "Mr. Pradhan also discussed ways to increase testing for the fight against the Covidium-18 epidemic, strengthen emergency medicine and ancillary systems, and cooperate with the state government and work together. "Mr. Pradhan called for further expansion of health facilities in the face of the Covid-16 infection and

the development of health infrastructure by prioritizing all districts, including the most affected Covid-16 areas. "The meeting was attended by Rajya Sabha MP Ashwini Vaishnav, Director of Bhubaneswar AIIMS, Director of National Health Mission, Director of ILS, Director of RMRC, Director of the Odisha Zone of the NCC, Director of the Airport Authority of India Bhubaneswar, Director. Sinha, RTP in-charge of NTPC, in-charge of the Port of Paradip were among the keynote speakers.

Family members of unnamed journalists should be vaccinated immediately

Bhubaneswar, May 6: The state government has been thanked by the Journalists' Union for its coronation of the front line. The vaccine will now be taken by everyone. "The rescue squad wasn't called for him," she told the Associated Press. Journalists who do not have insurance are also required to be vaccinated immediately. Lingaraj Sahu, the host of the forum, tweeted that the chief minister had demanded other departmental officials. "The warrior is being neglected in many ways," he said. Many journalists are also moving in rural areas through financial unrest. They should be given financial assistance. As many as Rs 1.5 lakh has been announced for the front-line fighters, as well as Rs 1.5 lakh for journalists. Lingaraj Sahu, co-host of the Journalists' Forum, also called on jour-



nalists to be vaccinated as soon as possible. "The rescue squad wasn't called for him," she told the Associated Press. Many journalists have lost their lives in Odisha in the second wave of the corona. Many journalists have contracted the disease. "It simply came to our notice then. The Journalists' Joint Forum paid deep tribute to the bereaved. The Journalists' Joint Forum reiterated its demand for a law on the protection of journalists. Increase the welfare fund of journalists, increase health insurance to Rs 5 lakh, include the parents of journalists in health insurance or include

the parents of journalists in the Biju Health Welfare Scheme. Lingaraj Sahu, host of the Joint Forum of Journalists, said that the ban on journalists going to the secretariat should be lifted with the provision of free corona vaccines on a war-time basis. Journalists have often been attacked while on duty. It is therefore requested by the platform to enact special laws. The parents of various journalists live in the village. Journalists will benefit from the government's Biju Health Welfare Scheme for their convenience. Similarly, the platform has demanded that the government increase the number of welfare funds to Rs 5 lakh.

Bhubaneswar Woman Provides Home-Cooked Food For COVID-19 Isolated Patients



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 6: The second wave of COVID-19 has put almost all the people into difficult times. But amidst the gloom and despair, 36-year-old Sneha Senapati of Bhubaneswar has come forward to play her part in the fight against the unforeseen pandemic. Utilising her culinary skill, Sneha is delivering home-cooked food to COVID-19 isolated patients in the state capi-

tal at Rs 50 per meal. She uses the collected money to provide food to underprivileged in her locality free of cost. The noble initiative by the woman has earned her praises from different quarters. Sneha, who works with a MNC in Mumbai, came back to her house at Palaspalli here due to the pandemic and currently working from home. Despite her 9 AM-5 PM job, she manages to spare time for deliv-

ering home-cooked food (Rice, dal and veg sabji) to COVID patients for lunch and dinner through Uber Eats and Swiggy Genie. Starting the initiative on April 21, she has so far delivered meals to 50 families in the city. When asked about the idea behind taking such initiative, the woman said, "Basically, I am a chef by passion. To promote Odia cuisines in Mumbai, I have tied up with the local restaurants and host complete Odia foods for lunch or dinner on weekends. On an average, 200 people come across Mumbai to join the event. I have been doing this for the last three to four years. After coming here recently, I thought of utilising my culinary skill to help the needy during the pandemic."

Cuttack biscuit maker feeds Covid patients in home isolation

(A.O. Bureau) Cuttack, May 6: For industrialist Avinash Khemka (47), the art of living is all about the art of giving. The man, who had come to the rescue of thousands of workers stranded on highways last year during lockdown, is on a mission to feed Covid patients in home isolation this year. "It is not about money but empathy - the ability to feel the suffering of others that empowers me to move ahead," said Khemka, who through his organisation, Amulya Jeevan Foundation Trust, has embarked on the noble mission. Being a highly infectious disease, Covid-19 is different from others as it can render families helpless. One such family of three residing near Town Hall, after testing positive, was left on its own with not even close relatives coming to their aid. The family com-



prising a 40-year-old man, his wife (36) and mother-in-law (65) came across a pamphlet of Khemka's Amulya Jeevan Foundation Trust on WhatsApp. "We dialled the number given on the pamphlet and requested for three meals. At 1 pm, the bell rang and I found a man standing with the packets and three water bottles. He put the food and bottles on the floor and left," said the man's wife. A messiah for families in home isolation who cannot

cook their own food, Khemka had provided food and drinking water to more than 70,000 migrant workers on NH-16 near Bandalo in Tangi during the first wave. He had also extended a helping hand to over 200 distressed migrant workers stranded due to the lockdown and carried them home in his own vehicles between May 13 and June 21 last year. With the pandemic raising its ugly head again, Khemka found that 92 percent of Covid patients

in the city are in home isolation. "Most of them are unable to arrange cooked food for themselves. Hence, I decided to supply packed meals to them," he said. A resident of Cuttack, Khemka is the owner of a biscuit company. Apart from himself and his family members, a team comprising his firm's employees cook the food. The industrialist started his new venture on Wednesday. While 16 meals were supplied to five houses for lunch, as

many as 23 dinners were given to nine houses at different locations in the city on day one. This apart, Khemka distributes cooked packed meals among around 200 persons in distress including beggars, porters and daily wage labourers at Cuttack Railway Station with the help of Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel. The cooked meal packets contain rice, four rotis (flat breads), mixed vegetable curry, fried vegetables, two bananas, a sweet and a biscuit packet along with a water bottle. "While the lunch time is 12 pm to 1.30 pm, the dinner time is between 7.30 pm and 8.30pm," said Khemka while requesting the distressed Covid patients' families to inform him about the requirement of meals four hours in advance by calling 8280-900-000.

People Cheated Of Rs 1 Crore By Cyber Fraudsters In Odisha In April

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 6: The Commissionerate Police today informed that a whopping Rs 1.19 crore has been cheated from people by cyber fraudsters in the state in the month of April. Sharing the details, the CP said cyber fraudster have duped people of Rs 1,19,63,297 in April. The fraud amount includes Rs 74,05,114 from Bhubaneswar. However, the cyber police have recovered Rs 5,36,140 so far.



Total 476 cyber calls were received in April, 220 from Bhubaneswar and 256 from other parts of the

state. Of the total cases, 156 were related to UPI fraud and 80 were credit and debit card fraud, said

the police. In view of the rise in cyber crimes, Bhubaneswar DCP has cautioned the citizens not to

share their personal information like bank account number, OTP, Adhaar number and DOB with anyone. "As shops and commercial establishments are functioning for limited time during the lockdown, people will rely more on e-commerce transaction. And cyber fraudsters may attempt to take advantage of this during the period. Hence, everyone should remain careful and not share their personal details with anyone," said DCP Umashankar Dash.

Bhubaneswar's COVID Tally Crosses 50,000-Mark With 1,118 New Cases On Thursday

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 6: The cumulative tally of COVID-19 positive cases of the city crossed the 50,000-mark on Thursday. With 1,118 new coronavirus cases detected today, the total number of COVID positives detected so far in Bhubaneswar surged to 50,448. With this spike, the active cases tally has reached 9,861. Three persons died due to COVID in the city to-



day, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) data revealed. Out of the total number of cases detected so far, 40,288 COVID patients have recovered from the disease. Today, 673 re-

coveries were reported here. Out of the new cases, 185 are in quarantine while 933 are local contact cases. Total 278 persons have lost the COVID battle in Bhubaneswar till May 6, 2021.

EDITORIAL

Wide of the mark

Several models predicting the pandemic's peak have proved to be at variance with one another. Most of the predictions and mathematical models made by the Indian scientists and experts on the pandemic have fallen flat. These assessments are far from being accurate or consistent. Late last month, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) scientists predicted that the Covid-19's second wave in India could peak between May 11-15 with 33 lakh-35 lakh active cases. Negating the calculations, the total active cases on May 5 have already crossed the 34.87 lakh-mark. Further, contradicting his colleagues' predictions, IIT-Hyderabad professor and the Centre's mathematical modelling expert on COVID-19, M Vidyasagar, recently said the peak could be reached by May 7. But how can the latest tip-off, coming just a couple of days before the expected peak, help contain the virus or break its transmission chain? Such models are useful only when they advise in advance so that the Government gets enough time to plan and act on their recommendations. One wonders, do these calculations really help the Government or are these just a set of chancy figures? Or are these simply a means for our scientists to be in the Government's good books so as to bag a plum assignment later? Seeing the nation struggle with its current plight makes one assume that either the scientific advice came too late or was inaccurate, or maybe the policymakers didn't heed it. Whatever be the case, it certainly failed to have any positive effect. We expect our scientists and institutions to come up with robust and accurate mathematical models. Such models should not give us only the normal details but also the early signs of the next possible wave, beside recommendations on how to strategise against it in a scientific manner i.e. priority vaccination of the set of population that is more prone to infection — based on age, demographic profile or medical history — and the variant of the virus infecting the area. Since the doses are currently limited, vaccinating everybody above 18 years doesn't seem to be the best idea or a feasible proposition as it might take longer than what we have time for. A significant amount of public money is spent on these studies and researches at various institutes, including on foreign trips, workshops and seminars, costly lunches and brunches, stay in premium hotels and guesthouses, and the experts must show due diligence and not fail us.

Service before self

As India grapples with the pandemic's second wave, our armed forces are contributing silently, though swiftly and significantly, in the all-out effort. A case in point about the citizenry's unwavering faith in the institution is the Delhi Government seeking the military's "urgent help" and the Patna High Court, while slamming the Bihar Government for its shoddy handling of the contagion, saying it wanted the armed forces to take over the State's health infrastructure. These two recent instances speak volumes about the credibility of the Services in general and the women and men in uniform, in particular. All the arms of the military establishment — the Army, Navy and the Air Force — are now in the thick of action in the war on the accursed virus: Setting up hospitals for Corona patients, ferrying the much-needed oxygen from abroad and rushing medicines and related equipment to all parts of the country. Even as nearly 65 military stations across India have thrown open their medical facilities for civilians, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has set up an oxygen generation plant at the AIIMS, New Delhi. Four more such plants capable of generating more than 1,000 litres of oxygen per hour will soon start functioning in the RML Hospital, Lady Hardinge, Safdarjung and the AIIMS in Jhajjar, Rohtak. The system can cater to 190 patients at a flow rate of five litres per minute and charge 195 cylinders per day. The Medical Oxygen Plant technology has been developed by the DRDO based on the on-board oxygen generation for the Tejas light combat aircraft and will help overcome the logistics issues of oxygen transportation. Besides coming up with innovative solutions to beat the oxygen shortage, the DRDO has set up COVID-19 hospitals in Delhi, Lucknow and Ahmedabad. More such centres, equipped with ventilators, oxygen and an ICU, will soon come up. Called in on April 23, the IAF is making relentless sorties, especially to airlift oxygen from abroad. One of its C-17 aircraft flew 35 hours to fetch cryogenic oxygen containers from England. Earlier, another C-17 flew 14 hours non-stop to get cylinders from Germany. Looking at the serious situation, the IAF has to date brought in more than 60 cryogenic containers and 900 oxygen cylinders from Singapore, Dubai, Bangkok, Frankfurt and the UK, clocking over 140 flying hours. Battling the pandemic, the armed forces have not been impervious to the safety of their own personnel. The Army and the IAF have vaccinated nearly their entire strength. The Army even ensured that its troops, deployed in Ladakh amid the ongoing standoff with the Chinese, are administered both doses of the vaccine. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh are consistently monitoring the diligence of the Defence forces in meeting the COVID-19 challenge. Truly, the nation's people always look up to our armed forces in times of crisis. Their great hope and trust have never been belied, and our uniformed personnel ain't going to let them down, now or ever!

The burden of being Pakistan



Prafull Goradia

Rajasthan. We are familiar with infiltration from Pakistan's former eastern wing and have not been able to do much about the millions illegally settled in India. Do we wish to risk another episode, this time from the western wing? The area beyond Jaisalmer in Rajasthan is not fenced, while other portions have barbed wire fencing. What should worry Pakistan is that within five years of being born, the TLP has gained immense ground and now confronts the State head on. Some observers say this is leading to a situation worse than in even neighbouring Afghanistan. Pakistan's internal order is far from stable. Imran is clearly reluctant to act against the TLP, symptomatic of the fault lines in a nuclear weapon State. It appears that the TLP is either powerfully backed or is actually popular. Regardless of the current agitation, Pakistan's economics have been steadily eroding. Take a micro aspect; President Ayub Khan had in the 1960s apprehended that the country would run out of beef unless

consumption was restrained. So, he declared Fridays as meatless days. Over time, American aid to Pakistan rose to \$4 billion. This US largesse might have helped import essentials other than military purchases. Life in Pakistan went along merrily, but eventually this aid declined and ended, forcing it to turn to China. The Chinese alternative is proving exorbitant in terms of interest payments as well as the likely dilution of sovereignty. Pakistan has never had the habit of paying taxes. Any revenue from those who paid was welcomed by the State. The Pakistan Army is exorbitantly expensive due to its commercial ventures. Senior officers are not only soldiers but also run profitable enterprises. Since the advent to power of General Zia-ul-Haq, many institutions in Pakistan, particularly the military, underwent radicalisation. The armed forces, like their Indian counterparts, inherited a fine tradition from the British but have now become part-soldiers and

part-Islamists. Many countries mix religion and Government, but mixing religion with the Army is fraught with disaster. None of this should come as a surprise. Qaid-e-Azam MA Jinnah was an excellent advocate and a political debater, but knew no governance. In any case, he was dying with tuberculosis when Pakistan came into being. His successor Liaquat Ali Khan was a zamindar, not a nation-builder, and was assassinated before long. It was political musical chairs thereafter, with no Prime Minister lasting for long. General Ayub Khan seized power, a decisive proof of governance failure. Ayub was replaced by General Yahya Khan who presided over the secession of East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto as the PM played for himself and not for Pakistan. He tricked and murdered his way to electoral victory. Zia-ul-Haq overthrew his Government and handed him to become the President. Zia Islamised Pakistan, but did nothing beyond. Pakistan has had three Constitutions, all of which begin by stating that the country's sovereignty belongs to Allah the Merciful, something even Saudi Arabia's Constitution does not do. Pakistan has had three long phases of direct military rule. General Musharraf, on the morrow of the September 11, 2001, terror attacks in New York, switched from Islam to America. He had no choice. By then Pakistan was already a mess and nothing could be done to reform or reorganise it. Pakistan, by its very nature, is an artificial State, created by a brilliant lawyer who knew nothing of history, politics and governance. All he was obsessed with was his place in the hall of history.

The link between great power and great suffering — from Mao's China to Modi's India

Ashutosh Varshney

Is mass suffering, inflicted by policy design or emerging as a policy byproduct, an integral part of the Narendra Modi regime's view of national power and national revival? Can suffering and strength be viewed as mirror images of each other? Surprising as it may seem, this paradoxical question has a long history in politics. But post-independence India has not had the occasion to debate it. Now is the time to consider what is involved. Consider three of the big events causing mass suffering in increasing measure since the Modi regime came to power. First, the 2016 demonetisation produced long lines of people waiting to convert their currency, many collapsing out of sheer exhaustion, some losing their jobs. Second, the national lockdown of 2020, with a mere four-hour notice and a complete suspension of public transport, witnessed millions of rural migrants — tired, shocked and hapless — walking miles and miles to reach their homes. Finally, we have the biggest spectacle of all, unfolding in our midst today, bringing sickness and death to thousands and thousands of Indians. The prime minister neither expresses adequate remorse, nor sufficient compassion. What he does is the opposite of remorse and compassion. Demonetisation was celebrated as a way to clean up and modernise the economy, taking it to a paperless utopia. The draconian lockdown was hailed as a strong India's powerful attack on a potentially killer virus. And while the current wave of mortality has not been celebrated, it is clearly a byproduct of a monumental gov-

ernance failure. It is partly a consequence of India's export of vaccines to the world, presented as a sign of India's power, and has partly resulted from a lack of preparation rooted in Delhi's hubris about India's conquest of the virus. The Modi regime can't accept governance failure, for to accept failure is to show weakness. One is reminded of how Donald Trump dealt with COVID-19 last year. How could a strong government, and a strong leader, have any weaknesses? In the history of political scholarship, the obsession with state strength, national power and leader infallibility on one hand and insensitivity to mass suffering on the other has been associated mostly with the big Communist polities. The most widely discussed case is that of Mao Zedong and China. But it has also been discussed with respect to right-wing dictatorships such as Nazi Germany. Though left- and right-wing dictatorships are different in several respects, they have one thing in common. Both use state power and charismatic leadership to prioritise nation-building and national power over individual lives. The pursuit of national glory vastly supersedes mass suffering. Two episodes of Maoist China are highly relevant to what is happening in India today: The Great Leap Forward (1958-61) and the Cultural Revolution (1967-76). The purpose of the Great Leap Forward was to catch up with the West economically in 10 years, even though, at the time of its birth (1949), Communist China was the "sick man of

Asia". In the late 1950s, Mao wanted to build a steel mill in every commune, for steel was the currency of economic power. Inspired by this vision, the Communist Party re-organised the vast countryside of China into a mere 26,000 communes. In the process of producing steel, food production dropped precipitously, even as food procurement for urban China went up, resulting in a famine that killed over 40 million people in three years. Scholars call it the biggest man-made disaster in history. But Mao was unmoved by the suffering. After temporarily retreating and fixing the food deficit, he returned to the theme of national reconstruction and Chinese glory. The Cultural Revolution was inaugurated. The argument now was that a new man had to be created in China, an unselfish and unacquisitive man who would give up everything for the larger cause of the Chinese nation and its rebuilding, as envisioned by the great leader. If those who resisted were killed or lost their lives, that was no cause for mourning. In short, national reconstruction was not possible without violence and suffering. Yasheng Huang, professor at MIT and a specialist of China, tells me that an estimated 2 million Chinese died within the first three years of the Cultural Revolution. National renaissance and a return to China's glory, lost since the Opium Wars (1840s to 1850s), was infinitely more important than a couple of million lives. Modi might want a powerful India and a \$5 trillion dollar

economy, but he is no Mao, of course. Left-wing and right-wing rulers tend to have one key difference. Right-wing ideologies privilege social Darwinism, celebrating the strong over the weak. Left-wing dictators use violence to serve the poor. Both are indifferent to mass suffering, but in different ways. Modi also does not have the political advantage of Mao, who did not have to deal with a democratic polity. Modi, I might parenthetically add, does not have the racial privilege of Trump either. While the virus in the US killed the minorities disproportionately, the virus in India is not making a distinction between Hindus and Muslims. Is it too much to expect Modi to admit that even if the virus is more virulent, India is actually going through a man-made disaster? How else can one understand the lack of oxygen, the scarcity of hospital beds and, most of all, the shortage of vaccines in the vaccine capital of the world? Couldn't the planning have been better? Long years back when I was researching India's agriculture, I discovered some extraordinary speeches by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, admitting the failure of his agricultural policy. India's food production began to plummet in the early 1960s, and it was clear that no industrial revolution, which Nehru wanted, was possible if agriculture failed. "Though we all know that agriculture is essential", said Nehru, "it has been rather neglected. I say neglected in the sense that people hope that crops will grow by themselves, and not by much effort on our part." This admission of mistake paved the way for a Green Revolution policy after his death, saving India from a famine and enormous suffering.

ITDAs massive livelihood program in Mayurbhanj



(A.O. Bureau) Baripada, May 6: The Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), Baripada under Mission Jeevika program has provide a formidable support to tribal households in 10 blocks under it. Informing the details Basanta Kumar Sethi, PA, ITDA said that around 23 types of cultivable support has already touched to more than 11000 tribal. households with seeds like Bengal gram, ground nut, tomato, bitter gourd, mustard

seeds in huge as tribals in these blocks were unable to procure the quality materials and scarcity of funds which the ITDA successfully bridge, said Sethi, the PA. A total of around 22567 tribal beneficiaries were availed these under Jeevika mission and 1700 hc of their lands in all the ITDA blocks have tasted huge yielding in terms of cash crops cultivation, informed S. Behera, P. Pradhan, both project manager incharge of Jeevika program.

Malkangiri police seized 71 liter IMF Liquor and 3 arrested



(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 6: Malkangiri police On 04.5.21 night and 05.05.21 morning basing on input of illegal hoarding

Nag, IIC Malkangiri PS and a team conducted raids at different locations. During these raids, about 71 liters of IMF of different brands were

seized. In this connection three accused persons have been arrested are follows 1. P Dilip (25) S/O-P. Bhaskar Rao of Patraguda, Malkangiri. 2. Mangulu Senapati (38) S/O-Jura Senapati of Durgagudisahi, Malkangiri. 3. Srikanth Maharana (40) S/O-Late Sahadeb Maharana of Durgagudisahi, Malkangiri. Police lodged 1 Case No. 145 Dt. 04.05.2021 U/S 52(a) Odisha Excise Act 2. Case No. 146 Dt. 04.05.2021 U/S 52(a) Odisha Excise Act 3. Case No. 147 Dt. 04.05.2021 U/S 52(a) Odisha Excise Act

Many child laborers are engaged in Kendu fadi Dist administration unaware

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 6: 17 to 20 child laborers are employed in Sengel village under Malkangiri district's Kalimela block U n d a r u k o n d a panchayat. it during the day Innocent indigenous Tribal children have been seen working here in greed for a little money But is it right or wrong to work for below 18 year children? Asked by Munshi of fadi about this, he gave no answer The man who bought the Kendu leaf in Sangel village was



Sardar Babu of Buduguda village in Kalimela block. Sardar Babu asked him about it too and he also gave no answer innocent

tribal child laborer are engaged. How far is it justice to deployed? What effect will it have on the mentality of children if they work at the age of school? Indigenous, uneducated children have been the subject of controversy in the local area. Locals have strongly condemned the incident and demanded at high-level investigation into the incident and strong legal action against those who illegally giving employ to children.

Burigaon Sarpanch introduces humanity by finishing the final rituals of old age person

(A.O. Bureau) Kukudakhandi: Due to the second stage corona pandemic, humanity has often been seen to lose its humanity, and self-preservation People are often reluctant to give up on their bodies, even if they die. When No one from the neighborhood or friends relatives and family rushed to the scene for fear of infection, as the coroner's plague spread around the world. As a result, after a long wait, local Burigaon Sarpanch Basant Kumar Sahu arrived and understood the problem and rushed to finish the funeral last rituals with the help of social workers in the local panchayat. In the village of Jakrapalli under the

Burigaon panchayat under Kukudakhandi block, carried the old age body his own shoulders and his body was cremated with dignity by the Burigaon sarpanch and his associates. According to reports, the body was found to be in death position. When Purushottam died at the age of 68 years. Burigaon gram panchayat sarpanch, GP Monitorer Ranjan Kumar Sabat, Abhiram Sethi, Bideshi Sethi, Santosh Behera, Kura Raoul, Saroj Patnaik, Shankar Raoul, Surendra Sahu, Babula Sethi, Bhagyaban Sahu took the cremation with the help of the chief. Locals, including intellectuals, have praised the local sarpanch's duty humanity actions.



Red Cross provides immediate relief to fire victims of Nayagarh



(A.O. Bureau) Nayagarh, May 6: Due to the fire at nearby jungle and high speed wind the menace reached the village Podasahi, Odagan, Block of Nayagarh District. Due to the fire mishap, Thirty five houses of Twenty Two families have been completely destroyed and some livestock perished due to the fire. All the families depend on daily labour for their livelihood. At this pandemic situation and lock down period they are completely helpless. Under the guidance of Honorary Secretary Indian Red Cross Society Odisha State Branch Miss CTM. Suguna (IAS) and Coordination of Youth Red Cross Officer Dr. Ajay Kumar Tripathy, relief materials like tarpaulin, utensils, dhoti, lungi, bucket, mug, blanket, saree, towel, mosquito net, candle,

match box, hygiene kits, phenyle, bleaching, mask, jarkene, etc. have been distributed to twenty two families in presence of Odagan Tehsildar Mrs. Bijayita samantasinghar and Additional Tehsildar Mr. Niranjana Nayak. Junior Red Cross Officer Laxman Swain Coordinated the distribution programme and gave demonstrations on proper hand washing to combat COVID-19. YRC District Coordinator Mr. Aditya Mishra, District JRCO Sanyasi Pradhan, and JRC counsellors Damodar Sahoo, Prakash Chandra Prusti, Bijay Kumar Sethi, Jagannath parida, Red Cross Staff Sanjay Burh, Prasanna Samantray helped in relief distribution. The villagers and the District administration thanked Odisha Red Cross for this humanitarian service at the time of dare need.

COVID-19: Andhra, Chhattisgarh borders sealed to check trespassers

(A.O. Bureau) Jeypore, May 6: In a bid to restrict cross-border movement of people during the two-week lockdown that started on Wednesday, the district administration has sealed borders linking neighbouring states of Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh. Sources said, a large number of people from Koraput, Nabarangpur and Kalahandi who work in AP, Tamil Nadu and Telangana are likely to return to their native villages due to the lockdown. Although administration has been monitoring the border posts for over 15 days now to check trespassers, enforcement has been tightened to not allow further surge in cases. IICs, SDPOs and revenue officials have been asked to keep a strict vigil on bordering points such

as Chandili linking Chhattisgarh under Kotpad block, Chatua in Nandapur, Sunki under Pottangi and Bandhugam linking AP. "Only those with valid documents are being allowed to enter and along with vehicles, movement of people entering by foot is also being strictly monitored by officials," said a senior police officer of Laxmipur. Notably, decreased vehicular movement was witnessed on the day with administration tightening guard. Besides, people of Koraput coming from other districts have been directed to go for mandatory 14-day quarantine as per norms. "We are strictly following all Covid protocols and allowing people only on emergency grounds from AP to the State," said tehsildar of Potangi, Haripad Mandal.

UJA moving with Covid Awareness Chariot and distributing Mask soap sanitiser to poor people



(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 6: Utkal journalist Association is one of the social awareness union moving to each corner Malkangiri boarder with corona awareness chariot for aware people to be safe from the corona pandemic also distributing safety measures

like Mask, Soap and Sanitizer to poor people The sanatorium was distributed to the expatriates who were present, and the awareness campaign was made to raise awareness about the spread of coronary disease and to promote its own protection. Initially, the chariot came out of the city of

Malkangiri then visited MV-7, sikhpalli, Poteru., Kalimela, MV72, MV79, MV81, MV86, Maharajpalli and reached Motu after delivering an awareness message. Kalimela Block Chairman Mala Madhi, Kalimela BDO Umashankar Dalei, along with IIC of police John

Khujur, along with the Tehsildar Sashank Mishra and intellectuals, more than 10 Utkal Journalists' Association members followed the Kovid rule and marched from the Kalimela fire station office to the block office. Sunil Kumar Sahu, Divakar Bhagwan, Secretary Satyanarayana Das, Treasurer Srinivasa Patra, Kalimela and MV 79 area Journalists were participated in the awareness rally the whole Program conducted by UJA President Mr Duryodhana Patra. the local people and intellectuals were praises to the UJA team for their effort to aware people and keep safe from the corona pandemic.

A family loses two members in a week, four more infected

(A.O. Bureau) Jagatsinghpur, May 6: In a period of seven days, a family of Jagatsinghpur saw its world turning upside down with two of its members succumbing to the deadly coronavirus and four more testing positive. The infected family members - two women and two minors - are now in home isolation, uncertain of what the

future holds for them. The 79-year-old Chaturbhuj Barik died of Covid-19 on Tuesday, exactly a week after his 40-year-old infected son Deepak passed away. Chaturbhuj's wife, his daughter-in-law, eight-year-old granddaughter and six-year-year grandson are positive and under treatment in their home.



Home isolation strategy needs a rethink in Sundargarh, say experts as cases spike

(A.O. Bureau) Rourkela, May 6: As Sundargarh witnessed yet another record spike of 1,137 new Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, health experts suggested that the State government should re-strategise its

Covid treatment protocols to arrest spread of the disease in the district. Around 632 of these cases are from Rourkela. An official of the Health department here said after experiencing an aggressive pattern of infec-

tion in the second wave, government should rethink about its assumption of self-regulation by patients in home isolation. Addition of a whopping 15,391 new cases in a short span from April 9 to May 5 is a pointer to

the fact that the government needs to revise its strategy of home isolation and quarantine all positive cases immediately to arrest the upward curve. The present strategy is to allow 90 per cent positive cases in home isola-

tion and hospitalise those with dipping oxygen or fall in other health indicators. Sources said, amid the deteriorating Covid situation, the Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) are also not able to monitor large number of pa-

tients in home isolation. "The lockdown period should be utilised to trace all positive cases and institutionally quarantine them to help curb local spread as it was done during the first wave", he suggested.

You can watch Aspirants episode 5

New Delhi, May 6: The fifth and final episode of The Viral Fever (TVF) web series Aspirants, which chronicles the life of students preparing for the civil services exam, will soon release on YouTube. The makers of the popular series have announced that the season finale will be released on May 8. A tweet by The Viral Fever read, "The most awaited announcement. Season finale of Aspirants will stream on Saturday, 8th May." The official description of the show reads,

UPSC Pre... Mains... Aur Life." Created by Arunabh Kumar and Shreyansh Pandey, Aspirants stars Naveen Kasturia, Shivankit Singh Parihar, Abhilash Thapliyal, Namita Dubey and Sunny Hinduja, among others. The first episode of the web series aired on YouTube on April 7, and the following episodes were released every Wednesday. All four episodes of the series have garnered over 10 million views each. When the makers released the fourth epi-



"UPSC – One of the toughest exams in the world. Nothing comes easy when you are preparing for it as an Aspirant. In Delhi's Old Rajinder Nagar, thousands of people come every year with a dream of becoming an IAS officer. It takes a lot of hard work, perseverance, and discipline to crack it. But it also takes a lot of heart to endure the pressure. This examination season, we bring you the story of three friends who reunite to tell us all about

sode of the series, they said they will release the final episode when TVF's YouTube channel will cross 10 million subscribers. Actor Neena Gupta appeared before the fourth episode and said, "Season finale ke liye cutoff thoda high hai, isliye jaldi subscribe kijiye (The cutoff for the season finale is a bit higher, so subscribe soon so that we can release the finale.)" Currently, the channel has 9.12 million subscribers.

Lulia Vantur on singing 'Seeti Maar' in Radhe: 'Salman Khan always comes up with something unexpected, you just have to follow it'

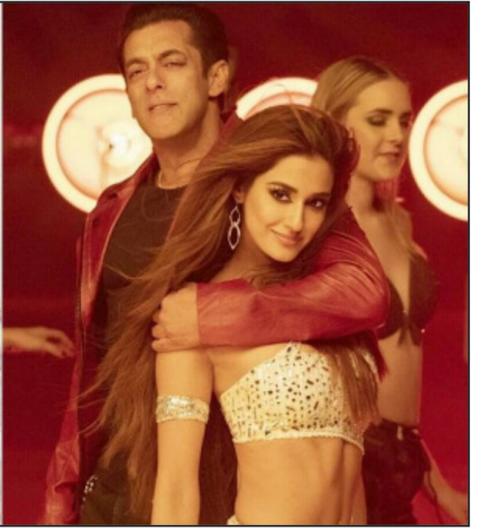
New Delhi, May 6: Singer Lulia Vantur says Salman Khan and Disha Patani's performance on "Seeti Maar" in Radhe: My Most Wanted Bhai is amazing. Lulia, who has voiced the song along with Kamaal Khan, however, says making a new version of an existing chartbuster was a challenge. "Seeti Maar" has been recreated from the song by the same name from Telugu film, DJ: Duvvada Jagannadham, starring Allu Arjun and Pooja Hegde. In an interview



with indianexpress.com, Lulia spoke about how she came on board Radhe and why the mixed response to the "Seeti Maar" song is normal. "Of course, the song has been a huge hit in the south, so the challenge was even bigger to bring something new. Kamaal Khan has changed his voice completely for the song. There's the risk of audience not accepting the new version. But, the whole team has done an amazing job. They've managed to give a version, as good (as the original)," Lulia said in the exclusive interview. Speaking about the critical reception that the song received,

Lulia added, "Considering this song was made a huge hit by Allu Arjun, so obviously people would get emotionally attached to it. Also, you can't satisfy everyone, the tastes are different. That's why music has so many genres." There's however a section of listeners that is swearing by "Seeti Maar". So much so, that it is nearing 92 million views on YouTube. How much credit would Lulia give to the lead pair of Radhe, for the success of the song? "Salman and Disha's moves are amazing. People love Salman's songs, his hook steps. They are very catchy, popular and easy to follow, that's

the beauty. And he always comes up with something totally unexpected, interesting and funny. You just have to follow it. Of course, everyone including the music composer, choreographer, actors and dancers has put their efforts," the singer said. Lulia also revealed that it was her test recording of the song for music composers Sajid-Wajid, which got incorporated in the final version. "Sajid used to give me different songs to practice and to test my voice. Later he called me and said he's sent my recording to composer Devi Sri Prasad, who has liked my voice and will keep it in the



movie. Honestly, when I recorded the song, I thought it will be a test practice. And I'll get more time to practice. It was super unexpected for me," she said. Lulia, however, laughed off when asked how she reacts when some people say that Salman Khan still promotes her in Bollywood. "I feel blessed that I sing in Bollywood. The fact that I have someone to advice me from the music industry and Bollywood, again, is a big blessing. But, sometimes, you have to put much more to prove that you worked being in that place. Everyone's journey comes with plus and minus." "There are

songs where you feel the pressure of singing it right. There are many songs that I recorded, which aren't out yet. There are songs which didn't suit my voice, my style. Not all the songs see the light," she added. Lulia has also crooned "Zoom Zoom" in Radhe, which is yet to release. "That's again a very good song. I loved it. It's more teasing, playful and romantic. I feel it's catchy," Lulia revealed. Radhe, also starring Randeep Hooda and Jackie Shroff, is set to have a simultaneous release on theatre and ZEE5's pay per view platform ZeePlex on May 13, coinciding with Eid.

Viraf Patel ties the knot with Saloni Khanna, gives her a rubber band instead of wedding ring

Mumbai, May 6: Naamkarann actor Viraf Patel tied the knot with girlfriend Saloni Khanna on Thursday. The couple had a court marriage in Mumbai's Bandra. When indianexpress.com reached out to Viraf, he was all set to join a family zoom meeting. Stating that it is the need of the hour, the actor shared that they have been wanting to get married for a long time, and realising that a big fat wedding was not possible even in



the coming months, marriage. "Given the uncertain times, we

wanted to give certainty to ourselves. We hope to make the marriage meaningful and worthy," shared the Ek Boond Ishq actor. Interestingly, instead of a wedding ring, Viraf gave his bride a rubber band. "What to do! Everything is shut. I am just glad Saloni hasn't beaten me up," quipped the actor. The couple opted for matching white outfits for the wedding and looked ethereal as they posed for photographers. While

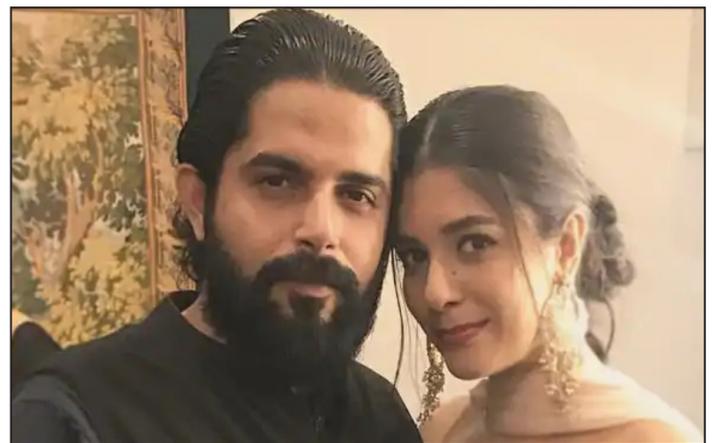
Saloni picked a saree with a glamorous blouse, Viraf looked dashing in his formals. The ceremony was only attended by three friends who also acted as witnesses. Viraf Patel and Saloni Khanna met each other during an online show a couple of years ago and instantly struck a friendship. The actors got engaged on February 20. On the work front, Viraf Patel was last seen in Koi Jaane Na, while Saloni played a pivotal role in The Raikar Case.

Pooja Gor opens up about post-breakup equation with ex Raj Singh Arora

Mumbai, May 6: Pooja Gor, who announced her split from partner Raj Singh Arora in 2020 after a decade together, has opened up about their equation now. Mann Ki Awaaz: Pratigya actor Pooja Gor, who recently announced her breakup with Raj Singh Arora,

'exes can't be friends', she told a leading daily, "We don't care about what the saying is we have a bond of over 11/12 years and it will always stay and we will remain friends. He is always going to be my family and his family is always going to be mine. He needed help in

wrote, "2020 has been a year with a lot of changes. The good & the not-so-good. There has been a lot of speculation about my relationship with Raj over the past few months. Difficult decisions take time to process, hence, I wanted to take some time before talking about it. Raj



has spoken about the equation they share after their separation. They had been together for around a decade, and she announced that they were splitting up towards the end of 2020. In an new interview, she said that Raj is her 'family', and that they will always remain friends. Pooja recently helped arrange for him to travel to the US to meet his family, amid travel restrictions because of the pandemic. Asked if they are the exception to the saying

something and if I could I did instantly. I would do it for anybody in need. Of course if it is him even more so. We are mature people, things are not always going to be bad and it isn't between us. And I am glad that it was that way." She said that them parting ways 'was a mature decision between two people'. In December, she announced via an Instagram post that despite their separation, the 'love and respect' that they have for each other will last a lifetime. She

& I have decided to part ways. Even though life may lead us on different paths, the love & respect we have for each other is for a lifetime. I will always wish the best for him as he has been a very important influence in my life, and I will always be grateful to him. We continue to be friends & that will never change. It has taken a good amount of time and courage for me to talk about this, and this is all I want to say for now. Thank you for understanding and respecting our privacy at this time."

Too much, too little sleep linked to elevated heart risks in disease-free people

Washington Dc, May 6: People who clock six to seven hours of sleep a night had the lowest chance of dying from a heart attack or stroke when compared with those who got less or more sleep, according to a study. This trend remained true even after the research team accounted for other known conditions or risk factors for heart disease or stroke. The results of the study were presented at the American College of Cardiology's 70th Annual Scientific Session. The study, according to researchers, is the first to explore the association between baseline cardiovascular risk and

duration of sleep and adds to mounting evidence that sleep--similar to diet, smoking and exercise--may play a defining role in someone's cardiovascular risk. "Sleep is often overlooked as something that may play a role in cardiovascular disease, and it may be among the most cost-effective ways to lower cardiovascular risk," said Kartik Gupta, MD, resident, Division of Internal Medicine, Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit and lead author of the study. "Based on our data, sleeping six to seven hours a night is associated with more favourable heart health." For the study, Gupta



and his team included data from 14,079 participants in the 2005-2010 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. Participants were followed for a median duration of 7.5 years to determine if they died due to heart attack, heart failure or stroke. Those surveyed were 46 years old on average, half were women and 53% were non-white. Less than

10% of participants had a history of heart disease, heart failure or stroke. Researchers divided participants into three groups based on answers to a survey question about their average length of sleepless sleep (seven hours). Researchers then assessed participants' atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) risk scores and levels of C-reactive protein

(CRP), a key inflammatory marker known to be associated with heart disease. The ASCVD risk score, which accounts for age, gender, race, blood pressure and cholesterol, is widely used to predict how likely someone is to have a heart attack or stroke or die from atherosclerosis, a hardening of the arteries, in the next 10 years. An ASCVD risk score less than 5% is considered low risk. While the median ASCVD risk was 3.5% among all participants, there was a U-shape relationship based on sleep duration such that participants with six to seven hours had the lowest risk.

COVID-19 positives Hussey and Balaji flown to Chennai in air ambulance

Chennai, May 6: Chennai Super Kings batting and bowling coach Michael Hussey and L. Balaji, who were diagnosed with COVID-19, have been flown into the city from Delhi in an air ambulance, a top franchise official said on Thursday. Hussey and Balaji were among the prominent non-playing staff to test positive when the IPL was "indefinitely suspended" on Tuesday, following multiple COVID-19 cases inside the bio-bubble. "We decided to bring Hussey and Balaji to Chennai by an air ambulance as we have better contacts here and wanted to ensure better medical facilities in case of any need," the CSK official told PTI. He further said the duo were "asymptomatic and doing fine." The CSK official said Hussey would have to wait for a COVID-19 negative report to be able to



leave the country. "Hussey has to wait and get a COVID negative report before he can leave India. We will make arrangements for a charter when it is safe for

him to fly," the official added. While Hussey will have to wait, rest of the Australians participating in the IPL on Thursday left for Maldives to serve out the waiting period be-

fore they can board a flight to Australia. The CSK official said the franchise made arrangements for the foreign players of the team to leave by charter planes. The official also informed that CSK skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni would leave for his hometown in the afternoon once all his team members head for their respective hometowns. The 2021 edition of the IPL was suspended after four players -- SunRisers Hyderabad batsman Wriddhiman Saha, Delhi Capitals' spinner Amit Mishra and KKR's Varun Chakravarthi and Sandeep Warrier -- tested positive for COVID-19 in the bio-bubble.

Bopanna-Shapovalov reach quarterfinals of Madrid Open Masters



Madrid, May 6: India's Rohan Bopanna combined with his Canadian partner Denis Shapovalov to stun top seeds Juan Sebastian Cabal and Robert Farah in straight sets and reach the men's doubles quarterfinals of Madrid Open Masters 1000 tournament here. This was the 41-year-

old Bopanna's first win on the ATP tour in 2021. The Indo-Canadian duo won their round of 16 match 6-3 6-4 on Wednesday. Bopanna and Shapovalov will take on German duo of Alexander Zverev and Tim Puetz in the quarter-finals. "A superb victory by

#TOPSAthlete tennis player @rohanbopanna and his partner @denis_shapo who beat World #1 men's doubles pair of Robert Farah and Juan Sebastian Cabal 6-3, 6-4 to reach the quarterfinals of the @MutuaMadridOpen," Sports Authority of India (SAI) tweeted.

Man City reach first ever CL final

Manchester, May 6: Pep Guardiola said Manchester City's first ever Champions League final had been five years in the making after Riyad Mahrez's double saw off Paris Saint-Germain 2-0 on Tuesday to seal a 4-1 semi-final aggregate win. City will look to set the seal on a third Premier League title in the coming days as they remain on course for a treble, having already lifted the



League Cup. But their previous four Champions League campaigns under Guardiola ended in anguish before the semi-final stage. Guardiola has won the competition twice before as a coach during his time at Barcelona. However, the Catalan has also endured a decade of disappointment in Europe's pre-

mier club competition since. "It is for all of us and the club. I'm incredibly proud," said Guardiola. "Getting to the final now makes sense of what we have done in the past four or five years. Every day these guys have been consistent and this is remarkable." Mahrez's goal also decided the first leg and the Algerian, who grew up in the Parisian suburbs, haunted his home town team again with two clinical

finishes early in each half. The final in Istanbul on May 29 against Real Madrid or Chelsea is the culmination of City's rise since an Abu Dhabi takeover in 2008 transformed the club's fortunes. Meanwhile, four years on from making Neymar and Kylian Mbappe the world's two most expen-

sive players, PSG's wait for a first Champions League title goes on. Mbappe could only watch on from the stands due to a calf injury as, just like in last week's first leg, his side imploded after an excellent first-half performance. The visitors were left to rue huge missed chances by Marquinhos and Angel Di Maria in between Mahrez's strikes before Di Maria lashed out at Fernandinho to leave PSG down to 10 men for the final 20 minutes. "We started really well, creating chances and dominating Manchester City," said PSG coach Mauricio Pochettino. "That's not easy. Not many teams can dominate a team like Manchester City." However, the Argentine, who had to come onto the pitch to calm his players after Di Maria saw red, admitted his side's indiscipline had cost them. Idrissa Gueye was also sent off late in the first leg for a shocking challenge on Ilkay Gundogan. "Over the 180 minutes, for 40 or 45 minutes we played with 10 men," added Pochettino. "That's a massive advantage."

IPL's foreign recruits head home



New Delhi, May 6: 8 Englishman back in London; Aussies await Maldives flight first. The Englishmen were the first ones out with eight of them landing in London, while the Australians awaited an escape to Maldives as the now-suspended IPL's foreign recruits charted their way back home assisted by the BCCI on Wednesday. Jos Buttler, Jonny Bairstow, Sam Curran, Tom Curran, Sam Billings, Chris Woakes, Moeen Ali and Jason Roy landed in London to begin a 10-day quarantine before

heading to their respective homes. The league was suspended indefinitely on Tuesday after multiple Covid-19 cases in its bio-bubble. England skipper Eoin Morgan, Dawid Malan and Chris Jordan are expected to board a flight to London within the next 48 hours. "I can confirm that 8 of the 11 England players in India managed to get on a flight to Heathrow last night and have landed this morning," an England and Wales Cricket Board spokesperson said. "They will now quarantine in govern-

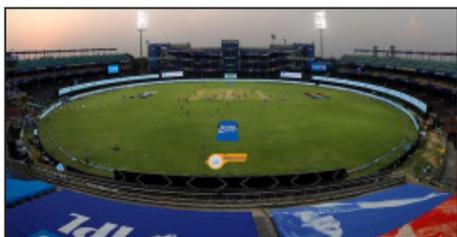
ment approved hotels. The remaining three — Jordan, Malan, Morgan — should leave India within the next 48 hours," he added. The Australians, on the other hand, were still waiting to know when they can fly out to Maldives, where they will stay for a few days before flying home. The detour has been forced by the Australian Government's travel ban on India till May 15 because of the explosion of Covid-19 cases here. "All Australians are assembling in Delhi and from there they will head to

Maldives by a charter flight," a franchise official said. CA's interim chief Nick Hockley said the BCCI is helping in every possible way to ensure a smooth return for the 14 players, members of the coaching staff and commentators, who are in India right now. "What the BCCI is working to do is to move the entire cohort out of India where they will wait until it's possible to return to Australia," Hockley told reporters in Sydney. "The BCCI has been working on a range of options. That's now narrowed down to the Maldives and Sri Lanka. The BCCI is committed not only to the first move but also to putting on a charter to bring them back to Australia," he added. It is learnt that the Reliance-owned Mumbai Indians is planning to assist the BCCI's efforts by arranging a charter flight for its foreign recruits, which include South African Quinton de Kock and West Indian Kieron

Pollard. The franchise, sources said, has also reached out to other teams, asking if they would like their South African and West Indian recruits to board the flight being planned for Johannesburg. From there, it would head to Trinidad with the Caribbean players. In another development, Chennai Super Kings batting coach Michael Hussey, who tested positive on Tuesday night, will stay in India to serve out his quarantine while others head back in the next few days. 'tweaked few things' Australia pacer Pat Cummins feels the IPL organisers, in hindsight, could have 'tweaked a few things' after deciding to host the league in India amidst a raging Covid-19 pandemic. Cummins, a key part of the Kolkata Knight Riders team, said previous edition held in UAE was incredibly 'well-run' and the organisers pushed it 'little step further' by organising it at home this year.

Bookies attempted fixing with the help of a cleaner at Kotla: BCCI ACU chief

New Delhi, May 6: The recently-suspended IPL witnessed potential corruptors plugging an accredited cleaner at Delhi's Feroz Shah Kotla ground for doing "pitch-siding" which helps ball-to-ball betting, BCCI Anti-Corruption Unit chief Shabbir Hussain said. The new modus operandi was observed during one of the IPL games at New Delhi where a designated cleaner was using the time lag between actual match action and Live TV coverage to help in ball-by ball betting, which is also known as court-siding or pitch sid-



ing. Pitch-siding is the practice of transmitting information from sporting events for the purpose of gambling, or directly placing bets. "One of my ACU officers caught a person and handed over the details to Delhi Police. While that particular offender managed to flee leaving behind his two mobile phones, ACU lodged a complaint with the Delhi Police," Hussain, a

former DG of Gujarat Police, said on Wednesday. "We are thankful to Delhi Police that in a separate incident they caught two other persons from the Kotla on ACU tip-off." The Delhi Police arrested two people with fake accreditation cards during the IPL match between Rajasthan Royals and SunRisers Hyderabad on May 2. "So on two separate days, these

people managed to get access to Kotla. The one who fled came in the garb of a cleaner. However, we have all his details as he was employed for the tournament. His Aadhar Card details have been handed over to Delhi Police," Hussain said. "I am confident that he will be nabbed in a day or two. He is a small fry working for a couple of hundred or some thousand bucks may be," the ACU supremo said. But he did agree that lower-rung staff might be used by a bigger syndicate since, because of Covid-19, there is no access to hotels given the bio-secure measures. "...As situations and circum-

stances change, so does the modus operandi of crime. But we are up for it," Hussain said. He also said that during the Mumbai leg, the hotel in which SunRisers Hyderabad team was staying had three people with questionable past record and whose names were there in ACU database. However, they couldn't come in contact of the players. "The moment we had information, we got in touch with Mumbai Police. The Police Commissioner of Mumbai took immediate cognisance and the Mumbai Police got hold of those three," he added.

Babar, Fakhar nominated for ICC Player of Month award

Dubai, May 6: Pakistan batsmen Babar Azam and Fakhar Zaman were on Wednesday nominated for the ICC Player of the Month award for April following their stupendous performance in the limited-overs series against South Africa. The ICC on Wednesday announced the nominees to recognise the best performances from both male and female cricketers across all forms of International cricket and for the first time, the list didn't feature any Indian. Besides the Pakistan duo, Nepal batsman Khushal Bhurtel was the other player to be nominated in the men's category, the ICC stated in a media release. The



nominees among the women's cricketers comprised the Australian duo of Alyssa Healy and Megan Schutt and New Zealand's Leigh Kasperek. Last month, Pakistan captain Babar had become the No 1 ranked ODI batsman, ending India captain Virat Kohli's long reign at the top of the charts.

Babar's match-winning 82-ball 94 in the third ODI against South Africa helped him gain 13 rating points to reach a career-best 865 points. He also contributed 122 from 59 balls in Pakistan's successful chase in the third match of a T20I series against the same opposition.

Vedanta Supports Jharsuguda District Administration with Oxygen Cylinders for COVID Treatment

(A.O. Bureau) Jharsuguda, May 6: Vedanta, India's largest producer of aluminium and value-added products, is providing oxygen cylinders to the District Headquarter Hospital for treatment of the region's affected populace. The company is working closely with the district administration to aid in effective management of the disease in the region. Oxygen, being the most critical requirement during the second wave of the pandemic, Vedanta's aid comes as a strong support to the district administration, helping the government hospital provide proper care to those undergoing treatment. Speaking about the company's initiative, Mr. CN Singh, CEO - Vedanta Ltd., Jharsuguda, said, "It is our solemn duty to stand with community and district administration at the time of need like this. We have ensured the supply of oxygen cylinders to district Covid hospital Jharsuguda on time so that uninterrupted oxygen supply is maintained for treatment of Covid patients. We stand firmly with the people of Jharsuguda and district administration in the fight against Covid and we will always be at the forefront and ensure our cooperation in all possible manner to mitigate the current scenario." Dr. Lal Mohan Routray, C D M & P H O, Jharsuguda district appreciated the company's support saying, "Being a responsible corporate, Vedanta has always stood with the district administration and people of Jharsuguda in the fight against the Covid pandemic. Their support in operating district Covid hospital is significant. From arrangements of beds, ventilators, medicines, Oxygen cylinders, ambulance, to a full-time dedicated DG is extremely crucial in saving the lives of our



people. We stand together in this fight." Towards ensuring greater preparedness against COVID-19 at the grassroots, Vedanta had rolled out a plethora of initiatives in Jharsuguda. The company had helped set up the District COVID Hospital, by providing infrastructure and medical equipment such as beds and ICUs, ventilators, PPE and corona kits, oxygen concentrators, medicines, and other essential supplies. Vedanta distributed over 1.6 lakh masks to the community and frontline workers. The masks were stitched by local women's SHG under Subhalaxmi Cooperative, Vedanta's flagship women empowerment project in

Jharsuguda, thus providing them with a safe means of livelihood during lockdown. More than 3300 ration kits were distributed to daily wage earners, slum dwellers and under-served families. Extensive awareness sessions on COVID-19 were conducted across more than 30 remote villages, and sanitization and disinfection activities were carried out in peripheral villages, public spaces, government offices, etc. Vedanta's social interventions in the domains of quality education sustainable livelihood, women empowerment, health, water and sanitation, bio-investment and community infrastructure reach out to a total of 72 villages in Jharsuguda

and nearby areas, benefiting nearly 80,000 people in a year. It empowers more than 4000 women from over 330 SHGs, provides doorstep healthcare services to about 32,000 people annually, gives educational support to more than 6400 students, has planted more than 1.48 lakh trees in partnership with the community, and built 570 plus infrastructural projects at community level. Vedanta is India's largest producer of the green metal, aluminium, operating a world-class 1.6 MTPA aluminium smelter and 3615 MW thermal power generation facility in Jharsuguda, Odisha. The only Indian smelter in the global '1 Million Tonne' production and export club, Vedanta Jharsuguda is a leader in value-added aluminium products that find critical applications across core industries. With one of the largest technically qualified and diverse workforces in the country, the company is working towards a sustainable and greener future for all by spurring emerging applications of aluminium, the 'Metal of the Future'.

100-Bed ICU Ventilator facilities at Vikash Multi-Specialty Hospital (VMSH)

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 6: Under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Indian Oil Corporation Limited in association with Dasari Veer Raju & Gunnam Ram Chandra Rao Memorial Trust, is augmenting 100-Bed ICU Ventilator facilities at Vikash Multi-Specialty Hospital (VMSH) at a total cost of Rs 11.5 Crore in Bargarh district of Odisha. Under this project, 70 numbers ventilators, 50 numbers monitors and 200 numbers syringe pumps are being provided by IndianOil for establishing the ICU ventilator facilities aimed at treating critical COVID-19 patients in Western Odisha. Our country is one of the worst hit countries with this pandemic which is exacting huge toll on individuals, families and communities across the states in the country. The second wave of Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic continues to stay strong in India. India has detected

- Under the aegis of MoP&NG, IndianOil is augmenting 100 bed ICU Ventilator Facilities for COVID-19 Patients in Bargarh district of Western Odisha.
- Under its Corporate Social Responsibility, IndianOil facilitates at Vikash Multi-Specialty Hospital (VMSH) at cost of Rs 11.5 Crore in association with Dasari Veer Raju & Gunnam Ram Chandra Rao Memorial Trust.
- Sri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel will inaugurate the 100 bed ICU ventilator facilities tomorrow (7th May 2021, Friday) on virtual platform.
- This CSR intervention by IndianOil will further supplement the efforts of government in providing timely treatment to COVID patients, thereby reducing mortality rate in the state of Odisha and particularly in Bargarh and surrounding districts in Western Odisha.

more than 2 crore cases of infection, out of which around 35 lakh (17%) cases are active and more than 2 lakh deaths have occurred as on May 5, 2021. (Source: <https://www.mygov.in/>) As the second wave of COVID-19 sweeps through the country, Western Odisha too is entering the explosive phase with test positivity rate (TPR) shooting up. The Test Positivity Rate (TPR) in some districts of Western

Odisha is alarmingly high. The number of patients requiring ICU Ventilators is rising sharply, which has strained existing critical care facilities. This CSR intervention by IndianOil will further supplement the efforts of government in providing timely treatment to COVID patients, thereby reducing mortality rate in the state of Odisha and particularly in Bargarh and surrounding districts in Western Odisha.

West Bengal Bound Train Passengers Should Have RTPCR Negative Report

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 6: Going by the recent upsurge and high positivity rate and hence to restrict the Covid19 cases and to break the chain of infection, Government of West Bengal has made mandatory RTPCR negative report of the passengers coming from other States. Train Passengers from Other States going to anywhere in West Bengal should possess RTPCR Negative Report. The Test should

have been conducted within 72 hours of departure of train from originating Stations. Passengers from East Coast Railway jurisdiction going to any place of West Bengal are requested to take RTPCR Negative Report within 72 hours of boarding the train. Passengers of trains originating from Puri, Bhubaneswar and Sambalpur, i.e., 02088 Puri-Howrah Special, 02202 Puri-Howrah Duronto Special, 02838 Puri-Howrah Special,

02074 Bhubaneswar-Howrah Special, 08306 Sambalpur-Howrah Special should have to bring RTPCR negative report with them for hassle free journey in pandemic situation. These apart, passengers of through trains, passing through ECoR jurisdiction and providing stoppages in West Bengal area should have also to possess RTPCR negative report both at during boarding the trains and after getting down at their destinations.

Odias in Oman set to celebrate Virtual Utkal Divas

(A.O. Bureau) Muscat, May 6: Odias in Oman are all set to celebrate 85th Utkal Divas virtually on 8th May 2021 at 3.30 p.m. afternoon Oman time and 5 p.m. evening India time. Being hosted by Odia Wing of Muscat based Indian Social Club (ISC), the glittering online celebration shall witness the assembly of representatives of Odia Samaj from different Countries, prominent non-resident Odias and distinguished Odisha Lovers from across the Globe. The Video conferencing meeting will be followed by the spectacular cultural extravaganza presented

by illustrious luminaries from art world. The honourable Guests scheduled to grace the Mega Internet Festival include the Chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry H.E. Eng. Ridha bin juma al Saleh, Renowned Spiritual Preacher Guruji Dr. Chandrabhanu Satpathy, Ambassador of India to Oman H.E. Shri Munu Mahawar, Odisha's minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Welfare Honourable Shri Ranendra Pratap Swain, Indian Social Club's Chairman Dr. Sathish Nambiar and Former Special Secretary in Min-



istry of Finance, Govt. of India Prasanna Kumar Dash. The Massive digital Event is designed and destined to present a solid fight back against the ongoing catastrophic Covid Pandemic, declared the Convenor of the Organising Institution, Odia Wing of ISC Manoj Mahapatra. The Wing is going to support Odisha and India with Oxygen

Concentrators, emergency medical aids and basic human needs like food, clothes and shelters for needy old people and orphans, Shri Mahapatra added. The current Utkal Divas celebration shall not only strengthen the bilateral trade and Business relationship between Oman, Odisha and Odia diaspora worldwide but also greatly help in en-

hancing the Oman's foreign direct investment in Odisha, Shri Mahapatra exudes confidence. The highlight of the festival would be a charity show entitled 'Auction in Action'. The colourful live streaming Cultural evening would feature other attractions like welcome song, blowing of Conch, Odissi Dance, Kids' Dance, Odisha Tourism fillers, short plays, Mix Songs, Ladies Dance Performances, Gents group Dance, Drama on Covid, comedy show and musical orchestra from Odisha informed by Gupta Prasad Dash, Co-Convenor of the Odia wing.

Weekend Cancellation Of Trains To Break The Chain Of Covid19 Infection

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 6: Duo to Shut Down enforcement in Odisha and to break the chain of Covid19 infection, it has been decided to cancel 11 pair of Special Train Services on Saturdays & Sundays from 8th to 16th May, 2021. 0 8 4 5 6 / 0 8 4 5 5 B h u b a n e s w a r - K e n d u j h a r g a h - Bhubaneswar Special, 08428/08427 Puri-Angul-Puri Special, 08412/08411 Bhubaneswar-Bhadrak-Bhubaneswar Special, 08432/08431 Puri-Cuttack-Puri Special, 08438/08437 Cuttack-Bhadrak-Cuttack Special, 08461/08462 Cuttack-Paradeep-Cuttack

Special, 08454/08453 Cuttack-Bhadrak-Cuttack Special, 08528/08527 Visakhapatnam-Raipur-Visakhapatnam Special, 0 8 4 3 3 / 0 8 4 3 4 Bhubaneswar-Palasa-Bhubaneswar Special, 08301/08302 Rayagada-Sambalpur-Rayagada Special from both the directions on 8th, 9th, 15th & 16th May, 2021 (Saturday & Sundays) will remain cancelled. Similarly, 0 2 8 9 2 / 0 2 8 9 1 Bhubaneswar-Bangiripoi-Bhubaneswar Special from Bhubaneswar on 8th, 9th, 15th & 16th May, 2021 and from Bangiripoi on 9th, 10th, 11th & 17th May, 2021 will remain cancelled.

Black Marketers Be Booked Under PSA: K Y S Manhas

(A.O. Bureau) Jammu, May 6: Demanding stern action against all black marketers and hoarders in present situation of national disaster, K Y S Manhas Chairman We The Humans, made an appeal to Manoj Sinha Lt. Governor of J&K (UT) to issue directions to all Deputy Commissioners and District Police Heads to catch hold of black marketers and hoarders of Oxygen, Oxygen Flow Meters, Oxy Pulse Meters, Oxygen Concentrators, medicines and all other essential items.



These black sheeps in our society, sabotaging government efforts to contain effects of the Pandemic, should be booked under Public Safety Act or other similar strict laws. Black marketing of Oxygen, Oxygen Concentrators, Oxy Pulse Meters, Medicines

needs to be got stopped, on a war footing! Manhas exhorted public too to keep a strict vigil over such Black Marketers and Hoarders in their vicinity and report such malpractices before Police and Civil authorities on their helpline or control room numbers. Manhas said that all philanthropic people and non government organisations need to support and supplement government efforts to fight second wave of COVID19 in close coordination with the government.

OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, KUARMUNDA
E-mail: ORI-KUARMUNDA@NIC.IN
Bid Identification No. B.D.O.P.S., KUARMUNDA-03/2021-2022
No. 2647, P.S. KUARMUNDA / Dtd. 6.5.2021

1. Block Development Officer, Kuarmunda on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid through open bid in Single from eligible contractors for the works as detailed below.

Nature of Work	: "Construction of AWC Building under Kuarmunda Block"
Number of Work	: 33 Nos.
Tender Cost	: As specified in the bid documents
Class of Contractor	: As specified in the bid documents
Available of Bid document in website	: From Dt. 10.05.2021 of 10.00 A.M. to Dt. 19.05.2021 up to 13 hours
Date of opening of open Bid	: Dt. 26.05.2021 at 10 AM

2. The Bidders have to participate in open bidding only. further details can be seen from the website www.sundargarh.nic.in.

3. Any Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the newspaper and website <http://www.sundargarh.nic.in>.

Sd/- Block Development Officer
Kuarmunda