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Center To Provide 1 Crore 92 Lakh Vacancies To States



New Delhi, May 14: Union Minister Prakash Javadekar has said that during the fortnight of May 16-31, the central government will supply 1 crore 92 lakh Covid vaccine to the states and union territories. On the other hand, the Union Health Ministry said on Friday that the allocation of vaccines will be told in advance. States / Union Territories have been requested to give instructions to the officials concerned that the allotted vaccines should

be used logically and appropriately and that the vaccine wastage should be minimized. The Ministry said, "The objective of informing the States and Union Territories about the vaccines to be given free of cost for 15 days by the Government of India is to ensure that they are free of cost for these 45 years and above age groups." Make plans for proper use. Earlier on Friday, PM Modi said, "The central government and all the state govern-

ments are making continuous efforts to get more and more citizens to get vaccinated at a rapid pace." PM Modi, who was addressing a program organized by video conference after releasing the eighth installment of economic benefit under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM Kisan), termed vaccines as a great means of protection from corona and said that vaccines across the country More than 18 crore doses be given to people.

CM Naveen Disburses Rs 920 Cr To 42 Lakh Farmers Under KALIA Yojana



Bhubaneswar: Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today launched the transfer of Rs 920 crore to the bank accounts of 42 lakh farmer families in the state under the Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme. The financial assistance has been pro-

vided to the beneficiaries for Kharif-2021. The CM said though the state is currently facing the second wave of COVID-19 and undergoing lockdown, there are no restrictions for agricultural activities. The farmers can carry out agricultural activities with adherence to COVID-19 guidelines,



said Patnaik. Under the KALIA scheme, financial assistance of Rs 25,000 per farm family over five seasons will be provided to small and marginal farmers so that farmers can purchase inputs like seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and use assistance towards

labour and other investments. This apart, financial assistance of Rs 12,500 will be provided to each landless agricultural household for agriculture allied activities like small goat rearing unit, mini-layer unit, duckery units, fishery kits for

fisherman, mushroom cultivation and bee-keeping, etc. Vulnerable cultivators/landless agricultural labourers will get financial assistance of Rs 10,000 per family per year to enable them to take care of their sustenance.

Odisha Assembly Speaker Calls For All-Party Meeting On May 17

Bhubaneswar, May 14: Amidst the rising cases of Coronavirus, Assembly Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro will chair an all-party meeting, virtual, on the Covid-19 situation in the State on May 17. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and



MLAs of all the parties in the State will attend the meeting virtually. According to sources, the current fight of the State against Covid-19 and the future strategy to keep the pandemic in check will be up for discussion in the meeting.

BMC Commissioner visits Patia crematorium site; directs to make it ready by May 25

Bhubaneswar, May 14: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has signed an agreement with city-based NGO Pradeep Seva Trust today to start functioning of another crematorium at Bharatpur Mouza, on the outskirts of the Capital City. The agreement was signed by Shri Srimanta Mishra, Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) on behalf of the BMC and Smt. Madhusmita Prusty, Secretary, Pradeep Seva Trust at the BMC headquarters near Kalpana Square. As per the terms and conditions, the license agreement shall be valid for a period of one year from the date of agreement and shall be extended to a further period upon satisfactory work performance of the NGO. The crematorium, which will be under operation round-the-clock and 24/7, is a traditional one and will start functioning within a week, said Shri



Mishra. This graveyard can be used to cremate both COVID and non-COVID bodies, and maximum eight bodies can be cremated at one time by following the state Government guidelines. The firewood will be arranged by the NGO and the NGO shall use the procured firewood for performing the cremation of the deceased on receipt of Rs 2, 500 only from the family member or relative of the deceased. The NGO shall be al-

lowed to procure Puja Samagri and other related material required for last rite rituals for its sale to public at par with market rate. The BMC will take suitable action in case any complaint received regarding high price charged by the NGO taking advantage of the situation. Besides, the NGO shall maintain a register mentioning the list of the dead bodies cremated along with other details as per prescribed format and submit the same to the As-

sistant Engineer (AE) in charge of crematorium at the beginning of each month for the preceding month. Bhubaneswar, May 14: Taking note of rising number of bodies and pressure on Satya Nagar crematorium, Bhubaneswar Municipal Commissioner (BMC) Sanjay Kumar Singh today visited the upcoming crematorium site in Patia to take stock of the construction works. He has instructed the officials to make the crematorium ready for

operation from May 25 to help the city residents in performing the last rites without difficulty. The Commissioner said the Patia crematorium is an LPG crematorium which will greatly help in cremation of bodies much faster than the traditional one. Patia crematorium has been designated for the cremation of deceased Covid-19 patients and suspects. He has directed the officials to expedite the construction and make the crematorium ready within the deadline to lessen the burden on Satya Nagar crematorium. Meanwhile, the lone electric burner at Satya Nagar, that had been lying defunct since August last week, has been repaired and is in use. The burden on the crematorium has increased due to restrictions on funeral at Puri Swargadwar. In a similar development, a crematorium in Bharatpur will become operational in a couple of days.

Odisha Cadre IAS Officer Sanjeeb Mishra Appointed As National Recruitment Agency Secy

Bhubaneswar, May 14: Odisha cadre IAS officer Sanjeeb Kumar Mishra (1997 batch) has been appointed as Secretary-cum-Controller of Examination, National Recruitment Agency (NRA) under the Department of Personnel & Training. He will hold the post from the date of assumption of the charge for a tenure of five years or until



further orders, which ever is earlier against a newly created post, an

official notification of the Central Government said.

Why Wearing A Face Mask Is Critical To Protection Against Coronavirus?



Bhubaneswar, May 14: Mask is a respiratory protection device that protects the wearers from inhaling particles suspended in the air. This year, amid the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic, the new variants of the virus can remain suspended in the air for quite some time. Therefore it is very essential for us to wear masks man-

datorily while moving out of home. Even when we are at home, it is advisable to put on the masks, said Dr Nibedita Pani, Professor and HoD, Anaesthesia Department, SCB Medical College and Hospital. "A person can be infected when aerosols or droplets containing the virus are inhaled or come directly into contact with the

eyes, nose, or mouth. Aerosols are generated when a plume of respiratory particles containing the virus are released by heavy breathing, coughing and sneezing," she said. There are three types of masks used today. The cotton masks, N95 masks and surgical masks. The most protective among these is the N95 mask. An N95 respirator is a respiratory protective device designed to achieve a very close facial fit and very efficient filtration of airborne particles. Note that the edges of the respirator are designed to form a seal around the nose and mouth, she added.

Low Pressure Over Bay Of Bengal With Cyclogenesis Likely Next Week

Bhubaneswar, May 14: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted formation of a low pressure area over Bay of Bengal with fur-

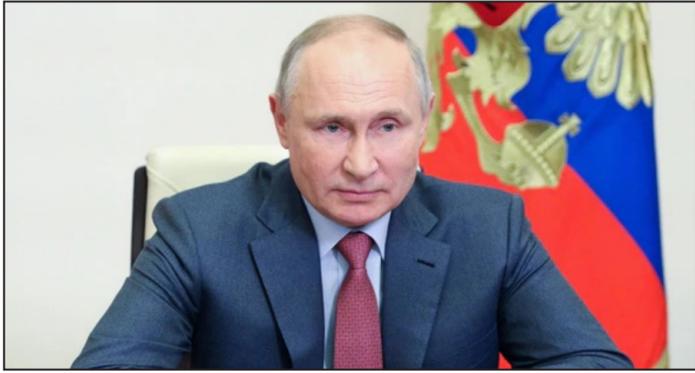
ther intensification and cyclogenesis, next week (between May 21 and May 27). "ECMWF and NCEP GFS models are indicating likely for-

mation of a low pressure system over the Bay of Bengal during the period. NCEP GFS is showing intensification and cyclogenesis over east central

and adjoining northeast Bay of Bengal towards the latter part of week 2 (May 21-May 27)," the IMD said. There is also a 'Low' prob-

ability (1% to 33%) existing for cyclogenesis over east central and adjoining northeast Bay of Bengal towards the latter half of the week, the IMD added.

Russia declares independent media outlet VTimes 'foreign agent' US officials confirm 130 cases of 'Havana syndrome', mysterious brain injury, as CIA probes cause



Moscow, May 14: Russia's justice ministry on Friday declared online news outlet VTimes a "foreign agent" media organisation, a move that will require it to label itself as such and subject it to increased scrutiny by the authorities. VTimes was set up last year by a group of journalists who quit Vedomosti, a top Russian business newspaper, after accusing their new editor-in-chief of introducing pro-Kremlin censorship. VTimes and its publisher, Alexander Gubsky, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Russia uses the "foreign agent" designation to label foreign-funded organisations it says are en-

gaged in political activity. The term carries negative Soviet-era connotations and subjects those designated to heightened bureaucratic scrutiny. It requires outlets to publish 24-word disclaimers saying their publications are distributed by a media outlet "fulfilling the function of a foreign agent". Last month Russia applied the label to Meduza, a popular independent news site, in a move the company says is destroying its business and hindering its ability to practise journalism. U.S. broadcaster Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty has also received the designation and has been fined heavily for flouting it.

New Delhi, May 14: More than 130 US officials have been impacted by the "mysterious" episodes that precipitated unexplained brain injury known as 'Havana syndrome', according to a New York Times report. The officials afflicted by Havana syndrome include US diplomats, spies and defence officials who were on overseas assignments. According to the US daily, three officers from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had reported serious symptoms since December 2020, requiring treatment at the Walter Reed military hospital in Washington. These health incidents first came to light in late 2016 when US embassy staff in Havana, Cuba, began to report an unusual set of symptoms, with some of the cases beginning with the sudden onset of loud noise. A year later, a US diplomat in the Chinese city of Guangzhou started experiencing unexplained symptoms, including headache and memory problems. The US State Department had requested the National Academy of Sciences to assess the cause and the latter came up with a report that suggested the mysterious head injuries were consistent with the use of directed microwave energy. "The committee felt that these acute symptoms were more consistent with a directed radio frequency (RF) energy attack, and explored possible related mechanisms," the report said. The number of cases reported in the NYT is around 70 more



than previously acknowledged. Quoting sources in the Pentagon, the report hinted at the possible involvement of Russian military intelligence agency GRU behind some of these episodes. The US lawmakers on the Senate Intelligence Committee recently said that the cases appear to be increasing and the committee was investigating the sus-

pected "directed" radio frequency attacks. The CIA has created a cell to collect more information on these suspected attacks. Democratic Senator Mark Warner and Republican Marco Rubio, who led the committee, issued a statement late last month, saying the pattern of attacking "our fellow citizens serving our government appears to be

increasing". The two senators noted that it was "important" to better understand the technology behind the weapon responsible for these attacks, welcoming the renewed probe by the CIA. "Ultimately we will identify those responsible for these attacks on American personnel and will hold them accountable," they said.

2 Indian men freed from detention van after protest in Scotland KP Sharma Oli sworn in as Prime Minister of Nepal

London, May 14: Two Indian men being held in a detention van on "suspected immigration offences" walked free with the help of a human rights lawyer after an eight-hour protest by their neighbours in the Scottish city of Glasgow. Sumit Sehdev, a chef, and Lakhvir Singh, a mechanic, both in their 30s, have reportedly been in the UK for 10 years. Six UK Immigration Enforcement officers, backed by Police Scotland, removed them from their home in the Pollokshields area of Glasgow on Thursday and put them into a van heading to a detention centre, but were soon surrounded by a large crowd of protesters determined to free them. "This was a cyni-



cal and provocative action by the Home Office to do it on the day of Eid. To be honest, they don't give a damn about the lives of these people, but the people of Glasgow do," Aamer Anwar, a Pakistani-origin human rights lawyer, told 'ITV News'. "This city is built on the backs of refugees, people

who've given their blood, sweat and tears to build this city. We stand firmly with these men," he said. Lakhvir Singh spoke in Punjabi about how he feared for what would happen when the officers took them into custody in the van and tearfully thanked the people of his neighbourhood for

turning out to support them. The duo then walked down the street with Anwar towards the local mosque, with the estimated hundreds gathered cheering and clapping, waving placards that read "refugees are welcome". "The Home Office needs to ask itself hard questions after today. Doing this

on Eid, in the heart of our Muslim community, and in the midst of a serious Covid outbreak was staggeringly irresponsible — but the even deeper problem is an appalling asylum and immigration policy," said Scotland First Minister Nicola Sturgeon on Twitter, who had appealed directly with the UK Home Office to stand down. A Home Office statement said the operation was "conducted in relation to suspected immigration offences". Eventually, Police Scotland said it had to make an operational decision to protect the "safety, public health and well-being" and the two men were released on bail and returned home to their families.

New Delhi, May 14: KP Sharma Oli was reappointed as the Prime Minister on Thursday night as the Opposition parties failed to secure majority seats in Parliament to form a new government. KP Sharma Oli was sworn in as Nepal's Prime Minister for the third time on Friday, days after he lost a vote of confidence in Parliament. President Bidya Devi Bhandari administered the oath of office and secrecy to Oli, 69, at a ceremony at Shital Niwas, after he was reappointed to the post on Thursday night as the Opposition parties failed to secure majority seats in Parliament to form a new government. Oli, the Chairman of CPN-UML, lost a crucial trust vote in the House of Representatives on Monday. Oli will now have to take a vote of confidence at the House within 30 days, failing which, an attempt to form a government under Article 76 (5) of the Constitution would be initiated. He previously served as prime minister from October 11, 2015 to August 3, 2016 and again from February 15, 2018 to May 13, 2021. The president had asked the Opposition



parties to come up with the support of majority lawmakers to form a new government by 9 pm on Thursday after Oli lost the vote of confidence in the House on Monday. Until Thursday, Nepali Congress president Sher Bahadur Deuba, who got backing from CPN-Maoist Centre chairman Pushpakamal Dahal "Prachanda" was hopeful to get sufficient votes in the House to stake his claim as the next Prime Minister. But as Madhav Kumar Nepal took a U-turn after his last-minute meeting with Oli, Deuba's dream to become the next Prime Minister was shattered. The CPN-UML is the largest party with 121 seats in the 271-member House of Representatives. At present 136 votes are needed to form a majority government. If the parties fail to form a new gov-

ernment in line with Article 76 (5) or the Prime Minister elected under this provision does not secure the vote of confidence again, the sitting Prime Minister can recommend the President to dissolve the parliament and announce the date to hold general elections within the next six months. Nepal plunged into a political crisis on December 20 last year after President Bhandari dissolved the House and announced fresh elections on April 30 and May 10 at the recommendation of Prime Minister Oli, amidst a tussle for power within the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP). Oli's move to dissolve the House sparked protests from a large section of the NCP led by his rival 'Prachanda'. In February, the apex court reinstated the dissolved House, in a setback to Oli who was preparing for snap polls.

Goa's crematoriums witness rush as Covid-19 cases rise

Panaji, May 14: One of the oldest crematoriums in Goa located in Margao city had to construct four additional platforms and dedicate three of its existing ones to cater to people who died of Covid-19. The century-old crematorium, managed by Mathagramasth Hindu Sabha, opened its doors to deceased Covid-19 patients after it was found that they were not being



entertained by other facilities. "We opened our doors to cremate people who died due to Covid-19, as we realised that they

were not being taken in by others. This was in June last year when the first death was reported," the president of the facility,

Bhai Naik told PTI. The institution is open to cremating deceased Covid-19 patients from all religions, he said. Last rites of deceased patients are performed between 5 pm to 6 pm every day, Naik said. The Corporation of City of Panaji (CCP) on Friday announced that it will waive of additional charges on providing hearse van services to relatives of patients who

died of Covid-19 at the Goa Medical College and Hospital. CCP Mayor Rohit Monserratte said ₹100 would be charged for providing No Objection Certificates and ₹500 for ferrying bodies by hearse vans. The facility will be available only for residents of Panaji, he added. As on Thursday, the Covid-19 caseload in Goa was at 1,30,130 and the toll reached 1,937.

Centres under Digital India registered barely 170,000 for vaccination in May

New Delhi, May 14: The numbers are low considering the CSCs provide access to digital services to 400,000-500,000 people on a daily basis, an official familiar with the matter said. Moreover, just a little over 500 million people in the country have access to smartphones. A little over 170,000 citizens booked Covid-19 vaccine appointments from May 1-10 through Common

Service Centres (CSCs), set up under the Digital India scheme to provide last mile access of internet services to people in rural and remote areas without smartphones. According to the official data accessed by HT, 90% of these are at the panchayat level. The numbers are low considering the CSCs provide access to digital services to 400,000-500,000 people on a daily basis,

an official familiar with the matter said. Moreover, just a little over 500 million people in the country have access to smartphones. "The numbers are low because appointments slots are not available and, in many cases, centres are shut due to a lockdown in the state," the official mentioned above said. "Barely 60,000 centres are functional at the moment." According to the



data, the highest number of appointments were made in Maharashtra, 23,699, followed by 18,244 in Bihar, 16,781 in Uttar Pradesh, 15,837

in Odisha, 14,666 in West Bengal and 10,722 in Rajasthan. There are 400,000 operational CSCs across the country, of which 250,000 are

present at the panchayat level. In March alone in Uttar Pradesh, CSCs across the state collected over ₹1,000 crore in form of electricity payments alone. Last year, during the lockdown, over ₹10,000 crore was withdrawn from the CSCs across the country. National Health Authority chief RS Sharma said that CoWIN, the government's portal for vaccination registration,

has been integrated with the CSCs to allow them to register people. "Most of these centres are located in rural areas and are helping provide services in terms of registration and appointment for vaccination," he said. However, the trends on CoWIN also show a sharp decline in the number of registrations. From 13,283,056 on April 28, registrations dropped to 3,125,700 on May 12.

The government has faced criticism from several sections for being unable to provide equitable access to vaccination, with 12 Opposition parties writing to the Prime Minister on April 12 to ensure vaccination for everyone. According to development economist and IIT professor Reetika Khera, most of the vaccine slots are being taken up by urban people.

PM-Kisan eighth installment of Rs 554.6 crore to 27.83 lakh farmers in Odisha - Dharmendra Pradhan



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 14: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday handed over a total of Rs 558.6 crore to 27.83 lakh farmers in Odisha under the Prime Minister's Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan6) scheme, a total of Rs 557.8 crore to Rs 4.5 lakh crore across India. Union Minister Dharmendra

Pradhan thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Agriculture Minister Narender Singh Tomar for their generosity. Similarly, the Chief Minister will once again take steps to ensure that all 4,050,103 farmers in the state registered in PM Kisan can benefit. Mr. Pradhan requested Naveen Patnaik. Mr

Pradhan tweeted that the hand of the "breadwinner" has been constantly being strengthened in the government of Prime Minister Modi. Farmers in Odisha have benefited from the PM Kisan Yojana with a total of Rs 3,630.75 crore in Rs 2,000 crore in four installments. Of the 6,050,103 farmers in Odisha who were regis-

- Thanked the Prime Minister and the Union Minister of Agriculture for strengthening the hand of the 'breadwinner'
- The Chief Minister is requested to take steps to benefit all 4,050,103 farmers in the state registered in PM Kisan
- A total of Rs 3,630.75 crore was given to Odisha in four installments in PM Kisan
- In the seventh installment, 27.90 lakh farmers in the state benefited, while in the eighth installment, an additional 3,12,537 farmers benefited from the letter

tered under the PM Kisan Yojana, out of which only 24,80,091 farmers received a total of Rs 4.13 crore in the seventh installment. On March 1, Union Minister Shri Pradhan wrote a letter to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik "As of the time of writing, 27,83,208 farmers have benefited from the eighth installment, which is

3,12,536 farmers more than the seventh installment. Therefore, in view of the welfare of the farmers of Odisha, Mr. Pradhan has again requested the state government and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to take steps to ensure that all farmers in the state registered under the PM Kisan Yojana can take full advantage of it.

Priority for vaccinating teachers and declared Covid warrior

(A.O. Bureau)

Bhubaneswar, May 14: Doctors, teachers, nurses, health workers, Anganwadi workers, police and journalists are fighting the global epidemic. The government has declared all of these employees "warriors," but teachers have suspended teachers and students as "warriors." Teachers from primary to secondary are directly and indirectly involved. Teachers at the railway station are registering and screening migrants, guarding the state's borders, guarding the Covid Care Center and quarantine centers in each village, raising awareness in the villages, distributing medicines to the sick and dying. In addition, the school is distributing clothing, lunches, medicine, books, napkins and money to the students. Doing so can lead to infections and the death of more than 10 teachers a day. Teachers are also not provided with masks, sanitizers, PPE kits, hand gloves, etc., or teachers are not given priority in terms of vaccination due to infections. Doctors, nurses, health workers, police, journalists, ambulances, hope workers, Anganwadi workers, forest depart-

ment employees, forest guards, insurance workers. NCCPI operators, vendors, employees of money transfer agencies, ATM depositors, customer service officers, Child Line employees, and childcare institution employees have been announced as front-line warriors. But there has been intense dissatisfaction in the teaching community as the state government is adopting a procrastination policy in declaring corona warriors to working teachers. Hon'ble legislators have demanded that teachers declare themselves warriors. As teachers are the mainstay of society building, they should be immediately declared Karona warriors and given priority to be given the Karona vaccine, said Brahmananda Maharana, state president of the Primary Teachers' Union under the new pension scheme, Vibhuprasad Sahu, general secretary. Joint editors Praveen Kumar Das, Tulu Dey, Sabir Alli Khan, Dillip Mishra, Naresh Patra, Sudhanshu Mandal, Sudam Dalbara, Jitendra Nayak, Advisory Council members Surendra Kumar Raut, Gajendra Majhi have made strong demands.

Chandan Yatra festival of Shree Jew will be held



(A.O. Bureau) Puri, May 14: Chandan Yatra festival of Shree Jew will be held at N A R E N D R A PUSKARINI w.e.f. 15.5.2021 to 4.6.2021. In view of the resurgence of COVID-19 Pandemic no devotees will be allowed to witness the festival. Limited number of SEVAYATS and other authorised personnel having pass of the authority will be allowed to perform the rituals. To ensure and enforce the SOP of the

government to prevent the COVID-19 an exhaustive police arrangement is made as follows . 1. One Addl.SP, 4 DSPs, 10 Inspectors, 28 SI/ASIs, 48 Hav/Const and 10 Platoons of force will be deployed . 2. Proper barricading will be done to form green corridor from Shree Mandir to Narendra Puskarini for smooth passage of the deity . 3. Barricading have been done around Narendra Puskarini to prevent crowd from congrega-

tion . 4. Sec 144 CrPC will be promulgated in front of Shree Mandir and Narendra Puskarini. 5. Fire fighting arrangement and ambulance have been arranged to meet exigencies. 6. 6 Covid Enforcement squads of Police and Municipality have been constituted for Covid Enforcement at all places involved in police arrangement. We thank Puri citizens for the support appeal to all to strictly follow the SOP. Violators will be dealt with sternly.

Recovered bag containing Clothes, watch & other documents by RPF Puri

(A.O. Bureau)

Puri, May 14: On 11.05.2021, while ASI B.K.Bal & Staff of RPF Puri were engaged for performing train escorting duty in train No.02145 [LTT-Puri] Express, received one Rail Madad complaint through toll-free No.139 reg.missing/left behind of bag of one Bonafide passenger namely Akash Ku Nayak, who was traveling Ex-LLT to Bhubaneswar, Coach No.S-3, Seat No.23. On receipt of the complainant RPF Staff of

Puri attended the indicated Coach & could able to recovered the missing/left behind bag and subsequently matter informed to the concern Passenger over his cell Phone. On receipt of information the above named Passenger requested to keep the recovered bag at RPF Post Puri till his reaching at Puri. Accordingly on the morning of 12.05.2021 at about 05.00 am, the above named Passenger attended RPF Post Puri and informed that, basically he is from



Mayurbhanj Dist. & he was working in a private company at Mumbai, but due to Covid/lockdown, he returned from Mumbai by train

No.02145 [LTT-Puri] Express, during his journey when the train was standing at Sambalpur Railway Station, he get down to

purchase some food items keeping behind his luggages on his seat, but after schedule stoppage the train was started from SBP & he couldn't picked the train. As his luggages/bag was kept in his seat, so he dailed Rail Madad No.139 [Toll-free] & requested about left behind his bag. Finally the recovered bag containing clothes, educational documents, wrist watch handed over to him. After received the same he appreciated the quick action of RPF Staff of Puri.

Son requests Bhubaneswar-based private hospital to handover his father's body in exchange of own kidney

(A.O. Bureau)

Bhubaneswar, May 14: A young man has requested a Bhubaneswar-based private hospital to handover his father's body for last rites in exchange of a kidney of him. His father succumbed to Covid-19 while undergoing treatment at the hospital. However, the hospital au-



thorities are not releasing the body to the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) for last rites as he

has not deposited the remaining hospital dues, said Dileswar Pradhan, a native of Pudaipalli village Under

Jharsuguda district. According to Dileswar, he had admitted his father Hrishikesh Pradhan in a private Covid hospital before a week. However, Hrishikesh died of the virus on Wednesday. Dileswar has almost spent his all savings for the treatment of his father. In this condition, he

has nothing for paying the remaining hospital dues. As a result, the hospital authorities did not release the body to BMC for cremation. Getting no way out, Dileswar has requested the hospital officials to release his father's body in exchange of one of his kidneys.

Odisha inches closer to 1 lakh active cases

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 14: The Covid-19 situation continued to remain grim in Odisha as the State reported over 10,000 cases in seven of the last eight days, taking the active cases closer to one lakh. As many as 10,649 people tested positive for the virus and 19 persons succumbed in last 24 hours. The test positivity rate (TPR), however, came down slightly to 20.7 per cent (pc) from 22.3 pc a day before as the number of tests rose to 51,451 including 17,659 RT-PCR tests. Odisha now has 91,648 active cases with the highest 13,740 in Khurda and 10,838 in Sundargarh. Khurda recorded the highest 1,557 cases, including 1,108 from Bhubaneswar, followed by 930 from



Cuttack, 774 from Sundargarh, 557 from Angul and 503 from Balasore. The West Bengal bordering Balasore has recorded over 500 cases for the first time. At least 15 districts accounted for over 200 cases each. Of the fresh cases, 5,965 were in quarantine and 4,684 local infections. Even as new cases saw a decline in some western districts, the infection is on an upward spiral in districts like

Cuttack, Angul, Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh and Puri. While the positivity rate in most of the districts bordering Chhattisgarh was above 20 pc, Boudh for the first time topped the list with a TPR of 42 pc. Of the 552 tests, including 342 through RT-PCR, 232 have been detected positive. Other 10 districts with high TPR included Sambalpur (39.1 pc), Angul (38.8 pc), Bargarh (31.1 pc), Kalahandi

(30.8 pc), Nuapada (30.6 pc), Khurda (30.1 pc), Deogarh (28.8 pc), Sonapur (25.6 pc), Jharsuguda (25.4 pc) and Sundargarh (20.8 pc). As per the statistics released by the Ministry of Health, 29 districts in the State have a positivity rate of above 10 pc in the week from May 6 to 12. At least 20 districts have a TPR of over 20 pc. Of the 526 districts in the country having a TPR of above 10 pc, 29 are from

Odisha. Three deaths were reported from Angul district and two each from Sundargarh and Puri. One patient each from Balasore, Bargarh, Khurda, Balangir, Boudh, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Kandhamal, Malkangiri, Nuapada, Rayagada and Sambalpur died of the disease. With this, the Covid-19 caseload in the State mounted to 5,76,297 and 19 fresh fatalities pushed the death toll to 2,251. Oxygen shortage killed 15 patients: BJP Bhubaneswar: The BJP on Thursday lodged an FIR against Keonjhar district collector Ashish Thakare and the medical officer of Covid hospital alleging "murder" of 15 Covid-19 patients undergoing treatment due to oxygen shortage.

Home Delivery Of Liquor In Odisha's Khordha Dist From Monday

(A.O. Bureau)

Bhubaneswar, May 14: The Khordha Collector today issued an order permitting home delivery of liquor in the district w.e.f. 14.05.2021 from Monday to Friday (from 7 AM to 5 PM) by licensees of OFF/ON, CL shops through their delivery boys and food aggregators, excluding the shops situated in containment zone. No shop will be allowed for counter sale of liquor. The shops will continue to remain closed during weekend shutdown on Saturday and Sunday, the order said. "The delivery person would carry an I-Card issued by the retailer and an invoice which will act as a pass to facilitate movement. They

will have to follow all social distancing norms like wearing masks, maintaining 6 feet distance and use of sanitizers. No person having any symptoms of COVID-19 or unwell should be engaged in home delivery," the order said. "The licensees will prominently display their phone/mobile/ WhatsApp numbers/ Email ID/ UPI details for receiving the orders. The orders for home delivery of liquor can be received by the retailer verbally over phone or through SMS, WhatsApp etc. which shall be recorded in an order register. The rates of delivery charges should not exceed the prescribed amount as per the Govt. guidelines," the order added.



EDITORIAL

At it, again!

The Israel-Palestine conflict never ends; there are only interim periods of a lull while both sides think of fresh ways to inflict damage on the opponent. The Coronavirus and its repercussions notwithstanding, Israel and Palestine are engaged in a bloody conflict that has already taken several lives on either side. It all began on May 12 with Israeli rockets claiming the lives of several Palestinian civilians. In a quid pro quo, five Israelis died of Palestinian rocket attacks. It is difficult to say which party started the conflict. Anyway, as they say, truth is the first casualty in any war. Israel's military campaign has been fierce, though there may have been Palestinian provocation. Its military offensive in the Gaza Strip killed 10 senior Hamas military officers. In the counteroffensive, the Islamic militant group fired hundreds of rockets at Israeli cities. Right now, it is an anarchic situation in Israel as the Jewish and Arab mobs are engaged in skirmishes on the streets. The Palestine conflict started with the birth of Israel and has continued ever since. The 'Partition Plan' of the UN created Arab and Israeli territories from the British territory. But it actually laid down the basis of an endless conflict. All these years, their hate for each other has only grown. However, the current situation has a lot to do with Israel's internal situation as well. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has lost credibility and the people want him to go. In such a situation, the Palestine issue comes in handy. This conflict was just waiting to happen. In mid-2020, the UAE and Bahrain agreed to normalise relations with Israel. They signed the Abraham Accords, which was summarily rejected by Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and the Hamas alike. The subsequent elections in Israel and Netanyahu's loss of popularity laid the foundation of the new conflict. After three inconclusive elections, Netanyahu of the Likud party and Benny Gantz of the Blue and White party signed a pact creating a unity Government in April 2020. Despite the formation of the unity Government and promises from Netanyahu that he would step down after 18 months, he didn't. But the average Israeli's hate for Palestine can be easily mobilised which sweeps all wrongs under the carpet. But sometimes war creates its own dynamics and the genie would just not go back into the bottle. Now there are genuine fears that a third intifada could unleash.

The vaccine hydra

The confusion over the multiple price brands for COVID-19 vaccines in India and their scarcity continues to hamper operations to manage the pandemic. The Prime Minister's Office, which is seized of the issue of rapid vaccinations, stated that the Prime Minister, at a review meeting on May 7, spoke about the need to sensitise States so that the speed of vaccination does not falter. The Health Minister has also asked the States to speed up the vaccination process. There are three issues with the requests from the Centre to the States. One, there is not enough supply of vaccines. Two, the multiple price bands are making the issue complicated, with private hospitals charging a range of high prices while the vaccination is free in the Government-run hospitals. Three, the procurement of vaccines by the Central and State Governments is confusing as the Centre's policy has ended up making the States and private hospitals compete for the same supply. Twelve Opposition parties have now written to the Centre on how to end the reign of confusion: One, the Union Government should centrally procure all vaccines. Two, there should be a free and universal mass vaccination campaign across the country. Three, invoke compulsory licensing to increase domestic vaccine production. The signatories to the letter also wondered why only Rs 5,000 crore of the budgetary allocation of the Rs 35,000 crore was spent on vaccines to date. Untangling the price and procurement beast is easier said than done. There is no logical reason put forth by the Union Government for the complex pricing and procuring arrangements. The Centre procured all vaccines and distributed them to its centres, State Governments and private hospitals till April 30. Since May 1, the Centre procured 50 per cent of the vaccines while the State Governments, private hospitals and the open market keep vying for buying the remaining 50 per cent from manufacturers. From its share, the Centre is supposed to allocate vaccines to the States, depending on the demand. As to the pricing, the original price of Rs 150 per dose was valid only for the first consignment. The Centre then capped the price at Rs 250 but it became infructuous after the Centre inexplicably introduced price liberalisation measures. That means private hospitals can charge a person the cost of the dose plus administrative charges and, additionally, any other charges that may become applicable. It is this last criterion that has jacked up the price from anywhere between Rs 800 and Rs 1,300 per dose. An 18-year-old may not get a dose because the State he is a resident of may be giving priority to the older citizens. A resident of Delhi or Haryana may not be able to get a dose in the neighbouring Uttar Pradesh because the latter allows doses only for in-State residents.

Nepal slips into deeper crisis

Having failed to prove majority in Parliament, the Oli-led Government has shoved the country into the throes of uncertainty. Despite a protracted political battle, the ruling Communist Party of Nepal (UML) failed to prove majority in the Lower House of Parliament on May 10. Prime Minister KP Oli held a series of meetings with the Opposition, including the Nepali Congress and the Janata Samajbadi Party, for support after the erstwhile faction of the CPN(UML) led by former Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' withdrew support to the Government. In March this year, the Supreme Court had ordered against the dissolution of the House of Representatives by Oli amid his rift with party chairman Prachanda. This House was elected in January 2018 after Maoist Party chief Prachanda had agreed to merge his party with the Oli-led UML. However, the Government's downfall was inevitable as neither of the leaders had an ideological clarity nor a will to end the race for the premiership. As Nepal is witnessing a significant health crisis amid the second peak of COVID-19, the political upheaval comes as an extra burden for the Nepalese people. An egoist, authoritarian and assertive Prime Minister, Oli has finally plunged Nepal into a political and humanitarian crisis. The healthcare system in Nepal was already in a shambles after the 2015 earthquake. While the political parties could have worked on improving health, education and employment in the post-earthquake phase, they all chose to deal with personal equations to be in power. In the last



Rishi Gupta

10 years alone, Nepal has seen more than five Prime Ministers, with none completing their tenure. Panic Plea: In a humanitarian plea to the international community, Oli, in an article in The Guardian, wrote: "The rise in the number of infections poses a serious challenge to our brave doctors, nurses, other care providers, citizen volunteers and the entire health service system." He added: "(Amid the) constraints of resources and infrastructure, the pandemic is turning out to be an overwhelming burden. I have, therefore, appealed to the international community to help us with vaccines, diagnostic tools, oxygen kits, critical care medicines and equipment, to support our efforts to save lives." However, one needs to question the Prime Minister and his Cabinet whether they ever planned to bring in people-oriented policies for the nation's welfare. At its best, Nepal lacks all fundamental policy frameworks concerning its disaster management, humanitarian crisis or foreign

policy. As a result of Oli's follies, his plea received a mixed response from the international community as in his two years-plus administration, Oli has isolated Nepal from the international community by failing to engage with them to serve the Chinese. For instance, Nepal's geographical constraints notwithstanding, Oli chose to badmouth India's goodwill for political gains and compromised Nepal's integrity by signing the Treaty of Mutual Legal Assistance with China and allowing its embassy to micromanage local affairs. Besides, corruption charges in the procurement of medical supplies to fight COVID-19 led to the Army's intervention last year. The Wrong Advice: Advised by a handful of sycophants, Oli has isolated Nepal from a friendly United States. The latter has stood to the goodwill and democratic aspirations of the Nepalese people. At the same time, the US is irked with Oli after he showed no interest in joining the Millen-

nium Challenge Cooperation (MCC), aiming to provide affordable and green transportation, electricity, regional security, peace and development to partners, only because China calls it a military platform. The US has often requested Nepal to consider the MCC as a priority. Still, all successive Communist Governments, especially Oli, have made it a US versus China deal. Oli continues to be the acting Prime Minister until other parties are invited to prove their majority to form a new government. Considering Oli's quest for absolute control over the Government and political affairs, he will attempt to derail the formation of a new Government. In the past, too, Oli has misused the office in bringing new laws and dissolving the House. Conclusion: Oli's ultra-nationalistic outlook and power hunger are at the heart of the people's agony in Nepal. He chose to engage in a verbal spat with India when he could have asked India for humanitarian help last year. On the contrary, India still provided Nepal with vaccines and timely supplies of medical equipment. At present, to its best efforts, India will have the challenge to send prompt help to Nepal considering the crises at home. However, it is a wake-up call for the political leadership in Nepal to balance its foreign policy and bring in policies for the welfare of the people. While Oli holds the biggest responsibility for plunging Nepal into the current crisis, the Maoists, Nepali Congress and the Janata Samajbadi Party equally hold the responsibility for derailing Nepal's developmental process in the past. For a fact, bringing down a democratically elected Government has become popular culture in Nepalese politics.

The 2nd Wave of Covid-19 and our Budget

As cases continue to surge across the globe and in India, we live amidst Covid positive cases infected with the original virus or the variant virus, recovered cases, vaccinated people and the non-vaccinated in the second wave of Covid. People feel that the pandemic is improving and demonstrate the same in irresponsible behaviour of unmasking, partying in crowds. Indian's health ministry recently released data on genome sequencing of 10,787 samples from 18 states which showed 771 cases of known variants (7.1%). Of those 95.4% were the UK variants, 4.4% were the South African variants and only one case had the Brazilian variant. The vaccine rollout is pitted against the variants of concern and seems to be a static solution to an evolving problem of virus mutation. The speed at which the population in India is being vaccinated is still lag-

ging and precious time is being wasted by not broadening the vaccine eligibility criteria in the race against the wily virus. We must act on both fronts and start vaccinating the youth who are the mobile super spreaders. India has already exported 64.5 million doses but "it is storm in a cup of tea". A partially vaccinated population also puts pressure on the virus to mutate and find more susceptible hosts compounding the problem. There are worrisome reports coming in of people getting infected after 14 days of the 2nd dose of vaccination albeit with a less serious disease pattern (perhaps with a variant). So, what should the new normal be? The complete lockdown isn't an answer as we cannot risk another downturn of the economy, which after a year is just limping back

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to normal. It is time to adopt the norms of hand sanitisation, physical distancing, masking and cleaning of high touch surfaces as a way of life. Alongside, contact tracing, surveillance and testing need to keep pace. A grand plan of the entire nation should be outlined with hotspots having the highest restrictions, and orange and green zones having relevant, but lesser restrictions. Assuming that we must vaccinate at least 70% of our 1,350 million population in the next 6 months for herd immunity to develop, we need to vaccinate 4 million people a day which translates in to 50,000 centres delivering 80 doses each per day. An electoral roll out of the vaccination delivery seems to be an attractive idea and should be explored. Vaccine production

needs to be ramped up. To speed up the vaccination our budgetary provision should be strong. Ministry of Health and family Welfare's Budget page 155 of the 350 page item no 19 is clearly titled Covid-19 Emergency response and Health System preparedness, which lists an expenditure of Rs 11,757 crore that was incurred in the previous year 2020-21 by the centre in its fight against Covid-19. But the current year 2021-22 the amount budgeted for Covid-19 Emergency response is Zero. It is a matter of alarm that there is no provision in the entire Ministry of Health's 2021-22 Budget for Covid-19 vaccination and other related expenditure. Now in present situation more money was needed to defeat the novel Corona Virus this year. How the Finance minister and Health Minister both will face this situation which is certainly a question mark.

Philanthropy And CSR

Philanthropy is always considered a sacred ritual 'sat karma' on this mundane world inhabited by unequal humans in terms of cash, kinds, hence it has always construed as a sacred duty in all ages and all times since the days of Mahabharata, Ramayan, even beyond that to Vedic eras. Philanthropy fills the giver that such sacred duty one is performing to raise humanity while it fills the mind & lives of such recipients in all ages of the timeline over aeons. Earlier the ruler, the kings used to bestow such donating on those less fortunate ones which later on taken a new route of donating to those which the ruler considered to be useful or beneficial which also continue side by side all these times. What has

changed or evolved is: promulgation of corporate social responsibility (CSR) laws in country in our times which made it compulsory on those corporate companies to spend a certain amount of money on social welfare activities in less privileged communities, or on those layer of society to raise them to humane level by creating those conditions or opportunity to blossom the talents which other wise failing in absence of these. Such laws have created a mindset on those corporate or companies which at the last moment found spending on activities, causes most frugal to CSR rules. A bizarre

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examples is, an athlete was positioned in a corporate job with salary of lakh every month for years and again and again was given Crores as inspiration funds, in one single day twice the patronage funds of CSR in Crores were given to this single athletes raising clear lines that despite CSR laws, it's the overwhelming likes, or dislikes that govern the CSR mostly. The real game changer is, country's top philanthrop Azim Premji of Wipro group whose recent call on CSR is, it must come from within, not from any mandated laws' has completely going to change the narrative on CSR in

India. Premji the billionaire philanthrop, the founder of Azim Premji University with several initiative in the sector of Education, health, environment, livelihood, Governance Public Policy Democracy etc is stated to donating in an average 30 Crores in a day, whose prophetic words that CSR spending should come from within & not to be enforced by law, rule would definitely be the game changer in CSR funds promotion in India. We also believe that our few top CSR rated corporate must listen this 'inner voice' and not out of politicking decision which so far underlies the whole CSR working, as mostly dictated by persons in power rather than arising from ones deep inner consciousness!

Lost humanity, Karona positive suspects did not come to cremate villagers



(A.O. Bureau) Niali, May 14: Lost humanity, Karona positively suspected villagers did not come to cremate the body. The body was cremated in his place with the help of family and media representatives. A similar incident took place in Niali Block Krishnaprasad Panchayat Sarana Paribasta village. Narendra Pradhan, 55, had been suffering from fever for two weeks. On Thursday evening, he was rushed to Charichak Medical Center by 108 ambulances as his health condition deteriorated. He was rushed to Niali Group Health Center where he was pronounced dead at Jallarpur Chowk. The family took the body home. But no one came

for the funeral, with villagers suspecting Karona of her death. As a result, the body lay in the house all night. According to sources, the husband of Niali tehsildar Vidyadhar, local sarpanch Rabintra Nayak and media representatives reached the spot and extended a helping hand to bury the body. The body was cremated 18 hours later, with the help of family members, three grandchildren and media representatives wearing PP kits. "The rescue squad wasn't called for him," she told the Associated Press. The other member of the family is suffering from fever and will be provided with health care immediately, said the husband of the tehsildar.

Ganja worth Rs 2.5 lakhs seized in Dhenkanal, one arrested



(A.O. Bureau) Dhenkanal, May 14: The Excise department officials have seized ganja weighing 50 kg worth Rs 2.5 lakh and arrested one person in this connection at Naukiari village under Rasol police limits in the district today. The accused has been

identified as Rinku Sahu, a resident of the same village. Acting on a tip-off the officials conducted raid on Rinku's house and found 50 kg of ganja. They seized the contraband and arrested the accused subsequently. After preliminary investigation

it was found that the contraband was being smuggled to Bhadrak and Balasore district. The accused has been court forwarded and further investigation is underway to nab other people involved in this racket, said the Excise Inspector.

Shiv Nahak the Baragaon Samiti Member make aware his villagers in an innovative way

(A.O. Bureau) Aska, May 14: As the corona continues its second wave in the Aska region, various steps are being taken by the administration to get rid of it. However, there is a lack of corona awareness in rural areas. That's why Shiva Nahak, a young people's representative from Baragaon, is constantly trying to raise awareness in his panchayat. Through various programs, he has been working day



by day to preventing spread the corona. He is touring the villages of the panchayat with the help of various songs and posters. In this oc-

casation chief guest at the event was Aska Tahsildar Sadananda Sethi, BDO Roshan Kumar Shatapathi, Senior journalist Anil

Kumar Panigrahi briefed the people and explained the Panchasutri rules. Anganwadi workers, Asha workers, school

teachers, intellectuals and panchayat workers were present. Shiva Nahak has been known as a covid warrior day and night, creating awareness through such programs and distribute Mask Sanitizer hand gloves in the Aska area from the beginning to the present day. Prominent social activist Brahmananda Acharya was present at the time and delivered a special message in a special jonne of corona awareness.

CREWPL Yoga practice among the workmen

(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, May 14: During this sever COVID-19 pandemic the management of M/s. Chennai Radha Engineering Works (P) Ltd working in Paradip Port Trust has taken many wise steps in favor of workmen working in all sites in India and abroad the country also for their healthy life. From

the 01st May 2021 (worker's day) onwards company started YOGA practice among the workmen. To bring interest and awareness about yoga, the company distributed T-Shirts and YOGA Mat to each workmen. The YOGA practice is being continuing by workmen with great joy.



Free food vehicle van that will distribute food packets to poor and needy people



(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, May 14: A leading NGO social organisation named as Jana Samasya Nivaran Sanstha that included all our vital members especially Sri Ramakant Jena

(Dist president), Pradeep Chuli (Dist secretary), Himanshu Bhushan Parida (Dist general secretary), Richad Raman Biswal (Paradip youth President), Chinmay ku. Samal

(Paradip youth secretary) and all their members. Our organization taken a kind work on its shoulder. So that on these pandemic situation our society must be hunger free so our organisation arranged a free food vehicle van that will distribute food packets to poor and needy people. Every body must stay safe and light for covid-19. We also promise to distribute food packets on every situation and maintain covid-19 guidelines.

Vaccination drive at NTPC Talcher Kaniha

(A.O. Bureau) Talcher, May 14: As the country fights the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, India's largest power generator, NTPC Limited is taking every measure to provide round the clock power supply to its stakeholders. In this effort, vaccination drives have been undertaken across NTPC stations and a vaccination drive was carried out for the safety of power sector personnel at Odisha's largest power station, Talcher Super Thermal Power Station too so that un-



interrupted power supply on a 24x7 basis is ensured. The vaccination drive was conducted on 12th and

13th May 2021 at NTPC Kaniha Hospital. This was conducted for all NTPC employees, retired employees,

their families, and contract employees who were above 45 years of age. A total of 156 and 105 people got their

second dose in the vaccination drive on 12th & 13th May respectively. With this, almost all the employees above the 45 years age group are now vaccinated and soon this will be extended to employees and family members of age 18-45 years. During the drive, all the safety protocols were followed including social distancing, hand sanitisation, etc. At every step, proper posters were displayed directing the people about all the procedures and precautions to be followed.

33 Students Of 2 Ashram Schools In Nuapada Test COVID-19 Positive

(A.O. Bureau) Nuapada, May 14: As many as 33 students of two Ashram schools in Khadial block of Nuapada district have reportedly tested positive for COVID-19. As per the reports, 22 students of Kaunya Bal Niketan at Gadramunda have contracted the virus. All of them are aged between seven and 18 years.



Similarly, 11 students of Nava Prabhat Ashram School aged between five and 11 years have

been found infected with the virus. All the infectees have been kept under isolation

separately inside the premises of the Ashrams. Collector Swadha Dev Singh said

special arrangements have been made to provide treatment to the children. Sanitization drive has also been carried out at the two schools to break the chain of the virus transmission. Nuapada district, which has been categorized under Red Zone in the second wave of the pandemic, today reported 204 positive cases.

24 people of tribal village test positive for Covid-19 in Ganjam

(A.O. Bureau) Sanakhemundi, May 14: As many as 24 people tested positive for Covid-19 at Belgarh village here in Ganjam district, informed the Block Development officer (BDO) today. In addition to that, 30 more people have fell ill in the village following which CHC health person-



nel have been sent there for testing and providing them medicines. The test results of 24 people came positive following which they

have been home isolated and the village has been completely sanitized. Further, the village has also been declared as a containment zone.

4 quintal ganja seized from Jackfruit-laden truck in Koraput

(A.O. Bureau) Lamptaput, May 14: Lamptaput-Nandapur police seized 4 quintal of ganja from a Jackfruit-laden vehicle and arrested two persons in this connection late last night. The accused have

been identified as Rajendra and Babu Singh of Rajasthan. Acting on a tip-off, under the direction of Koraput SP, Nandapur SDPO along with Lamptaput police officials intercepted a vehicle near

Badapada ghats and seized 4 quintal of ganja from 15 sacks stashed inside a jackfruit-laden truck. The estimated value of the seized contraband would be worth around Rs 40 lakh, said a police official.

Man arrested for killing wife, son in Jeypore

(A.O. Bureau) Jeypore, May 14: Police on Thursday arrested a man on charges of allegedly killing his wife and son at Haradaguda village under Bisinapur police limits. The de-

ceased have been identified as Damini Muduli and Pabuli Muduli. According to police, the accused, identified as Dubulu Muduli, allegedly killed his 5-year-old son and wife over fam-



ily feud. Being alerted, the villagers reached

the spot and tied the accused. Being in-

formed, the police officials reached the spot and took the accused into custody. Police have launched an investigation into the matter sending the bodies for post-mortem.

Irfan Pathan takes on Kangana Ranaut: 'Her account got dismissed for spreading hate, my tweets for humanity'



New Delhi, May 14: Cricketer Irfan Pathan took on social media accounts that spread hate, mentioning Kangana Ranaut, while saying that he tweets for 'humanity and countrymen'. He also mentioned how the actor's account was recently suspended permanently for hate speech. Irfan tweeted, "All My tweets are either 4 humanity or countrymen, from a point of view of a guy who has represented India at d highest level. On d contrary counters I get from ppl like Kangna who's account get dismissed by spreading hate n some other paid accounts are only about hate. #planned."

#planned — Irfan Pathan (@IrfanPathan) May 13, 2021
Kangana's account was suspended earlier this month. A Twitter spokesman had said, "We've been clear that we will take strong enforcement action on behavior that has the potential to lead to offline harm. The referenced account has been permanently suspended for repeated violations of Twitter Rules specifically our Hateful Conduct policy and Abusive Behaviour policy. We enforce the Twitter rules judiciously and impartially for everyone on our service." The actor remains active on Instagram where her post was taken down by the site for calling coronavirus 'a small-time flu'. She was criticized in the comments section for spreading misinformation. India is battling a devastating second wave of the coronavirus with over 4,000 deaths a day.

Anushka Sharma-Virat Kohli raise Rs 11 cr for Covid-19 relief, Priyanka Chopra's fundraiser collects \$1 million

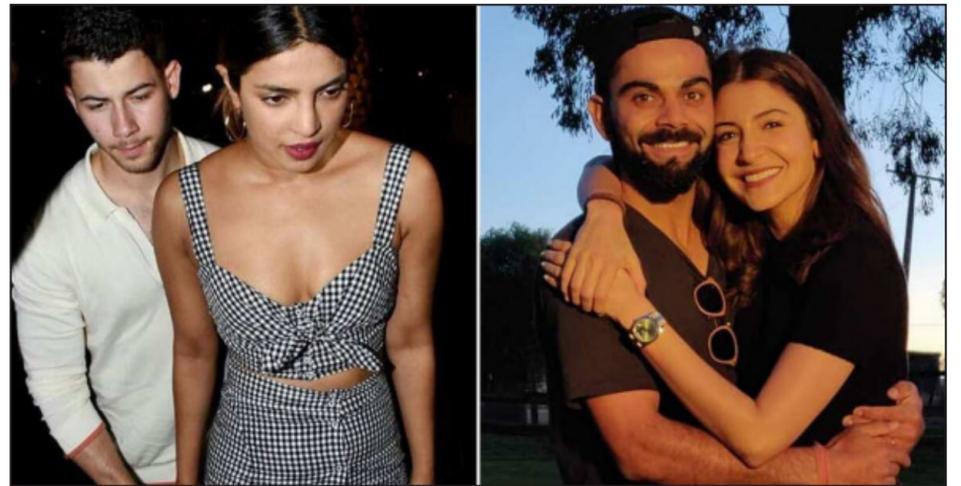
Mumbai, May 14: Anushka Sharma and husband Virat Kohli as well as actor Priyanka Chopra and her singer husband Nick Jonas have thanked people as they raised money to help India during the devastating second wave of the coronavirus pandemic. While Anushka and Virat's fundraiser has collected over Rs 11 crore, Priyanka and Nick have collected one million dollars to help people in India. Anushka tweeted on Friday, "Truly amazed and humbled by the spirit of solidarity that you all have shown. We are proud to announce that we have raised more than our initial target and it will go a long way to save lives. Thank you for your overwhelming support in helping the people of India." The couple said that they have raised Rs 11.39 crore. Virat Kohli also wrote, "Words fall short to express how overwhelmed we feel to have exceeded our target not once, but twice,

thanks to each one of you. To everyone who has donated, shared, & helped in any way, I want to say a big thank you. We are #InThisTogether & we will overcome this to-

Priyanka and Nick have managed to raise 1 million dollars. The couple took to their respective social media platforms to announce the same. Priyanka wrote, "Through some of the

and helped us raise \$1 Million in these trying times. Countless others helped us spread the world to expedite the process." She shared that the money that has been collected through

let's not stop here. We're raising the fundraising target to \$3 Million and we know that with your help and support, we can achieve this too." Anushka Sharma, in



gether." Priyanka has been tirelessly working to ensure that the global community's attention remains on India. A couple of weeks ago, the actress announced a fundraiser in association with GiveIndia via a video message posted on her Instagram feed. Through the fundraiser

darkest days in our history, humanity has once again proven that we are better together. @nickjonas and I are so humbled by your support and by the outpouring of help for India from so many parts of the world. Over 14,000 good Samaritans opened their hearts

the fundraiser will be used to buy oxygen concentrators and for vaccine support. She added, "All the money raised is already being deployed across the country in the form of Oxygen Concentrators, Vaccine Support and so much more. We can all continue to help so

her appeal to people to come forward to help, wrote, "India needs you and we thank you wholeheartedly for every bit of contribution that you have made to save lives. We will win this battle against the pandemic. We shall do everything to get through this, together."

Allu Arjun's Pushpa to be released in two parts, first part will be out in August 2021

New Delhi, May 14: The makers of Allu Arjun's upcoming multilingual action film Pushpa on Friday confirmed that the movie will be released in two parts. As per a statement from the makers, the first part will be released in cinemas this year while the second will hit the screens in 2022. Pushpa will be Allu Arjun's maiden pan-Indian film which will be simultaneously released in five languages including Hindi. The film, directed by Sukumar, will see Arjun play a character called Pushpa Raj, a forest brigand. "The storyline and the characters took on



lives of their own and grew to a span that required the movie to be released in two parts. The excitement we witnessed for 'Introduction To Pushpa Raj' was phenomenal and we are de-

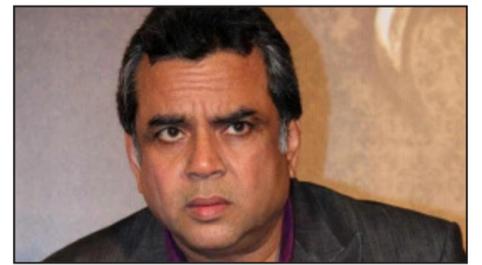
termined to take it all to the next level by releasing the film as a duology. We have the best stars, artists and technicians aboard and we hope to give the audience a memorable experience in

the theatres through this story," read a statement from the makers. Pushpa revolves around the red sandalwood heist in the hills of Andhra Pradesh. With this film, the audience will see Allu Arjun

and Rashmika Mandanna, sharing the screen space for the first time. The first part of the pan-India film is slated to release on the August 13, 2021 and the second part will be released in 2022. In December 2020, the shoot of the film was suspended after six crew members tested positive while shooting in a specially erected set in Visakhapatnam. The makers had recently revealed that they spent a whopping ₹6 crore for a chase sequence which was under the supervision of a few international stuntmen.

Pareesh Rawal shuts down death rumour with hilarious reply

New Delhi, May 14: Actor Pareesh Rawal had a witty reply for a death hoax about him on Twitter, which claimed he had died on Friday. Actor Pareesh Rawal has become the latest Bollywood celebrity to fall prey to death hoaxes. The actor on Friday took to Twitter to rubbish a claim that he had died. He junked it with a witty response. The actor saw a hoax on Twitter that claimed he had died on Friday morning at 7 am. Rubbishing it, the actor wrote, "...Sorry for the misunderstanding as I slept past 7 am..." In March this year, Pareesh



had confirmed on social media that he had been diagnosed with coronavirus, days after receiving the Covid-19 vaccine. "Unfortunately, I have tested positive for COVID-19. All those that have come in contact with me in the last 10 days are requested to please get themselves tested," the actor had

written. Also read: Radhe Your Most Wanted Bhai movie review: Salman Khan-Prabhudeva's yet another cringeworthy watch Before Pareesh Rawal, many celebrities such as Lucky Ali, Mukesh Khanna, Kirron Kher and others have also fallen prey to viral death hoaxes on social media in the recent past.

Eating more fruits and vegetables with less stress

Washington, May 14: According to new research from Edith Cowan University (ECU) suggests that eating a diet rich in fruit and vegetables is associated with less stress. Lead researcher, PhD candidate Simone Radavelli-Bagatini from ECU's Institute for Nutrition Research, said the study strengthens the link between diets rich in fruit and vegetables and



mental wellbeing. "We found that people who have higher fruit and veggie intakes are less stressed than those with lower intakes, which suggests diet plays a key role in mental wellbeing," said Ms Radavelli-Bagatini. A growing issue: According to Ms Radavelli-Bagatini, some stress is considered normal, but long-term exposure can significantly impact mental

health. "Long-term and unmanaged stress can lead to a range of health problems including heart disease, diabetes, depression and anxiety so we need to find ways to prevent and possibly alleviate mental health problems in the future," said Ms Radavelli-Bagatini. The benefits of a healthy diet are well known, but only 1 in 2 Australians eat the recommended two serves of fruit per day and fewer than 1 in 10 eat the recommended five serves of vegetables each day. "Previous studies have shown the link between fruit and vegetable consumption and stress in younger adults, but this is the first time we're seeing similar results across adults of all ages," said Ms Radavelli-Bagatini. Food and mood: While the mechanisms behind how fruit and vegetable consumption influence stress are still unclear, Ms Radavelli-Bagatini said key nutrients could be a factor. "Vegetables and fruits contain important nutrients such as vitamins, minerals, flavonoids and carotenoids that can reduce inflammation and oxidative stress, and therefore improve mental wellbeing," she said. "Inflammation and oxidative stress in the body are recognised factors that can lead to increased stress, anxiety and lower mood."

Bandi movie review: A heartfelt tribute to independent cinema

New Delhi, May 14: Cinema Bandi movie review: Here's a film that celebrates the spirit of making movies and how it can make or break lives. It has been produced by Raj & DK of The Family Man fame. Filmmaker duo Raj & DK produced Cinema Bandi, which premiered on Netflix India, is built on a simple premise—anybody can be a filmmaker. ...at heart. The film is a heartfelt tribute to independent cinema, usually made with all heart and by successfully defying the industry norms to be widely accepted and celebrated. The film celebrates the spirit of making movies and how it can make or break lives. The story is centered on Veera, an autorickshaw driver who earns enough to just make ends meet. When he gets his hands on a high-end camera that gets left behind in his auto; he dreams of shooting a movie with it in his village. He gets



influenced by a television report that claims several low-budget films with no stars have been making a killing at the box-office. Convinced that making a movie can change their lives altogether, Veera motivates a few people in his village to join him on this mission. What begins as an amateur dream to make a movie soon translates into hope, tears and drama. Cinema Bandi is rooted in reality and it brims with the kind of energy we rarely

witness in mainstream cinema. Even though it is mostly made to look like a comedy, the film has enough moments to tug at your heartstrings and leave you teary-eyed. It has better female characters than most mainstream movies. When Veera decides to make a movie, his wife quietly takes up additional work to support the household financially. One heroine, who sells vegetables for a living, doesn't like to play a character

who waits for the hero to come to her rescue. These are women who are not soft-spoken, and despite being raised in a village, they have a strong presence. The film gives a deep insight into the urban-rural divide and has scenes interspersed beautifully to highlight the difference. For instance, Veera and his crew find some footage on the camera shot by its original owner. There's a shot of rain dance and they wonder

how so much water is wasted just for the sake of fun. Cut to a few scenes later, we see that Veera and his crew leave everything whenever it rains and shoot those scenes that require use of water. As the film gets made, every single person in the village gets involved in its making and contributes to its completion. There's a beautiful scene where a slightly negative character in the beginning of the movie has a change of heart and comes forward to contribute. Guess what he wants in return? To have his name mentioned in the credits. Scenes like these are proof to the kind of impact cinema has on our lives. Cinema Bandi is a sweet, little film that has so much to offer. It's an out-and-out drama about the amateur filmmaking process; the joy and pain behind bringing these movies to life.

Sharma makes cut at British Masters



Wishaw (UK), May 14: Shubhankar Sharma helped avert an Indian wipeout as he made up for a disappointing first round with 1-under 71 in the second round to make the cut at the Betfred British Masters here. Sharma, who shot 73 added 71 to get to even par as the cut fell at even par for 36 holes. The other three Indians, however, exited early. Ajeetesh Sandhu, who got into the field late, missed by one shot after cards of 74-72, while SSP Chawrasia (75-76) and Gaganjeet Bhullarr (77-76) had a rough week. Robert MacIntyre finished with two birdies to fire a 66 and join Richard Bland and Calum Hill at the top of

the leaderboard after day two. Bland had carded a 69 to stay bogey free for the week and was leading alone at seven under for most of the day before the Scottish pair made their moves in the afternoon at The Belfry. MacIntyre started his round with five birdies but then fell back as Hill produced a composed performance to leapfrog Bland into top spot. But MacIntyre's big finish in a 66 had him alongside Bland before Hill bogeyed the last in a 70. Frenchman Julien Guerrier, South African Justin Harding and England's Eddie Pepperell were then at six under, a shot clear of another Frenchman in Matthieu Pavon.

Powar returns as India women coach

New Delhi, May 14: Former spinner Ramesh Powar on Thursday replaced W V Raman as the Indian women's cricket team's head coach, regaining the position more than two years after he was sacked owing to a bitter fallout with ODI captain Mithali Raj. The 42-year-old was recommended by the Madan Lal-led Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) after interviewing eight candidates, including Raman. "The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announces the appointment of Mr Ramesh Powar as the Head Coach of Team India (Senior Women). The BCCI had advertised for the post and received over 35 applications," a BCCI statement read. The others in fray were former India wicketkeeper Ajay Ratra and four female candidates including former chief selector Hemlata Kala. "Looking forward to take india women's cricket ahead. Thanks a lot CAC & bcci for this opportunity," Powar tweeted



after his appointment. The CAC chose Powar for his clear vision for the team, said Lal. "He has been coaching for a while. His vision for the team impressed us the most. He has a clear cut plan for the team, what he wants do with it to take it to the next level. He also has full clarity on all aspects of the game. Now he needs to deliver on that," Lal said. It remains to be seen how Powar works alongside Mithali, who had accused him of bias after the Harmanpreet Kaur-led T20 team dropped the veteran batter for the all-important World Cup semifinal against England.

Mithali, in a letter to the BCCI after the event, had alleged that Powar "was out to destroy and humiliate" her. Powar had hit back asserting that Mithali "threw a lot of tantrums and created chaos in the team". After being removed from his position in the women's team, Powar proved himself as a coach and earlier this year, led Mumbai to the Vijay Hazare Trophy after the domestic giants failed miserably in the T20 competition. He has also worked at the National Cricket Academy as a bowling coach. Asked whether his acrimonious exit from the team and relationship

with Mithali was discussed during Powar's interview, Lal said: "We did ask him about it and he said he wasn't at fault. He is okay working with all the players". "I was also very impressed with the views of the four female candidates. It showed they are very much in touch and involved with the game. Future is bright for all of them," Lal added. Powar played two Tests and 31 ODIs for India. In his first stint with the women's team, Powar was at the helm from July to November 2018. It was under his tutelage that India qualified for the semi-final of the T20 World Cup that

year and also won 14 T20 matches in a row. Raman, who had replaced Powar in December 2018, now finds himself in a similar situation. The former India batsman had coached India to the T20 World Cup final last year but it seems the ODI and T20 series loss to the visiting South African team in March cost him the job. A few selection calls during the series, like the dropping of teenage big-hitter Shafali Verma and senior pacer Shikha Pandey, had raised eyebrows. "All the best @imrameshpowar with the @BCCIWomen in this spell.. Look forward to seeing the girls soar under your guidance...." Raman tweeted. Powar's major challenge will be to prepare the team for the ODI World Cup in New Zealand next year. His first assignment will be a full-fledged tour of the UK starting with India's first Test in seven years from June 16 against hosts England. The team is also scheduled to tour Australia before the World Cup.

Boys have earned fair and square: Shastri on India's numero uno Test status

New Delhi, May 14: India's head coach Ravi Shastri says his team deserved the status of the world's number one Test side after overcoming every obstacles, including a change in points system, on its journey to the summit. India remained the number one Test side after the annual update of the ICC team rankings was released on Thursday. Shastri was chuffed about it. "This team has shown steely resolve & unwavering focus to be

crowned No. 1. It is something the boys have earned fair & square. Rules changed midway but #TeamIndia overcame every hurdle along the way. My boys played tough cricket in tough times. Super proud of this bindass bunch," Shastri tweeted. The former India captain has been serving as the head coach of the Indian team since 2017, having got an extension after the 2019 ICC World Cup. India head the table af-



ter gaining one rating point for an aggregate of 121, having accumulated 2914 points from 24 matches. Virat Kohli's

men are closely followed by their World Test Championship final opponents, New Zealand, with a rating of 120. The

Kiwis have garnered 2166 points from 18 Tests and gained two rating points. India's 2-1 win over Australia and 3-1 win over England over the past year and New Zealand's 2-0 series wins over the West Indies and Pakistan have helped them keep ahead of the pack. According to an ICC statement, the latest annual update eliminates results of 2017-18. Southampton will play host to the WTC final between India and New Zealand from June 18 to 22.

'India distracted us during Test series'

Melbourne, May 14: Australia captain Tim Paine says his team was distracted by the Indian team's "niggling" during the epoch-making Test series early this year which the visitors rallied to win despite being ravaged by injuries. "...They're very good at niggling you and trying to distract you with stuff that doesn't really matter and there were times in that series where we fell for that," Paine told news.com.au. "The

classic example was when they said they weren't going to the Gabba so we didn't know where we were going. They're very good at creating these sideshows and we took our eye off the ball," he added. He was referring to unverified reports which claimed that the visiting side did not want to play the Brisbane Test, if the players had to follow a hard quarantine. The media reports had relied on source-

based information to make the assertion. India, however, went to Gabba and scripted a record chase of 328 on the final day for a thrilling 3-wicket win, which also sealed the series. The media reports had relied on source-based information to make the assertion. India, however, went to Gabba and scripted a record chase of 328 on the final day for a thrilling 3-wicket win, which also sealed the series.

British gymnast given special chance to qualify for Olympics after brother's sudden death



New Delhi, May 14: British gymnast Becky Downie has been given a special chance to qualify for her third Olympics after the sudden death of her brother Josh at a net cricket session. Becky Downie, a World silver medalist, skipped last weekend's final trial for Tokyo after her brother's death. "We felt it important in such an unprecedented situation to take time to look at how we might be able to grant an extension to the selection window to allow for a further opportunity to complete the trial," British Gymnastics said in a statement on Thursday. "In such difficult circumstances we feel strongly that this is the right thing to do," the statement said. The women's Olympic selection process has been extended. Josh

Downie, brother of Olympians Becky and Ellie, collapsed in the nets in Birkenhead, near Liverpool, on 6 May and was pronounced dead of a heart attack that evening. In the tributes that followed, his former cricket club in Burton Joyce said he had the highest individual score by a player in its history. Josh played for several cricket clubs including Hucknall CC, Fikseron & Thurgarton CC, and Burton Joyce CC in Nottinghamshire. The hardest 3 days of my life but I didn't come this far to only come this far. I know Josh would want me to take it as far as I could go & I owe it to myself to finish what I started. Becky, 29, won silver on the uneven bars, at the 2019 Stuttgart world championships.

From Rohtak to conquer England, Shafali Verma raring to go

New Delhi, May 14: For nearly a month, teenage batting sensation Shafali Verma's daily ritual involved waking up at the crack of dawn and knocking the hanging leather ball in her living room with the bat at Rohtak's Sunaar Gully. Lifting dumbbells would follow the strenuous two-hour stint. It was a throwback to her pre-adolescent days, long before she became a household name, a phase in life spent playing tennis-ball cricket on the dusty by-lanes near home, with boys older than her. It's not ideal preparation for the World No.1 women's T20I player, who has bagged a contract for the inaugural edition of The Hundred, when Birmingham Phoenix acquired the 17-year-old's services as New Zealand batter Sophie Devine's replacement. She thus became only the fifth In-



dian woman cricketer, after captain Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues and Deepti Sharma, to enter the tournament's fold. She is also poised to make her Women's Big Bash league debut with two-time champions Sydney Sixers later this year. Before the Hundred rolls out from July 21, Shafali and her teammates will tour England next month for a bilateral series. "With so much

cricket scheduled over the next three months, I would have liked to practice at my coach Ashwani sir's academy. I miss the nets session. But given the current situation (pandemic and lockdown), this is the best that I could have done," she tells The Indian Express over the phone. For long, the women's game wasn't known to throw up big-hitters, but Shafali, with her blistering stroke-play and ability to hit sixes at

will, is changing perceptions. In 22 T20Is since her debut, she has scored 617 runs, with three half-centuries at a jaw-dropping strike rate of a shade below 150. Without her blazing starts as an opener in last year's T20 World Cup in Australia, India would not have made it to the final. Her exploits Down Under had everyone from Nasser Hussain to Ian Bishop tipping her as the "next big thing" in women's cricket. When asked about her thoughts on The Hundred, Shafali gave a simple, matter-of-fact answer. "Koi tension nahi hain. Bus acha perform karna hain aur desh aur papa ka naam roshan karna hain (There's no tension. I just want to perform to the best of my abilities and make my country and father proud)," she says. These comments might come across as rehearsed. But it offers

a peek into the mindset of arguably one of the most talented batters in women's cricket. It also typifies her exuberance and child-like innocence. Despite an incredible start in international cricket, she is not someone weighed down by expectations. In many ways, she is the poster-girl of a tournament like The Hundred, which will be her second major international assignment since last year's T20 World Cup. From pundits, players and fans, everyone's gaze will be firmly fixed on Shafali when she eventually turns up for Birmingham Phoenix. But that does not seem to faze her. For the teenager, this is like any other tournament. "At a young age and on the big stage that is the World Cup, she has done well. That's an indication of her talent and temperament.

Poor Patronisation: Two More Pairs Of Special Trains To Remain Cancelled

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 14: In view of poor patronisation in above trains and keeping in view the surge of Covid19 positive cases and to break the chain of infection, it has been decided to cancel two more pairs of Express Special trains from both the directions, as per the following. 01. 08493/08494 Bhubaneswar-Balangir-Bhubaneswar Special from both the directions on 15th, 16th, 22nd & 23rd May, 2021 will remain cancelled.



02. 08561/08562 Visakhapatnam-Kacheguda-Visakhapatnam Special from Visakhapatnam

from 14th May to 31st May and from Kacheguda from 15th May to 1st June, 2021 will remain cancelled.

Earlier, East Coast Railway had announced cancellation of four pairs of Special Express Trains in view of poor

patronization and to break the chain of Covid19 infection. These trains are - 02866/02865 Puri-LTT-Puri Weekly Special Express, 02880/02879 Bhubaneswar-LTT-Bhubaneswar bi-weekly Special Express, 07488/07487 Visakhapatnam-Cuddapah-Visakhapatnam daily Express Special and 02831/02832 Visakhapatnam-Lingampalli-Visakhapatnam daily Express Special.

Webinar on NEP-2020 conducted jointly by SAM, BBSR & IQAC, Paradip College

(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, May 14: Srusti Academy of Management & IQAC, Paradip College, Paradip organized one day webinar in collaboration on 14.05.2021 on the theme of "National Education Policy-2020" on Google Meet Platform. More than 100 participants including students had registered for the webinar. The same was commenced at 11.00 AM. At the outset, Dr

smt. S. Kanungo, Principal, Paradip College, Paradip delivered her welcome address. Sri G. Patra, Coordinator, IQAC, Paradip College introduced guests and delivered the keynote address. Prof. Dr Umakant Das, Vice-Principal, SAM, Bhubaneswar was the Resource Person on the occasion. He systematically delivered his lecture on PPT mode. He brought home all the points hidden in the

policy. He focussed on the challenges for implementing the policy. The student as well as teacher participants actively took part in the interaction and their question & queries were complied by Dr Das & Mr Patra. The members of IQAC were also present on the virtual platform along with the faculties of the college. At the end Mr Jitendu Nanda, SAM, BBSR extended vote of thanks to all.

Woman COVID Patient Dies 24 Hours After Rape In Hospital



(A.O. Bureau) Bhopal, May 14: A 43-year-old woman COVID patient was allegedly raped by a ward boy at Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Centre last month, following which she died the next day. However, soon after the incident the accused was arrested. Sources said that even after a month, the family members of the victim were not informed about the incident that has brought the police under the lens. The woman was admitted to the facility after she had tested Covid posi-

tive. She was raped by the ward boy on April 6 following which her health deteriorated and she died the next day. Sources said that accused Santosh entered into the woman's ward at 4 am on April 6 and asked her to undergo a medical check up. He first molested the Covid victim, took her to the bathroom in the name of the check up and raped her. After that her health worsened and she was then put on a ventilator but she died the next day. The matter came light when the organisations fighting for the rights of Bhopal gas trag-

edy victims, flagged the "pathetic condition of Covid wards" in the hospital. They had written to Justice (Retd) V.K. Agarwal, Chairman of a committee for medical rehabilitation of Bhopal gas tragedy victims, about the incident. The Bhopal Group for Information and Action, an NGO working with the survivors of the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy, had also written to the officials on Wednesday about this shameful incident, and sought an investigation. They further said that this matter should also be brought to the notice of the High Court. The Bhopal police are in touch with the victims' kin and the case will now be presented in the court for justice. "No attempt has been made by the Bhopal police to suppress and hide the case," a senior police official added.

Major Bureaucratic Reshuffle: 20 Civil Servants Appointed To Joint Secretary-Level Posts

(A.O. Bureau) New Delhi, May 14: In a major bureaucratic reshuffle, 20 civil servants were on Friday appointed to joint secretary-level posts. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the appointments of 20 civil servants to joint secretary-level posts. A 2002 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, D. Senthil Pandiyam, was appointed as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of AYUSH for a tenure of five years, replacing Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer Roshan Jaggi, a 1988-batch J&K cadre officer. Nirupama Kotru, a



1992 batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, was appointed as Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor in the Ministry of Coal for an overall tenure of five years in place of Reena Sinha Puri, a 1987-batch IRS officer. Bhaskar Verma, a 1995-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) officer, has been appointed as the Member Secretary, National Monuments Authority (NMA), Ministry of

Culture, for five years replacing Navneet Soni. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the appointments that include the names of Lily Pandeya for the Joint Secretary's post in the Ministry of Culture; Mayank Tewari for the same post in the Department of Defence; Nazli Jafri Shayin in the Ministry of Defence (Finance); Indira Murthy in the

Ministry of Earth Sciences; Bhuvnesh Kumar in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology; and Patibandla Ashok Babu in the Department of Health and Family Welfare. Manisha Sinha, Ashish Vachhan and Sandhya Bhullar were appointed as Joint Secretaries in the Department of Economic Affairs. Jeetendra Singh has been appointed as Joint Secretary in the Department of Heavy Industry; Sumant Singh in the Department of Home Affairs; Sanjiv Shankar in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; Manoj Kumar in the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management; and Sonmoni

Borah in the Department of Land Resources. Indian Ordnance Factories Service (IOFS) officer Veena Tamta Bhatia has been appointed as the Additional Central Provident Fund Commissioner (HQ), EPFO, under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, while Central Secretariat Service (CCS) officer Som Dutt Sharma has been appointed as the Director in the Institute of Secretariat Training and Management under the Department of Personnel and Training. IAS officer Sanjeeb Kumar Mishra has been appointed as Secretary-cum-Controller of Examination, National Recruitment Agency (NRA), under the Department of Personnel and Training for a tenure of five years.

Centre moves SC for review of verdict denuding states of power to declare SEBC

(A.O. Bureau) New Delhi, May 14: The Centre has moved the Supreme Court seeking review of the May 5 majority verdict which held that 102nd Constitution amendment took away the power of state governments to declare Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) for grant of quota in jobs and admissions. The Centre has maintained that the amendment did not take away the power of the state governments to identify and declare SEBC and the two provisions which were inserted did not violate the federal structure. A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan had unanimously set aside Maharashtra law granting quota to Marathas and had refused to refer 1992 Mandal verdict putting a cap of 50 per cent on reservation to a larger bench. The bench in its 3:2 majority verdict had ruled that 102nd Constitution amendment, which also led to setting up of National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC), gives exclusive power to the Centre to identify and

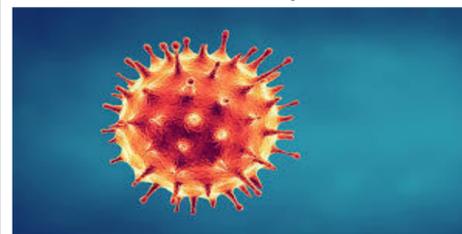
declare SEBC as only President can notify the list. All the five judges of the bench, however, had held the amendment as valid and said it did not affect the federal polity or violate the basic structure of the Constitution. The 102nd Constitution amendment Act of 2018 inserted Articles 338B, which deals with the structure, duties and powers of the NCBC, and 342A which deals with power of the President to notify a particular caste as SEBC and power of Parliament to change the list. The petition for review of judgement which was filed on Thursday has sought open court hearing in the matter and also stay of the majority verdict on the limited aspect of the amendment, till the plea is decided. The Centre in its plea has said that majority verdict had upheld the validity of Article 342A but in doing so, the bench has interpreted that the provision denudes the states from exercising the power which

they undoubtedly have for identifying and declaring SEBC in their respective states. The majority verdict was rendered by Justices L Nageswara Rao, Hemant Gupta and S Ravindra Bhat, while the minority verdict was of Justice Ashok Bhushan and S Abdul Nazeer, who said that under the constitution amendment both Centre and States have power to declare and identify SEBC. "It is submitted that

view plea sought direction of the top court for staying the finding and observations made in the majority verdict to the extent that Article 342A and the other provisions inserted by the 102nd Constitution amendment would denude the states of their power to identify and declare SEBC. The Centre further said that the finding and observations made in the majority verdict be stayed so that the powers of the states to identify the SEBC, which always existed is not taken away in the absence of any express provision to that effect in the Constitution. Justice S Ravindra Bhat had written 132-page long verdict and Justices L Nageswara Rao and Hemant Gupta, in their separate judgements, concurred with Justice Bhat and his reasoning in holding that states have lost their power to identify SEBC under their territory after 102nd Constitutional amendment. Writing the majority judgement on this

aspect, Justice Bhat had said, By introduction of Articles 366 (26C) and 342A through the 102nd Constitution, the President alone, to the exclusion of all other authorities, is empowered to identify SEBCs and include them in a list to be published under Article 342A(1), which shall be deemed to include SEBCs in relation to each state and union territory for the purposes of the Constitution. The states can, through their existing mechanisms, or even statutory commissions, can only make suggestions to the President or the Commission, for inclusion, exclusion or modification of castes or communities in the SEBC list, Justice Bhat had opined. "The states' power to make reservations, in favour of particular communities or castes, the quantum of reservations, the nature of benefits and the kind of reservations, and all other matters falling within the ambit of Articles 15 and 16 - except with respect to identification of SEBCs, remains undisturbed," the judgement, endorsed by two other judges had said.

Coronavirus Has Also Right To Live : Former Uttarakhand CM



Uttarakhand, May 14: Former CM of Uttarakhand and BJP leader Trivendra Singh Rawat has given an argument about the corona virus. The second wave of Corona Virus has created a political uproar over the state-

ment of Trivendra Singh amidst the outcry in the country. Trivendra Singh Rawat said on Thursday that the corona virus is a living organism, which has the right to live. This statement of Trivendra Singh Rawat is becoming very viral on social

media and people are also giving different kinds of reactions. People associated with politics are also very tight on this. Actually, former Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat had said, 'From a philosophical point of view, coronavirus is also a living organism, like other people it has the right to live, but we (humans) consider ourselves to be the most intelligent and end it. Are willing to do, so it is constantly changing itself.'

PM Modi Praised Corona Control Model Of MP

(A.O. Bureau) Bhopal, May 14: The Corona Control Model in MP has been praised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi (PM Narendra Modi). Not only this, the Prime Minister's Office has called for the corona control model of MP. Now a copy of the model will be sent by the MP government to the Prime Minister. On Thursday, at the Corona Core Group meeting, CM Shivraj gave information about this. He said - The model of MP will be shared



with other states as well. Corona cases in MP have been steadily decreasing for the past few days. According to the data on May 13, the positivity rate of MP has increased to 12.7 percent, growth rate to 1.5%. In the last 24

hours, 8,419 new cases have come in the state, while 10,157 patients have become healthy. The number of active patients has come down to 1 lakh 8 thousand 716. The 7-day average positivity has increased to 15.6%.