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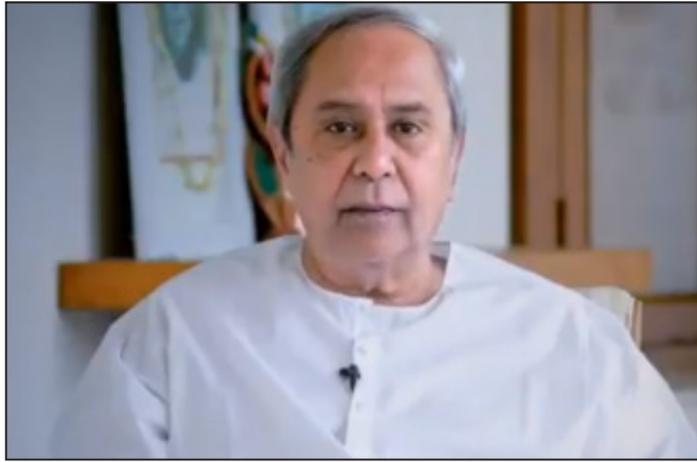


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## Chief Minister discussed on the health condition of Leader of Opposition Sh Pradipta Naik with AIIMS Bhubaneswar



Bhubaneswar, May 11: Chief Minister Sh Naveen Patnaik today discussed with AIIMS doctors on the health condition of Leader of Opposition Sh Pradipta Naik. Sh Naik was affected due to Covid-19 and is currently in ICU in AIIMS Bhubaneswar since last 16 days. Chief Minister interacted with the AIIMS and SCB doctors who are taking care of the treatment of

Sh Naik. The Doctors briefed Chief Minister that Sh Naik is currently Covid negative. However there is widespread inflammation and lung infection because of which he is on ventilator and his condition continues to be serious. They are making best possible efforts for his early recovery. The AIIMS Director Ms Geetanjali Batmanabane thanked

the State government for all the support in the treatment of Sh Naik, especially the timely support of critical medicines. Chief Minister appreciated the efforts of the doctors and requested them to provide the best health care for Sh Pradipta Naik and assured all support from the State government. The chief minister also wished speedy recovery of Sri Nayak.

## PM Modi calls off planned visit to UK to attend G7 Summit as special invitee

New Delhi, May 11: The move came days after Modi called off a planned visit to the Portuguese city of Porto to participate in the India-EU Summit on May 8. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called off his visit to the UK to attend the G7 Summit as a special invitee because of the Covid-19 situation in the country, the external affairs ministry announced on Tuesday. UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson had invited Modi and the leaders of Australia, South Korea and South Africa as guests to the G7 Summit to be hosted by the UK in Cornwall during June 11-13. This would have been Modi's second foreign visit this year, after a trip to

Bangladesh in March to attend celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the neighbouring country's independence. "While appreciating the invitation to the prime minister by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson to attend the G7 Summit as a special invitee, given the prevailing Covid situation, it has been decided that the prime minister will not attend the G7 Summit in person," external affairs ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said. The move came days after Modi called off a planned visit to the Portuguese city of Porto to participate in the India-EU Summit on May 8. The meeting was subsequently held in a virtual format. External affairs



minister S Jaishankar had visited the UK to attend the G7 foreign ministers meeting in London during May 3-5, but he and his delegation had to go into self-isolation after two members tested positive for Covid-19. The pandemic has also affected the schedule for

bilateral visits between India and the UK this year. Johnson called off plans to visit India twice - he cancelled a trip that was to begin on April 25 following a surge in infections, and in January, he cancelled a trip to focus on his government's response to a new Coronavirus

variant that was spreading rapidly. Modi and Johnson held a virtual summit on May 4, during which they launched an Enhanced Trade Partnership and a Mobility and Migration Partnership and unveiled a roadmap to boost bilateral ties over the next decade.

## CM Sanctions Rs 20 Cr For RTPCR Testing Centres In 16 Districts

Bhubaneswar, May 11: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today sanctioned Rs 20 crore for setting up RTPCR testing centres in 16 districts. These districts are: Bhadrak, Boudh, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Kendrapada, Nabarangpur, Malkangiri,

Nuapada, Sonepur, Kandhamal, Sundergarh, Rayagada, and Bargarh. These will be permanent test centres catering to the needs of the people. For each of these centres, one Microbiologist, and three Lab Technicians will be appointed by the State Government, the Chief Minister's Office informed.

## Another Drive-In Covid-19 Vaccination Centre To Be Launched In Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar, May 11: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) today decided to open another drive-in coronavirus vaccination centre in the city. The municipal corporation will set up the drive-in vaccination centre at DN Regalia Mall for second dose Covid-19 vaccination of 45+age group. As per the municipal corporation, persons aged above 45 years and have taken



the first dose at a government or private facility

of Bhubaneswar can book slots for vaccination from 6PM today.

The registration for vaccination slot can be done in <https://selfregistration.cowin.gov.in/>. The municipal corporation further stated 300 vaccination slots will be available daily from May 12, 2021 to May 15, 2021. Earlier, drive-in coronavirus vaccination centres were opened at the Utkal Kanika Galleria Parking lot, KIIT University's Cricket Stadium and Esplanade Mall Parking lot in the city.

## 7 Oxygen Plants To Come Up In Odisha Soon



Bhubaneswar, May 11: While oxygen crisis creating a havoc in the country amidst the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic, National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has extended a helping hand in setting up seven oxygen plants in Odisha. The seven oxygen plants will be constructed in Jharsuguda, Boudh, Koraput,

Gajapati, Nayagarh, Cuttack and Bhadrak districts. The plants will be setup at six District Headquarters Hospitals (DHHs) and Acharya Harihar Regional Cancer Center (AHRCC) in Cuttack, informed an official. Oxygen will be supplied to hospitals through pipes and the project will be completed within a stipulated time

period. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will build the oxygen plants, while NHAI will look after the civil and electrical works. Sites have been finalised for setting up of the plants. The construction work has already begun in Cuttack and Boudh, informed NHAI AGM RP Panda.

## Weather Alert: Thunderstorm Likely In These Dists In Next 3 Hrs

Bhubaneswar, May 11: Several districts of Odisha are likely to experience thunderstorm during the next three hours, the Regional Meteorological Centre informed at 12.20 AM. "Moderate thunderstorm accompanied with squall wind speed reaching 50-60 kmph, lightning and light to moderate rain likely to affect some parts of the districts of Nuapada, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Rayagada, Ganjam, Gajapati,

Nayagarh, Puri, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur, Bhadrak, Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Angul, Deogarh, Balangir, Bargarh, Khurda, Cuttack (including Bhubaneswar And Cuttack cities) within next 3 hours," the Meteorological Centre said. People of the areas have been advised to keep a watch on the weather for worsening conditions and be ready to move to safer places accordingly.



## Odisha Forms 2 Panels For Procurement Of COVID Vaccines Through Global Tender

Bhubaneswar, May 11: As the state Government has decided to procure COVID-19 vaccines through global e-tender to be floated by Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL), two committees have been formed for supervision of the same. While a technical committee has been formed consisting of 10 members headed by the Directorate of Medical Education and Training (DMET), a managerial committee constituted with nine members headed by OSMCL MD for the purpose. To vaccinate total 1,93,69,511 people aged between 18 and 44 years, the state needs to procure 3,87,39,022 doses of vaccines. The two manufacturing companies are supplying Covaxin and Covishield vaccines as



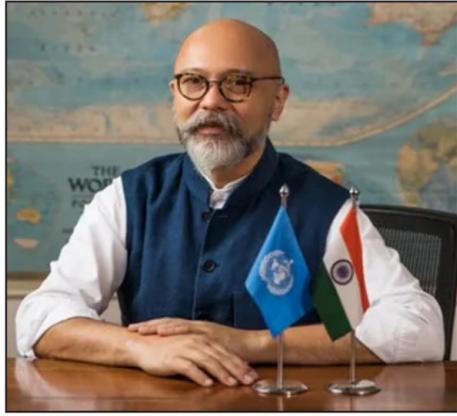
per the Centre's allocation. And, it will take months to complete the vaccination process if the two manufacturers - Bharat Biotech International and Serum Institute Life Science Pvt Ltd - continue to supply vaccines at the current pace. Hence, it has been decided to procure the vaccine from the open market through global tender by OSMCL, said an official statement. While OSMCL has placed a purchase order of 10.34 lakh doses of Covaxin for the third phase vaccination, manufacturing com-

pany Bharat Biotech International has so far supplied 1.5 doses of the vaccine. Similarly, only 1 lakh doses of Covishield have been received from Serum Institute as against the purchase order of 220 lakh doses of the vaccine. Meanwhile, vaccination of people in 18-44 age category today commenced in four municipal corporation areas - Cuttack, Rourkela, Sambalpur and Berhampur. Vaccination of the same age group beneficiaries had earlier begun in Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) area on May 3.

## WHO official gives verdict on vaccine efficacy against Indian Covid variant

The B.1.617 variant, believed to be driving the deadly second wave of coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic in India, is the fourth variant that has been classified as a variant of global concern. The World Health Organization (WHO) representative to India on Tuesday said that the vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics continue to be effective against the coronavirus variant B.1.617, first identified in India, after the UN health agency classified it as a variant of global concern. According to news agency ANI, Dr Roderico H Ofrin's statement on vaccine efficacy against the Indian variant of con-

cern was based on what the WHO knows so far as per the discussions with experts globally. The B.1.617 variant, believed to be driving the deadly second wave of coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic in India, is the fourth variant that has been classified as a variant of global concern. Dr Maria Van Kerkhove, Covid-19 technical lead at WHO, told a briefing that there is some available information to suggest increased transmissibility. Dr Kerkhove stressed that the scientists need much more information about the B.1.617 variant and all of the sub-lineages. "Our Epi teams and our



lab teams internally, there is some available information to suggest increased transmissibility of B1617, as such we are classifying this as a variant of concern at the global level," she said. While the Union health ministry on Tuesday said

that an early trend of decline in daily new Covid-19 cases and related deaths has been noted in India, the country continues to record over 3 lakh daily infections, overwhelming the healthcare infrastructure. In an interview with

ANI, WHO chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan called on governments to boost exercises on reporting actual numbers, terming the rate of infections and fatalities "worrying". "I would say that at this point of time, the situation is very worrying, the daily number of cases and deaths that we are seeing today in India and other countries in the Southeast area region is a big concern for us and we also realise that these are underestimates. Every country in the world, in fact, the number of cases and deaths has been underestimated to its true number," she told ANI.

## Google adds vaccine info panels to search; Maps show hospital bed availability

New Delhi, May 11: The aim of rolling out these features is to health authorities and affected groups find assistance quicker, as massive second wave of the pandemic sweeps the country. Tech giant Google has made discovering vaccine-related information easier by carrying out a scope of updates across its different services. The aim of rolling out these features is to health authorities and affected groups find assistance quicker, as massive second wave of the pandemic sweeps the

country. According to Mashable, to help in searching for vaccine information, Google Search will show the latest updates on vaccine safety, efficacy and side effects. "You will also find information about prevention, self-care, and treatment under the Prevention and Treatment tab, in easy-to-understand language sourced from authorised medical sources and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare," said the search giant in a blog post. In addition to the testing centres, people

can also access the location of 23,000 vaccination centres nationwide in English and 8 other regional languages. Mashable detailed that another element has been added on Google Maps. The application will currently show a user if a hospital has beds and access to medical oxygen, based on crowd-sourced information. This data may not be right on target - yet it very well may be convenient detail for somebody hoping to get a friend or family member hospitalised close by. At the same time,



Google Pay too has a COVID aid campaign, where the individuals who wish to donate to organisations that help COVID-influenced residents can do as such. A portion of the associations highlighted as a feature of this campaign include GiveIndia, Charities

Aid Foundation, Goonj, Save the Children, Seeds, UNICEF India (National NGOs) and United Way. "This campaign has raised over USD 4.6 million [INR 33 crore] to date and continues to generate and continue to generate much-needed support for relief efforts," it said.

## Cloudburst hits Devprayag in Uttarakhand



New Tehri, May 11: A cloudburst hit Devprayag in Tehri district of Uttarakhand on Tuesday, razing two municipal buildings to the ground and damaging several shops. It also damaged pedestrian bridges, water pipelines and electricity supply lines, an official said. The cloudburst occurred over the Shanta river, causing inundation of

areas along its banks with a huge amount of slush containing boulders, SHO of the Devprayag police station Mahipal Singh Rawat said. Two municipality buildings, including the multi-purpose Nagar Palika Bhawan, caved in after being hit by the rubble brought down by the cloudburst, he added. A number of shops in the

Dashrath Danda Parvat area of Devprayag were also damaged in the cloudburst, the SHO said. However, there was no loss of life as people were alert and had moved to safe locations like the bus stand and police station premises, he said. Municipal Commissioner KK Kotiyal said the extent of damage is yet to be assessed.

## Pappu Yadav arrested for violating Covid-19 norms in Bihar

New Delhi, May 11: After he was arrested for violating Covid-19 norms, Jan Adhikar Party leader and former MP Pappu Yadav on Tuesday said that "if it is a crime to save lives during Covid, then he is a criminal". Yadav was arrested from his residence in Patna today morning after he was seen outside without a Covid-19 per-

mit. Yadav claimed that he was helping people affected by the virus. Reacting to the arrest, Yadav tweeted this afternoon saying, "To save lives in the Corona era if it is a crime to risk your own life, then yes I am a criminal." Directing his tweet at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar,

Yadav said, "Hang me, send me to Jail, but I will save people, I will expose the dishonest." Yadav alleged he was arrested due to political reasons and said "lockdown" was being used as a cover for it. The Bihar government has imposed a statewide lockdown till May 15 in the wake of rising covid cases.

## Farmers returning to protest sites after harvest season: Samyukta Kisan Morcha

New Delhi, May 11: In a statement, the SKM said that large convoys of farmers arrived at the two border points on Monday and this will now continue. "Yesterday, large convoys of farmers arrived on the Singhu border and Tikri border. Farmers were welcomed at many places on their way to these sites from Punjab. These farmers, who have travelled in tractors, cars and other vehicles, have

statement, the SKM said that large convoys of farmers arrived at the two border points on Monday and this will now continue. "Yesterday, large convoys of farmers arrived on the Singhu border and Tikri border. Farmers were welcomed at many places on their way to these sites from Punjab. These farmers, who have travelled in tractors, cars and other vehicles, have



made arrangements to live in tents and trolleys as they were living before harvesting," it said. "The farmers' strike is getting stronger and the

protest sites are also becoming larger. Farmers' tents, trolleys and other vehicles have been permanently there for the last five months in long

queues. The pattern of farmers coming back after the harvesting season will now continue," it added. "The government should increase investment in education, health and agriculture sectors. Along with taking guarantee of the purchase and remunerative price for the crops of the farmers, the government should make a law on MSP and repeal the three anti-farmer laws immediately," it said.

## 'With deep sense of pain' Nadda writes to Sonia: 'Are you trying to weaken fight against Covid-19'



New Delhi, May 11: The Covid-19 vaccines made in India does not belong to any political party or leader-it belongs to the nation. Yet the Congress did not do the right thing instead did the wrong politics," Nadda said. Asserting that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government has been and continues to be "proactive" in its attempts to defeat the coronavirus, BJP presi-

dent J P Nadda asked Congress president Sonia Gandhi, who has been critical of the government's handling of the situation, if she and her party are trying to "weaken this fight against Covid-19?". A day after the Congress Working Committee blaming the Modi government for its "indifference, insensitivity and incompetence", Nadda wrote a four-page letter

to the Congress president listing the measures the centre has been taking for vaccination, augmenting medical facilities and coordinating with the states in containing the pandemic and the instances in which the Congress was "misleading people, creating false panic and even contradicting their stands just based on political considerations." Nadda wrote: "You must ask yourselves - in times as these, is your party's conduct weakening the morale of these Covid warriors? Deliberately or otherwise, are your actions trying to weaken this fight against Covid-19?" "I am writing this letter with a deep sense of pain," Nadda said

adding that leaders of the Congress party including the chief ministers had created "confusion." He said Congress leaders tried to ridicule the vaccines made in India and create doubts in the minds of the people. He stated that the central government has already ensured considerable coverage for the priority groups by providing over 16 crore vaccines to the states in the first phases. Pointing out that the BJP-ruled states have announced their resolve to help the poor and the underprivileged by providing free vaccines, Nadda asked if the Congress ruled states can come out with a similar decision. "The Covid-19 vaccines made in India

does not belong to any political party or leader-it belongs to the nation. Yet the Congress did not do the right thing instead did the wrong politics," he said. He alleged in the fight against the pandemic, the conduct of senior leaders of the Congress including Rahul Gandhi "will be remembered for duplicity and pettiness." Nadda pointed out that the Congress had opposed lockdown, but now asking for it, held massive election rallies in Kerala causing a spike in Covid cases while grandstanding about election rallies elsewhere. Nadda took a strong exception to the Congress party, for putting all the blame on the Central Vista Project.

## Assam CM allots portfolios to ministers; keeps home, PWD, personnel with self

Guwahati, May 11: According to details available with HT, Sarma would be in-charge of home, personnel, public works and all other departments not allotted to any another minister in the Cabinet. A day after taking oath as Assam's 15th chief minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday allotted portfolios to his Cabinet colleagues keeping important portfolios to him. According to details available with HT, Sarma would be in-charge of home, personnel, public works and all other departments not allotted to any another minister in the Cabinet. He had held the health, finance, education and public works departments in the Sarbananda Sonowal Cabinet and it was expected that he would retain most, if not all, of them in the new government headed by him. The health portfolio has been allotted to Keshab Mahanta, working president of BJP's alliance partner Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), who will also be in-charge of science and technology and information technology departments. Finance ministry has been given to Ajanta Neog, a former Congress minister who switched to BJP just ahead of election. She

will be responsible for the social welfare department as well. Ranaj Pegu had been allotted the education portfolio along with the department for welfare of plain tribes and backward classes (those in non-Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) areas). Parimal Suklabaidya retains forest and environment, fisheries and excise departments. President of BJP's state unit Ranjeet Kumar

Party Liberal (UPPL) representative in the new Cabinet, has been allotted handloom and textile, soil conservation and welfare of plain tribes and backward classes (those in Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) areas). Ashok Singhal has been given charge of Guwahati development, urban development and irrigation departments while Jogen Mohan got the revenue and disas-



Dass will handle panchayat and rural development, public health engineering, food and civil supplies and consumer affairs ministries. AGP president Atul Bora has been given agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry and veterinary and border area development portfolios. Chandra Mohan Patowary gets transport, industries and commerce, skill development and welfare of minorities departments. Urkhao Gwra Brahma, the lone United Peoples'

ter management, hills area development and mines and minerals portfolios. Sajay Kishan will be in-charge of welfare of tea-tribes and labour and employment departments and Bimal Bora got sports and youth welfare, cultural affairs, power and tourism departments. Pijush Hazarika, a close associate of the CM and the former minister of state for health, has been allotted water resources, information and public relations and parliamentary affairs departments.

## Drive-In Covid Testing Facility In Bhubaneswar



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 11: After launching the drive-in Covid vaccination facility in different parts of Bhubaneswar city, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) today declared to kick-start drive-in Covid testing facility. The municipal corporation stated the drive-in for RT-PCR and Rapid Antigen Testing will be

carried out at the parking lot of BMC Bhawani Mall from tomorrow. Those who want to avail the testing facility will enter the mall's parking lot at Gate No - 4. The testing will be done from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM. If someone has symptoms, the concerned person can come to the drive-in testing centre in a vehicle and wait for his/her turn. The

sample will be collected at the testing point at the parking lot. Persons will have to provide correct mobile number and address at the testing point. The municipal corporation has been carrying out drive-in Covid vaccination at the Utkal Kanika Galleria Parking lot, KIIT University's Cricket Stadium and Esplanade Mall Parking lot in the city.

## Commissionerate police launch helpline number 8093028100 for senior citizen

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 11: With an aim to assist senior residents of the twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack over law and order issues during the ongoing Covid lockdown and shutdown period, the Twin City Commissionerate Police today launched a helpline for them.

Commissioner of Police, Saumendra Kumar Priyadarshi said the helpline will help the police connect with senior citizens of the twin city and get to know about the well being. The helpline number launched for senior citizens is 8093028100. Priyadarshi added around 25,000 senior citizens have registered



themselves with the Commissionerate of Police. The helpdesk will connect with 70-80 senior citizens every day in the twin city and get details about their well being, he added. The lockdown and weekend shutdown which are in force in the State from May 5, 2021 will end on May 19, 2021.

## No Public Darshan At Chandan Jatra Of Lord Jagannath In Puri This Year



(A.O. Bureau) Puri, May 11: The 21-day Chandan Jatra of Lord Jagannath in Puri will be held at Narendra Pokhari from May 15

with strict adherence to all COVID-19 protocols. However, general public will not be allowed to witness the 'Chapa Khela' ritual of the Lord.

Informing this, Puri Collector Samarth Verma said only 50 to 60 servitors will be allowed at the Holy pond to perform the rituals. RT-PCR test of the participants will be conducted 72 hours before the festival. However, arrangements are being made for live telecast of the festival. A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in this regard will be issued later in the day following the Chhattisa Nijog meeting, he added. Earlier, district SP K Vishal Singh informed that around 10 platoons of police force will be deployed along the stretch from Singhadwara to Narendra Pokhari every day during the festival.

Besides, prohibitory orders under Section-144 will be imposed around the pond. The decision on observance of the festival outside Srimandir was taken earlier at a meeting chaired by the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Chief Administrator Krishan Kumar on May 6.

## Fatality Rate Of Black Fungus High, Covid-Recovered Patients Need To Be Watchful: Experts

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 11: While India is facing an acute crisis amid the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic, there has been a rise in cases of black fungus, a rare fungal infection, also known as Mucormycosis, in coronavirus patients. Black fungus or Mucormycosis is an infection commonly being seen in Covid-19 patients who are at the recovery stage but have comorbidities such as diabetes, kidney or heart failure or cancer, said Dr Radhamadhab Sahu, Consultant and Head of ENT & Skull Base Surgery, SUM Ultimate Medicare. "In Odisha, we are getting instances of Covid patients contracting black fungus in-

fection. If a person who has recovered from Covid complains of blackish discharge from nose, he or she becomes a suspect for mucormycosis infection. Other symptoms are a feel of constriction in eyes, redness in eyes, choked nose, a black spot in mouth cavity, head reeling, etc.," said Dr Sahu. A Covid-19 patient under treatment at the SUM Ultimate Medicare has been detected with Mucormycosis. The 71-year-old patient with uncontrollable diabetes, who was detected as Covid-19 positive on April 20, was kept in home isolation. The patient was admitted on Saturday to SUM Ultimate, with swelling in the eyes and a blackish dis-

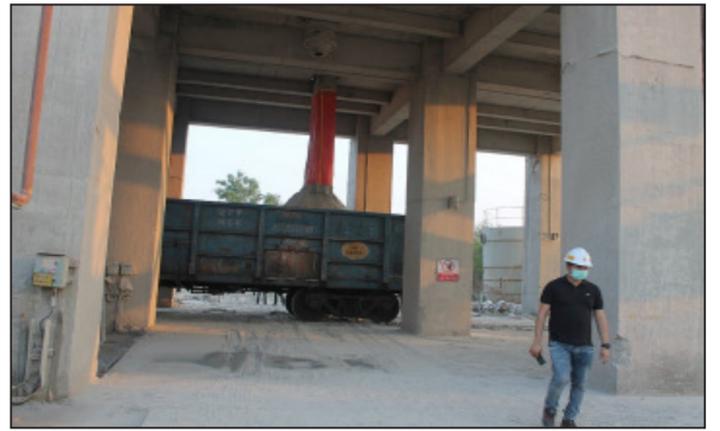


charge from the nose. Dr Sahu said it was the first such case in the State. "The nasal endoscopy of the patient showed a black deposit on the turbinate. The patient's history revealed that he had noted symptoms after using an air-cooler which was unused for some time with water stored in it," he added. The disease is usually seen in those patients whose immunity has been affected after suffering from Covid-19 or in those whose immunity was weak and they were afflicted with

Coronavirus. This fungus has been there in the atmosphere. The disease was also there. But all of a sudden, its incidence has increased manifold like a Tsunami in metropolitan cities, and some States, Dr Sahu said. The mortality rate of this rare infection is around 50 per cent. This is an invasive fungus which enters through nasal cavity and spreads to organs. It ultimately destroys the organs adjacent to the nose. Mucormycosis blocks the medium and small blood vessels thereby ceasing RBC supply to the organs. The fungus renders the organs black as the blood supply is cut-off. Dr Sahu said to protect ourselves from black fungus, we need to strictly

monitor the comorbidity factors of persons who have recovered from Covid. For example, the blood sugar level of a diabetes patient who has recuperated from coronavirus infection needs to be carefully watched. "We should check from administering steroids to Covid patients unless and until it has been duly prescribed by doctors. The steroids need to be administered rationally." Nasal endoscopy of a suspected patient can reveal whether he or she has been afflicted by this fungus. It has been proved that at times, the fungus enters through oxygen mask or pipe which was used to support the patient while being treated for Covid.

## OPGC Dispatches 4,000 MT Fly Ash To Cement Plant In Assam



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 11: The Odisha Power Generation Corporation (OPGC) Limited has achieved a major milestone by dispatching ash from the Fly Ash Silo at IB Thermal to Star Cement Plant in Assam. OPGC's ash will be

used by Star Cement to manufacture Portland Pazzolana cement. "About 4,000 metric tonnes of fly ash was dispatched today from OPGC's IB Thermal Power Station with the use of railway rake," the Corporation stated. OPGC is having state of

art technology to dispose ash directly through railway rake. "With today's landmark event, OPGC gains a significant potential to dispose around 90,000 MT of ash per month which can be further increased in months to come," OPGC stated further.

## New Rules For Unit-I Vegetable Market Amid COVID Surge



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 11: With Odisha capital reporting around/over 1000 daily COVID-19 cases in the second wave of the pandemic,

the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has issued new rules for the crowded Unit-I vegetable market here to facilitate social distanc-

ing. As per the rules, wholesalers will be allowed for trading between 3.30 am and 6.30 am while the same for retailers is between 6.30 am and 12 noon. The rule will be in effect till further orders by the BMC. This apart, two-wheelers will not be allowed inside the vegetable market during the period. Strict action will be taken against the violators, the BMC said.

## COVID Vaccination For 18-44 Age Group Begins In 4 Municipal Corporations

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 11: COVID-19 vaccination for 18-44 age category commenced in four municipal corporation areas of Odisha- Cuttack, Rourkela, Sambalpur and Berhampur, today. Vaccination for the age group had earlier started in Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) area on May 3. The state government had received 1 lakh doses of



COVISHIELD vaccine and distributed those among the four municipal corporation. Registration and slot booking for receiving the vaccine can be done at <https://selfregistration.cowin.gov.in/>. The Odisha Government has decided to carry out the COVID-19 vaccination for 18-44 age category in the five municipal corporation areas initially and later in other parts of the state.

## Bharat Biotech Begins Covaxin Supplies To 14 States Including Odisha

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 11: Bharat Biotech has started direct supplies of its Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin to 14 states. The states are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The Hyderabad-based company said it started the supplies based on the alloca-

tions received by the Government of India. "Requests have been received from other states, & will be processed for distribution based on availability of stocks 24x7," tweeted Bharat Biotech co-founder and Joint Managing Director Suchitra Ella. It fixed the price of Covaxin at Rs 600 per dose for state governments. However, it later slashed the price to Rs 400. This came after Serum Institute of India (SII) cut the price of Covishield



to Rs 300 from Rs 400 earlier. The two vaccine makers slashed the prices after the central government reportedly made a request to them amid the row over different pricing for the central and state governments. For private

hospitals, Bharat Biotech fixed the price at Rs 1,200 per dose. This is twice the cost fixed for Covishield. For exports, Bharat Biotech has priced India's first indigenous Covid vaccine at \$15-\$20 (Rs 1,125-1,500). Ever since

the launch of Covid vaccination programme in India, Bharat Biotech and SII have been supplying their vaccines to the Centre at Rs.150 per dose. While Bharat Biotech is likely to continue the supplies to the Centre at the same price, SII is seeking to revise this to Rs 400. Both Bharat Biotech and SII have announced that they are reserving 50 per cent of their production capacities for supplies to the central government.

## Sevayats Of Puri Srimandir To Be Vaccinated Ahead Of Rath Jatra

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 11: Ahead of the world-famous Rathajatra this year, Sevayats (servitors) of the Shree Jagannatha Temple in Puri will be vaccinated. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today approved a proposal regarding this. Earlier, Shree Jagannatha Temple Administration (SJTA) Chief Administrator, Krishan Kumar had requested the State government to inoculate the Sevayats on priority basis. Meanwhile, a high-level review meeting



was held under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra on Covid management among families of Sevayats of the Shree Jagannatha Temple. The Additional Chief Secretary

of Health and Family Welfare Department, SJTA Chief Administrator, Director NHM, DMET Odisha, Collector Puri, and other senior officials also attended the meeting.

## EDITORIAL

## Hope floats

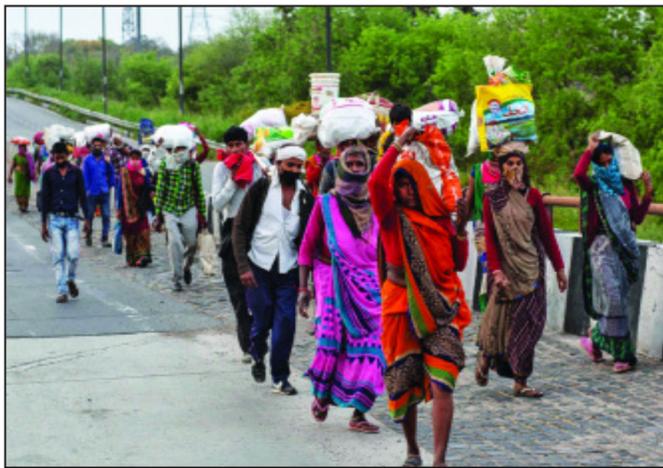
The resounding victory of Mamata Banerjee against the BJP's concerted effort to wrest power in West Bengal has allowed the languid Opposition to dream afresh of an anti-BJP alliance well in time for 2024. Such buoyed spirits were seen in the past, too, but the current one stands out. One, the West Bengal victory following the never-seen-before hype created by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah left a strong message in its wake. Two, the satraps hailed Mamata, but of greater import was a congratulatory tweet by JD(U) parliamentary board chairman Upendra Kushwaha about Mamata breaching the BJP's "chakravayuh" (a circular, military formation). The tweet by the BJP's ruling ally in Bihar caused its own ripples and raised eyebrows. Three, Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut took the narrative forward not only by asserting that the shrivelling Congress continued to be the "soul" of any Opposition alliance, but also by presenting Maharashtra's Maha Vikas Aghadi as a model of a political alliance against the BJP at the national level. The positive reception to Mamata's victory in the Opposition-ruled States will not automatically lead to a common national front; it merely points to such a possibility. There are many pre-conditions to be met first: The next round of Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, for example. Can the SP and the BSP preach an electoral understanding? Will the Left, AAP and even the Trinamool Congress allow a straight fight between the Congress and the Akali Dal and/or the BJP in Punjab? Both States will test the Opposition's resolve, while the UP result will be the clincher. The regional leaders are coming to terms with their shared problems of one-upmanship, a Congress snapping at their heels and a BJP trying to poach their brood. Will the prospect of a united fight against the BJP prompt them to adopt the jointly-at-the-Centre-and-severally-in-States formula of decentralised unity? One way to find out is for them to overcome the COVID-19 challenge by opening two-way communication channels among themselves. The Congress cannot automatically stake claim to be the "soul" just because its leadership may favour a default principle that the index of Opposition unity will work in its favour and it can seek the top post by getting most seats in the Opposition camp. It has shown maturity to be the junior-most partner in Maharashtra. It may believe that the satrap's inability to leave their States for a national role for fear of political backstabbing will leave the Congress as a default alternative. The MVA model has worked because the Shiv Sena, NCP and the Congress were compelled to bury their differences. Noticeably, the Sena did not interfere with the Anil Deshmukh case and left it to the NCP to sort it out. Also, all the partners fared reasonably well in the State elections without having to be a drag on the alliance. The question therefore is: Should the Opposition search for a leader first or an alliance? To date, six Prime Ministers have come from the Congress and an equal number from the formerly Congress but non-BJP fold. Who can break the tie?

## In the slow lane

The world applauded us for supplying indigenous COVID vaccines under the "Vaccine Maitri" initiative. Well, that was before the second wave hit home. When it comes to dealing with the pandemic in our own backyard, our vaccination efforts run into a wall of challenges — from manufacturing to pricing to supply chain bottlenecks. Several States had expressed inability to start the vaccination drive for 18-44 years, citing shortage of vaccines. The situation hasn't improved yet; if anything, inequable vaccine prices have only exacerbated it. No doubt, there exists a wide demand-and-supply gap and India needs to ramp up its vaccine production capacity manifold. While the nation faces a vaccine deficit, how logical is it for the Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII) to plan to pump 240 million pounds (Rs 2,400 crore) for making vaccines in the United Kingdom? This huge amount should have ideally been spent on increasing the production capacity in India. In the looming shadow of a more lethal third wave, achieving herd immunity seems to be the only way out. However, going by the current pace — India fares poorly on the index of percentage vaccination — achieving herd immunity is easier said than done. Since most of the predictions by our scientists with respect to the nature and peak of the second wave have fallen flat, there is no point relying on their predictions on the timing and intensity of the third wave. Adding to these woes are disturbing reports that a "black fungus" is maiming those who have recovered from COVID. The rare infection, called "Mucormycosis", has an overall mortality rate of 50 per cent. Doctors believe it may be triggered by the use of steroids that are given as life-saving drugs to critically ill COVID patients. If that is true, fighting SARS-CoV-2 virus and its variants is not the only challenge that we face. We must also get ready to face the fungal infection that severely damages our skin, lungs and brain. The crisis is certainly deepening as the Government's best efforts to contain the pandemic notwithstanding, the desired results are nowhere in sight. The Centre has claimed in the Supreme Court that its vaccine policy is "just, equitable and non-discriminatory" and there is no need for the courts to interfere. However, this explanation doesn't agree with the situation on the ground. Far from reaching even the halfway point in the fight against COVID, the Government must employ sincere, coordinated and gigantic efforts to deal with the crisis.

## Apocalypse and the leadership

The handling of the pandemic, both by the Centre and the States, since the first wave leaves much to be desired. Despite the darkness and the chaos that currently engulf us, one can say with certainty that this, too, shall pass. Undoubtedly, the cost has been tragically unconscionable, and nothing could have prepared us for the trauma and heartbreak that confronts us on a daily basis. The fact is that we had expected to be overwhelmed by the pandemic's impact during the first wave, given the state of our health infrastructure and the Government's apathy. Especially, since the latter's complete focus was on Donald Trump's visit, the opposition to the Citizen's Amendment Act and the Delhi riots. For reasons that we still do not fully understand, that did not happen and we got away lightly, believing for some reason that our generally poor standard of hygiene and prevalence of disease had made us immune to the virus. Clearly a combination of inverse snobbery, arrogance and complacency gripped us, allowing us to forsake common sense and ignore basic science in an effort to quickly regain our pre-pandemic lives. Suffice it to say, the handling of the first wave by those mandated to do so was apathetic in the initial stages and panic-stricken subsequently, especially after they saw it decimate Europe, the US and South America. We locked ourselves in, at a moment's notice, without any consideration for our less fortunate brethren, the daily wage earners, whose livelihoods disappeared overnight. The inability of the State to anticipate the consequences or mitigate their suffering resulted in the largest migration of population



Deepak Sinha

seen since Partition. The migrants attempted to get back to the safety of their villages, treks on foot involving thousands of kilometres for some. To compound their misery, the Centre as well as most State Governments responded, as the Governments here invariably do, with inherent savagery, totally bereft of empathy or compassion. As a result, thousands died by the wayside. The Government was seemingly unaware that even in the tragedy that was Partition, the fledgling Government of the time utilised the military to establish the Military Evacuation Organisation to coordinate the movement of all refugees and helped them reach their destinations in relative safety. In complete contrast, despite the grave nature of the threat confronting the Government, the military remained a mere bystander, utilised for such "critical" tasks as serenading hospital staff and other frontline workers by showering hospitals and police memorials with flowers from helicopters! Even now, there are allegations

that the military has been used to establish field hospitals in the constituencies of a few VIP politicians. Clearly, in hindsight, it was not our systems and processes in place to deal with just such a contingency that were found wanting, as Kerala showed us, but the lackadaisical approach of most Ministers and bureaucrats whose responsibility it was to ensure their implementation. They, in their wisdom, or rather the lack of it, treated the NDMA's detailed guidelines and SOPs with contempt, leaving it to their minions to handle the problems. Inherent arrogance and a belief that we had put the pandemic behind us ensured that the Narendra Modi Government took its eyes off the ball, even going so far as to ignore advice, received in early March from its own advisory group, on the likelihood of a second wave impacting us with even more ferocity. As a result, it didn't bother to make up for the infrastructural and procedural deficiencies ob-

served earlier but, worse, refused to hold accountable for acts of omission and commission those responsible for the lapses and delays that led to unnecessary and avoidable deaths of thousands. In short, it was a Government more focused on garnering power and prestige than ensuring the well-being of its citizens. An uncaring civil society, a divided and defunct Opposition spearheaded by a party in the death throes and a pro-Government media preferred to remain silent on these issues. By doing so, we enabled them to cover up their misdeeds and perpetuate false narratives and bold-faced lies. While Modi may have excellent reasons for not venturing outside his bio-bubble at the Race Course Road, preferring to lead from within, he should note that leaders need to be seen, otherwise they are redundant. Interestingly, such an absence in a war zone on the part of a military leader would result in his immediate removal from command, probably on grounds of incompetence, if not sheer cowardice. Whatever the spin this Government may attempt to push, Modi has been completely shorn off all the gloss and charisma he earlier projected. His unwillingness to take responsibility for the disaster implies that he lacks the moral fibre. The question that arises is if he will do the right thing and fall upon his sword. One way or the other, we will know the answer soon. But let us be totally clear that his reputation is done and dusted, forever connected to his handling of the pandemic and what it has wrought. As the Bard, insightful as ever, wrote: "The evil that men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones."

## Modi vs Didi- A lesson to all

Now in few pockets of West Bengal, you may be confused on the territory seeing what's happening there. You may feel that you are inside Pakistan or Bangladesh instead of Hindustan. If we analyse the last election in West Bengal we may learn lot of lessons. By default I was close to few RSS people. One of my classmate Mr Das never rest in any holidays and Sundays due to his engagement in social work. Few other social work lovers like Priyabhai, Srustibhai, Sumanta and Ramnarayan etc. are all supporters of RSS ideology and work for BJP. However, I like to see political news and living in illusion that this time BJP will come to power in WB. But got disappointed as just reverse happened. Most of the RSS volunteers, who were supporting BJP for a change, now became underground to survive in WB. Few of them are killed and few of them are still fighting to live in India. We could see in media the post-election violence on breaking asbestos, snatching hairs of ladies on roads and crying over loosing father & brother including lot of events like rape and murder happening with election workers. Result came on May 2nd and Didi sworn after 3 days to give a space to those criminals to fulfil their vested interest of crimes perhaps. Home minister of our nation didn't bother who all are died or who all are injured? They did press conference and informed the nation that few BJP workers have been killed by TMC supporters and post-election violence is happening due to Didi's silence, she never approached her cadre for peace and harmony. It's all good to listen only. How many of us believe it? According to you what should be the duty of Prime Minister and Home Minister of the country in this scenario? Just briefing the sad news and condemning the fact in press conference? In a federal sys-

tem like India Centre has some power over states. Why Article 356 is in our Constitution? Leaders won election due to workers but if they don't value the life and sufferings of a worker, then what is the use of giving our hearts. In West Bengal Didi is not only CM who is doing like this and walking opposite direction to the of central government, we find the same case with Panjab, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Kerala and even in national capital Delhi too. Delhi riot was a tailor and original picture may release in 2024. Most of the learned people agreed that Centre didn't handle Mr. Rao 50 lakh to cancel his suspension order, for which he declined. After that he made me the scape goat to pressurise contractor to fulfil their demand and he asked NHAI officers to make me out of that project. NHAI RO asked our Sheladia management, so they asked me to resign. I tried with all my RSS friends to approach MP Tudu and met him five times personally to explain that I am nobody to help him in getting his share from contractor. Finally, he got his share, little less what he was demanding but I lost my job in Covid-19 time, which can't be repaired as I don't want to serve outside of Odisha. One of his close associate was telling me that he is repenting now for his removal recommendation and feeling sorry but what is the use of it? This is high time to identify all the people like Tudu and show them red signal for 2024. At least they should be removed from the PMO office as representative to help the public and control the large scale corruption practice in public. Almost four days after the results of the West Bengal Assembly poll that gave a major victory to the TMC, vio-

lence rocked the State. On Thursday, there were reports of TMC leader Udayan Guha being attacked at Dinhat in Cooch Behar district. The BJP has claimed that over a dozen of its party workers have been killed in the post-election violence. There are reports of four TMC workers also being killed. In West Bengal, reports poured in of party-versus-party violence. Most of these reports suggested that the Trinamool Congress was responsible for the incidents. However, in some cases, the Trinamool Congress also alleged that its workers had been attacked and killed by members of the Bharatiya Janata Party. A four-member team of the Home Ministry arrived in West Bengal on Thursday to take stock of post-election violence. The members of the team held a meeting with senior officials of State government at the State Secretariat 'Nabanna Buildings'. They are likely to visit violence-affected areas. The development comes a day after Mamata Banerjee was sworn in as the Chief Minister of the State for the third consecutive term. Soon after being sworn in, Ms. Banerjee urged all political parties to refrain from violence. The Trinamool Congress (TMC) leadership said that instead of sending teams, the Union government should send vaccines. The Centre should not send teams but instead send vaccines," senior party leader Firdad Hakim said. Mr. Hakim said a few people had died in the violence but there were hundreds who were dying daily due to shortage of vaccines in West Bengal. The Shiv Sena on Friday said the violence that has erupted in West Bengal after the Assembly election results, reveals the gory side of politics and it shows that the rule of force prevails instead of democracy. The party also said that maintaining law and order in the state was equal responsibility of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the central government.

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### Paresh receives one lakh as govt. assistance from the CM's Relief Fund



(A.O. Bureau) Aska, May 11: Paresh Nayak of Mamujhia village in Aska block of Devbhumi panchayat has received rupee's one lakh in government assistance from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. Paresh has been given a grant from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for medical ex-

penses in a joint effort of local Zilla Parisada, sarpanch's and samiti members. Paresh is now kind of physically challenged by paralise state of position. At the same time, local zilla parisada Gaurahari Behera thanked to the government for its support for medical treatment.

### The role of the police in vaccination at 13 centers in Berhampur is commendable

(A.O. Bureau) Berhampur, May 11: Vaccination with lockdown continues in the state. Vaccines play a key role in the fight against global epidemic corona. However, the state government of Odisha has always been very sensible on disasters management. The role of the Ganjam district administration and the Berhampur police administration in the first wave of the corona will never be forgotten. Now, in view of the second wave of the corona, the police administration under Berhampur SP Pinak Misheard make themselves ready to take on their responsibilities at the

thirteen vaccination centers opened in Berhampur city in view of the crowds and discipline at various vaccination centers. In Berhampur, all citizens between the ages of 18 to 44 have been

co-sponsored by the health department and administrative officials, while the police role was very important. The police were only found to be used to collaborate people in all Vaccinations.



vaccinated at various centers in the city today. The vaccination program was

In between the time of 8 to 1 o'clock and second session 3 to 6 o'clock the

high numbers of citizens come to near every vaccination point as they appointed. As a precautionary measure, the entire police team was present at all centers in the city today to monitor the vaccination. The people who came for the vaccine thanked the police for their cooperation. The people, along with the administration, thanked the people of Berhampur for their pro-government work for the government's pro-people work. Berhampur Superintendent of Police Sri Pinak Mishra also appeal to all general public to cooperate all citizens in that big event the battle against the Pandemic Corona.

### The two deads final rituals coordinated by Berhampur MLA Vikram Panda



(A.O. Bureau) Berhampur, May 11: Dandasi Sahu, a 76-year-old man from Nilanchal Nagar in Berhampur, and Jaydev Nayak, age 36 youth, of Rangunibandha Sahi, died in normal death case. However, due to the fear of the corona, no neighbors resident attended his funeral. The incident was reported by Berhampur Youth MLA

Bikram Panda. He was accompanied by a group of volunteers and performed his last rites at the Nilakantheshwar crematorium. Even during the first wave of the coronation, Mr. Panda was seen repeatedly performing the funeral of many such people. Today, the intellectuals of Berhampur praised Mr. Panda for such a pious endeavor.

### Aska IIC in reel to teach people's how fight in break life against Corona

(A.O. Bureau) Aska, May 11: 'ANIKA' a short film released at the premises of Maa Karanjei Temple near Aska, bearing message of awareness on scenario of present deadly covid situation. On behalf of Nriyam, this film is directed by Krishna DK and in the lead role played by Prashant Kumar Sahu IIC of Aska P.S. and child Actor Prasatika Panda. With in a short span of time this film may leave a special impression in the so-



ciety with its beautiful message and natural acting said by IIC Prashant Kumar Sahu. Nriyam institution made a social awareness film on covid said by President of

Nriyam Nilamani Pattanaik sir. The story and direction is given by Krishna DK while the film assisted by Priyambad Pattanaik and E. Sanchita Patra. The

cinematography set done by Taniru Sreenu, and assisted by Gopal Mohanty. Kajal Behera and Rashmita were the mentors. As said by direction Krishna DK,

this movie is made to demolish the fear of corona among the people of society and importance of wearing mask. In this program, IIC Aska Prashant Kumar Sahu, President of Nriyam Nilamani Pattanaik Senior Litterateur Laxmi Narayan Pattanaik, Litterateur & lecture Sanjay Kumar Sadangi are presences there. This program was coordinated by anchor and poet Ratnakar Siya and he expressed his heartfelt gratitude in the event.

### Ten Maoists were died in corona Dantewada district on the Malkangiri border

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 11: Ten Maoists were killed in Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh's Malkangiri border. Ten Naxalites have died in the Bastar forest after food poisoning and affected by Carona. Dornapal in

Sukuma district, along with Konta area, also looted vaccines and medicine. Dantewada SP Abhishek Pallav informed about this. Dantewada SP Abhishek Pallav had earlier reported that more than 50 Maoists had been affected by corona. Sujata, a

Maoist leader of the Special Zonal Committee, has been announced a prize amount 25 lakh including there along with a number of hardcore Maoists. SP Abhishek Pallav, however, called on the Maoists to return to the mainstream of society after the corona infection. But now that the Naxals have lost their lives in Karona, there is growing concern about innocent tribals in the villages who are in contact with Maoist.



### Community drying yards are occupied by Kendu leaf traders

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 11: The incident took place in Niliguda village under the Padia block in Malkangiri district. The Kendu leaf trader occupied the village community drying yards. Generally Government constructed these drying yards for the tribals to dry the NTFP prod-

ucts They dry Rice paddy, Mahua Tola, Tamarind etc but now all this in the district in the hands of Kendu leaf traders. The main livelihoods of the tribal and backward classes are mahul, toll, indigenous mangoes, siadi seeds and Kendu leaf as the main income commodities. Malkangiri, a Naxal-

dominated and tribal-dominated district, has become a hotbed of green gold. From February onwards, it will begin bush cutting to collect money. The Kendu leaf is collected from the end of March. It is in demand in states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, activities, including the collection of Kendu leaf from rural areas. Dry leaves and non-payment of Kendu fadi workers for packing, employment of child labor, etc. Unauthorized use of village schools, clubs, panchayat so warehouses. But now a different trend

### Police SDPO and district administration have shown greatness for migrant worker



(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 11:

Sudhir Ranjan Bishwal, a migrant of Kumbhi vil-

lage Soro Block Balesore District was

working at singarani coal mines of Telengana due to lockdown he set out for own village due to illness he died near the Sileru bridge on the outskirts of Andhra Pradesh. Immediately after hearing the incident, the district administration reached out to the Andhra police on how to cremate the entire tehsildar Shashank Kumar Mishra, the gen-

eral police officer and the SDPO Anshuman Dwibedi, Block JE Basanta Behera Teacher Ranjit sarkar and presence of Andhra Pradesh administration. Sudhir's body was cremated in a forest near Sileru Bridge in Andhra Pradesh. His own elder brother Dharendra Bishwal has cremated Sudhir's body in a forest near the sileru river.



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### Chief Medical Officer has admitted to the theft and misappropriation of cow vaccines at the Niali Group Health Center

(A.O. Bureau) Niali, May 11: The Chief Medical Officer has admitted to the theft and misappropriation of cow vaccines at the Niali Group Health Center. While the second phase of vaccination work was underway at the Niali Group

Health Center on Monday, there were widespread irregularities, while the Chief Medical Officer of the health center, Dr. Jainek, admitted the incident of unauthorized access and manipulation of Jain women. S. Naveen. The "woman" was, in

fact, an undercover detective mounting a sting operation. "The women involved will not be allowed to enter the vaccination center in the coming days," he said. "If such a recurrence is made, firm action will be taken against him," he said. A large number

of people were reported to have been vaccinated in Niali on Monday. A female employee was accused of stealing the vaccine. People even grabbed him and handed him over to the doctor. There was a lot of excitement in front of the

vaccination center about this. People have strongly opposed such manipulation and warned that the movement would come down in the coming days. "The rescue squad wasn't called for him," she told the Associated Press.

### The villagers caught the mobile thief and tied him to a tree

(A.O. Bureau) Niali, May 11: A mobile thief was apprehended by villagers and tied to a tree and handed over to the police. The incident took place in Kulshree village of Eranch panchayat under Niali police station. The incident has become a hot topic in the local area. According to reports, a mobile

phone was stolen from the house of Niranjan Mohapatra of Kulshree village on Monday night. According to CCTV footage from his home, Kalandi Bhoi of the nearby village of Altalang stole his mobile phone. He was arrested Tuesday and is believed to have stolen a mobile phone. He also handed over a cell phone bur-



ied in the ground and recovered the stolen mobile phone from other people. He was tied to a tree and handed over to police. Fouch has gone repeated laddled in the middle of the ability while the 4 mecius ladies exceeded. He is thought to have survived an earlier attempt to oust him following Mr Jiang's intervention.

# Vitamin D intake is vital Maheep predicts Sanjay's reaction to Shanaya going 'intimate' on screen



New Delhi, May 11: Many studies have now found high association between Vitamin D levels and COVID-19 severity and mortality. Such studies showed that patients with COVID-19 had significantly lower Vitamin D levels. In addition, fever was significantly higher in patients who had deficient Vitamin D levels compared with patients who had sufficient levels. Additionally, it has been found that older adults with Vitamin D deficiency and COVID-19 had worse morbidity outcomes compared with those who were not deficient. Vitamin D is a fat-soluble vitamin that plays a number of critical roles in body. This nutrient is especially important for immune system health. Since, it is a group of fat-soluble compounds responsible for intestinal absorption of calcium, magnesium, and phosphate, and for a variety of additional biological effects; low levels of Vitamin D can increase the likelihood of developing multiple acute and chronic ailments. A weaker immune system means body's weak defence against infection and disease. A prospective, interventional study found that a high dose of calcifediol reduced

the need for intensive care stays in patients infected with COVID-19. Because Vitamin D deficiency has been shown to potentially increase the risk of severe respiratory infections, Vitamin D supplements are suggested for prevention and treatment of COVID-19 complications, especially acute respiratory disease. Nowadays many brands of Vitamin D supplementation are available in market like D3 Must, Caldikind, Calshine, etc. It is noticed that those receiving Vitamin D supplementation have fewer respiratory tract infections. According to the SHADE study published by BMJ and led by Dr Rastogi and his team, greater proportion of vitamin D-deficient individuals with SARS-CoV-2 infection turned SARS-CoV-2 RNA negative with a significant decrease in fibrinogen on high-dose cholecalciferol supplementation. We have seen that seven days high dose of Vitamin D3 (60000 IU) supplementation helps in Coronavirus clearance. Given the evidence supporting the role of vitamin D in modulating immune function, and the impact of vitamin D supplementation on vitamin D-deficient patients with COVID-19, practical recommenda-

tions should be synthesised as follows: Current public health guidelines for optimising vitamin D status should be followed always Patients hospitalised with COVID-19 should have baseline serum 25(OH)D concentrations measured and should be supplemented to a level >30ng/mL (optimal 40-60ng/mL), especially when the baseline level is <10ng/mL. In COVID-19 patients with 25(OH)D serum concentrations under 20ng/mL the recommended dose for correction of deficiency is 6000-7000 oral IU/day for 6-8 weeks. For maintenance, the dose varies from 2000 to 3000 oral IU/day depending on the age and clinical condition of the individual up to reach optimal concentrations. When it is not possible to measure baseline 25(OH)D concentrations in COVID-19 patients, it seems essential supplementing with 2000-3000 oral IU per day up to the suggested optimal serum concentrations (40-60ng/mL). Though India is a subtropical country with adequate sunlight, Vitamin D deficiency is prevalent. Sunlight rapidly inactivate SARS-CoV-2 on surfaces, suggesting that there may be an environmental benefit associated with Vitamin D as a result of sun exposure. It is necessary for people to understand the importance of Vitamin D so that they can take relevant medications.

Dr Ashu Rastogi  
Asso Professor, Dept of  
Endocrinology at PGI Chandigarh

Mumbai, May 11: Sanjay Kapoor's Maheep Kapoor has predicted her husband's reaction to their daughter Shanaya doing an 'intimate' scene on screen. Shanaya is gearing up to make her debut in Bollywood. Maheep Kapoor, the wife of actor Sanjay Kapoor, has speculated about her husband's reaction if their daughter Shanaya were to ever participate in a kissing scene in her future films. Shanaya is geared up to make her debut in Bollywood under Karan Johar's Dharma Production. In a recent interview, Maheep revealed that Sanjay will be taken aback but won't interfere with Shanaya's work.



Sanjay's protective side was glimpsed in the Netflix 'reality show' Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives last year. "Inside, Sanjay will be like, 'Oh no, what am I watching?' but when it comes to her work, he'll keep quiet," Maheep told

PeepingMoon. Maheep also spoke on Sanjay sometimes replying to fans of Shanaya's, mistaking them for her. She said, "She's got so many of those fan mails, you know? Sanjay is confusing Shanaya with these people also. Some fan

had written 'love you, dad', and Sanjay has messaged, 'love you back, Shanaya'. I said, 'but which Shanaya are you messaging?' He was very confused. He said, 'oh, this is not Shanaya?' I said, 'no'. So we weren't expecting it, but it came,

and it was overwhelming." In March, Shanaya had shared a video announcing her debut, with the caption, "Woke up today with the most grateful heart! Here's to a great journey ahead with the DC talent family. Excited to kickstart my first film (Ahhh!) this July by Dharma Movies, can't wait for you all to see what we're up to! Stay tuned." She has already worked as an assistant director in Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl, the 2020 Netflix film. The movie features her cousin Janhvi Kapoor in the lead role. Shanaya has also made an appearance in Fabulous Lives Of Bollywood Wives.

## Khatron Ke Khiladi 11's Varun Sood: Divya Agarwal is more excited than me



Mumbai, May 11: After being a contestant on Splitsvilla and Roadies, as well as a 'gang leader' on the latter, Varun Sood is all set to participate in Khatron Ke Khiladi 11. Before heading off to Cape Town, Varun spoke to indianexpress.com about being nervous and excited about his journey in the Rohit Shetty-hosted series. He also shared that he wants to show the youth that being scared is normal. "I was offered Khatron Ke Khiladi 11 a month and a half back. While I was still contem-

plating my participation, I realised that there are a lot of young people who follow my work. And I wanted to tell them that no matter how strong you are, one can be afraid of certain things. That's not a negative trait. What's more important is how you use your mental strength to overcome your fears. I really hope I can pass this message along," shared the 26-year-old, adding in the same breath that he is petrified of 'snakes and clowns'. Given Varun has been associated with adventure-based reality

shows, one may wonder if it's going to be a smooth ride for him. The host-actor shared that he might have an upper hand when it comes to physical tasks, but Khatron Ke Khiladi is much more than that. "There is always a loophole in such tasks, and it's easier for me to figure that out. However, the show is more about mental tasks, and thus I am at the same level as anyone else at the end of the day. As readers would know, this season of Khatron Ke Khiladi 11 would see Varun Sood, Divyanka Tripathi, Arjun Bijlani, Nikki Tamboli, Vishal Aditya Singh, Aastha Gill, Sana Makbul, Anushka Sen, Shweta Tiwari, Mahekk Chahal, Rahul Vaidya, Abhinav Shukla and Sourabh Raj Jain as contestants. The MTV youth icon, however, re-

fused to pick one name as a competition and reasoned that whoever says yes to the show has already mentally prepared themselves. "I don't even know anyone personally to pass a judgment. Once the show starts we will get to know who is a real competition. As of now everyone is, and most importantly it's my darr. I need to fight it first," he said with a smile. Varun also added that given each task is designed to an exacting standard, he doesn't know what to expect. However, he wants to have fun and also win the show. Talking about Rohit Shetty, he mentioned that he has come to know that the host gets infuriated when someone gives up on a task. "I will make sure I complete my challenges as Rohit sir is also quite

a helpful person, and I want to get all his guidance. He really motivates and pushes one ahead." Girlfriend Divya Agarwal had recently posted on Instagram on how she cannot wait for him to be with creepy crawlies. Laughing at her comment, Varun mentioned how Divya is more excited about the show than him. "I think I am also a little nervous. We will be away from home in a different country, and don't really know what to expect. However, she is very confident about me and keeps telling me that once I get on a task, I will finish it to win. So I am taking that positivity along," concluded Varun Sood. Khatron Ke Khiladi 11 would be shot in South Africa till the end of June. Its launch date is yet to be announced by Colors.

## Shweta's friends voice support after watching 'inhuman' events in latest post

New Delhi, May 11: Actor Shweta Tiwari's friends from the industry have spoken in her support after she shared a video on Instagram, amid her bitter custody dispute over her child with estranged husband Abhinav Kohli. Actor Shweta Tiwari's friends and colleagues from the industry have voiced their support for her amid her ongoing custody battle with estranged husband Abhinav Kohli. On Monday, Shweta shared a video on Instagram, which showed a scuffle between the former couple over their son. In the comments section, actors Karanvir Bohra, Teejay Sidhu, and sev-



eral others expressed their shock at what they saw. "Omg !!! And everyone is just standing and watching !!!" wrote actor Kishwer Merchant. "This is super sad! Stay Strong," wrote Srishty Rode, adding heart emojis. Karanvir

commented, "Mommie pls file a case immediately.. this is inhuman... really really can't see this, I can imagine what she must be going thru... pls get him off ur life." His wife Teejay wrote, "It is a very sick and sad mentality that everyone is

shamelessly standing there and watching? And some even walked away There was a struggle and NOBODY tried to help or find out what was going on!" Producer Ekta Kapoor wrote, "Why is this guy not arrested." Mahhi Vij commented,

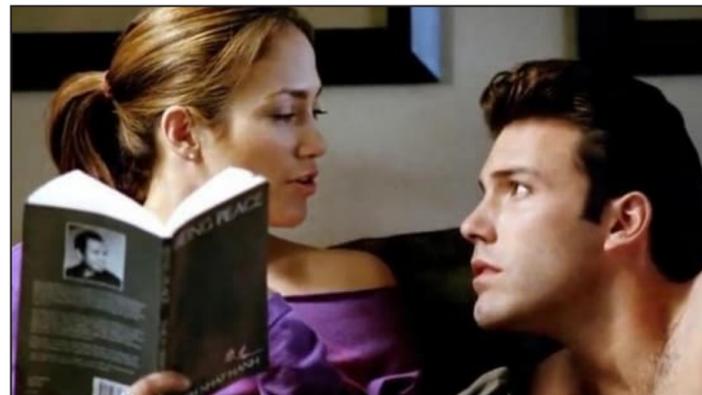
"You are such an inspiration for mother's strong hardworking mother god is with you." Rashmi Desai wrote. "This is so weird that ppl are watching all this but not helping the lady & the child. God know what child most be going thru. Stay strong." Shweta recently flew to Cape Town, South Africa, to participate in the reality show Khatron Ke Khiladi 11. Her refusal to leave her son with Abhinav triggered him to launch a slew of new allegations against her. Abhinav has been posting regular videos on Instagram, accusing Shweta of not allowing him to meet their son.

## Exes Jennifer Lopez, Ben Affleck enjoy weeklong vacation in Montana

New York, May 11: Ex-couple and American actors Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck spent a whole week together on their trip to Montana. Friendly exes and American actors Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck spent last week together as the duo took a trip to Montana, confirmed sources. Ac-

cording to E!News, after JLo and Affleck appeared separately at the VAX LIVE concert in Los Angeles on Sunday, they jetted off together to the Yellowstone Club in Montana, where they vacationed together for

another source said they were "just friends." "They have been in touch here and there throughout the years," a second source close to Jennifer told E! News, noting the duo reunited after she returned from filming in the Dominican Republic. "Ben reached out to her to see how she was doing and they had dinner



## Wonder Woman 1984 will start streaming on Amazon Prime Video from May 15

New Delhi, May 11: The successful sequel to the blockbuster Wonder Woman, Wonder Woman 1984, is coming to Amazon Prime Video. The movie will start streaming on the OTT platform from May 15.

Wonder Woman 1984 sees Gal Gadot's Wonder Woman and Chris Pine's Steve Trevor face-off against the dangerous duo of Max Lord and the Cheetah (Pedro Pascal and Kristen Wiig, respectively). Set in the Cold



War era, the film has been helmed by Patty Jenkins, who directed the first part of the franchise. Wonder Woman 1984 received a mixed response upon its release last year, with Rotten Tomatoes giving it a 59 per cent score.

together. Days later, she and A-Rod reunited briefly in L.A. in late April and a source told the outlet that he wanted to "work things out" with her. However, Ben was then spotted at her home in the city. At the time,

together a few times within this last month. It's natural between them and the chemistry is unreal. They picked up where they last left off and are enjoying each other's company right now," the source added.

# Doubt IPL 2021 will continue in India: Neesham

Christchurch, May 11: New Zealand all-rounder Jimmy Neesham doesn't think that there is any chance of the remaining 31 matches of Indian Premier League happening in India this year, after the tournament got postponed due to Covid-19 cases inside the bio-bubble. He also has serious doubts whether India would be able to host the 16-team T20 World Cup later this year. Both IPL and T20 World Cup are set to be re-scheduled to the United Arab Emirates. "If it did start up again, I doubt the IPL would be in India again," said Neesham told Newshub. "I think we've already seen plans for the T20 World Cup to move out of India later in the year and they're going to be ultra-cautious about that sort of thing," said Neesham, who was playing for Mumbai Indians in the now suspended league. Neesham feels the bio-security lapses could be due to the fact that the teams were travelling



across the country. "Even though we were flying on chartered planes, we have to go through customs, hand your details over to people, walk through terminals, so there were always going to be pinch-points there," he said. Neesham said that it is difficult to comprehend how the bubble was breached. "We obviously don't know yet exactly how teams were infiltrated, but... It's such a difficult prospect to keep everything

perfect and when you've got so many guys that are close to each other, there are going to be social interactions after games. "Once one team has it, you start looking back through your last week at who you talked to and who you shook hands with. It certainly gets your mind racing." However Neesham isn't averse to the idea of going back to India again and playing the IPL if it resumes. "For me, I signed up for the IPL knowing what it

might be like. I felt like it was an obligation — I made the commitment to go and never had any thoughts of pulling out individually before the tournament finished," he said. "Guys will have different opinions on that, but it's my job, I'm a professional and you have plenty of times you're not that keen on going to, but it's about getting on the field and getting the job done. "I would sign up again, especially once vaccinations start

rolling out. I don't think anyone really predicted how quickly it would all come crashing down over there and how quickly we would be on the first plane out." The IPL was suspended last Tuesday after four players and two coaches from four different teams tested positive for the dreaded disease within a space of 48 hours. "To be honest, I wasn't expecting it to get called off. I think, when you've got so many teams in different bubbles, the expectation was that there would always be some cases at some point during the tournament," Neesham said. "We thought teams might have to lock down and miss a couple of games, like we've seen in other organisations, like the NBA. The show must go on. "The thing that was so shocking was how quickly it came up in so many different teams at the same time and we didn't really have an option in the end." Neesham said they were "not out of the woods yet" and may develop symptoms in the coming days.

# Poms won't force quarantining IPL stars back for NZ series

London, May 11: Team director Ashley Giles says England have no plans to "rush" their IPL stars back for next month's Test series against New Zealand and could introduce new faces to cope with a packed schedule. The suspension of the IPL because of the devastating coronavirus outbreak in India has left England with a potentially larger player pool than they envisaged for the two-Test series against New Zealand. Among those currently serving quarantine periods are Jos Buttler, Chris Woakes and Sam Curran, all of whom have Test contracts with England. They could be available for County Championship matches starting on May 20 before joining the England 'bubble' ahead of the first Test against New Zealand at Lord's, which begins on June 2. But even if the trio are in contention, England may have to call up fresh reinforcements

given Ben Stokes and Dom Sibley are currently injured, while fast bowler Jofra Archer has only recently returned to action with Sussex's 2nd XI. "All these guys (returning from the IPL) are currently in quarantine and have had a number of spells in quarantine and bubbles," Giles said on Monday. "We need to look after them, with the amount of cricket they've got coming up. We're not going to rush or force them back into cricket. "Chris Silverwood (the England coach) will work with each and every one of them, as will our medical teams on what's best for their progress." After the New Zealand series, England have five Tests at home to India before travelling to Australia later this year in a bid to regain the Ashes. England also have numerous white-ball commitments, including the planned T20 World Cup in India.



# Checkmate COVID: Vishy Anand and 4 other GMs to play exhibition matches to raise COVID relief fund



New Delhi, May 11: Any player who has a Chess.com blitz or FIDE standard rating of under 2000 can play with former world champion Anand by donating USD 150 and with the other four GMs by paying USD 25 as registration amount. Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand and four other Indian Grandmasters will play simultaneous online exhibition matches against other chess players on Thursday to raise funds for COVID-19 relief work in the country. Any player who has a Chess.com blitz or FIDE standard rating of under 2000 can play with former world champion Anand by donating USD 150 and with the other four GMs by paying USD 25 as registration amount. Donations will also be accepted during the exhibition matches to be broadcast on Chess.com at

19:30 IST. The website said it will match all donations up to a total of USD 10,000. All the proceeds from the simultaneous exhibitions involving Anand, Koneru Humpy, Dronavalli Harika, Nihal Sarin and Praggnanandhaa Rameshbabu will go to RedCross India and the Checkmate COVID initiative of the All India Chess Federation (AICF). I don't think there is a single person young or old who haven't been affected by this. "We all know India is struggling hard against COVID-19. At this time, we all have been affected in some way. I don't think there is a single person young or old who has not been affected by this," Anand said in a video message posted on Chess.com. "Let us support COVID relief in India. You can play some of India's finest grandmasters, and have Chess.com

match your donations. Please sign up to participate in Checkmate COVID this Thursday. This is a little contribution from our chess fraternity. "I look forward to being there and hope we raise money and spirits!" International Master Danny Rensch and Samay Raina will host the livestream on Chess.com/tv. "With over one hundred games running concurrently across all simul, a time control of 30 minutes with a 30-second increment will be used for all games," a statement from Chess.com said. "With a limited number of boards, make sure to register early for this unique and charitable opportunity to play India's best players." India is currently reeling under a devastating second wave of COVID-19 pandemic with more than 3 lakh new cases and above 3000 deaths reported daily.

# Indian wrestling's image has been tarnished due to accusations against Sushil Kumar: WFI

New Delhi, May 11: At the peak of his prowess, Sushil Kumar single-handedly lifted Indian wrestling to unprecedented heights but as police looks for him in relation to a murder case, the sport's image has taken as much a beating as that of the trailblazing grappler. Sushil's international success triggered a revolution and created an inspirational legacy. The reserved grappler from Najagarh's Baprola village is till date India's only world champion (2010) in the sport. He is also the only one to claim two individual Olympic medals, an exceptional feat for a country which has seen very limited success at the Games. The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) is concerned



that the good reputation built over the years with stupendous international performances, many of them given by Sushil himself, has been ruined. "Yes, I must say that the image of Indian wrestling has got hurt badly by this. But we have nothing to do with what wrestlers do away from the mat. We are concerned with their on-mat performance," WFI Assistant Secretary Vinod Tomar told PTI. Sushil's bronze medal at the 2008 Beijing

Olympics ended India's 56-year-long wait for an Olympic medal in wrestling. The achievement had a tremendous impact as Indian wrestling witnessed the rise of Yogeshwar Dutt, Geeta and Babita Phogat, their cousin Vinesh, Rio bronze medallist Sakshi Malik and World medallists Bajrang Punia, Ravi Dahiya and Deepak Punia after that. However, the fraternity is now shell-shocked as the police on Monday issued a

'Look-out Circular' (LoC) against the champion wrestler, who is untraceable since the brawl that led to the death of a young wrestler. The incident has come at a time when Indian wrestling is celebrating its highest number of quotas — eight — for the Olympics. The anticipation of a best ever performance at the Tokyo Games is hard to miss. The police is ascertaining the role of Sushil in a May 4 brawl that led to the death of 23-year-old Sagar Rana outside the Chhatrasal stadium. "Not only this, but the incident that happened in February had also tarnished the image of Indian wrestling. The sport has struggled hard in earning a reputation because for long wres-

tlers were known only as a bunch of goons," Tomar lamented. The WFI official was referring to coach Sukhwinder Mor's involvement in the murder of five people, including a fellow coach Manoj Malik, in Jaat College in Rohtak district of Haryana. Sukhwinder had allegedly gunned down five people due to his personal enmity with Malik and was arrested from New Delhi in a joint operation by Delhi and Haryana police. Asked if WFI will remove Sushil from the annual contracts list, Tomar said they "were not mulling any such move as of now." Sushil was handed an A grade contract in December 2018 along with four others for an annual financial support of Rs 30 lakh.

# Sai Praneeth, Ashwini-Sikki withdraw from Singapore Open; others may follow

New Delhi, May 11: Reluctant to undergo the 21-day quarantine in which he would have to forego practice, Tokyo-bound B Sai Praneeth withdrew his entry from the Singapore Open, scheduled for June 1-5. "It's because we have to do 21 days quarantine and you can't play even it is 14 days quarantine. Without practice it is very tough to play," Praneeth said. Women's doubles pairing of Ashwini Ponappa-Sikki Reddy have also withdrawn from the tournament ending their qualification



hope. Indians will have to undergo obligatory 21 days of quarantine in Singapore, which has anyway stopped flights from India. While other shuttlers haven't yet withdrawn, the 21 day

window shuts today. While Praneeth received the first dose of the vaccine, that alone would not suffice to open up travelling restrictions applicable to Indians, after the variants have put travellers from the

country on a red list. "The vaccine status as of today can't be used for travel or to seek exemptions for quarantine as an Indian," he explained. "Maybe in the future, but I doubt it'll help this early," he added.

India is recording the highest Corona cases worldwide. With Telangana going into lockdown from May 12 for 10 days, Sai Praneeth will take a break from training. "I was preparing from a very long time for Malaysia and Singapore. But once it got cancelled, I thought I'll take a break and then start preparing for Olympics. I've already done 7 weeks of hard training so I thought I could take a break," he said. "The next 3 months will be tough non-stop and now that we aren't travelling, we can train with focus," he added.

## Rourkela's enthusiasm for the Covid vaccine among the youth, on the first day, 3,400 people took the safety net



(A.O. Bureau) Rourkela, May 11: The first dose was given to people between the ages of 18 and 8 on Tuesday in Rourkela. There was a lot of excitement among the younger generation when they were vaccinated. Many stakeholders thanked the local administration for the orderly arrangement at the vaccination center. They thanked Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for the security measures, especially against Covid. "A new schedule for the vaccination was drawn up by the district administration after receiving information that Rourkela had been vac-

inated from the state government's quota. For the first time, it was announced that the vaccine would be in the 18- to 7-year-old category. People who registered online and got a slot came to the designated center to be vaccinated. Four centers have been set up in Rourkela for vaccination. A total of 3,600 people were vaccinated on Tuesday. The administration aims to vaccinate 500 people at each center. According to the new vaccination schedule, 18 to 7 people are currently vaccinated on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Similarly, the 45-plus is scheduled

for Wednesday, Friday and Monday. They are only given a second dose of vaccine. No advance registration is required for this category. The administration has informed them to reach the nearest vaccination center and register. As per the directives of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the youth of Rourkela have been vaccinated. "I would like to thank them for keeping the vaccine and co-operating with the administration," said Nikhil Pawan Kalyan, Sundergarh district commissioner. Vaccines have been vaccinated in four Yak centers in Rourkela today. I would like to

- Vaccines on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays for 18 to 8 categories
- Wednesday, Friday and Monday for the 65-plus, only second dose vaccine
- The youth thanked the Chief Minister for the vaccine

thank the district administration, the municipal administration, the police administration, the doctors, the health workers, the volunteers and everyone involved in this comprehensive program. My special request to the younger generation is that they come and vaccinate according to their slot and follow the co-chlor rules. Do not rush to the vaccination center," said Divyajyoti Parida of the Metropolitan Corporation Commission. "Special preparations were made by the administration during the vaccination for 18 to 8 categories. 500 vaccination targets were set daily at each center. Thirty-five health workers, 17 data entry operators and 25 volunteers were deployed at six centers. Police officers were present at various centers. Rourkela Additional District Magistrate Aboli Sunil

Narwane and the commission's Divyajyoti Parida visited various centers. "Special emphasis was placed on compliance with the Covid rule at the vaccination center. The man who came to vaccinate wore a mask and kept his distance from each other. The administration arranged for him to sit at the center. Microphones were installed for various announcements, including drinking water. Selfie corners were set up at various places to encourage the younger generation. Many people have expressed their enthusiasm by posting photos of the vaccine on social media, thanking the chief minister and the administration. Extensive efforts have been made by the administration to inform the public about the new vaccination schedule in Rourkela.

## UAIL's Project Saksham Empowering women in Rayagada

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar: Aditya Birla Group's Utkal Alumina International Limited (UAIL), is engaged deeply in meaningful welfare initiatives in communities living in proximity of its plant. One of its project "Project Saksham" is reaching out to the unemployed rural women and through income generation helping them become self-reliant. Since its commencement in February 2015, it has

Anganwadi Centres, GNFA school, Tikiri, Aditya Birla Public School, Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir, Rayagada), shirts, kids dress for Private vendors (Ms/ Hirawats - Visakhapatnam, M/s Ram & Sons and S R Vendor, Vizag, BOYANIKA" M/s. Ludupali Khadi & Silk Weaving Samiti, Bargarh). Alongside they make fancy dresses for children and shirts for companies

played an important role. She is the spirit behind the making of masks. She feels that besides earning a livelihood, this is her way of giving back to the society, helping them stem the corona virus attack though the use of face mask. Interacting with the trainees, Mr. Mazhar Baig, who heads UAIL urged them "to put in their best efforts in learning the advanced skills required to produce designer clothes."



trained around 87 marginalized women. These women have been given an intense 6 months training in tailoring catering to every need. During the training period, participants learnt basic machine operations, cutting and stitching of dress materials such as tops, kurtis, chudidhar, salwar kameez, skirts, shirts, trousers and many more. UAIL has provided these women with the state of the art 30 sewing machines. In those six months, these enthusiastic women had mastered the art of stitching garments and most of the uniforms are stitched by them. Among their patronisers are from schools (Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya - Nawarangpur, Malkangiri, EMRS, Nabarangpur, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya - Korapat,

such as Hindalco-Power, Smelter & Flat Rolled Product (FRP) at Sambalpur, Aditya Aluminium, Lapanga, UAIL, Utkal Hospital at Tikiri, Hindalcoat Belur, Gare Palma, & Essel Mining at Barbil etc. The Aditya Birla Group is their strongest supporter. Besides, they have made nearly 1 lac face masks so far. Several women who have reaped a rich economic reward, thank to this project and have acknowledged UAIL's initiative. Listen to Madhusmita Benia (36) of Kampar who works in the manufacturing unit. She is happy that she has now a substantial income of Rs 10,000/- every month. Besides running the house, she financially supports her brother who is pursuing an engineering course. In Project Saksham, Banita Majhi, (22) from Naktiguda village has

Reposing faith in the trainees and trainers, he hoped that the products from the unit would certainly carve out a niche for themselves in the market and said "this initiative will empower and transform the lives of the rural women for a better tomorrow". Elaborating further Mr. Baig says, "We are much encouraged by our iconic Chairperson, Mrs. Rajashree Birla, Chairperson, Aditya Birla Centre for Community Initiatives and Rural Development, who believes that we must Engage, Uplift and Empower our women". Our Project is in line with her vision. "This is a small step in our journey to help the underprivileged women stand on their own feet. It has bolstered their confidence as well as self-esteem significantly, adds Mr Baig.

## Apollo Hospitals Group Extends Support Fight Against Covid, Donates Oxygen Concentrators & Opens Community Covid Centre

(A.O. Bureau) Hyderabad, May 11: The whole nation is fighting an unprecedented global crisis and to support the people of Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh in their struggle against COVID-19, Apollo Hospitals Group today donated 50 Oxygen Concentrators, reaffirming the Group's commitment to serve them at all times. Apollo Hospitals also inaugurated a 'Community Covid Centre' at the Total Health Complex in Aragonda, the native village of Dr.

Prathap C Reddy, Chairman of the Group. The centre will specifically meet the needs of COVID-19 patients in Aragonda and provide them with comprehensive care. Dr. Prathap C Reddy announced the same today during a virtual meeting with Shri Narayana Swamy, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Excise & Commercial Taxes and Shri Hari Narayanan, M, Collector and District Magistrate, Chittoor District. Dr. Reddy also informed

about the upgradation of the Chittoor District Headquarters Hospital completed by the Apollo Hospitals group Dr. Prathap C Reddy, Chairman, Apollo Hospitals Group said, "Led by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Jagan Mohan Reddy



Garu, the Andhra Pradesh Government has been handling the COVID crisis with a strong sense of commitment and purpose. As a small step in the collective fight against COVID-19, the Apollo family is privileged to extend support through various initiatives including donation of 50 oxygen concentrators to the people of Chittoor, opening of 'Community Covid Centre' at Aragonda, and upgradation of Chittoor District Headquarters Hospital. I am sure that

with our combined energy, positive thinking, and collective resources, we will be able to tide over this health crisis soon." The 50 oxygen concentrators will have a capacity of 5 litres/minute and provide patients with purity of oxygen more than 90 per cent suitable for COVID-19 and critical care patients. The second wave of COVID-19 has seen a major challenge in accessing oxygen to treat patients with respiratory complications who require oxygen therapy.

## NTPC Talcher Kaniha extends support to its Community Health Centre



(A.O. Bureau) Talcher, May 11: NTPC Talcher Kaniha CSR has come forward amidst the second wave of Coronavirus that has struck the country and recognised the hardships and vulnerabilities faced by the frontline health workers,

and undertook to distribute a total of 300 masks, 10 nos 100ml sanitizer bottles and 5 nos 500ml sanitizer bottles to support the battle of the Kaniha Community Health Centre as the foremost defence to curb the rising covid cases in nearby villages. This

activity was conducted whilst following all the covid-19 protocols, including regular use of sanitizer and following social distancing norms. The Kaniha CHC frontline health workers welcomed this initiative and showed immense gratitude towards NTPC.

## MCL releases Rs 32 cr for COVID19 in Q1; raises coal supply by 15%

(A.O. Bureau) Sambalpur, May 11: Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) has taken a series of steps at an estimated cost of over Rs 32 crore in the first quarter of current financial year to strengthen the fight against COVID19 surge, besides ensuring increased quantity of coal to power plants. MCL had spent Rs 135 crore in different Covid19 mitigating activities in the state of Odisha during last financial year 2020-21, and has further extended its support to state government in establishing COVID19 hospitals and providing other infrastructure support. The company is procuring 200 oxygen cylinders and concentrators to help Sambalpur,



Jharsuguda, Sundergarh and Angul districts to combat Covid-19 pandemic. Anticipating a rise in power demand in the country, the company ensured more than 4.25 lakh daily supply of coal from its mines during current fiscal, which was 15% higher than the despatch of dry fuel during same period last financial year 2020-21. Mr P K Sinha, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, MCL has exhorted the

General Managers in the monthly coordination meeting to ensure COVID appropriate behaviour in the workplace. "The health of our officers, staff and contractors' workers should be given paramount importance, as coal supply to power plants is directly dependent on them," the CMD said, asserting that at this juncture, when all the systems have been realigned to support in fight against

COVID19, country cannot afford dearth of essential commodities due to shortage of power. Mr Sinha also stressed on regular health monitoring of coal warriors, who are under treatment at various hospitals as well as at their residences. MCL has lost 18 employees to COVID19 pandemic, while 420 officers and staff are still under treatment for infection. Mr Keshav Rao, Director

(Personnel), in his letter to Odisha government, has offered to establish COVID19 vaccination centers at five healthcare facilities the company in Angul, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda and Sundergarh districts, and sought help of the government for vaccinating company employees, contractors' workers, their family members and peripheral population at the earliest. MCL, which contributes about 20% to the total coal production in the country, has supported the state government and district authorities to set-up and run COVID19 hospitals with a total 1405 bed capacity, including 189 in ICUs. Besides sanitization of offices and other workplaces, MCL is also conducting sanitization drives in peripheral localities, using 'fog cannons'.