

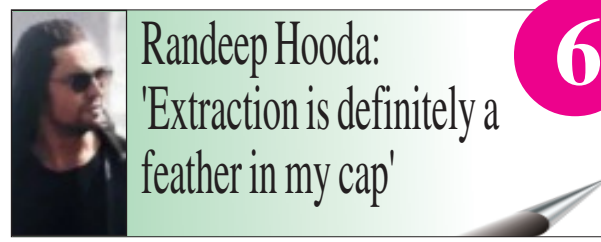
12 Oppn leaders write to PM Modi, demand free mass vaccination, suspension of Central Vista project

2



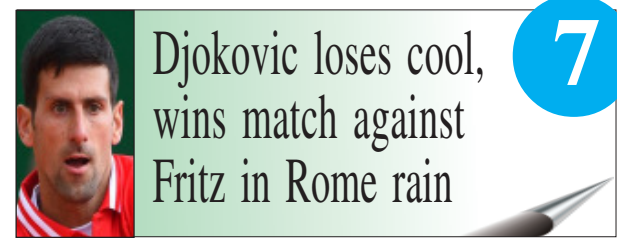
No Discrimination In Covid-19 Vaccine Supply, Congress Doing Cheap Politics: Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi

3



Randeep Hooda: 'Extraction is definitely a feather in my cap'

6



Djokovic loses cool, wins match against Fritz in Rome rain

7

Collectors Asked To Ensure Revenue Services To Public At Doorsteps

Bhubaneswar, May 12: In view of the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, Odisha Government has decided to deliver public services pertaining to Revenue and Disaster Management Department at their doorsteps through Rajaswa Ratha. Revenue and Disaster Management Department Principal Secretary Bishnupada Sethi has written a letter to Collectors of 29 districts to emulate Ganjam's model

to provide revenue services to the public through Rajaswa Ratha during COVID-19 pandemic. The senior official reiterated that under the ST initiative, the Revenue and Disaster Management Department has undertaken many citizen-centric initiatives to deliver public services to citizens in a time-bound, transparent and hassle-free manner. Though the mutation and certificate services delivered at



Tehsil offices have been made completely online, people having no internet access at home or lacking digital literacy are visiting Revenue Offices or Mo Seva Kendras for

assistance. In view of the pandemic situation, public access to revenue offices has been curtailed. "However, to provide revenue services to citizens during the pan-

demic, a Tehsil office in Ganjam has started an innovative way of delivering services through Rajaswa Ratha. It is meant for collecting applications and documents for mutation, certificate services and distribution of RoRs and various certificates at the doorsteps of citizens. This can be considered as a best practice for good governance," said the department.

Justice Chandrachud gets Covid-19, SC hearing in suo motu pandemic case deferred



New Delhi, May 12: Supreme Court judge Justice DY Chandrachud has tested positive for Covid-19. On Wednesday, the apex court issued a notice which said a hearing scheduled for Thursday before a bench headed by Justice Chandrachud, in the suo motu case for ensuring distribution of essential supplies and services during the Covid-19 pandemic, had been deferred. Sources in the SC told PTI Justice Chandrachud was suffering from mild fever, but was recovering well. "Take notice that since one of the judges of the bench scheduled to hear... titled 'In Re: Distribution of essential supplies and services during pandemic' and similar matters, on May 13, 2021 (Thursday), has tested positive for COVID-19, the special bench comprising Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud, Justice L Nageswara Rao

and Justice S Ravindra Bhat in court no. 5 will not sit and the matters listed before this bench stand deferred and fresh date of listing shall be notified later," the notice issued by the Supreme Court said. Besides the suo motu case, several other petitions raising issues related to Covid-19 were listed before the bench for Thursday. The bench had sat to hear the suo motu case on May 10 via video-conferencing, but could not proceed because of technical glitches. The Centre had submitted to the court an affidavit on its vaccination policy, and during the hearing Monday, Justice Chandrachud had said that although he got the affidavit late on Sunday night and the other judges had got it on Monday morning, things had been easy as he had read the report in The Indian Express, which "had it before us".

OPSC Clears 786 Doctors In Record Time For Appointment In Health Dept

Bhubaneswar, May 12: The Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) has recommended names of 786 doctors for appointment in Government service by completing the recruitment process in a record time of 15 days. On the basis of requisition from the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) Department for recruitment of



doctors, the OPSC took it as a challenge to complete the process as soon as possible so that the newly inducted doc-

tors shall boost the efforts of the State Government in fighting the pandemic, said an official press release. After

giving one month time for inviting application, the Commission decided to conduct Computer Based Examination to reduce the duration process. The examination was held across 15 centres and 1491 candidates took the examination on April 28 this year. Keeping with the rules governing the recruitment of Medical Officers which stipu-

lates written mark (weighted 70%) added to career assessment (weighted 30%) for determining the overall merit list of candidates, the Commission used developed software CSMS module to assess both the components and published the results today, thus completing the recruitment in 15 days, a record for OPSC, a new benchmark.

Major IAS Reshuffle In Odisha: Sanjay Singh New BMC Commissioner



Bhubaneswar, May 12: In a major bureaucratic reshuffle in Odisha, IAS officer Sanjay Kumar Singh was appointed as the Commissioner of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) replacing Prem Chandra Chaudhary. The 1997-batch IAS Officer Sanjay Kumar Singh is currently serving Odisha Government as the Commissioner-cum-Secretary of Skill Development & Technical Education Department with Additional charge as Commissioner-cum-Secretary of Information & Public Relations (I&PR) Department. He is allowed to remain in additional charge of Vice Chairman, Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) and CEO of Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited in addition to his own duties. Simi-

larly, IAS Officer Hemant Sharma (1995 batch), presently serving as the Principal Secretary of Industries Department with additional charge of Chairman, IPICOL, is allowed to remain in additional charge of Principal Secretary of Skill Development & Technical Education Department in addition to his own duties. Moreover, the 1995-batch IAS Officer Bishnupada Sethi has been allowed to remain in additional charge of Principal Secretary of I&PR Department in addition to his own duties. He is currently serving as the Principal Secretary of Revenue & Disaster Management Department with additional charge of Principal Secretary of Odia Language, Literature & Culture Department. With additional appointment

of IAS Officer Sanjay Kumar Singh as Commissioner-cum-Secretary of I&PR Department shall stand terminated from the date Bishnupada Sethi takes over, the General Administration & Public Grievance GA&PG Department said in a release. IAS Officer Prem Chandra Chaudhary (2010 batch), who is currently serving as the BMC Commissioner with additional charge of Vice Chairman of BDA and CEO of Bhubaneswar Smart City Ltd. is appointed as Officer on Special Duty of GA&PG Department. Besides, Krishan Kumar (RR-2002) Commissioner-cum-Secretary of Works Department with Additional charges of Chief Administrator, Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), Puri and Chairman of Puri-Konark Development Authority is allowed to remain in additional charge of CMD, IDCO in addition to his own duties. The additional appointment of IAS Officer Sanjay Singh as the CMD, IDCO shall stand terminated from the date Krishan Kumar assumes the office.

Covid Situation In Odisha Is Much Better Than National Average: Public Health Director

Bhubaneswar, May 12: Even though the daily Covid-19 infection cases are hovering around 10,000 for last several days in State, a top health department official said the situation is still under control. Even though the daily Covid-19 infection cases are hovering around 10,000 for last several days in State, a top health department official said the situation is still under control. Public Health Director Dr Niranjana Mishra on

Wednesday said that the State's situation is much better than the national average as it continues to witness less number of daily positive cases than the earlier prediction. "We are witnessing less positive cases against our earlier prediction. We had earlier predicted around 1.5 lakh active cases by this time, but it is below 1 lakh. The number of daily positive cases is also under control," Mishra said. It is quite clear that the



government's measures yielded fruits. "We will have to more cautious to reduce the rate of positivity," he added. Mishra advised a simple method to

break the chain of infection is to follow appropriate covid behaviour especially use of mask and social distancing. In order to augment testing ca-

capacity, the government has already announced to set up more RT-PCR laboratories across the State. More testing will be carried out in coming days, he added. Moreover, the government is also in the process to increase the ICU beds and oxygen beds in hospitals. The talk of a possible third wave is only a prediction, which can only be checked with adequate pre-caution and appropriate measures, he pointed out.

Deadline For Admission In Schools, Textbook Distribution Extended



Bhubaneswar, May 12: In view of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Odisha government today extended the deadline for admission into elementary and secondary classes in schools till June 30, 2021. In a letter to the Director of Elementary Education and the Director of Secondary Education, Additional Secretary of School

and Mass Education department, Raghuram R Iyer asked to extend the deadline for admission to schools and distribution of new textbooks till June 30, 2021. Schools in the State have been closed since April 19, 2021 following the government's order keeping in view the second wave of the pandemic.

WHO says India Covid variant found in 44 countries, of global concern

New Delhi, May 12: The B.1.617 variant of the coronavirus first identified in India last year has been found in 44 countries, says the World Health Organization (WHO) which has classified it as a 'variant of concern'. The UN body routinely assesses if variants of SARS-CoV-2 result in changes in transmissibility and severity, or if they lead to changes in public health and social measures' implementation by national health authorities. "As of May 11, over 4,500 sequences have been uploaded to GISAID and assigned to B.1.617 from 44 countries in all six WHO regions," the global health

body said in its latest weekly epidemiological update published on Tuesday. GISAID is a global science initiative and primary source that provides open access to genomic data of the novel coronavirus responsible



for the Covid-19 pandemic. B.1.617 contains three sub-lineages, which differ by few but potentially relevant mutations in the spike protein - this helps the virus enter the human cells, as well as the prevalence of detection globally. "At the present time,

WHO has designated B.1.617 as a VOC based on early evidence of phenotypic impacts compared to other circulating virus variants," WHO said. According to it, B.1.617 sub-lineages appear to have higher rates of transmission, including observed rapid increases in prevalence in multiple countries. "Preliminary evidence suggests potential reduced effectiveness of Bamlanivimab, a monoclonal antibody used for Covid-19 treatment, and potentially slightly reduced susceptibility to neutralisation antibodies," it said. Viruses in the B.1.617 lineage were first reported in India in October 2020.

Delhi court reserves order on Navneet Kalra's anticipatory bail plea

New Delhi, May 12: Navneet Kalra filed a pre-arrest bail after the seizure of 524 oxygen concentrators from three of his restaurants. Investigators said that they have evidence which shows the concentrators were bought for ₹14,000-15,000 and sold at ₹70,000-75,000. The order will be pronounced on Thursday. A court in Delhi on Wednesday reserved its order on the anticipatory bail plea moved by businessman Navneet Kalra in connection with seizure of oxygen concentrators from his restaurants. The order will be pronounced on Thursday. The oxygen concentrators, required by Covid-19 patients, were seized from his upscale restaurants. Additional Session Judge Sandeep Garg reserved the order on the pre-arrest bail for Thurs-



day at 10 am after hearing the arguments of both the prosecution and defense at length. Kalra has been on the run since the recovery of 524 oxygen concentrators from three of his restaurants - Khan Chacha, Town Hall and Nege & Ju between Wednesday and Friday, according to investigators. He could not be tracked despite raids being conducted in Delhi and in ad-

joining states such as Uttarakhand, the police said. Investigators said that they have evidence which shows the oxygen concentrators were bought for ₹14,000-15,000 and sold at ₹70,000-75,000. During the proceedings, public prosecutor Atul Shrivastava opposed the pre-arrest bail plea and told the court that Kalra's custodial interrogation is

required and that bail should not be granted as he is an influential person. "His intention was to cheat the public at large and wrongfully gain. Had Delhi Police not busted the racket, many people would have been cheated," the public prosecutor said. Kalra started the business of oxygen concentrators "out of greed", Shrivastava said, adding that anticipatory or

regular bail should not be granted in such white collar crimes. Senior advocate Vikas Pahwa, representing the accused, asked the court how his client can be accused of selling the oxygen concentrators at exorbitant prices, if there is no ceiling price fixed by the government. The senior advocate emphasised that selective leaks are made by the Delhi Police against Kalra and that he is being made a scapegoat to divert the attention from the "core issues". The application was first being heard by Additional Sessions Judge Sumit Dass but was then transferred to Additional Sessions Judge Sandeep Garg on Wednesday due to change in jurisdiction after the case was transferred to the Crime branch of the Delhi Police.

12 Oppn leaders write to PM Modi, demand free mass vaccination, suspension of Central Vista project



New Delhi, May 12: Leaders of 12 opposition parties Wednesday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking a free mass vaccination campaign against coronavirus, and suspending the central vista revamp project and utilise that money in fighting the pandemic. In a joint letter to the prime minister, the opposition leaders, including some chief ministers, have also demanded providing

foodgrains to the needy, and giving Rs 6,000 per month to the unemployed. They leaders have also demanded a repeal of the three Central farm laws which, they said, will help protect lakhs of 'annadatas' from becoming the victims of pandemic. The signatories to the joint letter include Congress president Sonia Gandhi, former prime minister and JDS leader HD Deve Gowda and NCP

supremo Sharad Pawar. Other signatories include chief ministers Uddhav Thackeray (Shiv Sena), Mamata Banerjee (TMC), MK Stalin (DMK), and Hemant Soren (JMM). Former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah (NC) Akhilesh Yadav (SP), Tejashwi Yadav (RJD), D Raja (CPI) and Sitaram Yechury (CPI-M) are also part of the joint letter.

Corpses in Ganga: Buxar locals more worried about water contamination than where bodies came from

New Delhi, May 12: On the morning of May 12, on the banks of the Ganga in Bihar's Buxar district, a local spots large objects floating on the water surface. He doesn't need a closer look to know what they are. "Aaj 5 lag raha hai (there seem to be five today)," he turns and calls out. The objects are human corpses, which have been floating up to the river's surface for the past few days now, evoking shock and horror, and making Buxar hit international headlines. The Bihar government has claimed the bodies are floating in from Uttar Pradesh; the neighbouring state has denied the charge; while the Centre has asked states along the Ganga to "ensure strict vigilance" and prevent people from dumping bodies in the water. Residents of the area, however, are

consigned to the river half-burnt. Also, in certain causes of death — such as snake bites — a water burial is preferred over a wood pyre. In case of Covid deaths, there is the fear of stigma, and so people are quietly disposing off the bodies of their loved ones in the river. Bodies are set off towards the east, and right now, a purvaiyya, or the east wind, is blowing, leading to so many bodies surfacing. All of this, however, points to an obvious fact — there are no electric crematoriums here. Sudhakar Singh, RJD MLA from Ramgarh, which is part of the Buxar Lok Sabha constituency, says, "Corpses have also been found near Ghazipur in UP, upstream from Bihar. The floating bodies have blown the lid off how little the state prepared for the second wave



rather nonplussed by what they call the "misplaced brouhaha". "There are several cremation grounds along the river. Corpses being consigned to the water is not unheard-of. Locals are quite used to seeing floating bodies. The shocking thing here is the number of corpses, and the Covid risk they possibly carry. But bodies found floating in a river near cremation grounds in itself is nothing "apocalyptic", says Ashutosh Kumar Pandey, a social worker who hails from village Pandeypur in Buxar district, and now lives in Arrah town. Prashant Pratyush, a businessman from Buxar, agrees, and says the "media attention on bodies" has led to another problem. "Visuals of the floating bodies were quite gruesome. The Bihar government, under pressure, is now busy proving the bodies came from Uttar Pradesh, rather than focusing on managing Covid in the area." Residents say the river turns near Chausa, because of which floating bodies get stuck here. Bodies can end up in the river for various reasons. The poor often can't afford wood pyres, and so the bodies are set ablaze, but then

of Covid-19, and how clueless the Centre is about state realities. The MP from Buxar is MoS health, Ashwini Kumar Choubey. The MP from Varanasi (close to Ghazipur) is Prime Minister Narendra Modi. And yet, these areas are prepared for neither life nor death. In my constituency, one ambulance is supposed to cater to roughly 1 lakh people. In rural areas, people need to go to the nearest Sadar Hospital for Covid testing. There is just one proper hospital, and three referral centres. And despite the Centre talking so much about its Namami Gange project, between Varanasi and Patna, along the path of the Ganga, there is not a single electric crematorium. Where does the Centre expect the bodies to go?" The complaint of poor facilities is echoed by others. Daddan Pahalwan, ex-JDU MLA from Dumraon, also part of Buxar Lok Sabha seat, claims, "The bodies are the most arresting spectacle of the government's failure. But I don't think locals are surprised. Covid testing means long queues in government hospitals, and hefty fee in private hospitals.

Quad an exclusive 'clique', working against China: Foreign ministry

New Delhi, May 12: The four-member Quad is an exclusive clique rallying countries to work against China, the Chinese foreign ministry said on Wednesday a day after Dhaka criticised Beijing for saying any engagement with the bloc would damage ties with Bangladesh. The ministry indirectly criticised India for being part of the Quad, which includes the US, Japan, and Australia, and said New Delhi knows better what the group is all about. On Tuesday, Bangladesh's foreign minister AK Abdul Momen, was quoted by local media as saying that the remarks of the Chinese ambassador in Dhaka, Li Jiming, mentioning the likelihood of substantial damage to the relations between China and Bangladesh were "...very unfortunate and aggressive". Li had said on Monday that Bangladesh's engagement in the US-led Indo-Pacific strategy would substantially damage



Dhaka's relations with Beijing. It could not be immediately ascertained whether Bangladesh had been approached by any Quad member to join the bloc. The Chinese foreign ministry's spokesperson, Hua Chunying did not respond to Momen's comments directly but described the Quad as a clique out to harm China. "I haven't seen any reports on this issue (Momen's comments) you mentioned. China and Bangladesh are very good neighbours, developing bilateral relations based on mutual trust and peaceful co-existence,

and have been firmly supporting each other," she said. "About Chinese ambassador's remarks on the Quad which involve Japan, US, India, and Australia, we have made our position clear on this issue. We believe it is an exclusive clique against China and trying to rally countries around China to work against China. So, I believe you understand our position very clearly," Hua added. When pressed to respond about China's narrative on not interfering in any other country's internal affairs in context of ambassador Li's statement, she said

China always treats other countries despite their sizes as equals. "We always follow the peaceful coexistence principle in developing bilateral relations and we always support each other, and it is not China who has been interfering in others' internal affairs." "We follow the principle of non-interference in others' internal affairs, it is what we have been doing. And India knows better than us about this Quad, what's the true intention of Quad, is it trying to exclude China, to target against China. If so, then it is not about interfer-

ence, it is about expressing opposition about this Quad group. Also express the hope that it will stop doing so," Hua said. In March, responding to the first Quad leaders' summit, China had said the Quad "will end up nowhere" if it does not abandon its ideological bias and cold war mentality, underscoring its opposition to the bloc. Beijing had then described the Quad, or the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, as a clique based on an ideology which, it said, "detrimental to the international order". The summit, attended by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison, US President Joe Biden, and Japan Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, was closely monitored and critiqued by Beijing. The consensus in Beijing was that the four countries came together to counter China's increasing influence and muscle-flexing in the South China Sea and the Indo-Pacific region.

Ensure oxygen plants in private hospitals: Jharkhand ACS health

Ranchi, May 12: Jharkhand Addl Chief Secretary (Health) Arun Singh on Tuesday wrote to all Deputy Commissioners in the state, directing them to ensure setting up of medical oxygen plants in private hospitals, with at least 50 beds in their jurisdiction. He added, in case of any oxygen supply issues, the hospital administration will be held responsible. "Many private hospitals have circular arrangements of using and refilling oxygen cylinders. But is not an idle strategy for long-term intervention. Moreover, in case of any contingency on the supply side due to any

technical fault or transport related issues, this may lead to a disaster (preventable) for which the hospital administration will be liable and responsible," Singh wrote in his letter. He said that this was in addition to their dependence on oxygen cylinders for management of Covid patients. "Hence please direct all private hospitals to set up oxygen generation plants by completely assessing peak requirement in totality... in the next 45 days," he wrote. Jharkhand currently has 57,802 active covid cases with a weekly positivity rate of 12.09 per cent.

State to keep buffer stock of urea to avoid shortage in kharif season

Mumbai, May 12: The state agriculture department has asked all districts to have a buffer stock in place within 15 days to avoid shortage of fertilisers in the forthcoming kharif season. The state has decided to have an additional buffer stock of urea to the tune of 1.5 lakh metric tonne (MT). Agriculture minister Dadasaheb Bhuse at a meeting to oversee the fertiliser preparedness for the kharif season said last-minute rush for higher fertiliser procurement last year had led to hardships to farmers in some areas. The Indian Meteorological Department has predicted a good monsoon this year. "Last year also we had a good monsoon. This leads to increased demand for fertilisers, including urea.



This year, to avoid any last-minute chaos, we have decided to keep a buffer stock of 1.5 lakh MT ready in every district. The process should complete in 15 days," Bhuse said. The state has sought 42.5 lakh MT of fertilisers from the Centre. Currently, Maharashtra has a stock of 22.56 lakh MT of fertilisers. Of this, urea accounts for 5.3 lakh MT, DAP 1.27 lakh MT and other fertilisers 9.72 lakh MT. The agriculture min-

istry aims to ensure that there is no hoarding and black marketing of fertilisers. A ministry source said, "Last year, we were confronted with in-house challenges. Substandard seeds affected the sector. Farmers, who sowed substandard seeds, had used plenty of fertilisers. When the seeds failed to germinate, they had to go through the entire process for the second time." This led to higher demand for fertilisers.

Sahasri Subrata Roy Sahara recovers from Covid-19, tests negative



(A.O. Bureau) Sahasri Subrata Roy
Bhubaneswar, May 12: Sahara, Managing

Worker and Chairman of Sahara India Pariwar, has now tested negative for Covid-19. The RT-PCR test conducted yesterday confirmed the same. Being Covid free, Sahasri said, "I want to thank everyone for wishing me well". He has also requested everyone to protect themselves from the virus and get vaccinated as soon as possible.

Fraudster Posing As Railway Official Dupes Job Aspirants In Cuttack, Arrested

(A.O. Bureau) Cuttack, May 12: The Chauliaganj Police in Cuttack today arrested a fake railway official, who was allegedly duping people on pretext of providing them jobs in various government sectors in Odisha. The accused person was identified as Balam Behera alias Bubu, son of Gouranga Behera from Kunarpur area under Binjharpur po-

complaint lodged by a victim Soumendranath Sarangi on February 1, 2021. As per the complaint, Sarangi had come in contact with Balam Behera in January 2020. The latter had introduced himself as the In-charge of Cuttack Railway Transporting department. He had asked the job aspirant to pay Rs 1.60 lakh to get a clerical job in Home Department in State Sec-

Vihar and switched off his mobile phone after receiving the amount. With no option left, the victim reported the matter with the Chauliaganj Police this year following which a case was registered under section 420/34 of IPC. During investigation, police today apprehended the accused and seized 5 forged Employee ID of East Coast Railway, 2 mobile phones and one red colour scooter (Maestro) bearing Regd. No.-OD-02-AB-7850 from his possession. During the probe, another incident came to light that Balam had cheated one Bijay Kumar Nayak, a resident of Gandhipalli area under Chauliaganj police limits in Cuttack, in similar manner and siphoned cash amounting to Rs 2.30 lakh from him with assurance of giving a government job at AIIMS Bhubaneswar. In this connection, the Chauliaganj Police registered a case under sections 420/294/506/34 of IPC and initiated probe.



lice limits in Jajpur district. The 36-year-old Balam was defrauding people by showing forged identity cards of East Coast Railway, Cuttack UPD DCP said today. The accused youth was residing at Bhimpur locality under Airport police limits in Bhubaneswar. The Chauliaganj police arrested the accused based on a

retariat. As per their discussion, the complainant paid Rs 1,60,000 in four instalments through NEFT to the account of Balam Behera vide A/C No.-074510100060683 of Andhra Bank, Budheswari Colony, Bhubaneswar in order to get a job in Odisha Government. However, the accused shifted his rented house from Mahanadi

The CM order has not been implemented, The news of the journalist's death is coming every day

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 12: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has declared journalists a front-line warrior of Corona. These fighters should be vaccinated as per the rules as per the rules. However, the local administration is neglecting to vaccinate journalists. In the capital, for example, only 970 journalists have been vaccinated. The capital has at least 80 daily newspapers in other languages, including Oriya and English. Many foreign media, web channel representatives live in the capital and journalists. No one even came to the

Bhubaneswar vaccination center due to the high workload. In addition, many journalists have taken the first vaccine to the hospital. However, only three days after the camp collapsed, 970 journalists were vaccinated. Many more journalists are being vaccinated. Authorities opposed the protest with all available police forces, special services and the army. "There have even been allegations of coupons being sold for vaccines in many places. The Chief Minister, the Chief Secretary to Government, the Chief Minister's Personal Secretary, the Secre-



tary to the Health, Secretary, Department of Information Public Relations and the Adviser to the Media Department have been urged to take action. It also wants to launch another product without having to worry about the Commission instituting various actions under antitrust law. "Sambadika Milita Mancha Convenor Lingaraj Sahoo, Alpha Ray, Chandi Prasad Ranasingh, Kishan

Barai, Hemant Tiwari, Sukant Raut, Vijay Khuntia, Abhishek Mohanty, Ashok Mohanty have made major demands. They say the warrior is being neglected in many ways. As many as Rs 50 lakh has been announced for the front-line fighters, as well as Rs 15 lakh for journalists. Many journalists have lost their lives in Odisha in the second wave of the corona. Many journalists have

contracted the disease. "It simply came to our notice then. The Journalists' Joint Forum paid deep tribute to the bereaved. Similarly, the Journalists' Joint Forum reiterated its demand for the enactment of the Journalist Protection Act. Increase the welfare fund of journalists, increase health insurance to Rs 5 lakh, include the parents of journalists in health insurance or include the parents of journalists in the Biju Health Welfare Scheme. Similarly, the forum has demanded that the government be held accountable for educating their children by paying Rs 50 lakh to journalists who have died in corona.

SC & ST Welfare Association, PPT held a condolence meeting

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 12: SC & ST Welfare Association, PPT held a condolence meeting in its office premises in the afternoon, which was attended by Maheswar Soreign working president, secretary Dhuna Chandra Tarai, joint Sec Ajaya Ku. Behera, Pradip Mirdha, Dhukiram Soreign,

Sankar Mallick, Pusustottam Besra and others. Shashishar Murmu (57), Executive Engineer of Port Electric Division died of COVID-19 early morning, yesterday. He wasn't aware of covid infection. As he felt breathlessness, he was rushed to PPT Hospital. Within one hour of admission, he succumbed



Rescue of minor child from Puri Railway Station

(A.O. Bureau) Puri, May 12: On 11.05.2021 at about 04.00 pm, while Officer's & Staff of Puri [SI P.K. Sethi & others] were engaged for checking of Station area for enforcement of Covid protocol & also to prevent Criminal activities against passengers, noticed 01 minor child, aged about-04-05 Years was moving in Station circulating area in front of ticket counter in alone, aimlessly & weeping state. Initially the RPF Staff ascertained that he was searching his parents. After watching his activities, RPF Staff politely asked his identity, but he couldn't explain anything except his name as Krushna. After



that RPF Staff arrange continuous announcement through Station PA system to contact his parents, if they are available nearby the Station premises, but no any fruitful results could be

found. Finally the rescued child produced before CWC [Child welfare committee] through Child line for further rehabilitation & hand over to his parents as per the procedure of law.

Important Information For Daily Passengers



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 12: Six Pairs Of Daily Memu/Passenger Trains Will Remain Cancelled Up To 23rd May, Three Pairs On 14th May, 2021. Three Pairs Of Special Trains To Remain Cancelled Partially. This Is For Poor Patronisation And To Break The Chain Of Covid19 Infection. As per the guidelines issued by Government of Odisha and keeping in view the surge of Covid19 positive cases, to break the chain of infection and for poor patronisation, it has been decided to cancel six pairs of local passenger/MEMU trains up to 23rd May, 2021 from both the directions. These trains are as follows: 01.

0 8 4 5 6 / 0 8 4 5 5 B h u b a n e s w a r - K e n d u j h a r g a r h - B h u b a n e s w a r S p e c i a l. 02. 0 8 4 1 2 / 0 8 4 1 1 B h u b a n e s w a r - B h a d r a k - B h u b a n e s w a r S p e c i a l. 03. 0 8 4 3 8 / 0 8 4 3 7 C u t t a c k - B h a d r a k - C u t t a c k S p e c i a l. 04. 0 8 4 6 1 / 0 8 4 6 2 C u t t a c k - P a r a d e e p - C u t t a c k S p e c i a l. 05. 0 8 4 5 4 / 0 8 4 5 3 C u t t a c k - B h a d r a k - C u t t a c k S p e c i a l. 06. 0 8 5 2 8 / 0 8 5 2 7 V i s a k h a p a t n a m - R a i p u r - V i s a k h a p a t n a m S p e c i a l. Apart from this, three local passenger/MEMU trains will remain cancelled on 14th May, 2021 from both the directions. These trains are... A. 0 8 4 2 8 / 0 8 4 2 7 P u r i - A n g u l - P u r i S p e c i a l. B. 0 8 4 3 2 / 0 8 4 3 1 P u r i - C u t t a c k - P u r i S p e c i a l. C. 0 8 4 3 3 /

0 8 4 3 4 B h u b a n e s w a r - P a l a s a - B h u b a n e s w a r S p e c i a l. Similarly, three pairs of special trains will remain cancelled partially on nominated days/dates a per the following... 01. 0 8 4 2 8 / 0 8 4 2 7 P u r i - A n g u l - P u r i S p e c i a l on 13th, 17th & 22nd May, 2021 will run between Puri and Talcher and will remain cancelled between Talcher and Angul from both the directions. 02. 0 2 0 9 7 / 0 2 0 9 8 B h u b a n e s w a r - J u n a g a r h R o a d - B h u b a n e s w a r S p e c i a l from Bhubaneswar between 13th to 22nd May and from Junagarh Road between 14th to 23rd May, 2021 will run between Bhubaneswar and Rayagada and will remain cancelled between Rayagada and Junagarh Road from both the directions. 03. 0 8 3 0 1 / 0 8 3 0 2 S a m b a l p u r - R a y a g a d a - S a m b a l p u r S p e c i a l between 13th to 23rd May, 2021 will run between Sambalpur & Titilagarh and will remain cancelled between Titilagarh and Rayagada from both the directions.

No Discrimination In Covid-19 Vaccine Supply, Congress Doing Cheap Politics: Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 12: Hitting out at the Congress party for allegedly misleading people over Covid-19 vaccination, BJP MP from Bhubaneswar and party's national spokesperson Aparajita Sarangi today termed the grand-old party's conduct 'highly condemnable' and 'sign of immaturity' while requesting to stop doing cheap politics over the world's largest inoculation programme against Coronavirus. Hitting out at the Congress party for allegedly misleading people over Covid-19 vaccination, BJP MP from Bhubaneswar and party's national spokesperson Aparajita Sarangi today termed the grand-



old party's conduct 'highly condemnable' and 'sign of immaturity' She said, "The conduct of Congress party is highly condemnable and a sign of immaturity. There is a lack of coordination among the leaders of the Congress party. The government of India is giving equal importance to ev-

ery State as far the supply of covid vaccine is concerned. There is no discriminatory attitude in vaccine supply." A senior Congress chief minister was trying to create vaccine hesitancy which is an act of insult to the health scientists and researchers, Sarangi said As a responsible opposition, the

party should play a significant role in the collective fight against Covid 19 instead of politicizing the issue. Yesterday, BJP national president JP Nadda had written to the Congress high command Sonia Gandhi expressing his displeasure over the behaviour of some Congress men regarding

Covid-19 vaccine. Nadda had requested the Congress president to take necessary measures for free vaccination in all Congress-ruled States. Nadda had alleged that the conduct of its leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, during the pandemic will be remembered for "duplicitous and pettiness". His letter came a day after the Congress Working Committee, the apex body of the opposition party, hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government over the handling of the coronavirus crisis. The BJP president had also accused Congress leaders, including a chief minister, of trying to actively create vaccine hesitancy during the "once-in-a-century" pandemic.

Anjana Mishra Gangrape: CBI Submits Supplementary Chargesheet

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 12: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) today filed the supplementary chargesheet in sensational Anjana Mishra gangrape case. The central investigating agency submitted the supplementary

chargesheet in the court following the arrest of prime accused Biban Biswal. CBI reopened Anjana Mishra gangrape case after Biban was arrested by the Odisha police with the help of their Maharashtra counter-

part in February from Aamby Valley in Lonavala. Biswal had been on the run for the last 22 years. During a test identification parade conducted by the CBI inside the Bhubaneswar Special Jail on March 3, 2021, survivor Anjana

Mishra had identified Biban. Few days later CBI took Biban into its remand for interrogation. He was also taken to the spot in Barang area for recreation of the crime scene. Worth mentioning, on the intervening night of January

9-10, 1999 Anjana was gang-raped by three persons near Barang while she was going to Cuttack from Bhubaneswar along with a journalist-friend in a car. She was raped by Padia, Dharendra and Biban.

EDITORIAL

Stand united

At a time when the nation is besieged with an unprecedented human tragedy, India's political parties have miserably failed to rise to the occasion. The daily war of words raging among headline-grabbers of our political class has given the impression that they are only bothered about consolidating their vote bank. Take the example of West Bengal. Both Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the BJP leadership have been blaming each other for the Corona bomb that has pulverised the State's health system and seen an alarming positivity rate. But the fact remains that during the Assembly election campaigning, both sides brazenly flouted the COVID protocols and held massive road shows and rallies with thousands of unmasked people in attendance. It was the same scene in Uttar Pradesh, where a massive mobilisation took place during the panchayat elections. Once again, our political class showed a blatant disregard for the health risks that such campaigning posed for the common man. It's not only a violation of the COVID norms, but the bigger issue is the absence of even a symbolic concern for coming together to providing succour to the masses by way of health infrastructure, oxygen and life-saving drugs. Be it at the State level or the Centre, the political class is bitterly divided even as India's hapless people are watching it with despair. The situation is so pathetic that even within the NDA, the alliance partners are blaming each other for the half-hearted measures being taken to control the pandemic. Anyone following the Bihar developments and noticing the attacks and counter-attacks by the JD(U) and BJP leaders, will feel nothing but shock. It's time Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the initiative and invited the senior leaders of all political parties to keep aside their differences and stay united in the fight against the pandemic. The PM should also ensure that all senior leaders, including the MPs and MLAs, are accessible to their constituents at all hours. It's unfortunate that many of them have remained locked inside their bungalows and flats in Delhi while, back home, those who voted them to power are running helter-skelter for a hospital bed or oxygen cylinders. At a time when profiteers and black marketeers are thriving on misery, the political class should mobilise the people to wage a war on such unscrupulous elements. Much can be done to help the people if only our political leaders show a collective resolve.

Two to tango

American TV personality Wally Amos put it succinctly: "There are two reasons why people fail. One is irresponsibility. The second is fear." The Governments at the Centre and in the States take a fair share of blame for the inadequacies in medical infrastructure, resource management and planning even though the second COVID-19 surge continues unabated. But what about the citizens of the country? They are equal shareholders in the system and must equally share the blame for the behaviour that crosses all borders of civic responsibility. The visuals of a big crowd attending the funeral of a Muslim cleric in Uttar Pradesh's Badaun went viral on Monday. The cleric had died on Sunday and his body was kept in a local mosque for public viewing. Within hours, people began to converge near the mosque. It became an unmanageable crowd in no time, the people — most of them maskless — throwing all caution to the winds. There was no question of maintaining social distancing. There was no question of anyone asking them to at least wear masks. In fact, there was no mechanism available to either control the crowd or enforce safety guidelines. What does this show apart from the blatant neglect of the anti-COVID guidelines in public places? It is impossible to know how many among them were COVID positive or were recovering/had recovered or might contract the virus due to transmission in a fortnight from now. The crowd has the potential to turn into a super-spreader by the end of May. That the massing of people took the administration by surprise is one half of the story. The death of a prominent cleric should have automatically alerted the police department and the office of the district magistrate. The administration will now initiate action, file FIRs and maybe even order a probe. But the horse has bolted. If the officials had the latest contact tracing measures available, they would know how mammoth a task it is to contain the infection transmission. The other half of the story is the sad, thoughtless and irrational actions of the people who appear willing to put themselves and families at risk. Should we blame religious orthodoxy or obscurantism or retrograde beliefs for such irrational behaviour? No. Take the liquor shops, for instance. One will find longer queues outside liquor vends than at COVID hospitals, oxygen refill plants or vaccination centres. Marriages and other functions continue to take place with far more people in attendance than the permitted limit of 50. The families and friends of COVID patients continue to throng hospitals and often crowd the ICUs where their kin are admitted. Even now, very few people wear double masks and face shields are a rarity. It takes two hands to clap and if the people refuse to let common sense guide their actions, it may be the case of — to cannibalise a Marquez title — a chronicle of an unfolding, avoidable tragedy.

Francophobic in 'land of the pure'



Bhopinder Singh

Agosta-class submarines — as also agreements to transfer civilian nuclear technology. But the recent strategic-bind in the Indo-French realm (including the much-banded Rafale fighters) has led to a definitive shift in the French preferences. But it did not go unnoticed across the restive Line of Control (LoC), especially since France also took a particularly hard line on terror (owing to its own unrest with Islamist extremism and violence) and in openly siding with India at multilateral forums. Beyond the visible optics, France was the only western power to support India after the latter conducted the nuclear tests in 1998 and was instrumental in facilitating India's entry into the non-proliferation regimes of Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), Wassenaar Arrangement and the Australia Group. In reciprocal bonhomie, Delhi took an unusually assertive stand to condemn Turkish President Recep Erdogan's (Pakistan's closest ally along with China) diatribe against

French President Emmanuel Macron, after the French leader had openly called out "Islamist separatism" in the case of beheading a French school teacher. India's Ministry of External Affairs explicitly stated: "We strongly deplore the personal attacks in unacceptable language on President Emmanuel Macron in violation of the most basic standards of international discourse." Meanwhile, Pakistan's patented double standards on religious extremism, dangerous dalliances and co-option of the clerical lot allowed for the dangerous drift towards morphing the French beheading incident, into a uncompromisable ummah issue, triggering calls for the boycott of French products and expelling the French ambassador from Pakistan. Continuing to play to the electoral gallery simultaneously, Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan kept reiterating and reminding that no one had done more than him in internationalising the issue of blasphemy — this

whilst dealing with a supposedly "terrorist" organisation with a violent position and dubious track record on "blasphemy" in Pakistan. Despite Imran's postured moderation and claims of progressive outlook, he had willingly dropped renowned Princeton economist Atif Mian from his Economic Advisory Council under pressure from the likes of the TLP, owing to Atif's belonging to the Ahmadiyya faith. France is moving in an exact opposite direction with counter-accusations of weaponising its famed policy of segregating the State and religion, a secular ideology known as Laicite. A new law called "Strengthening Respect for Republican Principles" has been introduced in the wake of recurring Islamist violence to "free Islam in France from foreign influences"! Many accuse the same for right-wing populism with an electoral intent that will further the divide, suspicion and marginalisation of the minority community and the French State. The fact is that the right-wing parties led by Le Pen have gained enough traction to threaten Macron and, therefore, his competitive 'right-wing' stand have more to do with winning the next elections as opposed to concerns on dealing with extremism or personal conviction in free speech. It is this pandering, invocation and inflaming of the basest instinct of the masses that vitiates the popular emotions towards revisionism and "othering", be it in Paris or in Islamabad. That the intrinsically liberal French sensibilities will militate culturally with the conservative moorings of a society like Pakistan is a given, yet it need not spiral to the violent extent that it has, only if the political leaderships didn't play emotions selectively, in both countries.

Senkaku: New flashpoint in East China Sea

Makhan Saikia

The current crisis over the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea is just the tip of the iceberg. Xi's massive expansion plan in the form of BRI or CPEC threatens peace and tranquillity in and around the region. Further, long suppression of democratic rights in Hong Kong, Taiwan's continued claim for sovereignty, Tibetan's long drawn war for the recognition of their uniqueness, the torture on the Uighur Muslim minorities and other ethnic groups in Xinjiang, and finally, a contested claim of many neighbours over the South China Sea are the permanent sore points for Beijing. The Senkaku Islands have emerged as the new flashpoint between Japan and China in the East China Sea (ECS). While China has intensified its campaign to assert its claim over the territories they call the Diaoyu Islands, Japan has tried to make the US back its sovereign rights over the area. Both the nations are gearing up to enhance their military preparedness, particularly the radar and missile systems around the region. The total area of disputed islands is around 81,000 square miles and the number of islands is eight. As per the record of the US Energy Information Administration, the ECS has an estimated 200 million barrels of oil. Historical records say that Japan formally claimed the Senkaku Islands in the year 1895. And some of the Japanese individuals have been occupying these islands for the last 120 years. However, only during the Second World War, America occupied these territories from Japan. But afterwards, Japan brought them back under its control. Until 1960s, China hardly paid any attention to Senkaku, as per archival records. However, the year 1969 turned out to be a decisive moment for China in the recent history of Senkaku. The offshore oil development potential attracted China's attention towards the Island chain. China

had in 1979 discovered that there was huge field of hydrocarbon in the area, experts claim. In January, China passed its Coast Guard Law to increase its presence in and around the Senkaku Islands. This set off the Yoshihide Suga Government to revise the Japanese Coast Guard Law so as to shoot any intruder that tries to land in these islands. What has changed the status quo in favour of Japan was the buying of three islands of the Senkaku group by the Government from a private citizen who owned them in 2012. Since then the presence of Chinese Coast Guards around the islands has increased. Precisely, the routine confrontation between the two nations over the islands has reached flashpoint. China's territorial claims over the ECS is unsubstantiated. But China points to historical documents to buttress its claim over these islands. Way back in 2013, as per media reports, Chinese Foreign Ministry claimed: "The Diaoyu Islands are about sovereignty and territorial integrity. Of course, it is China's core interest." This kind of statement is rare from the Chinese Government, and when they are released, they really indicate something serious. In Chinese political lexicon, "core interest" is meant to be a zone of vital importance for the country's territory and sovereign identity. The terms "core interests" are specifically reserved for top security-related and troubling areas such as Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, Tibet and Taiwan. Therefore, it is strictly maintained that on such areas there is no room for any manoeuvrability. It brings home the message that Beijing treats the dispute over Senkaku Islands as a major concern in bilateral relations with Tokyo. The American position on the Senkaku Islands is noteworthy. Since the coming of Richard Nixon to power in

1969 as the 37th President, the US has been maintaining that the territorial sovereignty over the Senkaku Islands must be settled by the three conflicting parties involved i.e. Japan, Taiwan and China. This stance continued till 1995. But 1996 onwards, during the reign of President Bill Clinton, the US policy makers came up with a new perspective on the disputed island. The American diplomats aired the view that the Senkaku Islands are covered under Article 5 of the US-Japan Security Treaty as Japanese administered territory. From this position, Washington took a pro-active step in 2014 under Barack Obama Presidency. He became the first sitting American President to declare that the US will defend the "Japanese islands" if attacked. This made the country's position completely clear on these disputed islands. Further, President Donald Trump in February 2017 took one more step to affirm America's commitment towards the security of the Senkaku Islands. In a formal joint declaration released with then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Trump expressly highlighted that the US-Japan Security Treaty is applied to the Senkaku Islands. And also, the declaration made it public that the US opposes any unilateral action aimed at contesting Japan's administration over Senkaku Islands. In fact, the Trump-era China policy was nothing less than a great war of sort against Beijing's sustained aggressive attitude both towards its neighbours and to the major powers of the world, particularly the US. His policies towards China symbolised two featured separate tracks: one, policies Trump personally pursued, and two, the policies spearheaded by China experts serving in his adminis-

tration. It was a like virtual war against the regime of Xi Jinping. Therefore, when then US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited Japan in October 2017, he had issued a public call to counter China by forming an "alliance of democracies". Again, US-Japan joint military exercises around the Senkaku Islands under Trump strengthened preparedness for any armed intervention from China. In fact, Lieutenant General Kevin Schneider, the commander of the joint military exercise in October 2017 made the real intentions behind the drill clear, when he said: "The United States is 100 per cent absolutely steadfast in its commitment to help the Government of Japan with the situation of defending the Senkaku Islands. That is 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, seven days a week." Thus Tokyo has all ensured the support of Washington for its continued control and safeguard of these mineral rich islands in the East China Sea. The overwhelming US support to Japan over the islands was more than sufficient for China to understand what actions will follow in case Beijing tries to force its rule over Senkaku. However, the so-called normalisation of Sino-Japanese relations is a misnomer. In 2018, China and Japan celebrated the 40th anniversary of the signing of the China-Japan Treaty of Peace and Friendship, but then global situation soon deteriorated as the Covid-19 came with a barrage of charges against China for spreading the pandemic. In the same year, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang paid a maiden visit of Japan in May, and in October then Prime Minister Abe visited China. On the ECS, China and Japan agreed to strengthen maritime crisis management, establish a diplomatic consultation mechanism and sign a maritime rescue agreement. However, Sino-Japan relations will always be troublesome as there are several potential face-off points.

Covid Awareness chariot rolled in Korukonda Block on behalf of the Dist Admn & UJA MalKangiri

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 12: In the Malkangiri district, the corona epidemic is spreading, and many people are being affected by it. With this in mind, the district is shutting down, locking down and raising awareness. An awareness program has been organized by the district administration, the Korukonda Block staffs and the Utkal Journalists Association in Korukonda town of Malkangiri district today to make people more aware of the corona and to observe the covid cut. The ZP president Mr



Dasaratha podiamii inaugurated the event while Korukonda BDO Anshuman Mahapatra was the chief guest. On the occasion, an awareness chariot toured all the wards and surrounding areas of the Korukonda Block and alerted the people about the Corona epidemic and distributed masks and soaps to many. The function was attended by, among others,,

CDPO Korukonda Nilima Mandal CHC medical officer Dr dhaneswar Murmu Fire station officer krushna sabar, Block Asst Engineer Lankeswar laguri,Block Chairman

sabitra podiami, civil supply Inspector byamkesh Majhi MP representative Satya Panigrahi District Utkal Journalists Association President, Duryodhan Patra, Vice president Mr Prabhakar suna secretary, Satyanarayana Das, Journalist , Shekhar Mohanty, Abinash Behera, Kishore Kumar ,sibadutta sahu, Apurba Thandar. Debashis Patra, , Chandan Panda, Rahul Golari,, Dibakar Bhagaban, Arun Patra ,Sima Biswal were present.

The installation of the oxygen tanker at MKCG has begun

(A.O. Bureau) Berhampur, May 12: In the current context, the state government has proposed to set up an oxygen tank at the MKCG to address the need for oxygen and eliminate shortages. Work is underway today to set up an oxygen tank with a capacity of 20,000 liters from DEHARADUN this month. A team of ten engineers has arrived with the tank. While it is one of the leading hospitals in the state, including



South Odisha, the center is dedicated to Covid in the current Covid situation and will also provide direct oxygen to near the patients bed. Ganjam district collector Vijay Amrit Kulangi

tweeted that the installation work had started today. The priority's "Patient care is a welcome step towards eliminating oxygen shortages and improving care," said by intellectuals.

Maoist atrocities: Javanese strangled to death after abduction



(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 12: Maoist atrocities in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh. DRG Javan was reportedly strangled to death after being abducted

from his home. The incident took place in Peta village under Dornapal police station. The deceased was identified as Betti Bhima. He went to the own village yesterday. While sleeping at

Awareness is the main weapon of the Covid fight, Let's all be vigilant: Kalyani Sanghamitra

(A.O. Bureau) Kukudakhandi, May 12: Everywhere you look today, the tide of protectionist sentiment is flowing. There have also been reports of people being fined for violating the Covid Act in some cases by the administration. She will soon be the tehsildar of Kukudakhandi From the very first day of joining, he said, "Covid management will be the first approach." So Kalyani Sanghamitra will soon be in the minds of the people who will never believe it. He encouraged ordinary people as well to take part in solving this great

task: "One of the things you and other people can do is keep up the pressure. There are going to be some difficult decisions for government". However, in some cases, he also fines people. Following the administration's intervention, Kalyani Sanghamitra Devi, the tahsildar, thanked the people for organizing a clean-up party in Masihakhali village under Kukudakhandi tehsil. The tahsildar directed Additional Tahsildar Golok Bihari Sahani and Krupasindhupur Revenue Inspector to go to the spot immediately af-



terreceiving the news that a man named Krishna Sahu was getting ready for a big party for his mother's eleventh day ceremony. The idea was to control the program from the beginning without destroying it after the banquet or creating unpleasant situations. The

additional tahsildar returned at eleven in the morning, explaining the Covid rule and advising kitchen limit it to twenty. The tahsildar was overjoyed to see the organizers talking about the surprise raid but arranging meals for only twenty

people. The tahsildar thanked the entire family, including the family of organizer Krishna Sahu. The tahsildar appealed to Mike to take an active part in the fight against the covid epidemic without considering the administration to be an opponent.

Wearing PPE insect again, the coroner's body was cremated by the Bhanjanagar Sub-collector



(A.O. Bureau) Bhanjanagar, May 12: Humanity matters alots No matter how big the position, but there is still human trafficking. It is said that when a man in a high position or a wealthy state, he loses his humanity, but in contrast, a high-ranking official at the administrative level is in a sky level but very much down to earth. There have been so many incidents that the family members are turning their backs on the death of Covid or Covid suspect. A similar incident took place

last night at the dedicated Covid Care Center or DCHC in Bhanjanagar, where Kali Charan Sahu, a resident of Landei Sahi in Bhanjanagar, aged 65, refused to take the body of his family, including his wife, daughter and daughter-in-law. As soon as the news reached the sub-collector Rajendra Minjh, Fakir Mohan Majhi, sub-district commissioner and sub-divisional information and public relations officer himself, Biswajit Sethi, senior revenue assistant of the

Medical staff felicitated on International Nurse Day at NTPC Kaniha

(A.O. Bureau) Talcher, May 12: A felicitation ceremony was held at NTPC Kaniha hospital for the nursing staff on the occasion of International Nurse Day. CMO Dr G. Mohakul, Ex-CMO Dr RK Mishra, Sr. Specialist Dr A.Mishra with doctors and union members, all nurses of the hospital, Apollo staff and staff of covid care centre were present on the occasion. The dignitaries present paid tribute to Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing by lighting candles and offering floral tribute. In his address, CMO Dr G. Mohakul expressed his gratitude towards all the

nurses working at the hospital round the clock especially during these tough times of the pandemic. Dr. RK Mishra thanked the nursing staff for their hard work and dedication. He added that "the nursing staff is not only the backbone of the hospital but the heart of the hospital too". Dr A. Mishra stressed the indispensable role of the nursing staff in keeping the hospital going in these difficult times. The nursing staff were presented with rose and sweet packets and a token of gratitude from NTPC Kaniha. The program was held observing all COVID19 precautionary measures.



Peidc Launches Free 6 Ambulances Foe Covid Patients In Paradip



(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, May 12: In the port city of Paradip, including Jagatsinghpur district, the number of Covid-19 or corona infections is on the rise. Realizing the seriousness of the situations, Arindam Sarkhel (BapiSarkhel), a well-known leader of the Paradip region, and his organization 'Paradip Ersama Industrial Development Council' (PEIDC) have launched 6 free ambulance services for coronary patients on Wednesday. Besides,a control room has been set up with experience renowned doctors for

giving free consultation to Covid patients. The facility will be available for all patients in Paradip Municipality, Kujang, Rahama, Tirtol and Erasama blok areas. People can avail it by calling on 9937138624 and 9556959684, PEIDC said in a statement. The six ambulances which will be operated above those areas and the service will be free of cost for Corona virus patients. Besides,Sarkhel praised to the Union Minister Dharemendra Pradhan for his noble in the fight against COVID-19 COVID-19 pandemic situation

and called for the set up of a Covid Hospital at Paradip in Jagatsinghpur district, such as Madhya Pradesh and Bargarh. After the set up of the Hospital, the people of Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapada districts will be benefited, he said. In these difficult times, it is important that each one of us realises our responsibilities, our cooperation is not just on initiative to help people in need but also message for others in the society to contribute their helps and cooperation in the pandemic situation, said Sarkhel.

Aahar Kendra Providing Food To Needy Amid Lockdown In Koraput

(A.O. Bureau) Koraput, May 12: Amid the 14-day lockdown, weekend shutdowns in Odisha to break the chain of infection of Covid-19, Aahar Kendras across the

State are providing two meals a day to the poor and needy. While all shops and markets are closed and the livelihoods of many poor people have been disrupted during the



lockdown, the Aahar Kendra in Jeypore town of Koraput district is providing food at cheap prices. The women members of Maa Hundithakurani SHG have been in charge of

providing food at the Aahar Kendra for the last five years. Secretary of the SHG, Rajeswari Rao, informed that the food arrives at the Aahar Kendra from Sunabeda. They distribute food parcels

to 250 to 300 in the morning and to 100 to 150 people in the evening daily except on weekend shutdowns. While people dependent on the Aahar Kendra have appreciated the

State government's decision to keep it open for their benefit, they said that it would have been more convenient if the Aahar Kendra had been open even during the weekend shutdowns.

Jr NTR: RRR never considered for OTT, willing to wait for cinemas



Bengaluru, May 12: India is reeling under an aggressive second wave of the coronavirus and the grim situation begs the question: What will be the future of cinemas? Bollywood Salman Khan's decision to release his latest film Radhe: Your Most Wanted Bhai directly on an OTT platform is an indication of a paradigm shift that the business of cinema is likely to see in the coming days. However, not all filmmakers are likely to be as pragmatic as Salman. Tollywood star Jr NTR has promised that the makers of the upcoming film RRR will wait as long as it takes to release the film only in cinemas. "RRR was never considered for an OTT release. There are certain films that need to be enjoyed as a community on a large screen. Would you enjoy watching Baahubali or Jurassic Park or Avengers on OTT? No. We never thought about doing that, we were willing to wait for cinemas. We have a ray of hope, we know people will come back to watch films. India lives on movies. We take them very seriously as audiences. RRR is one such movie," Tarak told Deadline. Tarak

strongly believes that RRR could be the film that could bring back the people to theatres when cinemas open up again after the second wave of the virus comes under control. He is confident that like director SS Rajamouli's global hit Baahubali, RRR will also make a dent at the worldwide box office. Tarak also noted that the filmmakers are hopeful of honouring their commitment to release RRR in theatres on October 13 as announced earlier. RRR is a fictional story based on the struggles of Telugu tribal leaders Alluri Sitarama Raju and Komaram Bheem. While Ram Charan is playing Sitarama, Tarak will essay the role of Komaram. Rajamouli has also roped in Bollywood actors Alia Bhatt and Ajay Devgn to play pivotal roles in the film, which is being made at an estimated budget of more than Rs 300 crore. Tarak is currently recovering from Covid-19 infection. He has isolated himself at home under the supervision of his doctors. He will next work with director Koratala Siva. After completing that film, he will join hands with Prashanth Neel of KGF fame.

New Delhi, May 12: As if the second wave of COVID-19 wasn't enough to make you shiver with fear, the country is reporting a rash of cases involving a fungal infection. Mucormycosis (sometimes called zygomycosis) is a serious but rare fungal infection caused by a group of molds called mucormycetes. These molds live throughout the environment. When someone breathes in these spores, infection in the sinus or lung can occur. Mucormycosis can also develop on the skin after the fungus enters the skin through a cut, scrape or other type of skin trauma. Mucormycosis primarily affects people who have health problems or take medicines that lower the body's ability to fight germs and sickness. "The symptoms associated with the disease include one-sided facial swelling, headache, nasal or sinus congestion, loss of vision or pain in the eyes, swelling in cheeks and eyes, fever and black crusts in the nose. The US Centre for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates Mucormycosis with an overall all-cause mortality rate of 54 per cent," Dr Rahul Bhargava,

All About black fungus

Head ENT & Neck Surgeon, Bhargava ENT & Gynae Clinic and Medical Consultant — ENTOD International, tells you. Mucormycosis is affecting COVID patients more because of prolonged administration of steroids and subsequent immunocompromised state. "Diabetic patients are at much higher risk of mucormycosis if affected by COVID-19 because Covid-19 further impairs their immune system and second, they are given corticosteroids for their treatment. This leads to a rise in their blood sugar level thus increasing their risk of mucormycosis. This combination of Diabetes and Covid-19, therefore, becomes a dangerous and deadly challenge to manage. Some cases of mucormycosis have also been observed in patients with an asymptomatic Covid-19 infection who were not even aware of their diagnosis," Bhargava, who has come across three patients in past one week who have contracted this infection after recovering from COVID-19, explains. A cause of worry is that presently, there are no feasible measures to prevent mucormycosis however, early

detection is the best solution for now. "Some of the things which can be done to prevent it are nasal douching and gargles with Betadine solution, proper control of Diabetes and using steroids only on prescription by a physician. Turmeric contains curcumin which is also good for fungal infections," he says. Bhargava tells you that it is a serious infection and needs to be treated with prescription antifungal medicine, usually posaconazole, amphotericin B or isavuconazole. "These medicines are given through a vein (amphotericin B, posaconazole,

the infected tissue," he adds. The correlation between COVID-19 and Mucormycosis, Bhargava says, is not surprising at all. "Because the major risk factor for Mucormycosis is uncontrolled Diabetes mellitus which is also a high-risk factor for COVID-19. Secondly, steroids — which are known to suppress immunity — are the only of treatment, like I have mentioned before, which has shown to decrease COVID-19 mortality. So, it is the combination of COVID-19, with decreased

immunity and the steroids which probably predispose a patient to Mucormycosis," he says. Since the association between the deadly virus and mucormycosis is the state of weakened immune responses in patients, it depends from patient to patient when one can develop this infection. It may take days or even weeks after one has recovered from COVID to get infected with the fungus.



or by mouth (posaconazole, isavuconazole). Other medicines, including voriconazole, fluconazole and echinocandins, do not work against the fungi that cause mucormycosis. Often, mucormycosis requires surgery to cut away

Randeep Hooda: 'Extraction is definitely a feather in my cap'

Mumbai, May 12: Actor Randeep Hooda admits that in his 20-year-long journey in the Hindi film industry, he is "guilty" of doing less work but is glad filmmakers still find him interesting as a performer. It was director Mira Nair who gave Hooda his big break with her critically-acclaimed 2001 movie Monsoon Wedding and gave the world a glimpse into what he is capable of. Over the years, he spent time working in theatre with veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah's troupe Motley, while also straddling cinema courtesy D, Darna Zaroori Hai and Love Khichdi. Critics' praise and audience's love started coming his way when he featured in films like Once Upon a Time in Mumbai, Tigraanshu Dhillia's Saheb, Biwi Aur Gangster, Jannat 2 and Main Aur Charles. Reflecting upon his journey, the 44-year-old actor said it has been a "truthful" experience where he witnessed both ups and downs. "It has been full of failures and suc-



cesses, disappointments and excitement. There have been lots of hits and equal number of misses. I have learnt a lot. So all in all, a very truthful journey and I look back at it with a lot of gratitude. "Even though they say 'Jo dikhta hai, wo bikta hai', I have been guilty of not being seen very much. But still after long breaks, I get interesting work. My biggest achievement would be that after 20

years also, filmmakers find me interesting as an actor," Hooda told PTI in an interview. According to the Rohtak-born actor, he has an "underrated" potential that remains to be tapped by filmmakers. "I do believe that I'm still unexplored, which is a great thing when you have worked for such a long time," he added. The actor considers his 2020 Netflix action movie Extraction to be the "feather in my

cap". Extraction, directed by Sam Hargrave and backed by Anthony and Joe Russo of Avengers: Endgame fame, was headlined by Hollywood star Chris Hemsworth and also featured Golshifteh Farahani and David Harbour. "Every project kind of adds to your repertoire and Extraction is definitely a feather in my cap. People in the West have taken a notice of me. Also, I had never done physical action in my career and I'm glad that I got to do that with Extraction." Things have definitely started looking up for Hooda post the summer blockbuster, which was a huge hit in the country and world over, he observed. "It was a big step for me vis a vis my future prospects. A lot of avenues have opened up for me post Extraction and I'm getting a lot of varied work than what I was doing earlier." The actor now reunites with Bollywood superstar Salman Khan for Radhe: Your Most Wanted Bhai. They have previously starred

together in hits like Kick and Sultan. "We have shared a friendship for many years, it has gone through ups and downs, working and not working kind of relationship. "I was chasing him in Kick, training in Sultan and now I'm testing what he has learnt in Radhe. That sums up our professional journey. It is always a pleasure working with him," said Hooda, who plays the antagonist Rana in the movie. Hooda noted that it was a similar situation with Extraction, which was released last April, when many countries were under strict lockdown in the wake of the pandemic. The actor said he hopes that Radhe is able to bring some solace to the audiences during the second wave of coronavirus in the country. "When Extraction was released, the whole world was under lockdown. We felt relieved that we were able to take people's mind off the pandemic for two hours and entertain them in their homes.

Shreya calls Karan Tacker 'love' on Instagram, fans wonder if they are dating

New Delhi, May 12: Shreya Chaudhry shared a love-filled birthday wish for her rumoured boyfriend Karan Tacker. The two have been linked together since 2019. Actor Shreya Chaudhry, who was most recently seen in the Amazon series Bandish Bandits, dedicated a late birthday post to her 'love', television actor Karan Tacker. Sharing a picture in which she was seen with her arms around him, she wrote, "Happy birthday love @karantacker... #11thmay." Shreya's birthday post for Karan

got fans excited. "Holy f***kkkk! Don't tell me these two are dating???" one commented. "Beautiful couple," another wrote. "Congratulations.. surprise surprise!!!" a third said. Many also used the hashtag #shreran (an amalgamation of their names). Karan and Shreya have been linked together since March 2019. Reportedly, they go to the same boxing class. After some PDA on social media, they made a public appearance together earlier this year. Reports claimed that they are planning to tie the knot in December,

but the two are yet to confirm or deny the news. In the past, Karan was linked to his Ek Hazaaron Mein Meri Behna Hai co-star Krystle D'Souza. Calling link-up rumours a 'part of every actor's life', he had told Hindustan Times, "I have been linked-up with every co-star I have worked with - male actors as well! So it doesn't really matter, because leave alone relationship rumours, I have never found the need to clarify anything in life in general." Karan added that he did not mind the scrutiny on his personal life.



The English: Emily Blunt to star in Western series set in mid-America of 1890

New Delhi, May 12: The 38-year-old actor will co-star with Chaske Spencer, known for featuring in Twilight movies and Banshee, in the six-episode show, BBC said in a press release. The Honourable Woman creator Hugo Blick is

writing and directing the show, which is currently filming in Spain. Set in the mid-American landscape of 1890, the high-octane epic western follows Cornelia Locke (Blunt), an Englishwoman who arrives into the new and wild

landscape of the West to wreak revenge on the man she sees as responsible for the death of her son. Upon meeting Eli Whipp (Spencer), an ex-cavalry scout and member of the Pawnee Nation by birth, they join together and discover a



shared history which must be defeated at all costs, if either of them are to survive. Also starring in the series are actors Rafe Spall, Tom Hughes, Stephen Rea, Valerie Pachner, Toby Jones, Ciaran Hinds, Malcolm Storry, Steve Wall,

Nichola McAuliffe, Sule Rimi and Cristian Solimeno. The English is being produced by Drama Republic with Greg Brenman serving as executive producer alongside Blunt and Blick. The show will air on BBC One and stream on BBC iPlayer

in the UK, and Amazon Prime Video in the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Blunt is currently awaiting the release of her two movies -- A Quiet Place 2 and Jungle Cruise, in which she stars along with Dwayne Johnson.

New Zealand wicket-keeper B J Watling to retire after WTC final against India

Wellington, May 12: New Zealand wicket-keeper batsman B J Watling on Wednesday announced that he will end his over-decade-long career in all forms of cricket after the World Test Championship final against India next month. New Zealand will also play two Tests against hosts England before the WTC final against India in Southampton from June 18. The 35-year-old has been a stalwart of the Test side since debuting in 2009 as an opener, going on to establish himself as a world-class keeper-batsman and claiming numerous records in his 73 Tests to date. The Northern Districts gloveman had been pondering his options for a while. "It's the right time," said Watling, who has recently become a father for the second time, in a New Zealand Cricket statement. "Test cricket really is the pinnacle of the game and I've loved every minute of being out there in the whites with the boys. Sitting in the changing rooms having a beer with the team after five



days' toil is what I'll miss the most." The announcement of Watling's retirement was also expedited by his expected omission from the player contracts list, to be released on Friday. "This tour will be a challenge on a few levels and we know as a team we will need to be at the very top of our game if we want to succeed," he said. Watling holds the New Zealand Test dismissals record with 249 catches (excluding 10 as a fielder) and eight stumpings - the best numbers of any current

Test keepers. His bowler-keeper catching combinations with Tim Southee (73), Trent Boult (55) and Neil Wagner (53) occupy the top three spots on the New Zealand record list. Watling's batting statistics are equally eye catching. He has eight Test centuries to his name and New Zealand records for the fourth and fifth highest partnerships -- 362 with Brendon McCullum against India at the Basin Reserve in 2014, and 365* with current captain Kane Williamson

against Sri Lanka at the same ground a year later. In all, he has 3773 runs in 73 Tests, averaging a little over 38. He is just the ninth Test keeper to score a double hundred and was the first to do so against England, when his man of the match performance helped win a dramatic Test against England at Bay Oval in November 2019. He also featured in another New Zealand record-partnership in that match as he and Mitchell Santner put on 261 for the seventh wicket.

NZC chief executive David White said Watling would be remembered for the tremendous courage and determination he brought to the game, and especially when the chips were down. "BJ turned games around. I can't think of another player who reacted so positively, and who was successful in the face of adversity. "His ability to wring every possible run out of the tail was unmatched; his work behind the stumps tireless and efficient," he said. If Watling plays all three Tests on the upcoming tour, two against England (June 2-6 and 10-14) and the ICC World Test Championship Final against India, he will surpass Adam Parore's record of most Tests as a New Zealand keeper at 67. Blackcaps coach Gary Stead lauded the side's Mr Dependable behind the stumps. "The records speak for themselves and he's been such a crucial cog in the Test team's rise over the past decade," he said. "He is without a doubt one of our best ever wicket-keeper batsmen."

'Windies may never return to dominate world cricket'

Kingston, May 12: Pace legend Curly Ambrose believes the current lot of Caribbean youngsters doesn't really understand what cricket means to the West Indies and so the two-time world champions will never be able to relive the glory days again. West Indies had lifted first two World Cup titles in 1975 and 1979 and it took 33 years for the team to claim another ICC title when Darren Sammy had

abroad because cricket is the only sport that really unites Caribbean people," Ambrose told Talk Sports Live. "This is no disrespect to the players we have now because we have a couple of guys who have some quality in them and can become great, but what we have to understand is that I don't think we will ever see those great, exceptional glory days again." The 57-year-old, who claimed 405

a Brian Lara, Richie Richardson, you know, a Malcolm Marshall, Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh, Michael Holding, Andy Roberts, and the list goes on and on, Clive Lloyd," Ambrose said. "It's going to be extremely difficult to find those quality players again." Ambrose said West Indies team can improve their ICC rankings but won't be able to dominate the way it did in the 80s



guided them to the 2012 T20 World Cup crown and repeated the feat four years later. "Most of the youngsters we have now probably don't quite understand what cricket means to West Indians in the West Indies and

wickets in 98 Tests between 1988 and 2000, said it is difficult to find talented cricketers from the island nation nowadays. "It's going to be difficult to find another Viv Richards or a (Demond) Haynes and (Gordon) Greenidge,

and 90s. "When we were the best team in the word, West Indians all over the globe could walk and boast about how good we were because we were the best, so it's going to be difficult to see those glory days again," he said.

Dhawan likely to lead in Lanka

New Delhi, May 12: First-choice Iyer's injury opens door for Shikhar to captain India. Veteran opener Shikhar Dhawan and flamboyant allrounder-turned specialist batsman Hardik Pandya will be locked in a two-way fight for India captaincy if Shreyas Iyer doesn't get fit in time for the white-ball tour of Sri Lanka in July. India's limited overs specialists will be playing three T20 Internationals and as many ODIs in the island nation during the second half of July, when big guns like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma will be in England for a marquee five-match Test series. "It is still not clear if Shreyas will recover fully and will be match-fit in time for tour of Sri Lanka. Normally, a surgery of this scale along with rest, extensive rehab and training to get back in shape takes around four months," a senior BCCI source privy to selection matters said. "In case Shreyas was available, he would have been the automatic choice for captaincy." It's only logical that the two contenders for captaincy are 35-year-old Dhawan, who has had good "one and half IPLs" in last two seasons and Pandya junior, who is one of the most accomplished match-winners. "Shikhar has had two

as a white-ball match-winner can't be discounted either. "Yes, Hardik hasn't been regularly bowling for MI or India in recent times. However, he is the man with x-factor and among options available. He is miles ahead of his peers in terms of being an impact performer. And who knows, may be extra responsibility brings the best out of him." Pandya was included in the four-Test series at home against England so that his bowling workload is increased keeping the England tour in mind but it is learnt that the Baroda man is unlikely to bowl more than an odd over or two in the shortest format or ODI in near future. "Hardik, after his back surgery to cure stress fracture, is not the same bowler anymore. He was a fast medium bowler before injury but to bowl at a brisk 135 kmph plus pace consistently, it could impact his back. "So he is focussing more on his match finishing skills," a person in the know of things said. Colombo's R Premadasa Stadium will host all the matches in India's upcoming limited overs series against Sri Lanka. "We plan to host the entire series at one venue. As of now, it has been decided that the Premadasa Stadium will host the fixtures. Obviously, it depends on how the



very good IPL including this curtailed one and being the senior most among those who are available for selection, he is a very strong contender. Also he has been a solid performer for India for past eight years," an official said. As far as Hardik is concerned, his reputation

situation is around that time," Arjuna de Silva, Sri Lanka Cricket's (SLC) Administrative Committee chairman, told Sportstar on Monday. "With the Covid situation fluid, we cannot allow fans yet, so all the matches will be closed-door affairs," De Silva said.

Djokovic loses cool, wins match against Fritz in Rome rain



Rome, May 12: Top-ranked Novak Djokovic shouted at the umpire before regaining his cool to see out his rain-delayed second-round match against Taylor Fritz at the Italian Open. With conditions worsening during the second set and rain getting heavier, the defending champion's temper boiled over and he roared, "How much more do you want to play?" at the umpire. He added: "I asked you

three times and you are not checking anything." Djokovic, who has won the Italian Open five times, went on to beat the American 6-3, 7-6 (5). "I was stressed out in the end obviously, but I think it was the right call to stop the match," Djokovic said. "When I came back, I thought we were quite even actually till the last point. "I'm glad that I managed to finish off this match in straight sets. I know I can play better." Djokovic, back

in action after sitting out the Masters tournament in Madrid, was leading by a set and a break but was unable to serve out at 5-4 in the second. Play was then suspended for approximately three hours. Fritz held his service game after the resumption to force the tiebreaker, but Djokovic closed out the win on his first match point. "It was a very strange match with strange conditions," Djokovic said. "Obvi-

ously ... It is challenging for both me and him. "I thought that I had an advantage there because the conditions were slower which allows me to return his serves, because he's got really big serves," Djokovic continued. "So I kind of kept the match under my control for most part of the two sets, then served for the match. Very sloppy service game. He played well, made a great passing shot to come back." Last year, Djokovic was disqualified from the U.S. Open for unintentionally hitting a line judge in the throat with a ball. Djokovic will next play a qualifier in either Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, who upset 16th-seeded Grigor Dimitrov 6-4, 7-6 (2), or Cameron Norrie. Daniil Medvedev's scheduled showdown with fellow Russian Aslan Karatsev was among the matches postponed Tuesday. Earlier, ninth-seeded Matteo Berrettini rallied to beat Nikoloz Basilashvili 4-6, 6-2, 6-

4 — less than 48 hours after losing the final in Madrid. Fellow Italian Lorenzo Sonego also advanced, celebrating his birthday by beating 14th-seeded Gael Monfils 6-4, 5-7, 6-4. Kei Nishikori was handed a walkover in his second-round match against 11th-seeded Pablo Carreno Busta. Eighth-seeded Diego Schwartzman was beaten 6-1, 6-3 by Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime, who moves into the third round. In the women's tournament, former French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko ousted 16th-seeded Johanna Konta 6-3, 6-1 and Kristina Mladenovic upset 10th-seeded Belinda Bencic 6-3, 6-4. Madison Keys rallied to win an all-American derby against Sloane Stephens 4-6, 6-2, 7-5. Fans are being kept out of the Foro Italico during the early rounds of the tournament as part of restrictions during coronavirus pandemic, but the main arenas will be up to 25% filled from the round of 16.

Watling to retire after Eng tour

New Delhi, May 12: The 35-year-old has been a stalwart of the Test side since debuting in 2009 as an opening batsman, going on to establish himself as a world-class keeper-batsman and claiming numerous records in his 73 Tests to date. With the Blackcaps contracts

for the 2021-22 season due to be released on Friday, in which Watling will not be included due to his future unavailability, his retirement news has been expedited. The Northern Districts gloveman had been pondering his options for a while, but settled on his decision to retire

at the end of the just completed home summer. "It's the right time," said Watling, who has recently become a father for the second time. "It's been a huge honour to represent New Zealand and in particular wear the Test baggy. Test cricket really is the pinnacle of the

game and I've loved every minute of being out there in the whites with the boys. "Sitting in the changing rooms having a beer with the team after five days' toil is what I'll miss the most. "I've played with some great players and made many good mates. "Although I've had to make

this announcement ahead of the tour to England, my focus is very much on the three Tests ahead and preparing to perform in them. "This tour will be a challenge on a few levels and we know as a team we will need to be at the very top of our game if we want to succeed."

Buy gold online this Akshay Tritiya from the safety of home



(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, May 12: Festivals are a source of hope and happiness, it plays an important role in connecting us with our families and friends, give

us a distraction from our day to day, exhausting routine of life while giving us some inspiration to remember the important things and moments in life. With Akshay

Tritiya and Eid coinciding on the same day this year, Senco Gold and Diamonds is encouraging customers to mark these auspicious occasions by buying

- Entire range of jewellery available at www.sencogoldanddiamonds.com
- Advance Online booking of Gold to avail exciting flexi gold rate
- Online virtual trial room for jewellery
- Home delivery of purchased item

jewellery from the safety of their homes. Suvankar Sen, CEO, Senco Gold and Diamonds - We are giving Rs 200 off per gram of gold on advance booking and upto 100% off on diamond jewellery making charges. We ensure to provide lowest rate for gold on the day of buying for advance booking. One can also buy gold

coins, bars and jewellery through our website [sencogoldanddiamonds.com](http://www.sencogoldanddiamonds.com). While the stores are open from 12 noon -3 pm in West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, in other states as per Govt directives. We are also offering shopping through video calling facility, browsing through E-catalogues, Virtual trial rooms and home delivery.

Webinar on "Corporate Disclosure: Paradigm shift from numbers to narratives"

(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, May 12: Koustuv Business School (KBS) on 12th May 2021 organized a webinar on the theme "Corporate Disclosure: Paradigm shift from numbers to narratives". The programme was addressed by Prof. (Dr.) Ranjan Kumar Bal, former president of IAA & OCA, and former PG Council Chairman, Utkal University as chief resource person. While addressing how the corporate disclosures are changing, he cites numerous examples of various well known corporations, and explains how failure of accounting is responsible for the failure of that company. It is the language of business, because it communicates various stakeholders for decisions. Accounting information system provides lots of disclosure, and has also

undergone a paradigm shift, from accounting to reporting, recording to financial reporting, sustainability reporting and so on. Hence now the annual reports are increasing due to inclusion of non-financial statements, as focus shifted to know about the environment, social, human as well as ethical aspects. Intellectual capital, human capital, financial capital, social & relationship capital, and even natural capital, like water, air, bio-diversity etc are also now part of the report. The one-hour-long webinar was presided over by Principal KBS, Prof. (Dr.) Dhananjay Beura and informed how commerce is still a phobia for many students. The programme was moderated by Prof. Smruti Ranjan Sahoo and Prof. Samita Nayak proposed vote of thanks.

Centre allows medically trained officials to practice, consult

(A.O. Bureau)
New Delhi, May 12: The department cited the precedent of a ministry of home affairs memorandum dated February 2, 1964, wherein heads of department may grant permission to employees with recognised qualifications to undertake practice without impacting official duties. The Centre on Wednesday allowed officials, who are medically certified, to prac-

tice their duties. "Central government employees holding recognised qualifications in any system of medicine and registered under the relevant law in force in the states or UTs [Union territories] concerned can undertake the practice/provide teleconsultation, subject to the condition that such practice is undertaken during spare time, purely on a charitable basis, and with-

memorandum dated February 2, 1964, wherein heads of department may grant permission to employees with recognised qualifications to undertake practice without impacting official duties. The Apex Court bench, headed by Justice DY Chandrachud, constituted National Task Force (NTF) to assess and recommend the need and distribution of oxygen in the country. Supreme Court judge Justice DY Chandrachud tests positive for Covid-19. ASI extends closure of monuments till May 31. "The Department has been receiving queries/requests from central government servants for providing tele-consultation services during the current pandemic," the department said. It added the permission has been granted keeping in "view the unprecedented rise in numbers of Covid-19 cases and to utilize in-house capabilities of the spread of the virus and provide relief to the public".



tice or provide tele-consultations in their spare time purely on a charitable basis for "relief to the public" as cases of Covid-19 continue to rise. In a memorandum, the Department of Personnel and Training said that such officials could provide medical services as long as they did not im-

pose or provide tele-consultations in their spare time purely on a charitable basis for "relief to the public" as cases of Covid-19 continue to rise. In a memorandum, the Department of Personnel and Training said that such officials could provide medical services as long as they did not im-

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Urges Odisha Chief Minister To Set Up Village-Level Covid Crisis Management Committees



(A.O. Bureau)
New Delhi, May 12: Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Wednesday urged Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to set up village-level Covid crisis management committees for effective management of COVID-19. Speaking to CM Naveen on the current COVID situation and management in the State, Pradhan briefed him about the efforts being taken by the Government of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to further bolster Odisha's response to the current and emerging challenges of Covid-19. The next 15 days is crucial in order to contain and con-

control the surge of Covid-19, especially in Odisha. Members of the civil society as volunteers and watchdogs should be engaged in strengthening relief measures and containment efforts at the grassroots level, Pradhan told the CM. He also requested Patnaik for setting up Covid Crisis Management Committees at the village and municipal ward level comprising members from all political parties in the State to facilitate synergised ef-

orts for effective management of Covid-19. When Patnaik asked Pradhan to enhance availability of vaccines Syringe in Odisha, the Union Minister reportedly briefed him about his discussion with Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan and Union Minister Mansukh Mandviya on extending all possible support to Odisha apart from facilitating smooth supply of

- Request for the formation of a "Covid Crisis Management Committee" with the leaders of all political parties
- Coverage can be accelerated by including prominent members of society, volunteers and leaders of political parties in the management of covid at the grassroots level
- Union Minister of Health Dr. K.S. Harshavardhan and Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya informed the Chief Minister that he had spoken to them
- Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government of India is taking steps to assist the state government as much as possible

ports for effective management of Covid-19. When Patnaik asked Pradhan to enhance availability of vaccines Syringe in Odisha, the Union Minister reportedly briefed him about his discussion with Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan and Union Minister Mansukh Mandviya on extending all possible support to Odisha apart from facilitating smooth supply of

Covid-19 vaccine doses, Rapid testing kits, Remdesivir and other critical drugs. "Centre is working with a whole of government approach and is doing everything possible to respond and fight back better. Working together with synergistic efforts, both Odisha and India will combat and win this fight against the pandemic," said Pradhan.

At least Rs 1 crore compensation for death of polling officers due to Covid-19: Allahabad HC

(A.O. Bureau)
Lucknow, May 12: The Allahabad High Court on Tuesday asked the UP government to rethink the amount of compensation to be given to polling officers who died on duty due to COVID-19 during the Panchayat polls and said the amount "must be at least to the tune of Rs 1 crore". The court said that the amount decided by the government (Rs 30 lakh) to compensate the loss of the bread earner's life of a family was too less. The court observed that it was a "deliberate act on the part of the State and State Election Commission to force them to perform duties in the absence of RTPCR support". On May 7, the state government had told the court the state government had decided to give compensation of Rs 30 lakh to the families of deceased polling officers.



The counsel for the State Election Commission (SEC) Tarun Agrawal had told the court 77 polling officers had died in 28 districts and reports from other districts were still awaited. On Tuesday, Agrawal sought further time to bring in details. The lawyers on behalf of the polling officers submitted that "the amount decided by Government was too meager" considering the threat of pandemic "which was well known to the state government as well as SEC" and yet the teachers, investigators and Shiksha Mitras were forced to take the risk.

While hearing a PIL, Justices Siddhartha Varma and Ajit Kumar directed that in every district of the state, three-member "Pandemic Public Grievance Committee" shall be formed and that would include Chief Judicial Magistrate or a judicial officer of similar rank to be nominated by the District Judge". The other members would be a medical college professor, who will be nominated by the Medical College Principal and if there is no medical college, then a level three or four doctor of the district hospital, who will be

nominated by the Chief Medical Superintendent of the district hospital. The third member would be an administrative officer of the rank of Additional District Magistrate to be nominated by the District Magistrate. The court ordered that the committees should come into existence within 48 hours of passing the order. The court said that in rural areas, the complaint can be submitted to SDMs who will pass it on to the committees. The court observed that it found that in the affidavit filed in compliance of its order "neither required information, as mandated by our order, has been given nor, otherwise compliance has been made to our various directions" in paragraph 19 of the order, passed on April 27. Among the issues raised by the court was that "the number of testing has

been reduced gradually" as shown in the affidavit filed by the government. "Even the details regarding oxygen production in the State qua 22 hospitals have not been given," said the court. The court said that if it considers a report submitted by Nodal Officers of Gorakhpur, Lucknow, Prayagraj, Gautam Budh Nagar, and Kanpur, "the scene emerges otherwise than the picture shown with figures of deaths". The court said it will deal with the issue on the next date of hearing - May 17. The court also directed the state and Central government to place before it the programme by which "they would vaccinate those illiterate labours and other villagers between the age group of 18 and 45 years if they are not able to register online for vaccination".

International Nurses Day at Rayagada



(A.O. Bureau)
Rayagada, May 12: On account of International Nurses Day, Media cares Rayagada District felicitated all the nurses

and mid-wives of Covid Health Care centre at Jaykaypur and expressed their gratitude towards their sustained service for corona affected citizens

by risking their lives and of their family members. Journos of Jaykaypur and Kolnara took the lead in the felicitation process. Also in Therubali IMFA medical Mr. KV Rao (VPMfg) felicitated all the staff members and doctors of IMFA medical centre. I/C Medical PK Kar, DGM- Kallol Kumar Nayak, PRO, Shakti K Panigrahi & others staff members were also present on the occasion.

Freedom fighter Doreswamy, 103, beats Covid-19 in mere five days



(A.O. Bureau)
Bengaluru, May 12: 103-year-old Karnataka based Gandhian and freedom

fighter H S Doreswamy has won the battle against Covid-19 and was discharged on Wednesday morning. Doreswamy was admitted recently to the Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research in Bengaluru. "He is now discharged from the hospital," ac-

cording to his close family members. "He had developed symptoms related to Covid-19 five days ago but there were no complications as such. Since he has respiratory problems, he got admitted to Jayadeva Institute," one of the family members told.