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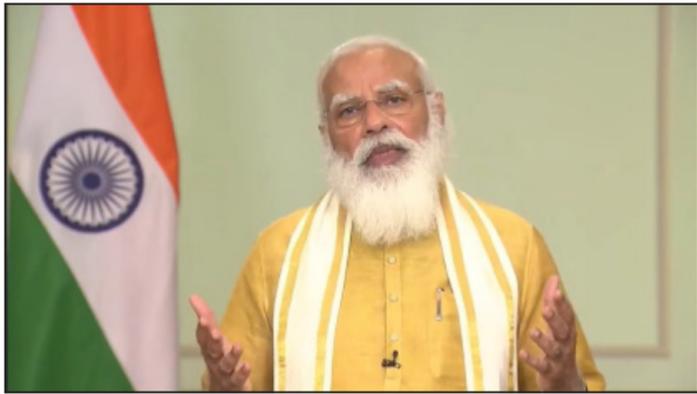


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PM interacts with group of doctors from across the country to discuss Covid situation

New Delhi, May 17: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today interacted with a Group of Doctors from across the country, via video conferencing, to discuss the Covid related situation. Prime Minister thanked the entire medical fraternity & the paramedical staff for the exemplary fight displayed by them against the extraordinary circumstances of the second wave of Covid, adding that the entire country is indebted to them. He noted that be it testing, supply of medicines or set-up of new infrastructure in record time, all these are being done at a fast pace. Several challenges of oxygen production and supply are being overcome. The steps taken by the country to augment human resources, like including MBBS students in Covid treatment, and ASHAs and Anganwadi workers in rural areas, provided extra support to the health



system. Prime Minister underlined that the strategy of starting vaccination programme with front line warriors has paid rich dividends in the second wave. About 90% of the health professionals in the country have already taken the first dose. Vaccines have ensured safety of most of the doctors. Prime Minister urged doctors to include oxygen audit in their daily efforts. Noting that a large number of patients are undergoing treatment in 'home isolation', he requested the doctors to ensure that the home based care of

every patient is SOP driven. He said that telemedicine has played a big role for patients in home isolation, and this service needs to be expanded in rural areas as well. He lauded the doctors who are forming teams and providing telemedicine service in villages. He appealed to doctors across the states to form similar teams, train final year MBBS students and MBBS interns, and work towards ensuring that all tehsils and districts of the country have telemedicine service. Prime Minister also

discussed the challenge of Mucormycosis and said that doctors may need to put in extra effort towards taking active steps and spreading awareness about it. He further underscored the importance of psychological care, along with the importance of physical care. He said that continuously fighting this long battle against the virus must be mentally challenging for the medical fraternity, but the power of faith of citizens stands with them in this fight. During the interaction, the Doctors thanked the Prime Minister for his

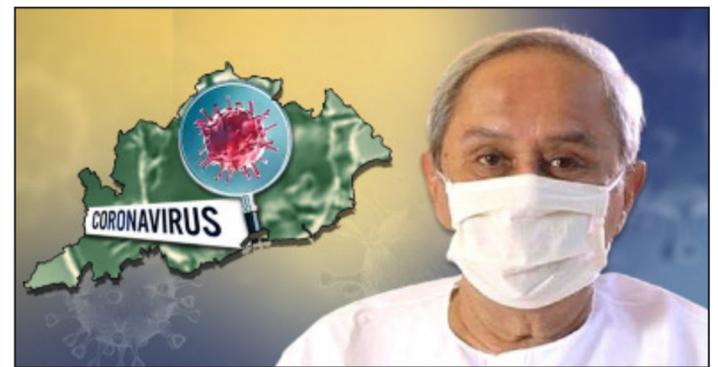
guidance and leadership during the recent surge of cases. Doctors thanked the Prime Minister for prioritising the health care workers for vaccination. They informed the Prime Minister about their preparedness since the first wave of Covid and the challenges they faced in the second wave. The doctors shared their experiences, best practices and the innovative efforts. They informed that in the fight against Covid, every effort is also being made to take proper care of non-Covid patients. They also shared their experiences of increasing awareness among the public, including about sensitising patients against improper use of medicines. The meeting was attended by Member (Health) NITI Aayog, Health Secretary, Pharmaceutical Secretary and other officers from PMO, Ministries and Departments of Central Government.

Odisha Fights Covid-19: House-To-House Survey Lasting 3 Months To Begin From May 24, Announces CM

Bhubaneswar, May 17: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today announced that a 3-month house-to-house survey (for Covid symptoms and co-mor-

reach and they are there in almost every village. An amount of Rs 10,000 per GKS will be sanctioned for undertaking Covid related activities at village

they are free to start TMCs based on need and inflow of people from outside. To start with, the State has started functioning zonal TMCs as flow



bid conditions) will be carried out by ASHAs and Anganwadi Workers (AWWs). This survey will be launched on May 24. For this, the health personnel (ASHA and AWWs) will be given an additional incentive of Rs 1000 per month for these 3 months. Addressing an All-Party meeting over video-conferencing, the Chief Minister stressed on the importance of 'Community Involvement' in combating Coronavirus terming it as one of the 'mail pillars', of Odisha's Covid management strategy. "Gaon Kalyan Samitits (GKS) are at the cutting edge of our out-

level involving the community." As ASHAs monitor home isolation cases, they will be provided one time assistance of Rs 10,000 for bicycle, cupboard, slippers, umbrella and torch. The Gram Panchayats, Gaon Kalyan Samitits and Sarpanchs have been involved since the beginning. The grassroots workers like ANMs, ASHAs, Anganwadi workers and organisations like Mission Shakti groups have been intensively utilized for providing the services to the people. "Sarpanchs continue to have the powers of district collectors in enforcing lockdown etc. and

of people from outside is very less compared to last year," the CM added. Odisha imposed the Lockdown to slow down the impact of the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic. However, lockdowns cannot be the solution as it seriously hurts many livelihoods, Naveen said. "It's a long fight and we have to be prepare our people through awareness. Wearing masks, washing hands regularly, maintaining social distances, avoiding crowding and staying at home unless really necessary to go out. These are our main weapons to control the virus spread."

Now, Pregnant Women In Bhubaneswar Can Get Covid Testing Facility At Doorstep

Bhubaneswar, May 17: Encouraged by the responses received during doorstep Covid testing and vaccination drives for senior citizens in Bhubaneswar, the city municipal corporation today decided to provide the testing at doorstep facility for pregnant women as well. As per the decision taken by the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), pregnant



women interested to undergo Covid testing can book an appoint-

ment by dialing 1929 helpline. The timing for calling up 1929

helpline is 8 AM to 11 AM. After getting address and other de-

tails, Covid testing team will visit house of the registered pregnant woman to collect samples. Earlier, the BMC launched the doorstep sample collection facility for senior citizens in the city. The 60+ age group can book their appointment by calling 1929 helpline to avail the service. Today the BMC collected 222 samples during the on-call Covid testing drive for senior citizens.

Shiv Sunder Das Named Batting Coach Of India Women's Team



Bhubaneswar, May 17: The Board of Control for Cricket In India (BCCI) today appointed former India opener Shiv Sunder Das as batting coach of the Senior India Women's Cricket team. The 43-year-old Das will join Ramesh Powar-led support staff for the Senior India Women's Cricket team's England tour in June. The India women's team will play a Test, three ODIs and as many T20Is in England between June 16 and July 15.

Odisha Government Fixed The Rates For Ambulance Services



Bhubaneswar, May 17: In a major development, the Odisha government led by CM Naveen Patnaik fixed the rates for Ambu-

lance services in the State. The ambulance rates fixed by the Odisha State Government is as follows: 1. Small vehicle will charge

Rs 750/10 km, Rs. 30 for every extra km. Additional of Rs 50 for life support. 2. Larger vehicle with advanced life support system will charge Rs. 3000 upto 10 kms and additional Rs. 50 for every extra km. These rates shall be applicable to all the private hospitals and to all the private ambulance service providers in the state.

Aadhaar Card Won't Be Mandatory For Vaccination

New Delhi, May 17: The second wave of Corona virus has worsened the situation in the country. Things may seem a bit cautious at the moment, but the death toll is not going to give relief. Meanwhile, the absence of Aadhaar card or Ayushman card is causing difficulties for the patients. In such a situation, the Unique Identification Authority of India has given great relief to the people of the country. UIDAI has clearly stated that due to lack of Aadhaar card, no citizen can be denied treatment, nor will Aadhaar card be mandatory for vaccination. UIDAI has clearly

stated that the requirement of Aadhaar card has also been removed for applying corona vaccine, giving medicines or hospitalization. In such a situation, no one can refuse to give you treatment just because you do not have an Aadhaar card. It will no longer be indispensable for availing the required services. There is no irrelevance of Aadhaar for vaccination as well. This statement of UIDAI is of great importance to the people troubled for medical facilities amid the second wave of Covid-19 in the country. At present, many people are being denied hospitalization



due to not having an Aadhaar card. In medical emergency cases, many people have an Aadhaar card, but they forget to take it with them in haste. In such a situation, this card falls on the life of the patient. After not getting admit-

ted in government hospitals, it is not a matter of everyone to get expensive treatment in private hospitals. Similarly, on vaccination setters, many people have to return due to not having an Aadhaar card. The government has already

said that in the absence of an Aadhaar card, registration can be done through other documents. However, even after this order, the importance of Aadhaar card was coming in the way of vaccination drive.

90% Of Odisha Districts In Red Zone

Bhubaneswar, May 17: In what could indicate the alarming COVID-19 situation in Odisha, 90 per cent of the total 30 districts have active cases of over 1000 and have been categorized

under Red Zone. As per the information available on the State Dashboard, of the 27 red zone districts, Khordha has highest 15,529 active cases followed by Sundargarh

(9,999) and Cuttack (8926). The three remaining districts: Gajapati, Kandhamal and Malkangiri are under Yellow Zone with 902, 894 and 813 active cases, respectively.

Delhi's daily Covid-19 cases drop below 5,000 for first time after April 5

New Delhi, May 17: Signalling control over the deadly fourth wave of coronavirus infection, Delhi on Monday recorded less than 5,000 fresh Covid-19 cases for the first time in nearly 42 days. A total of 4,524 new cases were recorded in the national capital in the last 24 hours, pushing the cumulative tally to 1,398,391, the health bulletin said. The daily death toll, however, rose from 262 recorded a day earlier after 340 fresh fatalities were recorded in the health bulletin. As many as 21,846 people have succumbed to the deadly viral disease since the start of the pandemic. On Monday, the positivity rate - the proportion of samples turning up a



positive result among all tested - dropped further to 8.42%, which shows that the disease spread has been arrested to an extent. A day earlier, Delhi's positivity rate was recorded at 10.4%. At 8.42%, the positivity rate is the lowest since April 9 when it stood at 7.8%. The number of new infections is the lowest since April 5

when 3,548 people were diagnosed with the disease, according to government data. However, the lesser number of fresh cases on Monday came from a relatively smaller number of tests -- 53,756-- conducted on Sunday. After witnessing record Covid-19 cases close to 30,000 last month, the national capital moved to strictly

follow the lockdown strategy till the cases come down to permit regular function of Delhi. Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday extended the ongoing lockdown by another week which will now end at 5am on May 24, stating that the recovery made cannot be lost by rushing to open the national capital for people. The

gains made so far in fighting Covid-19 cannot be lost suddenly due to any relaxations now, Kejriwal said. With the positivity rate shooting past the 30 per cent-mark, Delhi went into lockdown on April 20 in a bid as the CM warned that the fourth wave in the city-state is dangerous and people will have to stay indoors to save lives. The positivity rate in Delhi rose to its highest (35%) on April 26 but has gradually come down in the last 21 days. Explaining the reason behind extending the lockdown, Kejriwal said the number of Covid-19 cases is decreasing in Delhi and recovery has increased but "we do not want to lose this gain, therefore, lockdown is extended".

PM Modi Discussed With Maharashtra CM Over Cyclone Tauktae

Mumbai, May 17: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday held discussions with Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray in view of the situation arising in Maharashtra due to Cyclone Tauktae. According to information received from official sources, PM discussed the damage and preparedness due to the storm. Officials informed that Mumbai and its surrounding areas received heavy rains on Monday as Cyclone Tautae moved towards Gujarat. Due to this, trees were uprooted and train services were disrupted. The Brihanmumbai Metropolitan Corporation (BMC) said in the afternoon that the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has warned of tor-



rential rain and wind blowing at speeds up to 120 km per hour during the next few hours. At present, there is a lot of rain in Mumbai and surrounding areas and there is a strong thunderstorm. IMD told earlier that Hurricane Tautae has turned into a severe cyclonic storm. According to IMD's Cyclone Warning Department, 'Extremely severe cyclonic storm Tautae over the east central Arabian

Sea moved towards the northwest at a speed of about 20 kmph during the last 6 hours, and now it has turned into a cyclonic storm. is.' Due to this, winds are now running at a speed of 180-190 km per hour, which is expected to reach a speed of 210 km per hour. The Prime Minister took stock of preparations to deal with the cyclone in a high-level meeting on Sunday.

DRDO's Anti-Covid Drug 2DG Launched



New Delhi, May 17: The first batch of DRDO's anti-Covid drug 2DG has been launched. 2DG is the first drug called anti-Covid drug. DCGI approved the emergency use of this medicine only last week. This drug is being seen as a game-changer in the fight against this epidemic, as it helps in rapid recovery of hospitalized patients and also reduces

oxygen support. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh has launched the first batch of DRDO's anti-Covid drug 2DG for patients with coronavirus. Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan and AIIMS Director Dr. Randeep Guleria were also present in the program. Manufacturer: The drug has been developed by the Institute of Nuclear Medicine

and Allied Sciences (INMAS), a laboratory of the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO). Hyderabad-based Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has been a partner and is manufacturing the drug for public use. DRDO Chief G. Satish Reddy said that this drug will work directly on the shells infected with coronavirus. The immune system of the body will work and the patient will recover quickly. It is a glucose analog, which resembles glucose, but is not. A virus growing rapidly in the body needs glucose for energy. Thus, the virus will take this glucose analog and neutralize. The drug will then stop the virus from growing.

Congress To Think Big Like BJP To Succeed

New Delhi, May 17: Senior Congress leader Salman Khurshid, while advocating for his party to think big like the BJP, said on Monday that the Congress should not accept this 'pessimistic view' that it has become too small and weak and does not regain its lost ground. Can get He said in an interview to 'PTI-Bhasha', 'I have learned one thing from West Bengal and Assam, you



should never accept that you are very small, weak and nothing big in any region or state. Can do. Khurshid also said,

'I believe that BJP has done this (big thinking strategy) even in those places where they did not exist. He tried to do

this even in those places where he still does not exist.' The former Union Minister stressed that the Congress should not accept the pessimistic view that it has lost too much of its land and it Can not get it again. I think we can do this with commitment and confidence and we should also do it. ' People voted in Bengal under strategy: He agreed with the notion

that in West Bengal, people voted with a thoughtful strategy, which led to the Congress and the Left parties being wiped out. He was asked what he thought about the opinion of some Congress leaders that the Congress suffered losses due to its alliance with the Indian Secular Front in West Bengal and the AIUDF in Assam.

Fallout of Kumbh surge, Ayodhya locks down with cops, CCTVs watching

Ayodhya, May 17: In the lanes of Ayodhya, there is an eerie silence. The temple town is in lockdown — and it is showing. There are policemen manning turns and entry points every few metres, shops are

boarded up, and there are no crowds near vegetable carts. At the gate of the Ram Mandir, the only human presence is of a group of policemen. On the steps of the Hanuman Garhi, there are no devotees. Only

seven policemen, two priests, and four sleeping monkeys. In front of Hanuman Garhi, Sudhir Gupta is counting the losses at his famous Gayatri Mishthan Bhandar. "This is the peak season. Ram

Navami would have seen lakhs of customers, and that gives us sustenance for the year. But now, seeing what has happened at Kumbh, we are glad it was locked down. It doesn't matter where

you live, everyone feels afraid. Here, the lockdown is very strict, and there are CCTV cameras everywhere too. So when there is a crowd of people, the police come immediately," he says.

Narada bribery case: 2 ministers, 1 MLA arrested, central forces clash with protesters in front of CBI office

Kolkata, May 17: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arrested ministers Firhad Hakim and Subrata Mukherjee, TMC MLA Madan Mitra, and former Kolkata Mayor Sovan Chattopadhyay in the Narada bribery case on Monday. All four were picked up from their residences in Kolkata. The move comes days after Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar gave his consent to the CBI for filing a chargesheet against the four accused and sanctioned prosecution against them. All of them were state ministers who were seen taking money in the purported Narada sting operation. The tapes were released ahead of the 2016 state Assembly polls. The Calcutta High Court had ordered a CBI probe into the sting operation in March 2017. According to CBI sources, a chargesheet will be filed in the Narada case against the four and they will seek custody for questioning. "I



have been arrested. We will fight it out in the court," said Firhad Hakim while being taken away from his residence. TMC sources said that the four were made to sign arrest memos. They were taken to the CBI office at Nizam Palace in Kolkata and are currently detained there. On hearing the news, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and other Trinamool Congress leaders rushed to the CBI office as party workers were seen protesting outside. Later in the evening, Banerjee left the CBI office. The central

forces guarding the CBI office had to resort to baton charges to disperse the protesters. The Trinamool Congress has voiced its protest against the move and has called it "politically motivated". "As a lawyer, I can say that this is illegal. One needs to take consent from the Speaker of the state Assembly before arresting an MLA. The CBI only has consent from the Governor," said Biman Bandyopadhyay, lawyer and Speaker of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly. "This is politically motivated. The party which lost the polls is now using

the CBI to arrest MLAs and ministers," TMC Lok Sabha MP Sougata Roy said. Hitting out at the saf-ron party over the arrests, TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh asked, "Why was an FIR not lodged against Mukul Roy who is now the national vice-president of the BJP? Roy had taken money from former IPS officer Mirza. Also, why has Suvendu Adhikari, who is now the leader of the Opposition in the state Assembly, not been arrested? He was also seen taking money in the tapes." Ghosh

added, "That's because they have joined the BJP and got protection. This is nothing but a revenge tactic by the BJP as they lost the Assembly polls." In the recently concluded state Assembly polls, Mukherjee, Hakim and Mitra were re-elected as TMC MLAs. Mukherjee and Hakim have also been included in the Mamata Banerjee Cabinet and made state panchayat and transport ministers respectively. Sovan Chatterjee had joined the BJP in 2019 but quit the party this year after he was denied a ticket for the Assembly polls. The Narada sting operation was allegedly conducted by Mathew Samuel of Narada News portal. In the tapes, several TMC ministers, MPs and MLAs were allegedly seen receiving money from representatives of a fictitious company in exchange of promised favours.

Cyclone Tauktae: Shah holds meet to ensure Covid response remains unaffected

New Delhi, May 17: Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday held a high-level meeting with a focus on ensuring India's Covid response remains unaffected in the wake of Cyclone Tauktae. Sources said Shah specifically reviewed the preparedness of all health facilities in areas likely to be impacted by the cyclone. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in a release said that Shah "directed the State Administration/District collectors to make adequate power backup arrangements in all COVID hospitals, labs, vaccine cold chain and other medical facilities. Further, he advised them to ensure adequate stocks of all essential medicines and supplies in hospitals, keeping in view likely disruption of movement of vehicles". For health facilities likely to fall on cyclone path, officials said Shah directed them to make adequate arrangements to secure them from losses and for the evacuation of patients. They were also told to ensure safety of tempo-



rary hospitals set up near the oxygen generating plants. In case needed, their patients may be shifted to other hospitals, officials were told. The Home Minister also reviewed the impact of the cyclone on the oxygen generation plants located in Maharashtra and Gujarat. The MHA release said Shah "directed to make advance planning for keeping a buffer stock of oxygen for 2 days and movement of oxygen tankers to allocated States, so that in case of any disruption, supply to allocated States is not impacted". Officials said Shah also directed them to make necessary arrangements for the safety of power plants to ensure

uninterrupted power supply to hospitals and health facilities. He said the areas likely to be affected by the cyclone in Gujarat consist of industrial clusters so their safety must be ensured and industry should also remain alert. Shah's meeting comes a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a similar meeting of top officials from various states and Central ministries. During Sunday's meeting, Shah assured states likely to be affected by the cyclone of all cooperation of the Centre and its agencies. He said that maximum resources — government and private both — should be utilised to tackle the situation.

Art of Giving Day Observed Worldwide



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 17: It is usually the family from where the sense of love, affection and sharing happiness to others originates. Actually, the love and affection disseminated by the mother become the stepping stone of encouragement for the children to give to others later in their life. Based on this thought,

the 8th Art of Giving Day is being celebrated across the world on 17th May 2021. The Founder of Art of Giving, Dr. Achyuta Samanta has picked 'My Mother-My Hero' as the theme of AOG for this year to spread the essence of loving others and sharing happiness among them unconditionally. No outdoor activity has been

organized to mark the occasion. The fans and followers of AOG across the globe are celebrating Art of Giving Day enthusiastically by conveying gratitude to their Mothers. Due to the enduring 2nd wave of Covid-19 pandemic, requests have been made to one and all, to pay gratitude to their mothers on this theme staying at home this year.

On the occasion of Nursing Day, the Chief Minister congratulated Malati Didi

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 17: The role of nurses in various hospitals is unparalleled in a catastrophic disaster. It is unknown at this time what he will do after leaving the post. On the occasion of World Nursing Day, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik spoke to the nurses who were in-

involved in patient care at the risk of their lives. "However, the service of Malati Tripathi, a nurse and activist of the State Nursing Association, is unique in this regard. He has been serving as a Covid Supervisor at Cuttack General Hospital since March 2020. While carrying out this responsibility, the Malati

Didi has created a wide range of identities for many as a result of her own love and fearlessness. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik called Malati on the occasion of Nursing Day and praised her service. "The State Nursing Association thanked the Chief Minister, the Additional Chief Secretary to the

Government and the Secretary to the Department of Health and the Director of Nursing. "For many years, nurses have been victims of administrative negligence," the union said. But the state government has recently met many of the union's demands and respected them. The nursing union is

pleased. Chief Nursing Superintendent Laxmipriya Mallick, along with Nursing Superintendent Rukmini Behera and Sangh Presidents Pratima Samantaraiah, Laxmipriya Jena, Aarti Khuntia, Minati Das and General Secretary Prabhati Mohanty thanked the Chief Minister.

Painting to spread the message and awareness of Covid19

Bhubaneswar, May 17: Raja Kishor Moharana, a city-based artist, Lingaraj Nagar, Old town Bhubaneswar, During the second wave of today's pandemic he used his image to spread the message of corona awareness with the help of various waste products bags to warn the Amanians who do not



follow the covid rules in our society. To escape the scourge, let's all wash our hands and wear masks, and don't go outside unless it's necessary. Mr. Maharana recently participated in an international mask competition organized by Chitra Kara University and successfully brought the art of Odisha to the interna-

tional level. Corona is run by the Odisha Lalit Kala Academy. He was also praised for drawing very high-quality paintings in the conscious painting competition. Today, the silent language of his art is showing us the way to life, so that he may pour out the blessings of God on the path of the great artist.

A review meeting was chaired by Dr Krishan Kumar, Chief Administrator, SJTA keeping in mind the upward trend of 2nd wave of COVID19



(A.O. Bureau) Puri, May 17: A review meeting was chaired by Dr Krishan Kumar, Chief Administrator, SJTA keeping in mind the up-

ward trend of 2nd wave of #COVID19. Shri samarth verma Collector, Puri, Additional S.P, Puri and temple officials attended the meeting. The

challenges posed by Covid19 are still persisting. In the meantime, Niti-Kanti of Mahaprabhu is going on as per age old traditions.

Chandana Jatra has also started as per customs without participation of any devotees and with large number of precautions for management of COVID-19 amongst Sevaks and officials. All were of the unanimous view that necessary precautionary measures should continue, to ensure continuity of age-old traditions of Niti-Kanti (rituals) of Mahaprabhu Shree Jagannatha and keeping in mind the ongoing festival season. Any spread of COVID-19 amongst Sevayat families during these times will be detrimental to the obser-

vance of daily Niti-Kanti and for ensuring observance of rituals of Chandana Jatra, Sanan Jatra and Ratha Jatra. Keeping the same in mind, it was decided that Shree Jagannatha Temple will remain closed for Darshan of Lords by the public till 15/06/2021. All the daily rituals of Lords will continue with help of Sevayats and Temple officials. Rest all precautions and measures detailed earlier will continue. It was decided to review the SOP from time to time, keeping in view the evolving situation.

Distribution of food to the destitute by GIFT



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 17: Many people are not depressed when shots are fired due to corona. Food packages were distributed

by the Glory of the International Foundation Trust (GIFT) to the homeless near the Lingaraj temple, near the railway station and in various

places. The event was presided over by lawyer Sangeeta Patnaik, chairperson of the trust, with social distance from the event.

Govt Staff In 18-44 Age Group In Cuttack To Get Covid Jab At Offices



(A.O. Bureau) Cuttack, May 17: : In order to ensure more denizens in Cuttack city get the Covid jab, the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) decided to launch a vaccination drive for government employees in the age

bracket of 18-44 years. Cuttack Municipal Corporation Commissioner Ananya Das informed government employees in the 18-44 age group in the city will be vaccinated at their offices. The special vaccination drive will be launched next week,

Das added. Meanwhile, the municipal corporation announced online slot booking for Covishield vaccines in Cuttack city will be open at 6 PM today. The vaccination slot booking will open in www.cowin.gov.in for both 18-44 and 45+ age groups. It added no walk-ins at the Covid vaccination centre will be allowed. Those who will book a vaccination slot are required to carry relevant ID proof and Appointment Slip while visiting the Covid vaccination centre, the municipal corporation stated.

Residents Of Twin City To Get E-Permission For Marriage, Funeral During Lockdown

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 17: With an aim to simplify the process for granting permission for marriage and funeral in the Twin City during the ongoing state-wide lockdown, the Police Commissionerate today launched a web-based solution. Those who want to apply for license to organize marriage or funeral function can visit the link "Apply for Marriage/Funeral License" on the Commissionerate Police website - www.bhubaneswarpolice.gov.in The same web-based



solution can be directly accessed at 115.243.153.201:8088/Admin/Login. The permission seeker can apply at least before 72 hours of the programme and fill up the required information. The Commissionerate Police

will send the permission for marriage and funeral through an SMS and WhatsApp message. Also, invitees will get individual SMS that they can use as permission to commute from their place of stay to function venue. As per the

lockdown guidelines issued by the Special Relief Commissioner, maximum 50 persons can attend marriage programme whereas there is a limit of 20 persons for funeral. In a statement, the Police Commissionerate stated currently the web-based system is applicable for marriage and funeral functions to be held in Bhubaneswar UPD jurisdiction only. The e-permission facility will be launched for Cuttack UPD shortly. In case any quires send message to WhatsApp No.

8144207100, the statement added. The permission for marriage and funeral which is being provided through Bhubaneswar DCP and Cuttack DCP offices at present will be provided in the web-based system. The move is aimed at reducing people's visit to the DCP offices for the permissions during the lockdown, said Saumendra Priyadarshi, Commissioner of Police. The web-based solution has been developed by the Commissionerate Police in association with Oasys Tech Solution.

Odisha Governor, CM Naveen Condole Demise Of Music Maestro Amarendra Mohanty

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 17: Following sad demise of renowned music director and singer Amarendra Mohanty, Odisha Governor Professor Ganeshi Lal and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik paid condolences to his bereaved family. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed his grief over early departure of the music maestro in Odia. He said that the marks he has left in hymns and film indus-



tries through his unique style of music composition will always remain memorable. Condoling death of the noted music director, Congress leader and Cuttack MLA Mohammed Moquim wrote: Amarendra Mohanty passed away today morning while undergoing treatment for COVID-19 at a private hospital in Bhubaneswar. He breathed his last at age of 63. Popularly known as

'Bulu' in Ollywood, Amarendra had begun his career in music from Akashvani. He made debut in Odia film 'Shradhanjali' as the singer. Later, he directed many songs in films including 'Suna Panjuri', 'Bhai Hela Bhagari', 'Basudha', 'Anti Chhuri Tanti Kate', 'Singhabahini', 'Pabitra Bandhan', 'Hey Sakha', 'Prema Alaga Prakar' and 'Ranga Barasiba Tupuru Tapuru'.

Odisha: Widows, orphan children of Covid-19 victims to get pension



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 17: Odisha has decided to cover the widows and orphan children of Covid-19 victims under the Madhubabu Pension Yojana, announced Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik during an all-party meeting

held today. The children will also get free education facilities. "Covid has devastated many families in the State. We intend to provide a healing touch to such Covid affected families by continuing to cover the widows and orphan children under the Madhubabu Pen-

sion Yojana. The children will also get free education facilities," the CM said. The all-party meeting, called by Odisha Assembly Speaker Surjyo Narayan Patro, today the stock of the Covid-19 situation and discussed a strategy for Covid-19 management in the state.

EDITORIAL

Touching base

The younger generation is leading the fight against oppression and exploitation around the world. Be it the students of Hong Kong or the youth of Myanmar, they are out to defend their democratic right at the cost of their lives. Ever since the Myanmar Army seized power in February this year, it unleashed a regime of terror. But the terror has not intimidated the young Myanmar. Thousands of people, mostly young, have been protesting and demanding the restoration of democracy. More than 770 civilians had been killed and over 3,738 detained. Yet the morale of the protestors is as high as ever. As they say, democracy dies in the darkness; the young ones are keeping the torch lit. And they are doing it in style by making good use of social media to tell the world what is happening in Myanmar. They are finding ingenious ways to thwart the might of the State and military. Anti-coup protesters are exploiting the military's patriarchal values to their advantage. The Myanmar Army is rather conservative and ill-trained to deal with civil disobedience. Or, is it? Yes, true that they would not go under the women's clothesline as it brings in bad omen. The protestors would circle their protest site by wires and hang women's clothes as protection. The Army may have bullets but they have bottles filled with petrol to keep them at the bay. Of course, it is not enough, but it has kept their fight going; it works. The social media campaigns are telling the world about the Army's wrongdoings. They post everything, their atrocities, and highhandedness. They have already won the moral high ground. But young Myanmar is not only fighting the army for restoration of democracy alone, it is also fighting a stagnant social system that is sexist and oppressive, mired in superstitions and dogmas. Generation Z typically less than 25 years of age is also working for a more fair, inclusive future. Myanmar is Southeast Asia's most traditional society. It has an archaic family structure, respect for authority, and gender inequality. Spousal rape and domestic violence are still legal and pervasive in Myanmar. Yet Myanmar's Generation Z activists are defying many of the social norms with their protests and taking down gender stereotypes. Every nation must fight its own evils and that is perhaps what is happening in Myanmar today. It is as much a fight against the Army as it is against the social disorder that has not been challenged for centuries. A group of pro-democracy advocates has formed a parallel government in Myanmar. It is called the National Unity Government. The National Unity Government and Generation Z offer Burmese society a vision of a fairer. Besides, strong women's presence on the streets is an indication that change will indeed come to Myanmar, sooner or later.

Keep going

Despite reverses, the nation needs to keep reminding of the goal ahead: Keep ourselves healthy. On April 19, at a virtual event organised by the All India Management Association, Foreign Minister S Jaishankar fielded a question from industrialist Sunil Munjal about India exporting or donating vaccines without first satisfying the domestic demand. The Minister said: "So ask yourself this question — can I go around and say 'guys, keep your supply chains flowing towards me and, by the way, the end product of the supply chain I am asking you raw material for — vaccine — but I am not going to give you the vaccine'. If you get into this, why are you exporting at all; then someone else will ask why am I exporting to India and that is so shortsighted and only really irresponsible, really non-serious people will make that argument and, by the way, there are some around as you would have noticed." What he did not tell Munjal was that the vaccine doses donated by India, that is, given free to several foreign countries, were only 10.75 million out of a total 66.37 million doses shown as "Made-in-India vaccine supplies" on the Ministry of External Affairs website. A substantial part of it, 35.79 million doses to be precise, are commercial and licensing liabilities of the two vaccine manufacturers, the Serum Institute of India and Bharat Biotech. Another 19.86 million doses are vaccines sent abroad because of the agreement the manufacturers had signed to obtain raw materials for producing the vaccines. The last two types of supplies were tagged along with the free doses supplied. The vaccine diplomacy of New Delhi, called "Vaccine Maitri", began on January 21 and lasted till April 16. In this period, India had supplied abroad all the vaccine it possibly could and the rationale for this comes from no less a person than Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself. At the inaugural Raisina Dialogue on April 13, he said: "... this year, despite many constraints, we have supplied vaccine to over 80 countries. We know that the supplies have been modest. We know that the demands are huge. We know that it will be a long time before the entire humanity can be vaccinated. At the same time, we also know that hope matters." During this period, doses were sent to 95 countries across the world. Now comes the part where the Government did not do what it was supposed to do during this period of "Maitri". On May 11, the cumulative doses given to Indians stood at 17.51 crore and no more orders were placed in this period even though shortages were being reported. In early May, the Government said it was still to receive 23 million doses from its previous order and placed fresh orders of around 160 million doses.

Hawks cash in on Israel-Hamas war

Tel Aviv's concerted efforts to evict 'illegal' Palestinian settlers from East Jerusalem and Hamas' ceaseless attempts to destroy Israel and Jews are the biggest hurdles in arriving at a peaceful solution. The ongoing war offers the hawks from both sides the much sought-after opportunity as they have some political axe to grind. Gaza has once again grabbed the headlines. In East Jerusalem, blood-stained streets and smoldering tyres are telltale signs of a gory fight between the Israeli security forces and the Hamas. The region is witnessing the worst violence since the 50-day war that took place in 2014. Today, the bitter truth for Israel is that Hamas, an Islamic militant group, controls the sensitive Gaza region. Palestinians live under Israeli settler colonialism. Their fear is based on experience of torture, daily bout of humiliations, constant denial of basic freedoms, absence of dignity of life, living and labour, imprisonment and finally maiming and killing. So it is very natural that every Palestinian born there will have the basic instinct to fight against the Israeli occupation. The hatred is growing towards Israel and its security forces. And if it goes like this for any longer, war-like situation will be a daily affair. The moot point is what Israel wants? Israel wants total control over East Jerusalem. The current conflict has emerged because of the forced expulsion of Palestinian families from the occupied East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah. Some sources say the lands occupied by these families were originally under Jewish ownership. But the Palestinians see this as an extension of an Israeli policy to displace as many Palestinians as possible from Jerusalem. The final aim is to reclaim and retain a majority Jewish identity in the city. Will Palestine ever get the de-



Hiranmay Karlekar

sired independent land? No, at least for the foreseeable future. It must be said here that the struggle and jihad for Palestine will continue. The Islamic resistance movements like the Hamas, meaning strength, will keep challenging the very identity of the Israeli state. In fact, the Hamas Covenant which consists of 36 articles clearly highlights how the group will take the Islamic movement further. Article 15 of the Covenant says that the jihad for the liberation of Palestine is an individual duty. It says, "The day that enemies usurp part of Muslim land, jihad becomes the individual duty of every Muslim. In face of the Jews usurpation of Palestine, it is compulsory that the banner of jihad be raised. To do this requires the diffusion of Islamic consciousness among the masses, both on the regional, Arab and Islamic ummah levels. It is necessary to instill the spirit of jihad in the heart of the nation so that they would confront the enemies and join the ranks of the fighters." Palestinians have resisted Israeli occupation and colonisation for decades now. Anger on the Palestinian street has grown. People are raising

the banner of protest against Israel. They claim that Israel is making concerted efforts to erase the Palestinian identity from the land. For now, Tel Aviv has rebuffed any discussion for ceasefire. It vows to continue the offensive. Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister of Israel, is in favour of stepping up its Gaza strikes. He said, "At the conclusion of a situational assessment, it was decided that both the might of the attacks and the frequency of the attacks will be increased." He also commented that "Hamas and Islamic jihad paid... and will pay a very heavy price for their belligerence... their blood is forfeit". This indicates that Israel will continue its offensive. There is a possibility that this will add fuel to the fire over the decade's long crisis in West Asian region. The spokesman for UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said he is saddened by the increasingly large number of casualties, including children, from Israeli air strike in Gaza and of Israeli fatalities from rockets launched from Gaza. He called for maximum restraint by the Israeli security forces.

The UN has warned that the planned expulsion of the Palestinian families from East Jerusalem by Israel could amount to war crimes. But it also lashed out at the Hamas for the indiscriminate launch of rockets and mortars towards Israeli population centres. Meanwhile, the US postponed a UN Security Council meeting on the ongoing flare-up between Israel and the Hamas for the next week. The discussion was supposed to take place this week, but the US is trying to make room for diplomacy so as to avert the worst situation in the contested Gaza territory. The US, a key ally of Israel, has confirmed on multiple occasions that the latter has the full right to defend itself as the terrorist groups from Gaza have launched about 1,750 rockets into its territory. However, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has brushed aside all speculation that Washington is trying to torpedo the crucial talks altogether. President Joe Biden said, "One of the things that I have seen thus far is that there has not been a significant over-reaction." Around the same time, Israel has been pummeling Gaza with air strikes, levelling buildings leading to killing of dozens of people. Biden has already touted Israel's right to self-defense amid rocket attacks from the Hamas that have killed dozens of people. Thus the White House clarified that Jerusalem must be a place of co-existence. The European Union, a group of 27 nations, too has criticised the Hamas for the war, by saying that Palestinian rocket attacks on Israel were totally unacceptable. And the EU called on all sides to aim for de-escalation and to prevent more civilian casualties. At the same time, EU foreign policy chief Joseph Borrell condemned eviction of Palestinian families in East Jerusalem. He also called the evictions illegal, saying it only serves to fuel tensions.

The sinking of a paper boat

In these pandemic times, do we remember that we had a time filled with the zest for life, ambitions and hope? Where is it now? It was the summer of the 71. Agra, my hometown, was flooded. Our house, on a higher ground, was a bit less affected; nevertheless, water had entered the ground floor and we were perched on the top. As the rescue boats went by, we children were busy floating paper boats as playthings. They were, though inanimate, like our aspirations and thoughts. The boats, of course, couldn't do a long course. But our imagination did. Those days we children had so much to do, so much to learn from the life around us that there was never a dull moment. Indeed! , for the children who spent their childhood around 50 years back, they had a childhood quite different from the current crop. Innocence! That's was all we had. The world around us was our playground. It was all real; there was nothing virtual about it. Yes, we children knew so little about everything else that was not in our immediate vicinity. But that was fun, exploring on our own and enjoying every bit of it. Unlike now, the phones were unheard of. We had wired phones instead, which we made with a thread and two matchboxes. But the connections they provided were pretty strong. The parents at that time were different, too. They hardly cared what the child studied at the school unless a complaint from the school came in. They would often forget the standard in which their



Gyaneshwar Dayal

child studied. The only day the father would come into the picture was when you got your annual report card. And his only concern was that if the child was promoted to the next class. Else, the ear-twisting took place. That was more or less summed the early education. Playing I Spy or Hit&Run was the best pass time. Children's extracurricular activities involved spreading papads and chips in the sun. The packaged chips would come much later. Eating out meant having golgappas at the street vendor. Of course, the kulfiwala occasionally announced his arrival with a bell and we ran to have it. Entertainment was hard to come by. We waited for the circus to arrive in town and made plans to go see it. We watched it with disbelief, often replicating the feat and hurting ourselves back at home. The melas were again something that we looked forward to. The

charm, of course, was the merry-go-round and the giant wheel. It made us dizzy but then enjoyment doesn't come cheap. Those were the years of innocence and ignorance alike. As we grew up, we realised how little we knew about anything, yet we had learned so many lessons of life that stay with us forever. The parents did not care about the studies of their children; they cared about their health and so saw to it that the children ate everything cooked at home. The kids, too, contributed to the household chores willingly, or unwillingly in my case, but learned that anyway. The elderly were no pariah either. The granny would tell endless ghost stories and we believed them all. For us, there was a ghost on every peepal tree, and the djinns, churails and dayans were watching us when we returned late. Caring for them came naturally, partly out of affection and partly out

of greed for stories and money that the parents refused. There was a close bonding with them. They became part of you. Now that when I see my kids growing, I realise the children and their childhood have undergone a sea change. They are informed but not innocent. They can get you the information you might have not known till your graduation. They don't play with matchboxes or waste time decorating Janmashtami models. They are always with their gadgets. They play with them or, rather, live with them. Life has turned virtual. It is a digital degeneration of sorts where you know a lot yet you are rudderless as the framework that comes with human interaction is missing. The pizza-burger generation is more about flaunting its feat rather than enjoying it. The pictures of restaurants and places visited on the trip find floating on Instagram and Facebook. They might not see churails and dayans but have demons in their head which tell them to seclude them from the rest. You won't know if your child is at home because he is too much engrossed with the mobile that he needs no one else. Last year in the monsoon, I told my young daughter how we floated paper boats in the puddles. She said that she did not know how to make one. I was excited as she showed some interest. I said, I will make one for you. I made one, gave it to her, and asked her to set it afloat. Fifteen minutes later, she was with her phone again, chatting. I asked whatever happened to the boat she was supposed to play with. "It sank," she said with a flat face and submerged into her phone again.

"Food Distributed By Smile Charitable Trust



(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, May 17: Smile charitable trust, Paradeep, distributed 100 nos cooked food packets Distributed to physically/Mentally and poor needy peoples at Paradeep Garh, Dochaki, PPL chaka, IFFCO chaka,

Atharbanki and Paradeep Bus stand area in the presence of Sri Sachitra Kumar Rout -(President), Adv. Sanjay ku Behera (Adviser) Adv.Suresh ch Das (Chief Adviser) and members of Biswamber Pradhan, Manoj Mahapatra, Rashmi

Santosh celebrate his birth day by helping the blinds panel



(A.O. Bureau) Ganjam, May 17: Santosh Kumar Dora of Balipadar celebrated his birthday in an innovative way. On his birthday, the young man from Vejiput village in Aska block arrived at the Blind

Institute near Balipadar, Bhimbhoi Dibyng Institution, where he celebrated his birthday with food for the disabled for two months. In the event of his birthday Santosh not celebrated a party with friends but decided

Social worker Binod provided the migrants with dry food and drinking water



(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 17: Hundreds of migrant workers are returning home from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana every day across the border in Malkangiri district, while social activist Binod Tawari has extended a helping hand to them. Last night, two buses provided dry food and drinking water to 108 migrants returning home. Earlier, there were no food facilities at all,

but people were seen harassing children. Upon hearing the news, social worker Mr. Tawari arrived in Motu and provided dry food and drinking water to hundreds of migrants. In addition, there were jumbo coolers for police officers and administrative staff working in the summer, as well as bottles of dry food and drinking water. The district has praised for his efforts.

Covid-19 Awareness Campaign By DKDA, Chatikona



(A.O. Bureau) Rayagada, May 17: The Dangaria Kandha Development Agency (DKDA), Chatikona organized awareness campaign on prevention of COVID-19 in collaboration with district administration to aware the Dangaria Kandha People by CORONA Awareness Ratha which had been inaugurated by the Project Administrator Sri

Gorachand Gamango, DKDA, Chatikona. The Corona Awareness Ratha aims at to create awareness among the general public, especially focusing on Dangaria Kandha people to stay safe by taking some simple precautions, such as physical distancing, wearing a mask, keeping rooms well ventilated, avoiding crowds, cleaning hands, and coughing into a bent-el-

Ajit Sir doing sanitisation at his own expense

(A.O. Bureau) Hinjilicut, May 17: Ajit Kumar Sahu a well-known govt teacher working in Khaida village in Hinjilicut. He has made a different effort himself hired a sanitisation self operated system at his own expense. So while people everywhere are at home because of the global epidemic and waiting for government assistance to sanitize the area. Ajit himself is touring various

parts of the city of Hinjilicut. Mr. Sahu's efforts have been widely praised in the Hinjilicut region. Ajit is a teacher and a good actor has acted in a number of short films in the field of acting. Mr. Sahu has won many accolades for his excellent performance in national and international level. In the venture of Krishna DK, under Nrutyam Institution A film made as ASABARNA Mr.



Sahu's act was widely renounced and rewarded. A teacher cum artists such as effect and intellectual's "This efforts will continue in the coming days," said by Ajit sir.

The postmaster was laid to rest by the Jarada IIC and Tahsildar

(A.O. Bureau) Patrapur, May 17: Humanity is commonly seen today as lost due to corona. If anyone is going to die today, they can't help but think of her death as a coronation. A similar incident took place at Santoshpur village in Barang panchayat under jarda police station. K Pratisama Reddy, aged about 58, who was working as a postmaster in the village, died of fever two days ago and died at the Patrapur community health center. So when the family brought the dead body to the village on Saturday evening to perform the funeral, the family had



to face the villagers. According to villagers, they will not bury the body in the village, nor will anyone in the village attend the funeral. Jarada IIC Bhavananda Pradhan and Patrapur tahsildar Amit Kumar Nayak

rushed to the spot on hearing of the incident. After the IIC Bhavananda Pradhan and the Tahsildar reached appeal to the villager's to cooperate with the people of Santoshpur village, he would leave the village for burial, but

the funeral procession at the head of the village with a wooden bundle. The new IIC has been widely praised in the local peoples for its being human thinking. There has been a general backlash that they are also very lucky to have such an officer who can make a name for himself among the people within a few days of joining the workforce and that they will always abide by the law. Today, such an approach by the administration and the police has become a hot topic in the entire Patrapur area, with local intellectuals praising the actions of two officials.

A Hitech ambulance service and Vaccination at the door step was flag off by Bikram Panda



(A.O. Bureau) Berhampur, May 17: Legislator Vikram Panda inaugurated the state-of-the-art ambulance service at Tata Hi-Tech Cove Hospital today. All the high-ranking officials and staff of the high school, including District Magistrate Vijay Amrit Kulange, Hi-Tech Chairperson Tirupati Panigrahi, Berhampur Deputy Sub-collector V Kirtibasan, Nodal officer Dr Jhulan Jena and Tumbanath Panda were present on the occasion. Very soon a special desk for communication between patients and their fami-

Mother, daughter and son were seriously injured in the Accident



(A.O. Bureau) Rengali, May 17: Two people were killed and one was seriously injured when a car collided head-on with a car in front of a petrol pump near the Government Bypass near the Sambalpur district administration police station. "At around 2.30pm today, a Mahindra car OD16E9700 en route from Sambalpur to Jharsuguda was hit from behind by a hijacker OD15G5398 while standing in front of a petrol pump near the Government Bypass. While the girl died at the scene, son Dolmadhab Vhoi was 22 years old with serious injuries and is being treated at Burla Hospital. Has left.

OUWJ Bargarh district distributes food to animals and birds



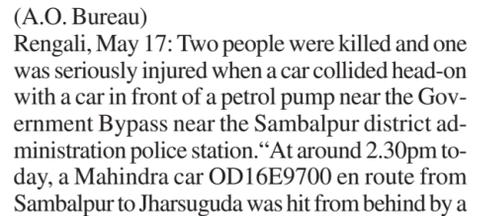
(A.O. Bureau) Bargarh, May 17: The government has announced a full shutdown on Saturday and Sunday of the week to prevent the spread of the epidemic. Due to the closure of all shops and markets at this time, bulls, cows and dogs are not allowed to be eaten. For which Bargarh District OUWJ has started its journey to provide food to the cows bills and dods from Akshya Trutia being a responsible organization of the society. Cooking Food, bread is being

OUWJ Bargarh district distributes food to animals and birds



formed that the best treatment of the patients is being provided. And also with it, a mobile vaccination center with a coronary-shaped model vehicle for the old age person aged above 70 yrs should vaccinated by that special vehicle and a observation team. The vaccination veichle flagged off by Berhampur MLA Bikram Panda and Ganjam DM Bijay Amrut Kulanage along with BeMC commissioner Baliram Bondar also hoisted the green flag in the premises of the Berhampur BeMC office.

OUWJ Bargarh district distributes food to animals and birds



given to the bulls, cows and dogs from today. Bargarh District Bar president Kusha Padhan, senior journalist Balaji Bibhu Ranjan Tarasia Inaugurated and in the program senior journalist Pradiptabhanu Mohanty, union secretary Paramananda Mishra, state Vice-president Ashutosh Ratha, Gopinath Sahu, Bargarh district vice-President Himanshu Nanda, Media In-charge Sujit Behera were present and distributed food. The district's residents are applauding the move.

'I'm having loads of fun working with kids'

New Delhi, May 17: LAVINA TANDON, who plays Jhanjharika in Nikki Aur Jadui Bubble, a fantasy show on Dangal TV, speaks about her role, the challenges faced and fun that she is having shooting with the kids. What is Nikki Aur Jadui Bubble about? It is a kids' fantasy show where there is the real world and the magical one which merge together. Sometimes our characters are in the real one sometimes in the magical. It is about a girl, Nikki; it's her story. Her father is a great magician and passes on his talent and world to his father without him realising this. What's your character here? I play the grey shade here — Jhanjharika. I am also a magician and a powerful one at that amongst the women in the world of magic. She was not always evil but then a competition took place and she lost. She wanted the coveted bubble which has immense power and the bubble went to Nikki's father played by Himanshu Malhotra. From here on, my character becomes negative and I become the evil

witch and my job is to trouble everyone. How did you come on board the project? I was shooting for another project as an assistant intern. But I keep getting scripts since I have done other shows. I have worked for Dheeraj Kumar earlier as well and my experience was good and saw no reason to say no. I went and gave the audition. After three weeks I got a confirmation call. But I was shooting in Goa for a web series



tries and told the team that once I am done, I will be on board. It is a kid's fantasy show, are you having lots of fun?

We had lots of fun. There are no adults in the scenes with me. There are adults but we are never in the same frame. The good is that there is gossip, the atmosphere is stress-free. There is a negativity like there might be in other adult shows — she got this costume, I didn't; she got this jewellery, I didn't. There is no such thing here. Kids are natural, they have no pretense. They come, shoot and go back

to their studies. We spent a lot of time together and chatted and generally had fun. I learnt a lot from them as well. They are so full of

energy. Were there any challenges since you are working with kids? There were no challenges working with the kids like I said the kids in the show are extremely intelligent. I psyched myself saying that it is a kids' show so I need to have patience working with them. But they are quick learners. The challenge came in the form of getting into the look. I have two — one the normal and the other the evil witch. Switching and change in costume was time consuming. How did you get into acting? I never had plans to get into acting. Acting chose me. I was 12 when my mother's friend was coordinating for a show — Tum Bin Jaaon Kahaan on Zee TV — that had a requirement for a girl with curly hair. It was a show by Aruna Irani Production House. I went for the audition and got selected. The minute I stood in front of the camera they chose me since I fit their character to a T. I shot 70-80 episodes. But then my Class VII finals came and I had to leave the show. But I kept getting

work sometimes back-to-back. Hero Bhakti Hi Shakti Hai was a role you did and grabbed eyeballs. What made the show popular? It was one of the few superhero shows. Back then, there was just Shaktiman. Hero Bhakti... became popular because the story was interesting and attracted the kids. Also, every week there was a new character that kept the interest. Kids back then watched TV. Today, they are glued to their mobiles, video games and social media. Is there a role that you hated doing? No, not really. I never put myself in a position where I ended up hating doing something. Acting is my profession. If I don't love I can't do justice to the characters I have done. What next? At present, I am not willing to work on anything due to the pandemic. I was even scared to go out to buy groceries let alone step out to shoot. But I am committed to Nikki Aur... so I will shoot for it but no new projects for the time being.

Rajinikanth donates 50 lakh towards Tamil Nadu CM's Covid-19 relief fund

Chennai, May 17: Actor Rajinikanth on Monday met Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin and handed over a cheque for ₹50 lakh for the TN CM Public Relief Fund for Covid-19 relief. Actor Rajinikanth on Monday met Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin and handed over a cheque

to #TNCMPublicReliefFund (sic). Last week, Suriya along with his father and brother, met the CM and handed over a cheque of ₹1 crore for coronavirus-related relief work. Recently, CM Stalin requested Stalin public and private organisations to donate

to a standstill after eight crew members tested positive for the coronavirus in Hyderabad. A day later, Rajinikanth was hospitalized in Hyderabad after his blood pressure fluctuated drastically. The shoot was immediately halted and Rajinikanth returned to



for ₹50 lakh for the TN CM Public Relief Fund for Covid-19 relief. Rajinikanth follows actors such as Suriya, Ajith and Sivakarthikeyan who recently donated to the same cause. The veteran star's publicist took to Twitter to share the news. He wrote: "Superstar @rajinikanth met Honourable Chief Minister @mkstalin today & donated ₹50

generously to the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund (CMPRF). Meanwhile, Rajinikanth returned home after wrapping up month-long shooting schedule for his upcoming Tamil film Annaatthe. He boarded a private jet to reach Chennai after completing his portion in the film, which has been directed by Siva. In December 2020, the shoot of Annaatthe came

Chennai the next day. Upon being discharged from the hospital, Rajinikanth was advised a week of bed rest with not much physical activity. After four months, Rajinikanth finally returned to a film set in April 2021. Annaatthe, which is gearing up for this Diwali release, also stars Keerthy Suresh, Meena and Khushbu Sundar in key roles.

Miss Universe 2020: Miss Mexico Andrea Meza gets the crown, who is she?



New Delhi, May 17: Miss Mexico Andrea Meza was crowned as the 69th Miss Universe. The model who is also a software engineer, has become the third Mexican woman to hold the title. Andrea Meza from Mexico was crowned as the 69th Miss Universe. The pageant that was held on May 16, in the Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood Hotel or famously known as the Guitar hotel in Florida was aired live and saw participants from all around the world. Meza was preceded by Miss Universe Zozobini Tunzi of South Africa. Andrea had to compete with 73 other gorgeous women from all over the world for the coveted title out of which Miss India Adeline Castellino was also be-

ing considered as a strong contender. Castellino made it to the top five along with Miss Brazil, Miss Peru and Miss Dominican Republic. Andrea made history with her win as she became the third Mexican woman to be crowned as Miss Universe. Along with being a model, Andrea Meza is also a software engineer who is quite vocal about gender disparities and gender violence. She even made some hard-hitting statements during the pageant. The 26-year-old was born on August 13 in Chihuahua City and is daughter to Alma Carmona and Santiago Meza. She has two younger sisters and has Chinese ancestry. She graduated as a software engineer from the Autonomous University of Chihuahua in 2017.

Suriya-starrer Soorarai Pottru selected for Shanghai International Film Festival 2021

Hyderabad, May 17: Tamil superstar Suriya-starrer Soorarai Pottru has been selected for the 24th Shanghai International Film Festival under Panorama Section. Rajsekar Pandian, the co-producer at 2D Entertainments, recently took to his Twitter handle to announce the

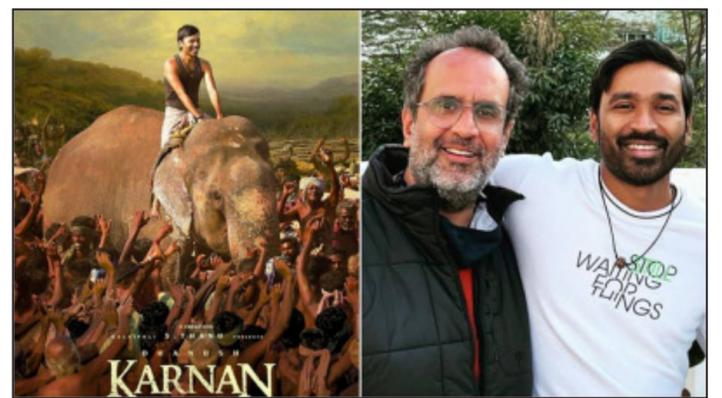
same. Rajsekar Pandian tweeted, "Happy that #SooraraiPottru #PraiseTheBrave enters Panorama Section of Shanghai International Film Festival 2021." The Shanghai International Film Festival 2021 is scheduled to be held from June 12 to 15. Re-

cently, the movie also achieved a rare feat by becoming the third film in the ranking order with a 9.1 rating in the list of IMDb's Top 1000 Movies. The first two films are Hollywood cult classics — The Shawshank Redemption and The Godfather.

Aanand L Rai is all praise for Karnan, calls Dhanush 'a magician'

New Delhi, May 17: Mari Selvaraj's Karnan continues to receive praise from the audience, and the latest to join the bandwagon is director Aanand L Rai. On Monday, the filmmaker took to Twitter and called the film "outstanding and brilliant." "OUTSTANDING & BRILLIANT... This is how you can describe this experience called #Karnan @mari_selvaraj What a storyteller ?? The way you painted ur thoughts on the celluloid. Take a bow!" Rai wrote in a tweet. He called Karnan

actor Dhanush "a magician." "You are a magician mere bhai... u should have told me. I thought you are an actor," he continued. Karnan, which released in theatres on April 9, received glowing reviews from critics and fans alike. The film premiered on Amazon Prime Video on May 14. The Mari Selvaraj directorial stars Dhanush as a rebellious youth, who refuses to let his caste define his worth. The film also stars Lal, Yogi Babu, Azhagam Perumal, Natarajan



Subramaniam, Rajisha Vijayan, Gouri G. Kishan and Lakshmi Priya Chandramouli in the supporting cast. On the work front, Mari Selvaraj is busy prepar-

ing to get his next film on the floors. He will be directing Dhruv Vikram in the movie, which is yet to be named. Dhanush, on the other hand, will be seen in Aanand L

Rai's next Atrangi Re, which also stars Akshay Kumar and Sara Ali Khan. Atrangi Re marks Dhanush's second collaboration with Aanand L Rai after Raanjhanaa.

Breathe free: Road to healthy lungs

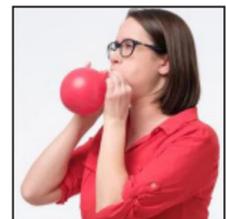
New Delhi, May 17: Let's chalk out a few exercises, we bet easy ones to help you improve your lung health and keep this vital organ going strong for life. 1. Diaphragmatic breathing: "Today, most of us are chest breathers which puts our body in a sympathetic state, i.e. fight-or-flight response state. Hence, taking deep breaths using our nose and breathing into our diaphragm can be amazing for lung health," says Yash Vardhan Swami, Health coach. 2. Deep breathing exercises: Niyati Tolani, Clinical Nutritionist and Weight Management Specialist suggests beginning your day with a 20 min deep breathing exer-

cise routine, as it would help strengthen the lungs. She says, "Pranayam, kapalvarti and anulom vilom, are good for overall health. Namita Piparaiya, Yoga and Ayurveda Lifestyle Specialist, Founder - Yoganama, says, "Humming Breath (Bhramari) helps improve oxygen absorption in the body. It additionally also helps in better quality of sleep and can be practiced both in the morning and at night before sleeping." 3. Balloon Breathing: A simple activity of blowing up the balloons itself turns out to be a powerful exercise for the lungs. Coutinho adds, "It works in intercostal muscles that are responsible for the movement of the dia-

phragm and rib cage during breathing. The more effective the movement of intercostal muscles, the better is our lung capacity and the ability of the lungs to maintain the oxygen supply to our body. In fact, this exercise is also scientifically proven to boost oxygen saturation levels (SPO2) in our blood." 4. Eating right: It's time for us to go back to our roots and follow a lifestyle which helps us build a stronger inner self

specially through Ayurveda. Jaivardhan Agarwal, Founder & CEO, Ayurvridhihi, suggests consuming black cumin seeds as they are an elixir for lungs, and are rich in antibacterial and antiviral properties - a cure for every ailment. Dr. Arunesh Kumar, HOD, Paras Chest Institute & Sr. Pulmonologist, Paras Hospital, Gurugram, recommends green tea. "Green tea contains Epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG), a catechin, that is full of antioxidants and anti-inflammatory properties." Another herb that reduces the amount of mucus in the respiratory tract is Kantakari. Maheshwari adds, "A medicinal herb known

for its antioxidant properties, this herb provides relief in breathing, and can be consumed in the powdered form mixed with honey and water." Tolani suggests apples, lemons, kiwi, mango, spinach, purple cabbage, berries for maintaining lung health and having a resilient immune system. 5. Taking the vitamins: "When it comes to food, foods that are high in antioxidants like Vit C (amla, citrus foods), curcumin (haldi), lycopene (tomatoes), carotenoids (yellow peppers, spinach, tomatoes), spinach, tomatoes, carrots) and anthocyanins (blueberries and red cabbage) can considerably improve lung capacity and functions at multilevels," adds Menon.



Australian IPL cricketers return home after Maldives stop-over New Zealand players arrive in London for England series and WTC final against India

Melbourne, May 17: Australia's IPL players, including Pat Cummins and Steve Smith, arrived in Sydney on Monday after a stop-over at Maldives due to travel ban from COVID-ravaged India, almost two weeks after the T20 league was suspended due to the health crisis. Most of the 38 members of the Australian contingent, including



players, officials and commentators who participated at the non-suspended league, landed at the Sydney airport this morning after spending 10 days at Maldives. The lucrative league was indefinitely suspended on May 5 after four players and two coaches from four different teams tested positive inside the bio-bubble. Australian players, however, couldn't head home immediately as the country had im-

posed a travel ban from India, which is battling a deadly second wave of the coronavirus. They will all be spending two weeks in a Sydney hotel for the mandatory quarantine. According to national broadcaster ABC, Smith, Cummins, batsman David Warner and Ricky Ponting, who coached Delhi Capitals, were among the people on the Air Seychelles flight. Chennai Super Kings batting coach Michael Hussey also headed home on Sunday via Doha after testing negative for COVID-19 on Friday. He had tested positive on May 4 and was brought to Chennai from Delhi in an air ambulance. Prime Minister Scott Morrison on Sunday said the players and officials were not given any special dispensation. "They are happy, for them to come in over the cap. That is something we insisted upon and they were to agree with that, Morrison was quoted as saying by ABC. "They will come back under their own steam, upon their own ticket, and they won't be taking the spot in quarantine of any other Australian who is returning home under the NSW caps."

London, May 17: A majority of the New Zealand Test players arrived here for the two-match series against England and the World Test Championship final against India. The players arrived here on Sunday afternoon after flying from Auckland via Singapore and were transferred to the Ageas Bowl in Southampton where they will be based for the first two weeks of the tour. The series-opening match will begin on June 2 in London, while the second match is scheduled to commence from June 10 in Birmingham. The World Test Championship Final between India and New Zealand will begin at Southampton from June 18. "The BLACK-CAPS are adhering to strict health protocols



including pre-departure vaccinations and covid tests, along with receiving medical bags equipped with masks and hand sanitizer," a New Zealand Cricket press release said. The first three days will be

spent in hotel room isolation, before mini training groups of six can be established from days 4-6, pending negative COVID results. A three-day team intra-squad game is scheduled from May 26 to

May 28 at the Ageas Bowl, where six local bowlers who have isolated in advance will help make up the sides. Tim Southee, BJ Watling, Ross Taylor and Neil Wagner will depart Auckland on

Monday afternoon to join the squad in Southampton. The Maldives-based IPL contingent of captain Kane Williamson, Kyle Jamieson, Mitchell Santner, team physio Tommy Simsek and trainer Chris Donaldson will arrive on Monday. After a successful County Championship stint with Durham, batsman Will Young will also link up with the team on Monday and undergo isolation at the Ageas Bowl before joining his teammates for training. Trent Boult will finish his managed isolation on Sunday and return to Mount Maunganui to see his family before a plan is made around his departure to the UK, according to NZC release.

Alisson-like header on overlap is on my bucket-list: Gurpreet Singh Sandhu Iga is Queen of Rome

New Delhi, May 17: Pulling off a 'Alisson Becker' like header is firmly on Gurpreet Singh's to-do list but till it happens, the lanky India goalkeeper would leave the job to his more skilled skipper Sunil Chhetri. Liverpool's Brazilian goalkeeper Becker's inch-perfect angular header off a flag kick in the stoppage time led his team a stunning 2-1 victory over West Bromwich Albion. It is rare for goalkeepers to go on overlaps during dying moments and one of the pioneers was Paraguayan custodian Jose Luis Chilavert, who had scored eight goals in international football. "I just can't stop watching his (Becker) header again, and again. Maybe it just happened... the ball fell in place and out of pure commitment he glided

the ball... and what a header. But if he is doing that regularly in practice, then we have to admit that he is extra special," Gurpreet told aiff.com. Gurpreet has at times gone up leaving

viously, there have been quite a few times that I have gone up for my club Bengaluru FC, and also during my stint with previous clubs," Gurpreet said. "But if the team requires it as

smiles again. It's not just good hands, the modern day goalkeeper needs to be good on feet which is Gurpreet's endeavour. "Gone are the days when a goalkeeper was just a shot-stopper,"

which I received were to kick the ball back to where it came from. But it's changed now," the first Indian player to feature in a Europa League (for Norwegian side Stabaek FK) match said. So about yesterday... For Germany, Manuel Neuer, who made the role of a sweeper-keeper fashionable and the giant Indian wants to help in building attacks. "The goalkeeper needs to initiate the attack, help the team build up on the possession. His distribution has to be impeccable. However, I am still a student of the game and working on the same. There is a long way to go," he expressed. "And now I know, a goalkeeper needs to head it perfectly too," he laughs again.



his post unmanned to help his team in attack. While he is not desperate but would like to grab it if an opportunity come his way. "Not that I am desperate to do it, and I hope that I don't have to do it ever. Ob-

per the situation, who knows? But I would rather leave it to Sunil Chhetri. He is much better at it than me," he said in jest. "I have to work on me attacking the ball, and on my heading. But I don't mind it," he

Gurpreet, an Arjuna Awardee, adds. "Personally, it was an exciting challenge to undergo the transition phase. When I started professionally, the trend was more to save shots. "The first instructions



Rome, May 17: If Iga Swiatek continues playing like this, she might have no problem defending her French Open title when the year's second Grand Slam starts in two weeks. The 19-year-old Pole routed Karolina Pliskova 6-0, 6-0 with what is known as a "double bagel" score in an Italian Open final that lasted just 46 minutes Sunday. Swiatek lost just 13 points. "Definitely not the best day for me," Pliskova said. "Iga was playing great tennis today. It was the first double bagel in a WTA final in five years, since Simona Halep over whelmed Anastasija Sevastova in

Bucharest. "I think you have just days like this in tennis where things are not going your way," Pliskova added. "I will just quickly forget about today." Blasting winners at will with both her forehand and backhand, Swiatek led 17-5 in winners and committed only five unforced errors to Pliskova's 23. It wasn't always so easy this week for Swiatek, the surprise winner in Paris last year when she was ranked 54th. She had to save two match points in her third-round victory over Barbora Krejckikova then had to win twice on Saturday — beating both two-time Rome champion Elina Svitolina and 17-

year-old Coco Gauff — after her quarterfinal was pushed back a day due to rain. "It's been a tough week but I'm really happy that I got through everything," Swiatek said. "I was super focused today so I'm really proud of myself." Swiatek's third career title will move her into the top 10 of the rankings for the first time on Monday — to No.9. Pliskova was playing in her third consecutive final at the Foro Italico, having won the title in 2019. The veteran Czech player slammed her racket to the clay in frustration early in the second set and received a code violation warning for unsportsmanlike conduct.

'No surprise': Michael Clarke on Bancroft's revelation on ball tampering issue

Melbourne, May 17: Former captain Michael Clarke won't be surprised if it comes to light that more players were aware of the ball-tampering plot in 2018 as he accused Cricket Australia of sweeping the issue under the carpet. The scandal had led to a review of Australia's win-



at-all-cost team culture and led to one-year bans

being slapped on then captain Steve Smith, his

deputy David Warner and a nine-month suspension on opener Cameron Bancroft, who had the sandpaper in his possession. The issue was put under the spotlight again when Bancroft last week revealed that Australian bowlers in the team at that time might have had some knowl-

edge about the plot. "If you are playing sport at the highest level you know your tools that good it's not funny. Can you imagine that ball being thrown back to the bowler and the bowler not knowing about it? Please," Clarke told Sky Sports radio on Monday.

Rafael Nadal's weapon, his forehand, helps him beat Novak Djokovic

Rome, May 17: The heavy topspin. That lefty spin. The loopy trajectory. Rafael Nadal's forehand gave Novak Djokovic fits in the latest installment of the most-played rivalry in modern men's tennis. A whopping 26 forehand winners — 15 in the first set alone — helped Nadal to a 7-5, 1-6, 6-3 victory and a record-extending 10th Italian Open title Sunday. Whipping forehands that

produced an average of 54 revolutions per second — to Djokovic's 45 revolutions — Nadal's biggest weapon was in top form. "I have been playing better and better with my forehand the last couple of weeks, getting to the confidence point," Nadal said. "That's a huge improvement for me, very important shot. Especially on clay it (gives) me confidence." The title also re-established

Nadal as the overwhelming favorite for the French Open, where the Spaniard will be aiming for an even harder-to-believe 14th title starting in two weeks. But Nadal preferred to focus on his achievement in Rome — at least for the moment. "To have this trophy in my hands for the 10th time is something hard to believe," Nadal said, recalling how he won his first title at the



Foro Italico in 2005 as an 18-year-old, when he beat Guillermo Coria in a match lasting more than five hours. "Now, 16 years later, to play in the final again is incredible," Nadal said in Italian during the trophy presentation. "It's difficult to describe. Without a doubt this is one of the most important places in my career." Three forehand winners helped Nadal produce the decisive

break in the third set, when Djokovic's energy level appeared to dip. The top-ranked Djokovic spent nearly five hours on court Saturday, when he had to rally for a rain-delayed quarterfinal victory over Stefanos Tsitsipas before winning another three-setter over local favorite Lorenzo Sonego in the semifinals. Nadal played only once on Saturday, beating Reilly Opelka in 1 {

hours. "He managed to break my serve and played better. That's it," Djokovic said. "I had my shot to win it but wasn't meant to be. I didn't feel fatigue. Actually, I was very happy with the way I felt on the court. I could have gone for another few hours." In the women's final, reigning French Open champion Iga Swiatek routed Karolina Pliskova with a "double bagel" 6-0 6-0.

Vedanta Aluminium Announces COVID Kavach Term Insurance for Business Partner Employees



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 17: Vedanta Aluminium & Power Business, India's largest producer of aluminium and value-added aluminium products, has on the occasion of International Day of Families, extended the COVID Kavach Term Insurance Policy for employees of business partners across its plants in Jharsuguda and Lanjigarh in Odisha, and BALCO in Korba, Chhattisgarh. Mr. Ajay Kapur, CEO - Aluminium & Power and MD - Commercial, Vedanta Ltd., announced this to all staff on the occasion of International Day of Families through a video message. Last year, the company had enhanced its term life in-

surance for all employees, which also covers any unfortunate circumstance due to COVID. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Rahul Sharma, Dy. CEO - Aluminium Business, said, "The health and wellbeing of our people is our foremost priority, and we continue to adhere to heightened safety protocols against the disease. We have put in place robust measures across all our plant sites to keep our workforce and families safe. We stand in solidarity with the entire country as we continue to battle the pandemic. We are taking several measures to secure the safety of our employees, business partners and their families against COVID and this insur-

ance policy is a small but significant step in this direction." Mr. Moin Kazi, Director - Occupational Health Business of Wellspring Healthcare Pvt. Ltd., which is Vedanta's business partner in providing COVID treatment at its Jharsuguda plant said, "As Vedanta's healthcare partner, we have deployed required infrastructure and staff to provide proper care and treatment to anyone affected by COVID. We are constantly monitoring the collective health status in the plant and township. Our staff are working round the clock to ensure health and wellbeing of employees, families and business partners." Vedanta has marshalled resources

across its plants and state-of-the-art townships in remote locations of Odisha and Chhattisgarh to safeguard its workforce and families. Few examples: 24x7 health helpline has been established in association with Apollo Hospitals. Over 7500 employees, families and business partners have been vaccinated free of cost till date, with plans for 100% vaccination in the shortest time span. Vedanta's 550+ bedded COVID Care Centres and Quarantine Facilities in Odisha and Chhattisgarh are equipped with required infrastructure and medical personnel to care for those affected by COVID. COVID Task Forces are engaged in

round-the-clock monitoring of the impact on the entire workforce and families of employees. Drones and CCTVs are being used along with regular security patrols for enhanced surveillance of social-distancing compliance at plant and townships. To ensure social distancing at shops selling vegetables, milk, groceries etc in the township, an online timeslot-booking portal has been developed inhouse to regulate the number of people and timings during which they can go to the shops to buy essentials. Mass Rapid Antigen tests are being carried out free of cost in plants and townships for early detection and treatment. Paid leave for all COVID affected employees during treatment and recuperation. All need-based support from daily essentials to medical and healthcare assistance being provided to ensure that employee well-being and recovery is prioritized. Telemedicine facility is being made available wherein patients can connect with the doctors through phone and video consultation.

Dhani Starts Distribution of Free Covid Care Medicines to 25 Lakh Families



(A.O. Bureau) Mumbai, May 17: Dhani app has started distribution of 25 Lakh Free Covid Care Health kits worth Rs. 90 crores that will benefit 50 Lakh adults. Each COVID Care Health kit has preventive medicines for 2 persons. Dhani is a digital app based business of healthcare by the Indiabulls Group. This kit has been packaged as per the recommendation by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and will be helpful in the initial preventive care of Covid 19. The kit consists of a monthly course of medicines that

help boost one's immunity through Vitamin C, Vitamin D3, Zinc and Paracetamol in case of fever or body ache. Families, who would like to take the benefit of this initiative, can go on the Dhani app or log on to pharmacy.dhani.com and place their order for free. Further, Dhani is offering free video calls with doctors and specialists round the clock and one can access the doctor on video call within 15 seconds. Nikhil Chari, President, Dhani Healthcare, says, "This kit will help boost immunity and if any in-

dividual develops any symptom such as fever, cough or throat infection could start using these medicines as an early care for Covid. Families can also connect with a Dhani doctor for free video consultations for any guidance." Adding to this Dr. Smita Dash, Chief Medical Officer - Dhani Healthcare says, "This kit is not a substitute for Covid care but will help in the initial preventive care for Covid and will boost immunity to fight all viral infections." The initiative is called 'Dhani AapkeSaath' and to further support this initiative, Dhani has also made its panel of doctors available for free consultations anytime, day or night through video calling doctors on Dhani App.

Adhikar Microfinance: Providing Access to Clean Water through 'Community Bore-Well Programme'



(A.O. Bureau) Balangir, May 17: Like many parts of the country, most of the KBK (Koraput-Balangir-Kalahandi) districts of Odisha often reels under a severe water crisis. During scorching summer, when the temperature reaches its peak most of the tube-wells and dug-wells dry up, thus making water shortages more acute. This phenomenon is especially common in the hilly and backward areas of Odisha. Besides, the water is also not safe for drinking. In November 2019, The Union Ministry of Jal Shakti reported that drinking water in 15 out of the 30 districts in Odisha is contaminated. Among the 40 sampled habitations in Balangir, 32 habitations were found to have unsafe drinking water. With an aim to facilitate access to clean and safe drinking water, Adhikar Microfinance developed a Community Bore-well Programme. Under the Programme, Adhikar Microfinance provides collateral-free loans to a Joint Liability

Group to help them build a bore-well, as it is difficult for individual households to invest in digging bore-wells. Soon after the Community Bore-well Programme began, five women households from the Bhatli Grampanchayat of Balangir district, Odisha approached Adhikar Microfinance. With the help of Adhikar Microfinance's field staff formed a Joint Liability Group called Bajrangbali Mahila Group and applied for a loan of Rs. 100,000. The fund was utilised for digging the bore-well, electrification, water pump installation and pipe connectivity to member households. Now, each day the households receive 750 litres of water for domestic use. The bore-well not only provides clean water throughout the year but also saves their time. While expressing her gratitude towards Adhikar Microfinance, one of the members said, "Earlier, I had to waste a lot of time in collecting water from the common well of the village. Being a daily wage

labourer it severely impacted my income. Thanks to the Community Bore-well Programme of Adhikar Microfinance, I am now leading a healthy and stable life." Mr. Mohammad N Amin, MD & CEO, Adhikar Microfinance Pvt. Ltd says, "Winning the trust and faith of customers, Adhikar works towards fostering a healthy society by making access to the basics, including water, sanitation and hygiene a reality for many rural households. Poor people find it difficult to get access to clean and sufficient water where public water supply is insufficient. Hence, such an initiative by Adhikar reflects that through Community Bore-well, clean and sufficient water can become a reality for many poor households. So while there is still much that can be done to make clean water available to all households in Odisha, I would like to invite all the Financial Institutions and Civil Society Organizations to join the movement." Apart from water scarcity, rapidly depleting levels of the water table is a major concern. Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has suggested that the water table in 24 districts of Odisha is expected to drop more than two meters by the next decade. With the growing population,

Corona took the life of another young journalist

(A.O. Bureau) Berhampur, May 17: Another senior journalist has died in Karona. He also had a fever and a cold. He later tested himself at the MKCG in Berhampur. According to the report, he was positive. He was later admitted to Shitalapalli



Tata Covid Hospital. But yesterday, Saturday evening, Mr. Patra's health was worse than ever. As a result, the doctor placed him on a ventilator. Despite the tireless efforts of the doctors, Vishnu Patra

died at 9.30 am today. On hearing the news, Mr. Patra's relatives and his close journalist friend arrived for the last visit. Later, Mr. Patra's body was cremated at the hospital premises. Six front-line journalists have been killed so far in Ganjam district, including Mr. Patra. Mr. Patra served as the District Chief of the Berhampur edition of "Odisha Bhaskar" and has already made a name for himself by working as the editor of a web media "Kalinga Darpan" after working as a journalist in many newspapers. May Lord Jagannath be patient in this difficult time.

Greenko Group launches 1,000 large medical oxygen concentrators



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 17: Greenko Group, India's leading renewable energy company, has provided critical oxygen assistance to India using a global supply chain network and delivering them within the country as soon as possible. Five large cargo planes have landed in Hyderabad with 200 large medical oxygen concentrators of 10 liters per minute, which will help fight the deadly second wave of the Karona epidemic. Telangana Urban Development Minister KT Rama Rao and Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar received the materials from the government. Mr. Anil Chalamalaseti and Mr.

Mahesh Kohli, co-founders of Greenko, were present on the occasion. We are the first to bring in five major dedicated cargo planes through the global supply chain we have set up over the past two weeks, said Mr Anil Chalamalaseti, MD and CEO, Greenko. In the next five days, four dedicated aircraft with 1,000 such large oxygen concentrators will land in Hyderabad, Bangalore and New Delhi. This will help our pre-ICU support and our medical team in the second and third class cities to determine patients later in the ICU. "We will continue to work to help the country and fight the epidemic,

and India can breathe freely. Thanking the founders of Greenwich, Hon'ble Minister KT Rama Rao said, "Our priority is to provide relief to the patients as a business leader and a responsible citizen as a government and to address the oxygen crisis." We are grateful to the Greenko Group for their support in this endeavor. "Greenko Group is one of the cleanest energy companies in India that has established a reliable and medium-term supply chain. It has ensured the supply of essential materials such as oxygen concentrators, oxygen cylinders using diplomatic, geographical and logistical channels.

Times School Ranking Survey Odisha 2021 Vikash Residential School is considered the best in western Odisha for the second time in a row and the third in the whole of Odisha

(A.O. Bureau) Bargarh, May 17: This year's Times School Ranking Survey Odisha 2021 has ranked schools among teachers, former students and parents of schools, and ranked the top 10 schools in Odisha based on test results, actual surveys and surveys. Among the top 10 schools in Odisha, Vikash Residential School, Bargarh ranks third, while Vikas Residential School,



Bhubaneswar ranks eighth. According to the survey, Vikash Residential School, Bargarh is considered the best school in western Odisha, while Development The Concept School, Sambalpur is the second best school in the best school (promising category) in Odisha.

Last year, the Times School Survey named Vikash Residential School the best school in western Odisha. Mr. D. Murali Krishna, Chair-

man, Vikash Group, credits the success to the high quality education system of the school, all the teachers, gifted students, parents.