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## AINRC leader N Rangasamy sworn in as Puducherry Chief Minister



New Delhi, May 7: All India NR Congress (AINRC) leader N Rangasamy on Friday was sworn in as Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Puducherry. The 71-year-old three-time Chief Minister was administered the oath by Lieutenant Governor T a m i l i s a i Soundararajan during a brief ceremony

at Raj Niwas. Amid an aggressive second wave of Covid cases, the function was only attended by elected MLAs, senior party functionaries and top government officials. Earlier this month, the NR Congress-BJP alliance secured the majority in Puducherry, winning 16 seats in the 30-member assembly. The Indian

National Congress, which was ruling Puducherry until its government was toppled in February, won two seats. Its ally DMK won six seats out of the 13 it contested. While Rangasamy was sworn in alone on Friday, other ministers, including those from BJP, will be inducted over the next few days, party sources told PTI.

## Naveen Waives Rent Of Odisha Bhawan Used For Quarantine In COVID-Hit Mumbai

Bhubaneswar, May 7: Showing humanity and goodwill towards people of Mumbai in the midst of COVID pandemic second wave, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik waived the rent of Odisha Bhawan used for quarantine of healthcare workers in the country's financial centre. The Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) had been using Odisha Bhawan under its jurisdic-

tion as the quarantine centre for doctors and health workers engaged in battle against COVID-19 since April 2020. While the cost of rent is Rs 2,00,16,000 (Two Crore Sixteen Thousand), Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has ordered the complete abolition of the rent of Odisha Bhawan during the pandemic, the Chief Minister's Office said today. It is worth mentioning that Odisha



has been supplying oxygen to Maharashtra in the past 15 days on an emergency basis for the treatment of critically ill COVID patients.

## 400 Lives Saved As Cops Trace Missing Tanker Carrying Oxygen From Odisha

Amaravati, May 7: The Andhra Pradesh Police tracked a missing oxygen tanker and ensured its delivery on time, thus saving the lives of nearly 400 patients on Friday. A Vijayawada-bound tanker carrying 18 tonnes oxygen from Odisha went missing late Thursday. According to police, the oxygen supply was critical for nearly 400 patients undergoing treatment at the



Government General Hospital in Vijayawada. Hospital authorities were waiting for the tanker. However, the tracking system failed

and within minutes, Vijayawada Police Commissioner alerted all the Superintendents of Police who have jurisdiction on the

Odisha-Vijayawada route. All the alerted units of Andhra Pradesh Police swung into action and traced the missing tanker at a dhaba in Dharmavaram in East Godavari district. Investigation revealed that the driver had stopped at the dhaba due to fatigue caused by the number of trips driven by him. Understanding the situation, orders were given by higher officials to the

local police to ensure that an experienced home guard accompanies the driver throughout the journey and that the tanker is escorted to the destination using the 'green channel', as soon as possible. Due to the proactive steps taken by the police force, the oxygen reached GGH Vijayawada on time and the patients could continue their fight against Covid-19.

## Covid-19 Active Cases Cross 10,000 In Bhubaneswar, 1,048 New Cases Reported

Bhubaneswar, May 7: The active number of Covid-19 cases in Bhubaneswar crossed the 10,000-mark by recording 10,060 cases with 1,048 new positive cases detected in the last 24 hours (till 9 AM today), according to the Covid-19 update



shared by the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) today evening. Similarly, the cumulative total of Covid-19 cases in the city climbed to 51,496. Besides, one death due to Covid-19 has been reported from the city in the last 24 hours. With

848 new recoveries from the city during the same period, the cumulative tally of recovered cases in the city went up to 41,136. Out of the new positive cases, the majority 897 (85.59%) are local contact cases and the remaining 151 are quarantine cases.

## 17 Odisha Districts Likely To Experience Thunderstorm



Bhubaneswar, May 7: As many as 17 districts of Odisha are likely to experience thunderstorm today, the Regional Meteorological Centre forecasted. "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 Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur,

Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Kandhamal, Nayagarh and Khurda," the Meteorological Centre said in its bulletin. Light to moderate rain or thundershower very likely to occur at a few places over the dis-

tricts of north Odisha and at one or two places over the districts of south Odisha, it added. Temperature Forecast: No large change in maximum temperature (day temperature) during next 3 days and it will rise gradually thereafter by 2-3 degree Celsius at many places over the districts of Odisha.

## Centre has to supply 700 MT of oxygen to Delhi everyday: Supreme Court

New Delhi, May 7: The Supreme Court on Friday directed the Centre to supply 700 metric tonnes of medical oxygen to Delhi everyday till further orders as top hospitals in the national capital have been struggling to tackle an unprecedented rise in Covid-19 cases. A bench headed by Justice DY Chandrachud took note of the submission of the Delhi government on deficient supply of oxygen to the

national capital and warned that it will pass orders against officials concerned if 700 MT of LMO is not supplied daily. "We want 700 MT oxygen to be supplied to Delhi on daily basis and we mean business. It has to be supplied and we don't want to be coercive. Our order will take time to be uploaded by 3 pm. But you proceed and arrange the oxygen," said Justice DY Chandrachud accord-



ing to the Bar and Bench. Justice MR Shah, who was on the Bench along with Justice Chandrachud, added, "You have to supply 700 MT oxygen every day till further orders." This is the third straight day

that the shortage of medical oxygen — a key challenge that has emerged in India's fight against a deadly second Covid wave — was discussed in the top court. The Supreme Court had, on May 5, asked the

Central government to supply the 700 MT of oxygen that Delhi needs and submit a tabulated plan detailing how it would be meeting the oxygen requirements for the national capital. The Supreme Court had stayed a Delhi High Court order by which show cause notice for contempt of court was issued to the Central government for its failure to meet oxygen supply benchmark for the national capital.

## Drive-In COVID Vaccination Centre Launched In Bhubaneswar; Slot Booking Starts Today

Bhubaneswar, May 7: Emulating the Mumbai model, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has launched the first drive-in COVID-19 vaccination centre in the city for people aged above 45

years. The center is located at the parking lot of Esplanade shopping mall near Rasulgurh Square here. Informing this, the BMC said those who have taken the first jab at private hospitals or Government facilities

can drive-in for the second dose of the vaccine at Esplanade centre. They are advised to book their slots for the immunization at the centre. Slot booking will start at 5 PM today. Total 400 slots are



available for May 8 (tomorrow). From May 10 to 15, 500 slots will be available per day, said the BMC. "The intending citizens for the facility will have to drive in vehicle into the Esplanade Mall parking lot

entry as per the slot booked by them. Wait for your turn inside the vehicle at the parking lot. The vaccination will be done at the exit point. After the inoculation, you can drive out and wait outside the

parking lot for 30 minutes for observation," the civic body mentioned. Without slot booking, no vehicle will be allowed inside the parking lot for the vaccination, the BMC cautioned.

## Armed forces spearhead India's Covid response as crisis deepens

New Delhi, May 7: The military has swiftly marshalled enormous resources to help manage -- in some measure -- what is being dubbed the world's biggest health crisis "Jal", "Thal" and "Nabh"...our armed forces have left no stone unturned in strengthening the fight against COVID-19." This tweet by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday recognised the critical contributions of the navy, army and air force to India's pandemic response. The military has swiftly marshalled enormous resources to help manage -- in some measure -- what is being dubbed the world's biggest health crisis. The armed forces, officials said on Friday, are operating in full battle mode for Covid relief. They foresee a bigger role for themselves in the coming weeks and months to help tackle the devastating second wave of the pandemic even as they cater to the health needs of serving soldiers, veterans and their dependents. Modi has reviewed the military's preparations for Covid relief four times since April 26 in one-on-one



meetings with the chief of defence staff and the three service chiefs. Firing on all cylinders: The armed forces are in the vanguard of the fight against the disease. They have helped meet the exploding demand for oxygen, set up Covid hospitals and opened military hospitals to civilians and transported critical medical stores. The Indian Air Force (IAF) is flying sorties daily to international and domestic locations to help overcome a shortage of oxygen. It has deployed eight C-17 Globemaster III aircraft, four IL-76s, 10 C-130J Super Hercules special operations aircraft, 20 An-32 transport planes, 10 Dornier aircraft and 20 helicopters for Covid-related duties. The IAF is airlifting

much-needed empty oxygen containers from abroad and domestic locations to filling stations across the country to help beat oxygen shortages. Till May 6, IAF aircraft clocked almost 400 flying hours while performing Covid-related duties. IAF chief Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria has ordered 24x7 readiness of the force's entire heavy-lift fleet and substantial numbers of the medium-lift fleet to operate in a hub and spoke model for Covid-related duties. "IAF transport aircraft carried out 50 sorties, airlifting 61 oxygen containers of 1,142 MT capacity from abroad. Within the country, it carried out 344 sorties, airlifting 230 containers of 4,527 MT capacity till May 5," defence minis-

ter Rajnath Singh said on Thursday, enumerating the steps taken by the armed forces in the battle against Covid. The army is helping authorities set up and run Covid facilities, treating civilians at military hospitals and providing medical specialists, super specialists and paramedics for adequate staffing at non-military hospitals, officials said. On Thursday, it mobilised two field hospitals by air from the northeast to Patna to assist the Bihar government set up a 500-bed Covid facility, including 100 intensive care unit (ICU) beds. Also, around 750 beds in various military hospitals across the country have been reserved for civilians. The army has also set up a Covid management cell under a three-star gen-

eral to help civilian authorities. It is headed by the Director-General of Operational Logistics and Strategic Movement, who reports directly to the vice chief. The main responsibility of the new cell is to coordinate Covid-related logistics support across the country. The army is also liaising with state governments to help them deal with the unprecedented surge in Covid-19 cases. State-run plane-maker Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is setting up a 250-bed Covid hospital in Lucknow. It has already set up two Covid facilities in Bengaluru with 250 and 180 beds each. It has also operationalised a 70-bed facility in Odisha's Koraput and a 40-bed hospital in Maharashtra's Nasik. The DPSUs are fast-tracking the procurement of oxygen plants for state government hospitals under their corporate social responsibility scheme. These include HAL, Bharat Dynamics Limited, Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited.

## 3rd wave of Covid-19 may not occur everywhere, explains govt's expert

New Delhi, May 7: "It may not take place at all if precautions are taken. The pandemic has different peaks and falls across the country," the expert said. K Vijay Raghavan, the principal scientific advisor to the government, on Friday clarified his earlier comment that a third wave of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic is inevitable in the country and said such a

and their number, although the latter is in common usage. If we take strong measures, the third wave may not happen at all places or indeed anywhere at all. It depends on how effectively the guidance is implemented at the local level, in the states, in districts," Raghavan said, referring to Covid-19 appropriate behaviour, local lockdown mea-

entific advisor said that when a large number of people is vaccinated against the virus or is following social distancing and other precautions, the virus runs out of opportunities. But when the virus runs out of opportunities, it does not mean that it has been eliminated. If new opportunities are given to them, cases will again rise. And new opportunities can arise if people become complacent, and if people think the pandemic is over, the expert explained. "The frequency and the size of these ups and downs may be reduced as this is in our hands. Remember, asymptomatic people can also transmit the infection. This is all the more reason why you should maintain social distancing and proper hygiene," he said. This comes as a departure from his earlier comment where he warned the country of a third wave of the pandemic. In his earlier warning, he said a third wave seems inevitable given the high levels of the virus in circulation, though it's not clear when the third wave may attack.



wave may not take place everywhere in the country if adequate precautions are taken. "It may not take place at all if precautions are taken. The pandemic has different peaks and falls across the country," the expert said, adding that the only condition for such waves is the presence of a susceptible population. "It may be useful to talk about the location, timing and intensity of infections instead of waves

sures etc. The "insidious, asymptomatic" transmission of the virus can be stopped, if the guidance on testing, treating, containing is followed, he said. "This sounds difficult, it is difficult but we can and must do it," he added. "Very simply put, the infections rise when the virus has the opportunity to infect people. When the virus runs out of opportunities, infections fall," he said. Explaining, the principal sci-

## Himachal asks Centre to double its liquid oxygen quota



Shimla, May 7: The Himachal Pradesh government has asked the Centre to increase its daily liquid medical oxygen quota from the current 15 MT to 30 MT, chief minister Jai Ram Thakur told a group of oxygen manufacturers on Friday. The state's current quota of 15 MT is supplied by a Baddi-based unit of Inox Air Products. There are several other private oxygen manufacturers as well as government plants in Himachal and

the daily production capacity here, according to government officials, currently is around 53 MT, which includes the 15MT quota from Inox. Thakur said that the state is currently producing surplus oxygen but more cylinders for transporting the product are required and so he has also asked the Centre for additional stocks of 5,000 D Type and 3,000 B Type cylinders. To increase oxygen supply in the biggest hospitals of the

state, the production capacity of the oxygen plant at IGMC Hospital in Shimla is being increased by 20 MT, Thakur said. An official said that the state currently has nine facilities for filling oxygen cylinders and a total of 13 new pressure swing adsorption (PSA) plants are coming up, of which three have already been commissioned at DDU hospital in Shimla, zonal hospital in Dharamshala and the medical college at Nerchowk.

## BJP leaders attack Hemant Soren over PM jibe, Jagan calls for unity to fight Covid

New Delhi, May 7: Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren Thursday termed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's phone call on the Covid-19 situation as PM's "Mann Ki Baat" instead of any "Kaam ki baat" — a comment that did not go down well with BJP leaders who accused him of "politicising" the Covid pandemic. His Andhra Pradesh counterpart Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, too, urged Soren that it is not the time to point fingers but work unitedly and fight the pandemic. Modi had on Thursday spoken to the chief ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Telangana besides Jharkhand about the COVID-19 situation in their states. Following the telephonic conversation, Soren, taking a dig at the PM, tweeted: "Today the respected Prime Minister called. He only spoke his 'Mann Ki Baat'. It would have been

better if he had talked business and heard the issues." According to Jharkhand government sources, Soren was upset as he did not get a chance to present the issues concerning his state as it was allegedly only PM Modi who held forth on the matter. "The Jharkhand CM's angst was palpable," said sources close to CM. "PM Modi did not ask anything on the condition of the state and on resources and what all the state needed. The state has been struggling to get the required medicines. He just went on and on. This led the CM to write this tweet," the source said. The Jharkhand CM's jibe, however, angered the BJP leaders, who accused him of lacking the basic courtesy expected of a person holding his office and lowering its dignity. In a strongly-worded message, Union Health Min-



ister Dr Harsh Vardhan told the Jharkhand CM to "fight Corona and not the PM". In a tweet, Vardhan said, "While making a statement on the Prime Minister, one must not forget that the pandemic can be brought under control only by the combined efforts of the Centre and the state governments". He further said that when the Centre has opened its treasuries to help the poor during the pandemic, the Jharkhand government has further tightened its purse strings.

Attacking the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha leader, BJP general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh said, "This is the level to which some politicians are stooping. PM calls & has detailed talk regarding COVID-19 crisis & this CM tweets so. Lacks minimum grace required for the position he holds (sic)." BJP MP (Uttarakhand) Anil Baluni also targeted Soren saying he had zero knowledge of basic courtesy to be shown towards a senior leader. Assam BJP

leader Himanta Biswa Sarma said Soren's tweet goes against the basic decorum and also mocks people's suffering as Modi had called up to enquire about them. "You have behaved in a very petty way. You have lowered the dignity of the chief minister's chair," Sarma said. Andhra Pradesh CM and YSR Congress Party chief Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy also termed Soren's remark as "not fitting" in such troubled times.

## UP panchayat poll: Wrong candidates declared winners, additional returning officer booked

Gorakhpur, May 7: The four-tier polls were conducted on the total 3,050 district panchayat seats. An FIR has been registered against a government official deputed as additional returning officer (ARO) in the Uttar Pradesh panchayat polls for allegedly giving winning certificates to candidates who lost, an official said on Friday. Additional returning officer

(ARO) Virendra Kumar has been booked for cheating, forgery and fraud on a complaint from Returning Officer Sunil Kumar, a senior police official said. On Wednesday night, there were incident of arson in Nai Bazar police outpost by the supporters of the candidates who alleged that they were not declared winner due to fraud committed by the official. Police have



arrested 18 people and lodged four separate FIRs in connection with vandalism and arson of the police outpost. After the counting of votes

on Tuesday, Ravi Nishad, a candidate of district Panchayat ward number 60, and Kodai Nishad, of ward number 61, claimed they

have won the election with over 2,000 votes, but the administration didn't give them certificate. On Wednesday morning, certificates of victory was given to Gopal Yadav for ward number 60 and Ramesh for ward number 61. The supporters of Ravi and Kodai held a demonstration at Nai Bazar crossing, pelted stones, and also set ablaze the police post there.

## Bengal post-poll violence: MHA team meets Gov, to seek report

Kolkata, May 7: A four-member team of the Union Home Ministry, tasked with looking into reasons for the post-poll violence in West Bengal, met Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar at the Raj Bhawan on Friday. The team, led by an additional secretary of the ministry, had arrived in the state on Thursday and held meetings with the chief secretary, home secretary and the DGP at the secretariat, officials said. The ministry

has sought a report from Dhankhar on the law and order situation in Bengal, particularly the post-poll violence that erupted following the announcement of the assembly election results on May 2. The team visited several places in South 24 Parganas and North 24 Parganas districts on Thursday and spoke to family members of the deceased and locals, they said. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has said

16 people lost their lives in post-poll violence in various parts of the state. The BJP has alleged that TMC-backed goons have killed a number of its workers, attacked women members, vandalised houses and looted shops. Rejecting the charges, Banerjee maintained that violence and clashes were taking place in those areas where saffron party candidates emerged victorious in the assembly polls.

## INS Chilika Covid Care Centre Inaugurated By Collector Khordha



(A.O. Bureau) Khordha, May 7: Covid care centre established to treat Covid positive patients of Khordha district by Indian Navy at its ab-initio training establishment INS Chilika under the aegis of Naval Officer -in-Charge Odisha was inaugurated by Mr. Sanat Kumar Mohanty Collector Khordha on 07 May-2021. The 150 bed oxygen facility at INHS Nivarini the Naval Hos-

pital is all geared up for treating mid symptomatic Covid positive patients. Dedicated doctors, paramedical staffs from the district medical authorities along with personnel from the station community will be functioning 24\*7 at the Covid care centre to provide adequate facilities and care to all the patients. The Collector Mr. Mohanty during the address appreciated the

Indian Navy for playing a crucial role of support in the battle against covid-19. He also apprised that this facility for Khordha district will not only enable better treatment to the infected people but the support from the Indian Navy will also boost up their confidence. This is a sterling example of civil military cooperation towards a common aim, provide succour to Covid positive patients.

## OMFED has stopped milk procurement

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 7: Omfed has stopped procurement of milk from the primary milk cooperatives for which lacs of farmers are facing a day to day financial crisis. In a letter issued yesterday the Deputy General Manager of Omfed has written to all the Milk

Unions of Cuttack, Puri, Dhenkanal, Sambalpur, Bargarh etc. not to procure milk from the farmers. This has created resentment among 2.78 lacs milk farmers of omfed. Mr. Rabi Behera, President, Odisha Milk Farmers Association (OMFA) has severely criticized such action of omfed

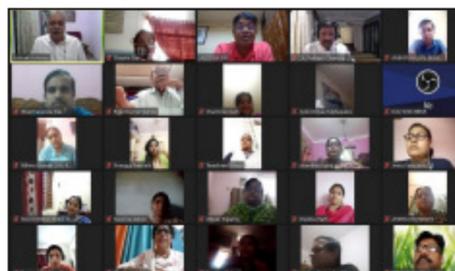
and has said that the objectives of Omfed was to stop distress sell, to provide income generating programmes to the farmers it has also aimed at providing pure and quality milk and milk product to the consumers and to provide developed hybrid cows and buffaloes to the farmers to increase milk

production to fight mal nutrition in the State. But when the State is going through worst crisis due to Corona Pandemic at that time Omfed has let-down the milk farmers of the State. To risk the farmers and their livelihood Govt. of Odisha should provide 5 kg fodder and animal feeds for each animal

population and minimum a monthly assistance of Rs. 5000/- for two months to all the milk farmers demanded Mr. Behera. The Agriculture Minister and the Chief Minister should intervene to restore the livelihood of 10 lacs milk farmers of Odisha says Mr. Behera in a Press Statement today.

## DAV Kalinga Nagar Organises Online Seminar On Covid Care & Management

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 7: As the entire country is suffering from the deadly virus of covid-19 DAV, Kalinga Nagar, Bhubaneswar organized an online webinar on covid care, its remedies and management recently on virtual mode. Joining as the Chief Guest of the occasion in this online webinar presided over by the Principal of the school Bipin Kumar Sahoo, Dr. Ashoak Acharya, Man-



aging Director of Ayush Hospital and senior consultant surgeon urged for early detection, timely treatment, and awareness without panic as the keys to fight

against this deadly virus of covid-19. Discussing elaborately on different mutants of the virus in the 2nd surge, Dr. Acharya counselled everybody that life will go

on, we have to live with corona and have to go through it. He also gave importance on vaccination, wearing of mask, social distancing, physical exercise, Yoga, pranayam along with happy and positive concept for a healthy life during this crucial time. Dr. Acharya also actively participated in the question answer session and clarified all the confusions of the participants present on the webinar. The free con-

sultation app "Apna Dr. developed by Dr. Acharya was informed to the members present and it was informed to dial 9798883883 for any emergency consultation. The programme was organised by the covid monitoring team of the school. The Principal appreciated the effort and extended his heartfelt thanks to Dr. Acharya for his cooperation and friendly gesture.

## Odisha Matric Exam 2021: How to Marks Will Be Awarded To Students

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 7: The Odisha Matric Exam-2021 was cancelled in view of the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic. The Board of Secondary Education (BSE) has approved an alternative method of assessment to award marks to the Class-X students. In case any candidate is not satisfied, he/she can appear in the examination to be conducted offline by the board after the pandemic situation improves.

PROCEDURE FOR ASSESSMENTS: The procedure of assessments will be different for different examinations. Separate procedure will be applied for different category of candidates of a particular examination. School Regular (SR) & Quasi Regular (QR): Basing on the teaching activities undertaken and tests conducted at school level, methods of assessment as framed below shall be adopted for award of marks for this category of candidates. a) Each school has to fill up the Tabulation Register format given by the Board for both for Class-IX & X. b) Marks in each examination conducted (both in Class-IX & X) are to be converted out of the maximum marks mentioned against each subject and to be entered in the Tabulation Register. c) Marks of the following examinations have been asked to be entered in the Tabulation Register. Class-IX: [i] Half Yearly Examination, [ii] Annual Examination. Class-X: [i] 2nd Practice Test held during February, 2021, [ii] 3rd Practice Test held during March, 2021, [iii] 4th Practice Test held during April, 2021. d) All total 2766 schools have been selected as Mentor

school to which some nearby schools have been attached. e) Headmaster of Mentor School shall upload the marks of individual schools attached to it with the support Headmaster/school teachers of attached schools. f) The marks secured by the candidates in the following examinations shall be uploaded. [i] Subject wise highest marks secured by the candidates among Class-IX examinations (half yearly and annual) [ii] Class-X, 2nd Practice Test Examination [iii] Class-X, 3rd Practice Test Examination [iv]

highest marks in all subject out of three practice tests conducted in Class-X will be given weightage of 30% each. In case any candidate has appeared in only one practice test, then 70% weightage will be given in the mark secured in Class-IX exams (half yearly and annual). k) Results of Annual HSC Examination conducted by B.S.E., Odisha of last four years i.e. 2017, 2018, 2019 & 2020 of the schools will be analysed and basing on the best performance of the school in last four years, maximum no. of different

didates in which they appeared. c) A database of this category of candidates shall be prepared taking into account the best marks secured by the candidate in each subject. d) Following the principle of "Average Mark", the scores of pending subjects will be determined in order to process their results. e) The candidates having no mark at all in any past examinations shall have to appear in offline examination when it will be held. Correspondence Course Regular (CR): There can not be any method of assessment for Correspon-

## COVID-19 Vaccination Programme of Working Journalists held at Khordha



(A.O. Bureau) Khordha, May 7: Covid-19 vaccination like other front line workers media has played a crucial role in the state fight against the Covid crisis by providing vital information and details from the front line making people aware of corona virus related issues. However the role of media which is considered the fourth pillar of democracy has largely gone unnoticed across the country. Several state governments

have now decided to declare Journalists as front line Covid warriors for their services to the nation. This would allow journalists to get priority in the Covid vaccination programme. Chief Minister Naveen Pattnaik declared working journalists of the state as front line Covid warriors for providing seamless news feed. As per the decision of state government Khordha district administration organized Covid vaccination

programme of working journalists at Sambadika Bhavan Khordha. Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Khordha Manoj Kumar Padhi inaugurated the programme. District Information and Public Relation Officer (DIPRO) Khordha, Assistant Public Health Officer Pradyumna Mishra are remain present in this programme. All the working journalists of Khordha were vaccinated in this programme.



Class-X, 4th Practice Test Examination. g) Board will take into consideration the two highest marks in each subject from the three practice tests conducted in Class-X. h) School wise merit list shall be prepared after giving appropriate weightage to marks secured and uploaded in above examinations. i) 40% weightage will be given to highest marks secured in Class-IX exams in each subject. This is required as attendance in Class-X which started from 08/01/2021 was optional including the days of practice tests. In case a candidate has not appeared in any of the practice tests of Class-X exam, 100% weightage will be given to the mark secured in Class-IX exam (both half yearly & annual) and subject wise highest marks will be taken into consideration. j) Two

grades bagged by each school shall be found out. The database is already available with B.S.E., Odisha. l) Basing on the grades as drawn at supra (k), marks shall be allotted to each candidate in graded manner. m) The work of online entry of marks by mentor schools will be supervised by the respective District Education Officers with the assistance of BEOs/ABEOs. School Ex-Regular (ER) & Correspondence Course Ex-Regular (CE): The following procedures shall be applied for award of marks to these category of candidates. a) These candidates have appeared the examination once or more than once in previous years starting from Annual HSC Examination, 2014. b) The Board shall analyse the examination results of these can-

dence Course Regular (CR) candidates for award of marks since these candidates have neither appeared in any examination nor have any internal assessment grades. These candidates have to appear at examination, offline when it shall be held. STATE OPEN SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION: Fresh Category: There can not be any method of assessment for Fresh category candidates for award of marks since these candidates have neither appeared in any examination nor have any internal assessment grades. These candidates have to appear at examination offline when it shall be held. Back Category: The method of assessment for this category will be identical to that of school ex-regular candidates of

HSC Examination. MADHYAMA (SANSKRIT) EXAMINATION: Regular Category - The regular students of Madhyama Examination have done offline classes throughout the year in Class-IX during 2019-20 and for nearly 100 days in Class-X during 2021. The method of assessment for these category of candidates shall be as follows :- a) These candidates have appeared Class-IX Annual Examination and Pre-Board examination in Class-X. b) The Headpandit of Sanskrit Tols shall submit the marks of these candidates in the Tabulation Register format given by the Board. c) The Tabulation Register after countersignature from the concerned District Education Officer will be submitted before the respective zonal office of the Board. d) A merit list will be prepared after giving appropriate weightage to marks of different examinations. e) 40% weightage will be given to Class-IX Annual Madhyama Examination and 60% weightage shall be given to Class-X Pre Board Examination. f) The results of the schools for last four years will be analysed. g) Basing on the best performance of the Tol during last three years, maximum no. of different grades bagged by the Tol will be found out. h) Basing on the no. of grades determined as at "g" above, the marks shall be allotted to each candidate in graded manner. i) Marks for these category of candidate will be collected in offline mode in shape of Tabulation Register format. Ex-Regular Category: The method of assessment will be similar to that of Ex-Regular category of High School Certificate Examination.

## Covid Care Centre Established By Indian Navy In Khurda



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 7: The Indian Navy has established a Covid Care Centre to treat COVID positive patients in Odisha's Khurda district at its ab-initio Training Establishment, INS Chilika. Khurda Collector SK Mohanty inaugurated

the facility, today. The 150-bedded isolation centre with additional 15 bed oxygen facility at INHS Nivarini, the naval hospital, is all geared up for treating mild symptomatic Covid positive patients. Dedicated doctors/ paramedical staff from the district medical authori-

ties along with personnel from the station community will be functioning 24x7 at the COVID Care Centre to provide adequate facilities and care to all its patients. The District Collector appreciated the Indian Navy for playing a crucial role of support in the battle against COVID-19. He also apprised that this facility for Khurda district will not only enable better treatment to the infected people, but the support from the Indian Navy will also boost up their confidence.

## EDITORIAL

## Brewing crisis

Nepal is staring at a political and humanitarian emergency in these uncertain and testing times. As the cases of COVID-19 infection rise steadily in Nepal, the country is engulfed by a looming political storm. The Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), headed by former Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', has withdrawn support to the KP Sharma Oli-led Government. Now, Oli will have to face the trust vote on May 10 which, under the current circumstances, he might not survive. However, Oli has been quick to offer the olive branch and a few deals to the Opposition Nepal Congress. Noteworthy, Oli had played a masterstroke in the 2017-18 elections by merging his party (the CPN-UML) with the archrival CPN (Maoist). This had not only weakened a strong Opposition but also ended the premiership tussle between Oli and Prachanda. However, differences between these two competitive and power-hungry leaders were out in the open within months of the Government's formation. This tussle finally ended in March this year with the Supreme Court declaring the "merger" illegal and restoring the individual status of the two parties. Considering Oli fails the floor test on May 10, his two year-plus administration will be remembered for his assertion, authoritarianism, hunger for power, blatant lies, misgovernance, foreign policy failures and, above all, corruption. Oli centred his ultra-nationalistic outlook around an anti-India campaign. His country's geographical constraints notwithstanding, he chose to badmouth India's goodwill for political gains and compromised Nepal's integrity by signing the Treaty of Mutual Legal Assistance with China and allowing its embassy to micromanage local affairs. Besides, corruption charges in the procurement of medical supplies to fight COVID-19 had led to the Army's intervention last year. But the Oli Government is still crying foul against a private drug agency in Nepal that was assigned to procure vaccines from the Serum Institute of India. While the firm is accused of making profits out of human agony, the Oli Government did not bother to audit the agency which is found to have close ties with several Ministers. With the chances of a fresh election brightening, Nepal stands close to a major political and humanitarian crisis. The pandemic has reached the Everest base camp and the people can't find medical help. The health infrastructure, already in a shambles after the 2015 earthquake, is overburdened. It's time for the Nepalese people to re-think democracy in the existing form and start questioning politicians.

## Blithesome

The propensity of the Congress to lose an election, and then to turn its back on the humiliation, is glaring. Any electoral debacle would ideally trigger an appraisal exercise within a party. It is surprising that the urgency of self-evaluation, the need for corrective measures and for the right people to carry these out is missing in the Congress. It has already been a couple of days since the party suffered a total loss in four of the five Assembly elections. The Tamil Nadu verdict can at best be a consolation for the Congress which merely piggybacked the winning DMK. Surprisingly, not many senior leaders, and certainly not the party leadership, have spoken on its sorry performance. It seems the Congress, as always, has turned its back to the losses. It is only a matter of time before the G-23, a splinter group within the Congress, will strike back asking for course correction. The "insiders" scuttled every past attempt by this group to pin accountability on the leadership. Not many in the Congress want to alter the cosy arrangement that exists in the top echelons. But the absence of a peacemaker between this group and the Sonia-Rahul-Priyanka troika will worsen the situation for the party's "first family". The Congress has already lost some of its promising second-generation leaders to the BJP and others, and the latest round of electoral reverses might convince others who are on the brink of quitting. It has not only lost power to the BJP and others in the last six years but also forfeited its status of the principal Opposition in at least half a dozen States. There are two pressing issues for the Congress to address. One, Rahul cannot run the party through a proxy. The spin doctors around him would suggest he is reluctant to return as the party president but it is a very convenient arrangement. It gives Rahul the cushion to isolate himself from the ignominy of defeat but grab the credit in case of a victory. If Rahul doesn't want to lead the Congress, he should step aside and allow a democratic and transparent election for a new leader. That leader should enjoy all the independence that Rahul had when he helmed the party. Two, it has long been suggested that Priyanka is the magic wand that can rid the party of all its woes. But that's not happened. She has remained as much a part-time politician as her brother and her electoral track record is no better than Rahul's. She is the third most — if not the second — powerful leader of the party. Just like Rahul, her politics has been more about photo opportunities than building on any energy that her occasional visits to UP may have generated. The party's poor performance in the UP panchayat elections is another telling comment on the "charisma" of Priyanka, who her admirers see as another Indira Gandhi.

## Incredible India deserves respect

The world media has been quick to judge India, a fascinating country in all ways, as it currently reels under the pandemic. India is in the middle of the pandemic second wave's battering, as never seen before. As it battles the alarming spread of the virus, the world media has spared no time in lambasting a country of a whopping 1.4 billion where the sheer numbers make the implementation and success of any public scheme a challenge. I have been visiting India for over a decade now and have travelled all over the country, especially Tamil Nadu which I consider my "spiritual home". I have always had the highest respect for the leaders and public officials who are entrusted with the task of running such a diverse and vast country. Wherever I went, the people greeted me with love and affection, for which I remain in their debt. I can proudly claim that I have seen India up close over the years and that is why my heart bleeds to see it not only in agony at the moment, but also for the bad press that has been hurled at it by those who I am not sure spend any time here to understand India, its people and their myriad challenges. As a cricketer and lover of the game, I have maintained my association with the sport which has allowed me to come to India to cover the Indian Premier League (IPL). Many of my fellow countrymen have also been playing in the IPL for years. In this context, at a time when the world has been shutting doors on India and lambasting the Government, I thought of sharing my thoughts while in India, to give a perspec-



Matthew Hayden

tive not available to those sitting thousands of miles away. I am not a data person, but some of the figures I gathered from some of the media reports are astonishing. India has already vaccinated over 160 million people (five times the population of Australia) and has been conducting 1.3 million tests a day. The point I am making is not to overlook the sheer vast numbers and the challenges associated with it. When one conjures up thoughts of India, a singular word comes to mind. Incredible; a word popularised by the Indian Tourism slogan, "Incredible India". Even now, being caught in the political crossfire of the Scott Morrison Government's decision to temporarily ban the travel to Australia, nothing has changed my mind about this ancient civilisation. As of now, this heaving mass of humanity reels in the wake of the pandemic; the new normal replacing various religious festivals, exotic wedding celebrations, bustling streets jam-packed with street vendors

and livestock, all sadly — like the Morrison Government's travel policy — temporarily put on hold. Looking out the window of my room overlooking Bengaluru, a truss has been established; as if a siesta has been called in respect to health authorities' call to action for our new global anthem: "Isolate, stay home, sanitise your hands, wear your mask, social distance." A race busily running in the background, in many cases for life itself, as national resources like oxygen and critical medical supplies are being re-routed from manufacturing plants to hospitals and care facilities. The simple truth: The demand for basic medical facilities is making the supply look more like one of Usain Bolt's competitors. In short, hectic has been replaced with nervous. One can truly sense the fear and anxiety as India faces off against the challenges of this horrific pandemic. Begging the question, why is an Aussie ex-cricketer away from

his beloved country and family at such a critical, even dangerous, time? On the surface is the commercial value for my family, having played and worked on every IPL since its conception in 2008. It's true, my remuneration is significant and, yes, it pays my family's bills. More broadly, however, I have a deep connection to Mother India which docks into my life's mission: To connect people and organisations on purpose and strategy. My purpose in supporting the IPL this season was to provide a welcome relief to the monotony of extended periods of partial or hard lockdown. Every evening from 6.30 pm, cricket lovers, and let me tell you there are a few, went online or turned on the television to watch their favourite franchise battle. As a genuine lover of the game since I was four years old, my voice, full of excitement, helps narrate our great game by bringing an authentic positive view to the cricket community. Cricket, as so often throughout history, has been and is the silver lining to our COVID cloud. The cricketers, especially in the IPL, have understandably been soft targets of the media and, because of their contractual obligations, cannot defend themselves. It makes all the more important for people such as me, who have once been in a similar situation but can now from the outside not only share a "player's perspective" but also speak up for them. India is a rich civilisation which has very few parallels in the world and, in its hour of need, the least we can do is to appreciate its cultural, regional, linguistic, human development and other complexities before passing any judgement on it.

## How diaspora pushed US to help India's Covid efforts

Rajiv Bhatia

What is of immediate impact is the robust engagement of corporate, mostly big-tech, America. Google, Microsoft, Apple and others are coming forward to commit their resources. Four days is a short period in the realm of politics and diplomacy, but what a difference it can make. On April 30, Super Galaxy, a huge US military plane, landed in Delhi, bringing oxygen cylinders, hospital equipment and Covid test kits. More flights with aid material are on the way to India. And, thereby hangs a tale. Four days is a short period in the realm of politics and diplomacy, but what a difference it can make. On April 22, Edward Price, the US state department spokesman, was asked at a press briefing about "the horrible surge" in the coronavirus infections in India and why the US was not lifting the ban on exports of raw materials for vaccine production. He uttered no word of sympathy, while offering a long explanation as to why it was "in the interests of the rest of the world to see Americans vaccinated". A storm of protests and criticism erupted in India; influential members of the US political and corporate establishment implored their government to change its position. Four days later, on April 26, a much-chastened Price spoke about the importance of the "Global Comprehensive Strategic Partnership" with India, providing details of how the administration planned to help India address the terrible pandemic. President Joe Biden's "America is back" mantra — which, for a moment, sounded more like Trump's "America First" — re-assumed a

liberal and humanitarian patina, thus indicating Washington's right instincts for enlightened global leadership. In a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Modi, Biden acknowledged India's assistance to the US in the early phase of the pandemic and expressed his determination to stand with India in times of her need. After intensive inter-agency consultations in recent days, the US government came up with a positive response to India's requirements. The package of assistance has several elements: First, the US Defence Production Act's provisions are being reconsidered. The authorities have agreed to approve the supply of filters needed for the manufacture of the Covishield vaccine. Second, it is estimated that the US will have 60 million surplus doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine by June, which it will not use at home. Subject to clearance by the FDA, this will be released for use by other countries. Whether some of them will be sent to India is not clear yet. Third, a comprehensive plan has been prepared for the supply of oxygen-related equipment, including generation systems, cylinders and setting up of field hospitals with oxygen beds. Four, a special focus is on stepping up commercial supplies of therapeutics, especially remdesivir. Immediate shipment of 1,00,000 vials by Gilead Sciences has been arranged, with another 2,00,000 vials to be made available by end-May. Five, the US Development Cor-

poration will fund the Indian vaccine firm BioE to expand its manufacturing capacity. This is covered under the Quad's Vax Partnership, enabling India and the other three partners (US, Japan, Australia) to produce and distribute at least 1 billion doses by end-2022. It is noteworthy that the Pentagon has been actively involved in helping India. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin observed that the department of defence has been directed to use its resources to provide frontline health workers with needed materials. What is of immediate impact is the robust engagement of corporate, mostly Big Tech, America. Google, Microsoft and Apple — as well as others — Amazon, Procter & Gamble and more — are coming forward to commit their resources. It's a mix of altruism and pragmatism: US tech has large, valuable investments in India, especially Bangalore, which need protection. The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum is helping with 12 ISO containers for the transport of oxygen to India. The US-India Business Council has appealed to its members to offer assistance. On April 27, Secretary of State Antony Blinken convened a Zoom meeting of business leaders. An Indian participant reported that "a massive effort and dollars" have been invested in supplying assistance urgently. It is easy to see behind America's turn around the benign hand of the Indian diaspora,

backed by friendly American public figures and proactive diplomacy by India. Pramila Jayapal, the Congresswoman who riled the Modi government for her criticism of the human rights situation, raised her voice, stressing that it was both the right and necessary thing to assist India. Even after the havoc wreaked by the second wave became clear, there was a disturbing "stony silence" in Washington, said an expert. The US should realise that the lingering anti-American sentiment (which has a long legacy) has not disappeared. It would be unwise to underestimate its strength. Fortunately, the India-US partnership is now so multi-faceted, deep and robust that it can withstand minor turbulence. The ease and candour with which communications occurred from the US President down to his Deputy Secretary of State and their Indian counterparts, showcased the vibrance of bilateral ties. India-US relations are in a good place now. They are set to deepen further. When it comes to health-related cooperation, the US needs to internalise that helping India is really helping the world. Vaccines produced in India are meant not only for Indians but for the people of Africa, Asia and Latin America. That is why all influential figures in Washington should support the initiative by India and South Africa to seek a temporary IPR waiver under the TRIPS agreement. Many are already doing so enthusiastically — for they know that this is a potential game-changer. Let the magic of how India helped Africa vanquish the HIV/AIDS menace be recreated.

## Goats were stolen in Lockdown, 23 goats were stolen in one night

(A.O. Bureau) Niali, May 7: 23 goats were stolen from different villages of Ekberua panchayat under Niali police station. While goats and sheep have been stolen in the Niali police station area for a long time, 23 goats were stolen from different villages of the panchayat last night during the lockdown. Eleven goats belonging to Dihnati Sudarshan Pradhan, three from Shikhar Sethi of Palsa village, five from

Shankar Sethi of Sudhanagar and six from Surendra Mallick in the middle. The robbers are suspected of spraying a chemical and stealing the goat. While goats are not bitten during goat theft, the goat cubs are also not able to be bitten by eating for a long time. Four days ago, four goats belonging to Narayan Swain of Nati and two goats of Arun Swain were reported to the Kasarda Fund. But every day for you

been successful that this government has it succeeded in catching goats. The theft of 23 goats last night has created a fear of cockroaches among all goat herders. Usually it is a riverbank area while most of the people here depend on various agriculture. The poorest of the poor, in particular, support the family by raising these goats and sheep. Locals have demanded that the police take firm action to prevent the theft of goats and theft of goats.

## The Brahmpur Police sealed the Girisola state border

(A.O. Bureau) Berhampur, May 7: Southern DIG Satyabrata Bhoi and Berhampur SP Pinak Mishra visited the Girisola entrance near the Andhra Pradesh Telangana border today. A temporary immigration registration center has been set up in Girisola to seal the state border. The newly appointed Golanthara Police Station IIC Vivekananda Mahant and his police team



are in the charge of this temporary immigration center. And team of police

checking a single vehicle entering to odisha and collecting the data. There the of-

ficers collecting the personal information of all those who are entering from Andhra

Pradesh Telangana state to odisha. The administration has instructed him to stay in compulsory detention. Today, the local Berhampur police administration is expected to reduce the number of infiltrators and new stunts. The situation in Ganjam is under control and the administration is appealing to general public be vigilant. There shows the People are aware that they are obeying Lockdown.

## Rameshwari is providing food to the needy hungry

(A.O. Bureau) Berhampur, May 7: Rameshwari Nanda has extended a helping hand to the needy on behalf of Kalanjali, an institution dedicated to the most prestigious education and art in Berhampur. Rameshwari Nanda and her husband Ardhendhu Panigrahi set up a medicine shop on their own as Shree Medicines. In addition, Rameshwari



has founded a dance and painting institution called Kalanjali Artistry's.

However, during the current lockdown period, all the helpless

people in various parts of the city of Berhampur are left helpless in a state of neglect. Every day, Rameshwari himself cooks more than 30 meals and delivers them to the people. Rameshwari, however, is doing all this under the inspiration of his father-in-law, Mr. Bailadu Panigrahi. "It simply came to our notice then. "At this point in time, let's all come forward and

help the hungry," he said. The novel effort of her give him a lots of praise along with being happy in day today life. Rameswari simply appeal to the general public to coparate all with this crucial position to all needy with his own capacity than simply the needy how can they got the good food. Mrs. Nand's efforts have been widely praised.

## Former Tehsildar Alok Anugulia suspended in connection Kalimela land scam

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 7: Malkangiri: Former tehsildar Alok Kumar Anugulia was suspended in a scam at the Kalimela tehsil office. Former tehsildar Mr Anugulia has been suspended by the state revenue and disaster department. In Kalimela tehsil, valuable land was given to contractors, capitalists and government employees at a low price like



vegetables. The news was first reported in the news. As a result, the district administration suspended a clerk and a revenue inspector in Kalimela tehsil. Although late, Tahsildar Alok Kumar Anugulia was transferred to Koraput district as deputy collector. The letter from

the Department of Revenue and Disaster Management announced today that he had been suspended, sparking outrage in the Kalimela area. The data entry operator involved in the incident was also transferred from Kalimela tehsil to Khairput tehsil. For a long time, many poor

## Bank Manager Arrested For Fraudulent Withdrawal From Customer's Account

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 7: Malkangiri police have arrested a Branch Manager of a nationalised bank for alleged fraudulent withdrawal of over Rs 6 lakh from the account of an account holder of the bank. Police have arrested one Debasish Kumar Sahu (35), former Branch Manager of Bank of Baroda, Malkangiri

Branch for alleged fraudulent withdrawal of Rs 6,15,354 from the account of one Abhijit Sarkar of village MV-12 held in the same branch. According to the police, while the complainant Sarkar was in Nizamabad district of Telangana from 28 October 2020 to 19 February 2021, Rs 6,15,354 was withdrawn from his bank account in two



tranches of Rs 3,50,354 and Rs 2,65,000. Upon enquiry from the incumbent Branch Manager of Bank of Baroda,

Malkangiri Branch, police found that the amount was withdrawn by Sahu, the former Branch Manager who

was currently posted at Bank of Baroda, Sambalpur. Sahu had withdrawn the amount by using the blank cheques deposited by the victim with the bank for availing loan. A police team was rushed to Sambalpur, the present place of posting of Sahu from where he was arrested. The accused has been forwarded to court, police said.

## Youths Caught On Camera Gang Raping Minor Girl, One Arrested

(A.O. Bureau) Jharsuguda, May 7: In a shocking and traumatic incident, a helpless minor girl was gang raped by two youths. The incident has reportedly taken place in a dilapidated house in the vicinity of Jharsuguda station area, reports stated. While the date and time of the incident are yet to be ascertained, reports stated that the horrific crime was committed after the lockdown period com-

Jharsuguda Sabitri Bal and IIC GRPS Jharsuguda, Saudamini Nag launched a search and apprehended the accused. The victim has been traced and a manhunt is on to nab the other accused, said SP Bikash Chandra Dash informed through a Tweet. The crime came to light after a video showing the plight of the young girl fighting to save her dignity went viral on the Internet. In the video, the girl seems

The girl kept on screaming for help and urged the perpetrators to free her. But there was little mercy. However, when the criminals realised that they were being filmed, they let the girl go. The minor girl, already in trauma, managed to dress herself up and rushed from the deserted location. By then, the criminal duo had also fled after committing the gory act. This case of sexual assault has created furore



menced. One of the accused in this case has been arrested by the police today. After getting information about the alleged rape, in an abandoned house, an investigation was launched. IIC

to have been forced into the abandoned house by two youths. She was being forced into a sexual act by the duo while the ordeal was being filmed on a cellphone camera from outside the building.

in the locality after the girl and her predators were identified. "The SP, GRP Rourkela has been informed to take necessary follow up action. I appeal not to share such videos," Dash added.

## The Sambad Ganjam district representative Pradeep Kishore Sahu take his last breath in corona

(A.O. Bureau) Berhampur, May 7: 'Sambad' Ganjam district representative and senior journalist Pradeep Kishore Sahu, died in the corona this morning. He was being treated at Ashwini Covida Hospital in Kanisi. The news of his untimely demise has caused deep grief in various quarters. His funeral was held at noon at Shitalapalli Cemetery. Mr. Sahu native of Balrampur village in Purusottampur block of Ganjam district, lived with his wife and two sons in Lochapada S h a k t i n a g a r, Berhampur. late Sri Sahu started his journalistic career with The



Dharitri daily newspaper. In December 2017, he took over as the 'Sambad' Ganjam district representative. He was well known as a senior journalist. His writing has been active in covering the district's various problem-solving and constructive and humane values. He collected information on various aspects of the

district and presented them beautifully. Which was well highly received by the readers. He was one of the best district representatives in The Sambad family. It was during the first wave of the corona last year that late Sahu brought the plight of the Oriya diaspora living in Surat to the forefront. He continued to collect infor-

mation on the plight of Oriya migrants and report on the horrors of the corona in Ganjam district. Still He did not forget his responsibilities and responsibilities until he became infected and was hospitalized. He was filing a report based on the issue, even though he was opposed. In the end, it was Corona who embraced him and left his wife and two sons alone. The late Sahu was known as a very humble, hardworking and responsible person. He was treated at Covida Hospital for more than two weeks. He remained on the ventilator due to ill health. Despite all the efforts of the doc-

tor, his health did not improve. He was pronounced dead at the scene this morning. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, former MP Vajjayanth Panda, along with Soumya Ranjan Patnaik, editor of 'Sambad', tweeted his condolences to the bereaved families. Similarly, Prof. Jayant Kumar Mohapatra, Senior Educator and Former Chancellor of Berhampur University, Ganjam District magister cum collector Vijay Amrita Kulange, Berhampur S.P. Pinak Mishra, have expressed grief to the holy soul of Sri Sahu.

## Pangolin Rescued In Mayurbhanj, One Held

(A.O. Bureau) Baripada, May 7: A special squad of the Mayurbhanj district police has rescued a pangolin from Bangriposi area on Thursday night and arrested one person in this connection. The accused has been identi-

fied as Singu Baske. According to the police, acting on a tip-off, a special squad of the Mayurbhanj district on Thursday night raided a place under Bangriposi police limits leading to the rescue of a pangolin weighing 8 kg and the arrest of Baske.



Baske was arrested while he was striking a deal to sell the animal to wildlife smugglers. Police have handed over the rescued animal to the Forest Department. Bangriposi has of late become a hotspot for the smuggling of wildlife.

## What to watch on May 7: Vitthal Teedi, Jupiter's Legacy and Kavalthurai Ungal Nanban among others



Mumbai, May 7: With the weekend almost here, we have compiled a list of OTT titles that you can binge watch. From Disney+ Hotstar's five new mini-series to Marathi film Photo Prem, there is something for everyone to watch from the comfort of your home.

**Jupiter's Legacy:** Netflix: American superhero drama Jupiter's Legacy is based on the comic book series of the same name written by Mark Millar. It follows the story of the world's first superheroes who received their powers in the 1930s. But as they pass the torch to their children, tensions are rising — and the old rules no longer apply. Jupiter's Legacy stars Josh Duhamel, Ben Daniels, Leslie Bibb, Elena Kampouris, Andrew Horton, Mike Wade, Matt Lanter and David Julian Hirsh.

**Milestone:** Netflix: Aving lost his wife recently, a truck driver tries to cope up with his personal loss and even faces the threat of losing his job, that has come to define him, to a new intern. Co-written, edited and directed by Ivan Ayr, Milestone stars Suvinder Vicky and Lakshvir Saran in the lead roles.

**Subharambha:** Hoichoi: The Bengali web series revolves around a young girl's journey and her love of music. When certain circumstances lead her to quit her passion, she converts her drawbacks into strengths, and fights to

continue her stint in music. Jasmine Roy plays the lead role in this Hoi Choi drama.

**Thank You Brother:** Aha: Anasuya Bharadwaj-starrer Thank You Brother, set in the backdrop of the lockdown, revolves around a fiery youngster and a pregnant woman who get stuck in an elevator. Directed by Ramesh Raparathi, the film also stars Ashwin J Viraj, Monica Reddy, Harsha Chemudu and Aadarsh Balakrishna.

**Monster:** Netflix: An adaptation of Walter Dean Myers's 1999 multi-award-winning novel of the same name, Monster presents the story of a talented teen implicated in a felony case. The young man fights for his innocence and integrity against a criminal justice system that's already judged him. Directed by Anthony Mandler, the film premiered at Sundance Film Festival back in 2018. It stars Kelvin Harrison Jr in the lead role.

**The Boy from Medellin:** Amazon Prime Video: The documentary revolves around award-winning singer J Balvin's preparation for his homecoming concert which takes place amid intense political turmoil in his hometown Medellin, Columbia.

**Mythic Quest Season 2:** Apple TV+: The official synopsis of Mythic Quest Season 2 reads, "With the quarantine finally over, the new season of 'Mythic Quest' finds everyone back in the office (well, almost everyone), attempting to

build upon the success of Raven's Banquet by launching an epic new expansion, but Ian (Rob McElhenney) and the newly promoted co-creative director, Poppy (Charlotte Nicdao), struggle with the game's direction. Meanwhile, C.W. (F. Murray Abraham) reconciles some unresolved issues from his past, the testers (Ashly Burch and Imani Hakim) test the bounds of an office romance, and David (David Hornsby) loses yet another woman in his life as Jo (Jessie Ennis) leaves him to assist Brad (Danny Pudi)."

**Murder Meri Jaan:** Disney+ Hotstar: Sonal Arora (Barkha Singh) is an adventurous runaway con bride who finds herself stuck in a fake marriage with ACP Aditya (Tanuj Virwani), the top homicide investigator in Bhopal Police. The twist of fate gives her a chance to experience the other side of law, which involves solving murder mysteries. Meanwhile, ACP Aditya is stuck between a rock and a hard place even as his boss and colleagues are only too keen to finally catch the biggest con in their area aka "Looteri Dulhan".

**Bamini and Boys:** Disney+ Hotstar: Three young boys rent a flat exceeding their budget from an attractive woman living in the same building. As they all fall in love with her, the trio set out to woo her, often leading to hilarious situations and sometimes even harmless rifts in their friend-

ship thanks to their collective crush. The series stars Vidya Malavade, Akashdeep Arora, Rishab Chadda and Anuj Pandit.

**Humara Bar Happy Hour:** Disney+ Hotstar: Featuring Shantanu Anam, Pranay Manchandana, Manik Papneja and Kriti Vij, Humara Bar Happy Hour presents the story of a group of friends who inherit a run-down bar in Mumbai. What follows is comical chaos, as they struggle to run a business they have absolutely no clue about.

**Mukesh Jasoos:** Disney+ Hotstar: Actor Rahul Bagga plays the lead role in this series, which also has yesterday actor Poonam Dhillon essaying an important role. Mukesh Jasoos revolves around the life of Mukesh Jha, a lawyer who lives with his mother in law after his wife leaves him for his cousin. The quirky story will tell the tale of Mukesh who decides to become a detective but ends up in the midst of a sinister case. The mini-series also stars Ruchi Malviya and Rajeshwari Sachdev.

**Teen Do Paanch:** Disney+ Hotstar: Starring Shreyas Talpade and Bidita Bag, Teen Do Paanch presents the tale of a young couple Vishal and Priyanka who cannot conceive and thus decide to adopt. The fun begins when they are won over by not one child but by three siblings and end up adopting all of them. Life becomes a roller coaster of sorts for

Vishal who is underprepared and overwhelmed with the responsibility he has just taken on. Destiny brings a new twist as Priyanka soon realises that she is pregnant with twins! **Vitthal Teedi:** OHO Gujarati: Based on a short story by Mukesh Sojitra, Vitthal Teedi revolves around a small-time gambler in the early 80s. The full-on masala entertainer stars Scam 1992 star Pratik Gandhi in the lead role.

**Photo Prem:** Amazon Prime Video: Photo Prem revolves around Mae (Neena Kulkarni), a housewife who is worried about being forgotten by future generations post her demise because she's doesn't look her best in her 'old pictures'. The film captures Mae's journey to overcome her fear of the camera, finally succeeding in clicking the perfect picture.

**To the Stars:** BookMyShow Stream: In a rural Oklahoma town in the 1960s, a shy Iris Deerborne is emotionally abused at home by her mother Francie who wishes her daughter was more glamorous. The young teenager also faces bullying in school. The only bright spot in her life is Jeff Owings, a fellow student who works for her father, but is too shy to act on her feelings. She soon finds solace in Maggie, a new girl in school. However, Maggie has a lot hidden in her past that lands Iris in trouble. The 2019 drama stars Kara Hayward, Liana Liberato, Shea Whigham, Jordana Spiro, Adelaide Clemens, Lucas Jade Zumann, Malin Åkerman and Tony Hale.

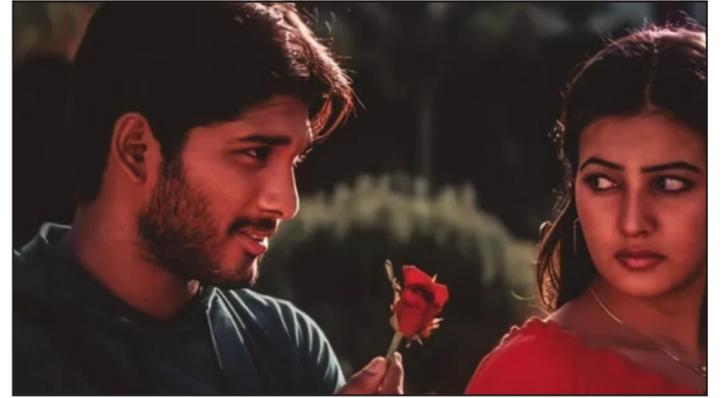
**Kavalthurai Ungal Nanban:** ZEE5: A terrible series of events occur when a food delivery unexpectedly enters a police station. The Tamil crime thriller stars Suresh Ravi, Raveena Ravi, RJ Munna, Super-good Subramani and Sharath Ravi.

## Allu Arjun pens heartfelt post as his film Arya completes 17 years

New Delhi, May 7: College romantic drama Arya starred Allu Arjun and Anuradha Mehta in lead roles. It was directed by Sukumar. The actor-director has also worked on his latest film, Pushpa, which awaits release. Actor Allu Arjun on Friday shared a heartfelt post on the occasion of his film Arya completing 17 years. Calling it a film which changed his course as an actor, he pointed out that it

madly in love with Geetha, played by Anuradha Mehta. The film has been remade in four Indian languages. Sharing the note on Instagram, Arjun wrote: "This movie changed the lives of so many people. It changed my course as an actor. Sukumar garu's life as a director, Dil Raj garu's life as a producer, DSP's life as a musician and Rathnavel's life as a DOP. Bunny Vas as distributor then and many

quel titled Arya 2 was released in 2009. On the career-front, Arjun currently awaits the release of upcoming Telugu film, Pushpa. Interestingly, the film will mark the reunion of Arjun and filmmaker Sukumar after many years. Pushpa, which is tipped to be a forest-based thriller, will mark Arjun's maiden pan-Indian project. It will be simultaneously released in Hindi, Tamil, Kannada and



changed the lives of so many people involved in its making as well. Directed by Sukumar, Arya is a Telugu campus-based romantic drama which featured Arjun in the role of a happy-go-lucky guy

more lives. We all so thankful to this one magic that came into our lives called Arya. We will always cherish this as our greatest milestone in our lives." Arya was a runaway success at the box-office. Its se-

Malayalam. The film will be based on red sandalwood smuggling, and it marks the third time collaboration of Arjun and filmmaker Sukumar. It also stars Rashmika Mandanna as its leading lady.

## Twinkle lauds James after he asked fans to donate to India's Covid relief fund



New Delhi, May 7: Twinkle Khanna reposted James McAvoy's video in which he urged fans to help raise funds for India. The X-Men actor, earlier this week, had taken a note of the shortage of medical supplies in the country and asked fans to donate. Twinkle Khanna has expressed her gratitude towards James McAvoy in helping raise funds for India amid the second

wave of Covid-19. Earlier this week, the X-Men actor had shared a video in which he urged fans to come forward and donate for a Covid-19 relief fund. The author-turned-writer has been working towards procuring oxygen concentrators for those battling Covid-19. Twinkle and her husband, actor Akshay Kumar recently have donated 100 oxygen concentrators. How-

ever, she was criticised for not doing enough during these trying times. On Thursday, a retired IAS officer asked Twinkle why was she urging others to donate than making donations herself. Former officer Surya Pratap Singh, commenting on Twinkle's call seeking donations, tweeted in Hindi: "Twinkle ji, your husband is among the richest artistes in this country."

## Sachet-Parampara: The delay in our work is insignificant compared to what's happening around amid the Covid crisis

New Delhi, May 7: As India continues to grapple with the second

Sachet Tandon and Parampara Thakur, who believe that with

small as compared to what's happening around. People are losing family members and friends. We're just thankful that we're safe in our homes," shares Thakur. Tandon shares that his own family in Lucknow have also been affected by the pandemic. "My tauji and his family tested positive in Lucknow. They're getting better now. Among all my friends and family members, some one or the other have been infected. The situation is very bad in Lucknow.



wave of Covid-19 crisis, entertainment sector industry has once again been hit hard, including the music industry. But that's the least of the concern for music composer and lyricist duo

people suffering all around, their work can wait. "Everybody has been facing a lot of problems workwise and things have been pushed back. But delay in work is very insignificant and

## Gangubai Kathiawadi star Seema Pahwa calls Alia Bhatt 'wonderful person'

Mumbai, May 7: Actor Seema Pahwa is all praise for her Gangubai Kathiawadi co-star Alia Bhatt. Seema called Alia 'a brilliant and responsible' actor and 'a wonderful person'. Recalling their time on the set, Seema said that Alia would look out for others and not only herself. Directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Alia plays Gangubai, one of the most powerful, loved and respected women from Kamathipura during the 1960s. It has been adapted from one of the chapters of noted



author Hussain Zaidi's book Mafia Queens of Mumbai. Speaking about Alia, Seema told Pinkvilla, "She is a brilliant and responsible actress, a wonderful person too. On the set, she would not only look after herself, but would look out for others as well. She is very careful about the scenes

too, discusses them and hears other people too. When I had first gone on the set, I thought that since Alia is young - but is extremely famous, has done some brilliant work and is everyone's favourite - she might have an attitude... But when I reached, I realised that she is a

very well behaved girl. She has a lot of respect for her seniors, gives space and has a lot of patience too." She also opened up about working with Sanjay. She said she completely surrendered to him, trusting his vision. "In our industry everyone has their own way to portray a story. Directors have their own style, and we all know that Sanjay ji has one too. He has his own vision, and if you believe in his vision and trust it, which I believe one should. If you are working with a director you should com-

pletely trust his vision. While filming (Gangubai Kathiawadi), I completely surrendered to him, and trusted his vision," Seema added. Seema's directorial debut, Ramprasad Ki Tehrvi was released on Netflix on March 31. It features Naseeruddin Shah, Supriya Pathak, and Konkona Sen Sharma, Parambrata Chatterjee, Vinay Pathak, Vikrant Massey, and Manoj Pahwa, among others. Pahwa is known for the serial Hum Log, and films like Bareilly Ki Barfi and Shubh Mangal Saavdhan.

## Alarm bells started going off, it was chaos: Morris on COVID in IPL bio-bubble



Johannesburg, May 7: South Africa and Rajasthan Royals all-rounder Chris Morris is "relieved" to be safely back home after witnessing "chaos" unfold once COVID-19 cases in the IPL bio-bubble came to light. Morris, along with his 10 other South African players have reached home, after the IPL was suspended following six cases of COVID-19 - four players and two coaches from three dif-

ferent teams. "Look, obviously I'm relieved," Morris, who is currently undergoing a 10-day mandatory quarantine at home, told iol.Co.Za. Morris said they came to know about the COVID cases in Kolkata Knight Riders -- Varun Chakravarthy and Sandeep Warrier -- on Sunday night. "The moment we heard that, when players are testing positive, inside the bubble, then everyone

starts asking questions. The alarm bells definitely started going off for all of us," he said. "By Monday when they postponed that game (between Kolkata and Royal Challengers Bangalore), we knew the tournament was under pressure to continue." The T20 league was suspended after Sunrisers Hyderabad's wicketkeeper-batsman Wridhimman Saha and Delhi Capitals' Amit Mishra tested positive

on Tuesday. Later, Chennai Super Kings' bowling coach L Balaji and batting coach Michael Hussey also contracted the virus. "I was chatting to our team doctor, whose room was across the hallway from my mine in the hotel, and Kumar (Sangakarra, the Royals' head coach) came around the corner, and drew his finger across his throat, and then we knew it was over," said Morris. "And then it was chaos! The England guys especially were panicking because they needed to isolate in hotels in England first, and apparently there weren't any rooms." Gerald Coetzee, who was named the replacement for Australian Andrew Tye, had arrived in India only last week and Morris said he tried to comfort the young pacer as he was panicking a bit. "I know poor Gerald was panicking a bit, I mean he's only 20 and all this is going on," said Morris,

who was the costliest IPL buy ever with a whopping Rs 16.25 crore contract. "I tried to keep him under my wing a bit and made sure he was ready when the 12.30am pick up came at the hotel. It was eerie, it was just a handful of us in that whole hotel at the time." There was criticism of the league happening at a time when a devastating health crisis was unfolding outside the bubble with more than 3000 people dying everyday in India. "For me, this was always a two-fold thing; on the one hand we're playing a tournament, all happy and smiling in a bubble, while outside so many people are suffering," Morris said. "On the flip side of it, there was the fact that by playing, we were ensuring people actually stayed at home, watched us and at least had something to smile about or something else to think about - even if it was being unhappy with how we played in a game - for three hours each night."

## Our players felt secure in IPL's bio-bubble: CSA Director of Cricket Smith

Johannesburg, May 7: Cricket South Africa Director Graeme Smith says none of the country's players, who took part in the now-postponed IPL, "felt at risk" during their stay in India as the BCCI created a good Bio-Secure Environment (BSE). The IPL was postponed on May 4 after multiple COVID-19 cases emerged inside the bio-bubble. The 11 South Africans, who participated in the league, have already left for Johannesburg. "In no way would we judge. Having spoken to the players, they felt safe. They felt the BSE (Bio-Secure Environment) was a really good experience in India. They never felt at risk. But that's the nature of what COVID brings," Smith, a former South Africa captain, said during a news conference. India is currently reporting over 400,000 coronavirus cases per day with close to 4,000 daily deaths. Smith said amid a rag-

ing pandemic, the element of risk is always there and the organisers can't be blamed. "Sometimes you can do whatever you want but the BSE - as we've said to everyone - is never foolproof. When

duty of care (the BCCI has) shown in getting everyone home has been exemplary. "From our own players' perspective it's been made slightly easier in that our borders aren't closed and there's still commercial travel



COVID is raging in your country there's always a risk. Unfortunately once it gets inside it's very difficult to predict what's going to happen." Smith also lauded the effort made by the BCCI to ensure the safe departure for all the South African players, who would be back home by Friday and undergo home quarantine. "The

available for them." South Africa has recorded far fewer cases than India and yet the Australian team had postponed its trip pointing at the health security risk of the players. Smith said that decision smacked of double standards. "You see some of those players sitting there at the IPL and not making any noise.

## 4 English counties offer to host IPL-14

London, May 7: Four premier English counties — Middlesex, Surrey, Warwickshire and Lancashire — have expressed interest in hosting the remaining 31 games of the Indian Premier League, which was postponed after coronavirus breached the bio-bubble to infect four Indian cricketers. With India anticipating a third wave of the pandemic later during the year, BCCI is exploring a window in September after the conclusion of India's England tour to complete the tournament. India's tour of England ends on September 14. According to ESPN Cricinfo, Lord's, Oval (both Lon-

don), Edgbaston (Birmingham) and Emirates Old Trafford (Manchester) are understood to be part of the group who wrote to the ECB expressing their interest. "The plans would see the tournament completed in around two weeks in the second half of September," according to the report. BCCI is ideally looking at a 20-day window with multiple double headers in order to complete the tournament. It is expected that at the ICC Chief Executives Meeting, the representatives of the BCCI and the ECB may discuss the matter. A logic that goes in the favour of the tournament is that it pro-

vides a good opportunity to all the players to prepare for the World T20 which in all likelihood will be moved to the UAE from India. And if both IPL and World T20 are played in the UAE, the pitches might get slow during second half of the global tournament, so England would be a better option to host the League. However, there are some issues that need to be addressed. When India's tour of England ends on September 14, at that time at 30 Indian cricketers will be there but flying others would be an onerous task, keeping in mind the quarantine rules.

New Delhi, May 7: The Australians flew off to Maldives, the South Africans headed home as the suspended IPL's foreign cricketers bid adieu to India, hoping that the country recovers from the mayhem unleashed by a second wave of Covid-19 cases. The 40-strong Australian contingent, except for a Covid-positive Mike Hussey, left for Maldives on Thursday to serve out the waiting period before they can board a flight to Australia once the travel restrictions end on May 15. "We can confirm that Australian players, coaches, match officials and commentators have been safely transported from India and are en route to the Maldives," Cricket Australia stated in a release. "The Australians will remain in Maldives until the conclusion of the travel pause pertaining to flights from India to Australia," it added. Of the 40 Australians involved in the league after three early pullouts, 14 were players, including mega-stars

## Aussies fly out to Maldives



such as David Warner, Pat Cummins, and Steve Smith among others. The 11 South Africans in the league boarded flights for Johannesburg as their country has not imposed any restrictions on travel from India, which recorded more than 4 lakh Covid-19 cases on Thursday and close to 4,000 deaths. "My constant prayers is with the people from India to get through this. Pls Take care of yourselves," Proteas star Faf du Plessis, who turned up Chennai Super Kings, posted on Instagram. Cricket Australia

thanked the BCCI for its assistance in ensuring that players were able to leave India within two days of the league's suspension owing to Covid-19 cases inside its bio-bubble. "CA and the ACA extend their sincere thanks to the BCCI for their responsiveness in moving the Australians from India to the Maldives....," the statement read. Mumbai Indians on Thursday said that their local stars have reached home while it has also ensured a safe passage for its Australian contingent to Maldives along with Sri Lankan

head coach Mahela Jayawardene, who also will be quarantining there. The five-time champions posted a series of tweets and shared the travel plans of its players and support staff. "Indian players have embarked on their journey back to their hometowns. All Covid-19 related travel and safety protocols have been diligently adhered. "Mumbai and Ahmedabad based players and support staff members will return home via Ahmedabad on a charter flight. The cabin crew has completed

seven days quarantine at the team hotel in Delhi," the franchise stated. "Australian players and support staff members will fly to Maldives on a special charter. MI has made arrangements for their 14-day quarantine stay in Maldives before flying them back to Australia," it said. The franchise has two Australian players — hard-hitting batsman Chris Lynn and pacer Nathan Coulter-Nile. "Head coach Mahela Jayawardene will also complete his quarantine in Maldives before returning to Sri Lanka," it added. The players and support staff from New Zealand, South Africa and the Caribbean will fly to Auckland, Johannesburg and Trinidad on their respective charter flights arranged by the franchise. Among its foreigners, while swash-buckling all-rounder Kieron Pollard is from the West Indies, opener Quinton De Kock hails from South Africa. Pacer Trent Boult and bowling coach Shane Bond are from New Zealand.



## NZ IPL-based Test players to leave for UK on May 11

Christchurch, May 7: Four members of New Zealand's Test contingent involved in the now-suspended IPL, including captain Kane Williamson, will leave India for the United Kingdom on May 11 while the rest will make their way back home on Friday, the country's cricket board has announced. New Zealand are scheduled to play hosts England in a two-match Test series, beginning on June 2, before facing India

in the World Test Championships final at Southampton from June 18. "We've worked closely with the BCCI and the IPL franchises on the various departure strategies and we're very appreciative of their support during what is, clearly, a very challenging time," New Zealand Cricket (NZC) chief executive David White said in a statement on Thursday. Skipper Williamson, pacer Kyle Jamieson and spinner

Mitchell Santner, as well as physio Tommy Simsek, will remain in a mini-bubble in New Delhi before departing for the UK, ahead of preparations for the Test series against England, and the WTC final against India. There were 17 New Zealanders involved in the IPL, including 10 players. "We are also very grateful to the England and Wales Cricket Board for accommodating the early arrival of the four members of the Test squad currently in In-

dia." NZC said May 11 is the earliest date it could obtain for the team's arrival in the UK. However, pace spearhead Trent Boult will return home briefly to see his family before joining the Test squad in early June, for the second match against England and the WTC final. The New Zealand-based Test squad members will depart for England on May 16 and 17. "Along with the balance of the New Zealand-bound IPL players, sup-

port staff and commentators, Boult is scheduled to depart New Delhi tomorrow on one of two charter flights, arriving in Auckland on Saturday before undergoing managed isolation," the NZC stated. "...Boult will leave MIQ (Managed Isolation and Quarantine) on May 22 and will spend a week at home with his family, training at Mt Maunganui before departing for the UK in early June," it added.

## Saina, Srikanth's Olympics hopes hang in balance

New Delhi, May 7: London Olympics Bronze-medallist Saina Nehwal and men's star Kidambi Srikanth's last hopes of Olympic qualification hang in balance as the Indian Government negotiates for their participation in the Malaysian Open amid a ban on flights from India in that country. Following the postponement of the India Open (May 11-16), Saina and Srikanth's hopes of qualifying for the Tokyo Games hinge on the (May 25-30) Kuala Lumpur event followed by the Singapore Open (June 1-6). In the wake of an unprecedented Covid-19 surge in India, Malaysia and Singapore have banned flights from the country effective April 28. "The Sports Ministry,

through the Ministry of External Affairs, has approached the Malaysian Government requesting to grant permission to the Indian Badminton Team to travel to Malaysia to participate in the Malaysian Open scheduled from May 25 to May 30," the Sports Authority of India said in a statement. "This is in light of a temporary travel ban that has been imposed by Malaysia on travellers from India, owing to the rising Covid-19 cases in India," it added. After an initial request made earlier this week, the Indian High Commission in Malaysia "received information from the Malaysian Government that the travel of the team may not be possible immediately."

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



(A.O. Bureau) New Delhi, May 7: 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, augmented 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. Today, Sri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas & Steel, Govt. Of India inaugurated the facilities at Bargarh virtually. On this inaugural function, Sri Pradhan thanked

- Sri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel inaugurated the 100 bed ICU ventilator facilities today on virtual platform.
- 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.
- 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.

IndianOil for this noble cause of providing 70 ICU ventilator facilities for COVID 19 patients in Vikash Muti Speciality Hospital at Bargarh. He said, while fast spreading of infections of COVID 19 in 10 districts of Western Odisha (i.e. Kalahandi, Nuapada, Balangir, Sonapur, Bargarh,

Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Boudh, Debagarh and Sundergarh) this ICU ventilator facilities at Bargarh will definitely be very helpful for patients. Corporates are working earnestly to meet the nation's Liquid Medical Oxygen requirements in this hour of need. PSUs of MoPNG are stepping up to serve the national

priority of strengthening providing such medical equipments and facilities to increase the Testing, Vaccinating ventilators, availability of oxygen, bed with ICU etc. I am happy to know that Bargarh district has been included in vaccination process by the help of Corporates. I am hopeful that apart from the Govt's initiative, the Corporates will definitely come forward for 1+1 vaccination i.e. while vaccinating their own employee they will help the needy persons for getting vaccination. 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 Corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic continues to stay strong in India. 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. Mr. Suresh Pujari, MP, Lok Sabha, Bargarh, Mr. Prasanna Acharya, MP, Rajya Sabha, Mr. Sri Debesh Acharya, MLA, Bargarh, Smt. Sneha Chhuria, MLA, Attabira and Smt. Rita Sahu, MLA, Bijepur, Smt. Mukta Sahu, Zilla Parishad Chairman Bargarh and Mr. D. Murali Krishnan Chairman Vikash Group were present in the inaugural function at Bargarh. Mr. Tarun Kapoor, Petroleum Secretary, Mr. S. M. Vaidya, Chairman, IndianOil, Mr. V. Sanjay Kumar ED SERPL, IOCL, Mr. Subhajit Ghosh, SLC cum CGM cum State Head Odisha IOCL were also joined the inaugural function virtually.

## Railway Issued SOP For Movement Of Passengers By Train



(A.O. Bureau) New Delhi, May 7: A Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) for movement of passengers by Train have been issued by Ministry of Railways for running of special train services throughout the country. The fully waiting list ticket shall not be permitted to travel by train and enter into the station. Unreserved tickets (UTS) shall be permitted on limited trains only on which such unreserved journey has been permitted. Catering charges will not be included in the fare. Prepaid catering services in trains has been disabled. However, ready to eat meals, packed

items, packaged drinking water bottles, tea, coffee, beverages etc, will be made available to passengers on trains on payment basis through pantry cars, trains side vending. This information to be made available during the time of booking ticket. In addition to this, IRCTC shall enable catering services to passengers through e-catering facility. Provision of catering services in trains shall be subject to compliance of all safety and hygiene protocols issued by Government from time to time. No linen, blankets and curtains will be provided inside the train. Passengers

are requested to carry their own linen while travelling in trains. Bedrolls kits are available on purchase at all multi-purpose stalls. Wearing face mask is compulsory at stations and in trains, otherwise a fine up to Rs. 500/- to be collected from passengers. All passengers have been advised by the railways to follow all prescribed COVID protocols positively and down load Arogya Setu App. Asymptomatic passengers, after subjected to thermal screening at station, will be permitted to travel. Passengers should carry their own hand sanitizers & observe social distancing.

## Bapi Sarkhel Demands Safety & Special Benefits For Industrial Workers During Pandemic



(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, May 7: Including the state and district, the outbreak of coronary plague or Covid-19 is on rise in the port and industrial city of Paradip. In Paradip, many large and small industries are continuing their operations and daily workers continue to work in various industries for their livelihoods despite fears of coronary disease. In the current situation, everyone is concerned about their safety and livelihoods, while no one cares about the workers. However, Arindam Sarkhel popularly known as Bapi Sarkhel, a prominent labor leader and politician and his led union Paradip Ersama Industrial Worker's

Union (PEIWU) has raised their voice for the safety and special benefits of industrial and contractual workers. Mr. Sarkhel and his associates have submitted a seven-point demand letter to various industry authorities, including Paradip Port, IOCL Paradip Refinery, IFFCO, PPL, Goa Carbon, PICT and others in the interest of the workers. The demand includes free vaccinations for every worker and contract worker, including the temporary construction of special covid hospitals by the industry, the provision of free covid testing by their respective organizations, and the provision of free medical care to the

workers suffering from coronary diseases, includes a provision of Rs 50 lakh for COVID-19 insurance, provision of employment to one of the families of the deceased in the death of the corona, and provision of special allowances to the workers working during the corona. Bapi Sarkhel, president and Sameer Biswal, secretary of PEIWU called on the industrial authorities to comply the workers' basic demands with morally. After the process, there has been hope and joy among local workers and Mr. Sarkhel's role in protecting the interests of the workers in such a difficult time has been widely praised.

## DRDO develops artificial intelligence algorithm to detect Covid-19 presence from chest X-rays

(A.O. Bureau) Bangalore, May 7: In a development expected to help diagnose Covid-19 in suspected patients faster, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR) have created an artificial intelligence (AI) algorithm to help detect Covid-19 from chest X-rays. According to its developers, the tool named Atman AI used for Chest X-ray screening has shown an accuracy rate of 96.73 per cent. Dr U K Singh, Director, CAIR, DRDO said the development of the diagnostic tool was part of DRDO's effort to help clinicians and partners on the frontline to help rapidly diagnose and effectively treat COVID-19 patients. "Given the limited testing facilities for

coronavirus, there is a rush to develop AI tools for quick analysis using X-rays. The tool will help in automatically detecting radiological findings indicative of Covid-19 in seconds, enabling physicians and radiologists to more effectively triage the cases, especially in an emergency environment," he explained. The team behind the initiative further noted that triaging using X-ray was observed to be fast, cost-effective and efficient. "It can be a very useful tool especially in smaller towns in our country owing to lack of easy access to CT scans. This will also reduce the existing burden on radiologists and make CT machines which are being used for COVID be used for other diseases and illness owing to overload for CT scans," the developers

claimed. Developers added that chest X-Rays of RT-PCR positive patients were retrospectively analysed in various stages of disease involvement using AI models. "A deep learning application indigenously developed by CAIR-DRDO for COVID -19 screening using digital chest X-Rays was used to do so," they explained. Meanwhile, 5C Network, a digital net-

work of radiologists in the country, has decided to use the tool in nearly 1000 hospitals in the country with the support of HCG Academics. "Utilising the algorithms for chest X-ray

of 5C network said. Meanwhile, Dr Vishal Rao, Dean Academics, Centre of Academic Research, HCG Cancer Hospital said the new tool would improve efficacy in hospitals



is an effective triaging tool which can be accessible to the common man in remotest districts of this country. This will have a significant impact on timely care and appropriate treatment." Kalyan Sivasailam, CEO

without increasing the financial burden for patients and healthcare systems." He added that similar methods would also become useful in assessing predominant respiratory diseases.

## 'Chhota Rajan is stable': AIMS doctors, Delhi Police refute reports of his death

(A.O. Bureau) Mumbai, May 7: Refuting alleged reports of his death due to Covid-19, doctors at AIMS and Delhi Police said on Friday that gangster Chhota Rajan's condition is stable and he is recuperating. "DCP (south-west) Ingit Pratap Singh said, "We have sent our team

to confirm and confirmed with Covid-19 ward in-charge Mr Anjan Tripathi. He denied and told us that he is alive." Rajan was admitted to AIMS hospital on April 24 and DG (Tihar Jail) Sandeep Goel said that no official information has come in this regard. "News of death of Tihar jail inmate Rajendra



Sadashiv Nikalje alias Chhota Rajan is wrong.

He was found COVID-19 positive in Tihar Jail on

April 22 and was admitted in AIMS Trauma Centre on April 24," Goel said. Last week, former MP Mohd Shahabuddin, who was lodged in Tihar Jail and serving a life term in a murder case, died at the DDU hospital where he was admitted after he tested positive for Covid-19.