



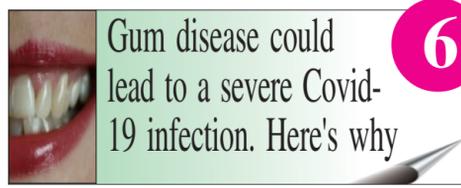
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Gum disease could lead to a severe Covid-19 infection. Here's why

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Narinder Batra re-elected as FIH President for a second term

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V. Karthikeyan Pandian awarded with FIH Presidents Award during 47th FIH Congress



Bhubaneswar, May 22: Senior IAS officer and Private Secretary to Chief Minister, V. Karthikeyan Pandian has been awarded with FIH Presidents Award during 47th FIH Congress. The President's Award is awarded to individuals who are not members of the FIH for long and valuable services to hockey, whether direct or indirect, or services that have had an indisputable beneficial effect for hockey at international level. Odisha had success-

fully hosted Men's Hockey World Cup in 2018. Naveen had received the President's Award in 2018. The FIH Honorary Awards took place on the opening day of the 47th Congress, with the Congress session itself taking place on Saturday. Hundreds of delegates from all over the world will connect in the first ever online Congress, where key strategic decisions are made for the development and governance of hockey globally.

Cyclone Yass Preparedness: Our Sole Moto 'All Life Is Precious', Asserts Odisha CM

Bhubaneswar, May 22: Stressing on safeguarding people's lives, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik directed officials to take steps accordingly while holding a meeting via video conferencing for tackling possible Cyclone Yaas. "For any disaster management, our sole motto is 'All life is precious', so therefore, under the present circumstances, our most important job is to evacuate people from low-lying areas and unsafe houses," stated Patnaik. He directed Collectors and SPs to personally supervise such operations. He also directed the Chief Secretary to regularly monitor cyclone preparedness and accordingly advise the district administration. "Since as per the IMD's prediction Cyclone Yass is likely to form in the Bay of Bengal in another two days and its path has not been defined, therefore, all our coastal districts and districts adjoining them should remain fully prepared and

remain alert for heavy rains and gusty winds," the Chief Minister advised. In view of the cyclone Chief Minister also advised to station disaster management teams like ODRAF, NDRF, road clearing machines at strategic locations for rescue and restoration work. Clearing of roads is of utmost importance after the cyclone, he added. Similarly, for restoration of power supply and telecommunication, the Chief Minister advised for keeping man and machinery in readiness. Wherever required additional teams and machinery should be kept in readiness, he added. In view of the Covid situation, the Chief Minister advised laying special importance on the supply of oxygen. Special attention should be given so that no problems arise for the supply of oxygen both inside and outside the State, he added. "Odisha has special abilities in disaster resilience and we almost face cyclones every year.



The situation has become more critical because of the Covid situation. However, keeping in view the situation the administration will remain fully prepared with foolproof preparedness," the Chief Minister said. Patnaik while advising people not to get scared asked them to remain alert and follow the advice given by the administration. Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra told that the regular meetings are being held on cyclone preparedness. Mahapatra said all concerned depart-

ments are prepared, shelters have been readied for shifting people, man and machinery teams are kept in readiness for restoration of water and power supply. Development Commissioner-Special Relief Commissioner Pradeep Jena informed that the trajectory (path) of the cyclone will be known by tomorrow evening. All preparations have been made for facing the cyclone, he added. Jena said that 22 NDRF teams, 66 ODRAF teams (formations), 177 Fire Service

teams are in readiness for rescue operations. In addition to multi-purpose cyclone shelters additional shelters have been identified for shifting of people, he added. He said in all shelters Covid protocol will be adhered to. Similarly, telecom and power supply departments have been directed to remain in readiness for restoration of services. Districts have been directed to shift all pregnant women expecting deliveries in the first week of June to hospitals, he informed. "Arrangements

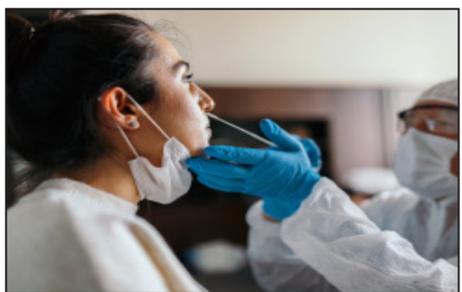
have been made for maintaining adequate stock of oxygen. All refilling stations have been provided with additional DG sets. Districts have been directed for advance refilling of all oxygen cylinders. In spite of the possibility of the cyclone, supply of oxygen to other States shall remain uninterrupted," informed Hemant Sharma, Principal Secretary Industries Department at the meeting. Collectors of Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, and Jagatsinghpur apprised about their preparedness for the cyclone at the meeting. While as many as 1223 shelters have been identified in Balasore district, 700 have been identified in Bhadrak district, 970 in Kendrapara district and 223 in Jagatsinghpur district. The Collectors informed that in addition to the above arrangements for oxygen, rescue work, food, medicines and all other necessary arrangements have been made.

Now You Can Get Your COVID Test Report At Home

Bhubaneswar, May 22: In a major development, People waiting for Covid test reports will now not have to worry about running to test centres to get the reports. They can get it from the Covid test website sitting at home. Odisha Government has today launched a Covid Test Report website to

centre to get their covid report. The test report generated digitally will carry all the details of the person undergone test, including the QR code which can be used by any designate agency to verify the authenticity of their report at any time. With the launching of this website, Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik

PCR test centres across most districts where service will be provided to people every day, further strengthening the fight against the pandemic. Covid Test Report website is part of 5T initiative to ensure that the test report status are available to people in very convenient way. In order to ensure privacy of the reports, OTP will be sent to the registered number. The website <https://covid19regd.odisha.gov.in/Samp1CollectionDetails.aspx> has been linked to <https://statedashboard.odisha.gov.in> for greater convenience. Manoj Kumar Mishra Secretary, Electronics & IT; Science and Technology Department, Government of Odisha said: "We often see that people throng to the test centres to just collect their negative reports. During these hard time, the anxiety to know their test status is obvious and people want to know it sooner after undergoing the Covid test. We have leveraged technology to remove these hassles of collecting test status by providing the report directly. The same also can be availed at the Mo Seba Kendras at GP level."



help people check their Covid test status which will bring convenience as well as make it faster for people to know the result. After undergoing Covid-19 tests, RT PCR or Rapid Antigen, people can know their test result- whether it is positive or negative- by just submitting their registered mobile number or SRF ID in the website. They can also download the report by their reference or fitter use. This IT initiative by Health @ E&IT dept now eliminates the need for people having to physically visit the testing

said, "Technology has always been a big bulwark during the fight against the pandemic. Hassle free provision of information regarding Covid test to people will not only smoothen the process but also give a huge relief to the people during these trying times." Chief Minister added that it has been our effort to provide free testing-cum-treatment to protect precious lives, especially the vulnerable people. CM added that we have significantly increased our capacity to conduct RT-PCR testing by setting up RT-

Cabinet Secretary holds meeting over Cyclone Yaas

New Delhi, May 22: With many lives being lost at sea during the Cyclone Taukte, Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba chaired a meeting of the the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) over impending Cyclone storm Yaas and directed concerned states to ensure all boats and vessels were on shore before the cyclone hits India's eastern shore on May 26. He also stressed on evacuation of people to safer places and protection of Covid-related infrastructure. The Director General of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), briefed the committee about the latest status of the cyclone, which is expected to reach West Bengal and the adjoining northern Odisha coast by the evening of May 26, with wind



speeds ranging from 155 to 165 kmph, accompanied by heavy rainfall and storm surges in the coastal districts of these states, Officials said. "Reviewing the preparedness of the Central and State agencies, Shri Rajiv Gauba stressed that the all measures should be taken in a timely manner so that loss of life and destruction of property is minimized. He emphasised on the early evacuation of people from the areas likely to be affected by the cyclone alongwith ensuring the return of all boats/vessels to the

shores, so that there is zero loss of life," a statement from the Ministry of Home Affairs said. Gauba is learnt to have stressed that safety of Covid patients be ensured and disruption of functioning of Covid hospitals and centres avoided. He also advised that steps be taken to maintain the generation and movement of oxygen from the cyclone affected areas, to other parts of the country, officials said. "The Cabinet Secretary also said that preparatory arrangements should be made to restore power,

telecom and other important services. He directed the concerned agencies to work in close co-ordination and extend all requisite assistance to the States/UTs," the MHA said. According to MHA, the chief secretaries of the concerned states apprised the Committee of the preparatory measures put in place to deal with the cyclonic storm. Sources said evacuation of people from the low lying areas is being carried out even as adequate stocks of foodgrains, drinking water and other essential supplies have been arranged and preparations made to maintain essential services such as Power, Telecommunications, etc. NDRF, officials said, has deployed 65 teams and 20 more teams are on standby. Rescue and relief teams of the Army,

Navy and Coast Guard alongwith ships and aircrafts have also been deployed. "Necessary arrangements are also being made to ensure uninterrupted functioning of hospitals and Covid Care Centres, along with ensuring generation and supply of oxygen to Covid facilities across the country," the MHA statement said. The meeting was attended by the Chief Secretaries and officers of West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar and Puducherry. Secretaries of Ministries of Home, Power, Shipping, Telecom, Petroleum & Natural Gas, Civil Aviation, Fisheries, Chairman Railway Board, Member Secretary NDMA, Chief IDS and DGs of Coast Guard, NDRF and IMD also participated in the meeting

IAS officer Krishan Kumar saves life of road accident victim

Bhubaneswar, May 22: A senior IAS officer and Chief Administrator of Puri Jagannath temple, Dr Krishan Kumar came to the rescue of a road accident victim, who was left unattended on Bhubaneswar-Puri Highway on Friday. Krishan picked up the distressed one himself and fa-



cilitated to admit him to Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar. Sources

said, Ratnakar Pradhan who is a native of Sakhi gopal area met with an accident

near Uttara Square late in the evening. He was lying unconscious in a pool of blood on the road after a heavy vehicle fled hitting him. No one dared to pick him up fearing Corona infection. Meanwhile, Dr Krishan Kumar was returning Bhubaneswar, to his government residence. Krishan

noticed a road mishap and found the man struggling for existence. He immediately, peaked him up, provided the essential first aid and rushed him to Capital hospital. He managed the treatment till the victim became responsive. Subsequently, Ratnakar regained his consciousness after a meticulous medical care.

Mixing different Covid-19 vaccines theoretically possible, says Centre

New Delhi, May 22: More studies will be required to come to a stage where this can be recommended, Niti Aayog (health) member VK Paul said. It is scientifically possible that an individual gets the first dose of one vaccine and the second dose of another vaccine, but it will take time to decide whether it can be recommended, the Centre has said. A recent UK study has found that it is safe to mix doses of different types of vaccines, but there will be many side effects, the study has revealed. "It is plausible. But there need to be more studies. It can't be said definitively that mixing of doses can be practised. There is no robust sci-



entific evidence. Only time will tell whether it will be done in future or not. It will depend on international studies, World Health Organization findings etc. Our experts are also continuously studying," Niti Aayog (health) member VK Paul said on Saturday. "One shot of one type produces antibodies and the second shot

from another will increase that. Scientifically, there is no problem," he added. Mixing doses of Covid vaccines not a good idea. A study finds out side-effects Covishield and Covaxin are the two vaccines being administered in the country. Both the vaccines consist of two doses, the second dose of which

is known as the booster dose. In its several advisories, the health ministry has repetitively cautioned that the second dose of the same vaccine should be taken. The study which says mixing two doses is safe was conducted over around 2,000 volunteers and in the mix and match approach, they were given one Oxford vac-

cine shot and another Pfizer; another combination of Moderna and Novavax was also tried. The trial was not aimed at finding out whether a combination of two different doses is effective in preventive Covid or not. Only the immune response of the volunteers was tested and the adverse reactions were short-lived. There has been no such study yet in India mixing Covaxin and Covishield. According to the latest findings, the first dose of these two vaccines has different effectiveness. Covishield's first dose offers more protection than Covaxin's first dose and hence the second dose of Covishield can be delayed to 12 to 16 weeks, the Centre has recently said.

Punjab Navjot Singh Sidhu Dares Amarinder Singh To Prove He Wanted To Switch Sides

Chandigarh, May 22: Amid speculation of factionalism in Punjab's Congress unit, Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu has challenged the Chief Minister of the state, Amarinder Singh, to prove the allegation of trying to defect against him. Sidhu has been a critic of Chief Minister Amarinder Singh in the case of the absurdity of the religious text. The MLA from Amritsar said that he has never spoken to anyone for any position, but he was offered to join the cabinet several times. He has uploaded a video on Twitter, in which he is seen in pictures with Congress President Sonia Gandhi, party leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. The

Punjab and Haryana High Court last month quashed the investigation report submitted by the Punjab Police's Special Investigation Team (SIT) regarding the Kotkapura firing and since then Sidhu has been criticizing Chief Min-

ister Amarinder Singh over the matter. The incident took place in Faridkot, Punjab, during the protests against the inappropriateness of the religious text. The Chief Minister of Punjab had also



not requested anyone for any position till now. I only want the prosperity of Punjab. Many times I was offered to join the cabinet, but I did not accept. Now, our high command has intervened, will wait.

criticized Sidhu and termed him as 'completely undisciplined' and said that Sidhu can join the Aam Aadmi Party. Sidhu said in a tweet on Saturday, 'You should also tell about one such meeting in which I have met another party leader. I have

Vaccine Shortage For Youth In Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal



New Delhi, May 22: Vaccination centers for youth in Delhi are being closed from Saturday. CM Arvind Kejriwal said that we are sad that these centers have to be closed for the youth. We have asked for more vaccine from the center. In May, Delhi has been given 16 lakh vaccines, while in June Delhi's quota has been reduced to 8 lakhs. If 8 lakh per month vaccine is given, then it will take 30 months to give the vaccine to the whole of Delhi. Until then, do not know how many corona waves will come. How many will be lost. So far, about 50 lakh dose vaccine has been installed in Delhi. CM Kejriwal said that due to lack of vaccine, very difficult conditions have arisen in the country. The vaccine is the only way to save people's lives from corona. Four suggestions have been made to the

central government to increase the availability of vaccines in the country. The Indian biotech company has agreed to reveal its formula. The central government should order all those companies within 24 hours to produce the vaccine in India on a war footing. Kejriwal said that the central government should allow all foreign vaccines to use the vaccine in India within 24 hours. The Government of India should talk to these foreign companies and the government there. It is left to the states. Is it a good thing that states should talk separately from other countries. The Government of India should talk to these companies directly and get the vaccine and then make the vaccine available to the states. There are some countries, who are sitting by storing vaccines more than necessary

Assam govt plans to introduce cow protection bill in next assembly session: Governor

Guwahati, May 22: Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi on Saturday said the government is planning to introduce a cow protection bill in the next assembly session to ban transport of the animal outside the state. Ad-

ressing the first session of the 15th Assam Legislative Assembly, Mukhi said people revere and worship cows, considering it a sacred animal. "I am happy to inform you that my government plans to introduce the Cow Protection Bill in



the next assembly session. The proposed bill envisages imposition of complete ban on transport of cattle outside the state," he said. The government will adopt a zero-tolerance policy for protection of the animal and enforce stringent punishment for

those found transporting it outside Assam, the governor said. "Once passed, Assam will join other states which have passed similar bills," he said. Mukhi also said cows nurture people as the animal gives them "life-sustaining milk".

Low pressure area likely to intensify into very severe cyclonic storm, cross Bengal, Odisha on May 26



Kolkata, May 22: A low pressure area formed over east-central Bay of Bengal on Saturday, which is likely to intensify into a very severe cyclonic storm and move towards West Bengal, adjoining north Odisha and Bangladesh coasts around May 26 morning, the regional met department said. The system is very likely to cross the coasts of the two states and the neighbouring country on May 26 evening, said Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) Director G K Das. Wind speed is expected to reach 90-100

km per hour gusting to 110 kmph from May 26 forenoon along and off West Bengal, north Odisha and Bangladesh coasts, and increase thereafter till evening, he said. The Indian Navy has kept on standby ships and aircraft to render assistance in the most affected areas, a Defence spokesperson said. Das said light to moderate rainfall at most places of Gangetic West Bengal with heavy rain at isolated places is very likely to commence over coastal districts from May 25 with significant increase in intensity and

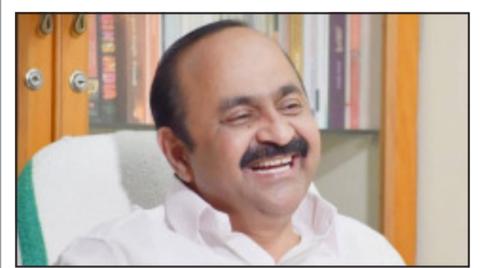
area subsequently. "Light to moderate rainfall at most places with heavy to very heavy rainfall at a few places, and extremely heavy rainfall at isolated places very likely on May 26," he said. Owing to the weather system, sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim are also expected to experience light to moderate rain at most places with heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places on May 26. Very heavy rainfall is forecast for a few areas on May 27, Das said. The impact of the developing cyclone will be evident along and off West Bengal, north Odisha and Bangladesh coasts from May 24 evening with wind speed reaching 40 to 50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph, the Met Department said. Sea condition will be high to very high over major

parts of central Bay of Bengal and Odisha, West Bengal and Bangladesh coasts from May 24 to May 26, it said. Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea from May 23 till further information. Four naval ships are on standby with humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, diving and medical teams, the spokesperson added. "Eight flood relief teams and four diving teams are prepositioned at Odisha and West Bengal to augment the existing resources," the official said. Aircraft have been kept ready at naval air stations INS Dega in Visakhapatnam and INS Rajali near Chennai to undertake aerial survey, casualty evacuation and airdrop of relief material as required, the spokesperson said.

Congress appoints V D Satheesan as Leader of Opposition in Kerala

New Delhi, May 22: After days of deliberations and suspense, the Congress Saturday decided to appoint V D Satheesan as the new Leader of the Opposition in Kerala, ushering in a generational change in the state unit

Mullappally Ramachandran as KPCC president. Talking to The Indian Express, AICC in-charge of Kerala Tariq Anwar said the high command's decision to appoint Satheesan as the LoP has been con-

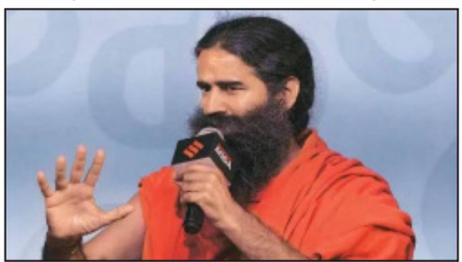


which is battered and bruised by the recent electoral set back. Satheesan, 56, was elected from Paravur constituency in Ernakulam district for a fifth consecutive term in the Kerala polls. He has served as the vice-president of the state unit and AICC secretary in the past. He was also the president of the PAC and estimate committees in the Assembly's last term. This is the first time an Opposition leader will hail from Ernakulam district. Satheesan replaces veteran Ramesh Chennithala who was the Leader of the Opposition in the last Assembly. The move marks a change of leadership in the legislative ranks of the Congress and the UDF coalition it leads in the House. The party is also planning to replace

veyed to the state unit. "I just conveyed to the state unit. The state unit will convey to the Speaker," he said. "After the setback in the election, Congress workers felt there needed to be some change. The present leaders also don't want to continue," Anwar added. Asked about the change in PCC president, Anwar said, "After some time. Not yet decided." The decision came after most of the newly elected MLAs preferred a change in House leadership. AICC observers Mallikarjun Kharge and R Vaithilingam had arrived in Kerala after the Assembly election results and held one-on-one discussions with all Congress MLAs. Of the 21 Congress MLAs, at least 12 are reported to have chosen Satheesan over Chennithala.

Centre must take action against Ramdev for making unscientific statements against allopathy: IMA

New Delhi, May 22: The Union health ministry should take action against yoga guru Ramdev as he has misled people by making "unlearned" statements against allopathy and defamed scientific medicine, the Indian Medical Association said on Saturday. Ramdev should be prosecuted under the Epidemic Diseases Act as "untutored" statements are "a threat to the literate society of the country as well as to the poor people falling prey to him", the apex doctors' body said in a



statement. Citing a video circulating on social media, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) said Ramdev is seen saying that "allopathy ek aisi stupid aur diwalya science hai" (allopathy is such a stupid science)". He also says that "lakhs of people

have died after taking allopathic medicines", the association said, adding that Ramdev claimed Remdesivir, Faviflu, and all other drugs, which were approved by the Drugs Controller General of India, have failed in treatment of COVID-19

patients. "The Union health minister (Harsh Vardhan) who himself is a practicing modern medicine allopathic post-graduate and head of this (health) ministry, should either accept the challenge and accusation of this gentleman and dissolve the modern medical facility or boldly face and prosecute the person for his words of arson on the sovereignty of the country and book him under the Epidemic Act to save millions of people from such unscientific utterances," the IMA said.

It alleged that Ramdev is trying to take advantage of the situation and create a sense of fear and frustration among the people at large. He is doing this "so that he can sell his illegal and unapproved so-called medicines and make money at the cost of the public at large", the association said. The IMA said Ramdev deserves to be prosecuted for disobeying and causing danger to the life of many by making them believe to "not to take the advice of allopathy" doctors.

Sukhbir Badal asks Punjab govt to extend free treatment to Covid patients in private hospitals (A.O. Bureau) Ludhiana, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) President Sukhbir Singh Badal on Saturday said it was unfortunate that despite fervent appeals, Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh had done nothing to regulate treatment in private hospitals as well as cap the cost of tests in private laboratories for Covid-19. Badal demanded that keeping in view the current crisis, the govt should immediately announce free treatment for all Covid patients in its hospitals.

Indian Naval Ships, Aircraft On Standby For Rescue Ops



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar: As the low-pressure area in the North Andaman Seas likely to intensify as Cy-

clonic Storm, 'Yaas' during the next 24 hours over the Bay of Bengal and moving North Westerly direction and

likely to cross the coast between North Odisha and West Bengal around May 26, the Indian Navy is closely moni-

toring the movement of the Cyclonic Storm. Headquarters, Eastern Naval Command, and Naval Officers-in-Charge at West Bengal and Odisha area have carried out preparatory activities to combat the effects of Cyclone 'Yaas' and is in constant liaison with the State administrations for rendering assistance as required. As part of the preparedness, eight flood relief teams and four diving teams are prepositioned at Odisha and West Bengal to augment the existing re-

sources. Four naval ships are on standby with Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) bricks, diving, and medical teams to render assistance in the most affected areas along the Odisha and West Bengal coast. Naval aircraft are kept ready at Naval air stations, INS Dega at Visakhapatnam and INS Rajali near Chennai to undertake an aerial survey of the most affected areas, casualty evacuation, and airdrop of relief material as required.

42 units of blood collected at Deuli Matha, Kakatpur under Odisha Mo Parivar



(A.O. Bureau)

Puri, May 22: In this pandemic situation, 42 units of blood have been collected at Deuli Matha, Kakatpur under Odisha Mo Parivar Jeevan Bindu programme,

Puri in this program The State sport's Minister Tushar kanti Behera ,zill parisad Puri President Jotirmaya Dalai , State BJD Vice-president Sibasis Khunti and other,s were Present

Powergrid's Initiatives For Covid 19 Care In Odisha

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 22: Power Grid Corpora9on of India Limited (POWERGRID), a 'Maharatna' Company under Ministry of Power, Government of India has actively taken up various initiatives for extending timely help to its employees and workers in its offices pan-India. In a move to make the Rourkela Sub-station, Odisha Projects campus 100% COVID-19 free, proactive steps were taken to thwart further rise in

COVID-19 cases. A mass RAT (Rapid Antigen Testing) Camp was organised on 19 May, 2021 for Sub-station employees, workers and their family members in adjoining localities of Rourkela Sub-station. A mass vaccination camp was also organised at Angul Sub-station, where about 100 persons were vaccinated including employees, family members, AMC fitters, drivers etc. Similar camps have been organised at Baripada, Kaniha and Bolangir sub-stations.

Indian Naval Ships and Aircraft Stand by For Rescue and Relief ops cyclone Yaas



(A.O. Bureau) Khordha, May 22: As the low pressure area in the North Andaman Sea's likely to intensify as cyclonic storm Yaas during the next 24 hrs over Bay of Bengal and moving North Westerly direction and likely to cross the coast between North Odisha and West Bengal around 26th may. Indian Navy is closely monitoring the movement of the cyclonic storm. Headquarters Eastern Naval Command and Naval Officer -in-charge at West Bengal and odisha area have carried out preparatory activities to combat the effects of cyclone Yaas and is in constant liaison with the state admin-

istration for rendering assistance as required. As part of the preparedness eight flood reliefs team and four diving teams are prepositioned at odisha and West Bengal to augment the existing resources. Four naval ships are on stand by with humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, bricks, diving and medical teams to render assistance in the most affected areas along the Odisha and West Bengal coast. Naval aircraft's are kept ready at Naval Air Stations, INS, Dega at Visakhapatnam and INS, Rajali near Chennai to undertake aerial Survey of the most affected areas, casualty evacuation and airdrop of relief materials as required.

Achievements of Covid Vaccination Programme in Khordha District

(A.O. Bureau) Khordha, May 22: A review meeting of achievements Covid vaccination programme in Khordha district was held on the Conference Hall of Collectorate Khordha, Additional District Magistrate (ADM)Khordha, Manoj Kumar Padhi Preside over the meeting. Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO)Khordha, Dr. Viswaranjan Pati informed about the covid-19 vaccination guidelines and said that till today Khordha district administration except Bhubaneswar



Municipal Corporation (BMC)received 1 Lakhs 68 thousands 510 doses of covishield vaccine. 1 Lakhs 68 thousands 10 people were vaccinated in 36 vaccine centre of the district except BMC.

Khordha District Administration also arranged vaccination of railway employees at jatni and INS Chilika. People above 45 years of age regardless of comorbidities can get vaccinated against

covid-19. When covishield vaccine is available then other age group of people were vaccinated. In the month April -2021 to till today there were 17650 RT-PCR and 30621 Antigen test

done in District Head Quarter Hospital Khordha except BMC. ADM, Khordha Manoj Kumar Padhi said "Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)through Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has set up one oxygen plant in DHH, Khordha. District Administration provides land and other infrastructure development to set up the oxygen plant in DHH. The construction work of the plant will begin in the last week of June-2021 and the plant start to supply oxygen on the month of July this year.

Orissa High Court refuses to grant interim stay on OIC order

(A.O. Bureau) Cuttack, May 22: The Orissa High Court has refused to grant interim stay on Odisha Information Commission (OIC)'s decree declaring Odisha Olympic Association (OOA) as a public authority within the definition of the Right to Information Act-2005. OIC had issued the order on July 9, 2020 on a complaint for bringing OOA under the ambit of RTI to ensure greater transparency and accountability in its operations. While issuing



the order, OIC had directed OOA to comply with the provisions of Act within 30 days from the date of receipt of the order. Accordingly, OOA, the apex sports body of the State, was to set up an RTI cell with appointment of a Public Information Officer and First Appellate

Authority to comply with the provisions of the Act and pave the way for citizens to access information, records and documents of the association. But OOA had filed a petition challenging the OIC order on April 30 on the ground that it is a private body and cannot

be brought under the RTI. An interim application was also filed seeking a stay order. The petition came up before the Vacation Court on Monday. But after a preliminary hearing, the vacation bench of Justice SK Panigrahi issued notice to the State government and OIC to file a response when the matter is taken up after the summer vacation. The OOA operates and maintains the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack which had come up on land given by the government

under a long-term lease for development of sports in Odisha. OOA is affiliated to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) which has already subjected itself to the provisions of RTI in compliance with the order passed by the High Court of Delhi in some writ petitions in 2010. "In that view of the matter, the OOA would not be justified to claim that it is outside the purview of RTI Act as the IOA is subject to the said Act", the OIC had ruled in its July 9 order.

Police recover Rs 4.92 lakh lost in online fraud

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 22: The cyber crime sleuths of Bhubaneswar urban police district managed to trace and recover Rs 4.92 lakh a 76-year-old man had lost to a fraudster during the lockdown period. Rabinarayan Mishra lost the amount on May 16 when the fraudster contacted him by posing as an official of BSNL. The fraudster asked the victim that he has to update the KYC details, otherwise his SIM card will get deactivated. He managed to con-

the elderly man and swindled `5 lakh from his SBI account through immediate payment service (IMPS). "The miscreant had asked Mishra to download a remote control application from Google

Play Store and fill the details. The app can be used to view a device's information and he then told Mishra to pay `11 online towards the fee of updating his details," said cyber crime help desk in-

charge ACP Sanjeev Satpathy. Mishra, who is a retired government employee, had used his debit card to make the payment and the cyber criminal asked him to check the OTP sent on his mobile

phone to complete the transaction. The victim's device was possibly mirrored by the miscreant, he accessed the OTP and stole the money from his account. During investigation, it was found that the money was illegally transferred through Razorpay payment gateway. However, the help desk officers managed to recover Rs 4.92 lakh. "We called the cyber crime help desk within 15 minutes to report the matter. We are lucky that our money could be recovered," said Mishra's son Rajat.



Odisha: Partial waiver of liquor licence fee



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 22: The Cabinet on Friday decided for a partial waiver of license fee on shop liquor licencees, bhang, tadi and pachwai shops from June to December, 2020 to compensate the loss incurred by them in view of the shutdown and lockdown. In view of the restrictions imposed due to Covid-

19 last year, many ON shop licencees were not able to do normal business during the period and could not make adequate profit from the business. After examining the representation from the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Odisha (HRAO), the Excise department prepared a proposal to provide graded relief to the ON shop li-

quor licencees after taking into the profit margin earned on value of liquor lifted by each of them from Odisha State Beverages Corporation vis-a-vis the licence fee paid by them to the government. Accordingly, partial waiver was granted to 364 out of the 613 ON shop licencees, 87 bhang, 65 tari and 6 pachwai shops.

EDITORIAL

Face-off

Another unsavoury episode of calling each other names has erupted between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Though the Prime Minister displayed dignity in not responding directly to Mamata's diatribe, his aides didn't let go of the chance to take on the feisty Chief Minister. The issue snowballed from a recent meeting that Modi had called with the District Magistrates of 10 States, including the ones not ruled by the BJP. Soon after the meeting ended, a furious Mamata launched a frontal attack on Modi, alleging that she was not allowed to speak and that the 24 Pargana's District Magistrate was given precedence over him. Claiming that she and the other Chief Ministers attending the meeting felt insulted, Mamata wondered why they were even invited to the meeting if the Prime Minister wasn't willing to listen to their problems. While the BJP may have a point in its claim that Mamata had sought to interrupt the meeting, the fact still remains that "glorified clerks" like the District Magistrates cannot substitute people's elected representatives. While the Government's appointees derive their power from the official rulebook, the elected representatives are directly reflective of the people's wishes. Therefore, the BJP's argument that the West Bengal Chief Minister had sought to derail the meeting is weak in that it is based on the assumption that a DM knows better than a Chief Minister. What actually is the point of the State leaders attending such meetings if they are not allowed to broach the relevant matters with the Prime Minister? At a time when the country is reeling under the second wave of the pernicious virus and the fears of a third wave unleashing itself on humankind are well nigh, the Central and the State Governments must stand united in tackling the COVID-19 crisis. Ironically, the meeting had been called to discuss COVID preparedness. As the unitary authority, the Centre is vested with enormous powers; it should exercise these with responsibility; it should not rely on these or invoke these to bypass elected State Governments to have its way. What has been called "cooperative federalism" is what is best suited to our vast and diverse county. The object of the exercise of this power, in fact all the cumulative power at the command of the authorities, should be public service and not personal aggrandisement.

SC to lenders' aid

The financial lenders have got relief with the Supreme Court upholding a Government notification for invoking personal guarantees of promoters whose companies have defaulted on bank loans. The banks can now file for personal bankruptcies against promoters whose companies are facing debt resolution from the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). The Government enacted the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code in 2016 to deal with the inability of banks to get back defaulting loans. Within a few months, over 50 companies ended up with the NCLT and personal guarantees given by the defaulting promoters were sought to be invoked. At that point, several promoters moved the High Courts and finally the Supreme Court transferred the cases to itself. In 2019, the Government amended the Code by bringing in the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Personal Guarantors to Corporate Debtors) Regulations, 2019. The notification empowered the lenders to invoke the defaulters' personal guarantees. The apex court clubbed all the 70-odd petitions that challenged the "personal guarantors" clause of the notification. The Supreme Court not only upheld the constitutional validity of the notification, it also held that even after a resolution formula is worked out for the corporate debtor, the personal guarantor continues to be liable for any balance amount remaining. This ensures that the liability of the personal guarantor does not end even after a resolution formula is worked out for the corporate debtor and proceedings can be initiated against the promoter and personal guarantor and co-guarantors, if any, as well. The Supreme Court's decision has now provided teeth to the banks' recovery processes. They can pursue both the personal guarantors and the corporate debtors simultaneously. The banks or other lenders can directly invoke the personal guarantees of the promoters even as the bankruptcy proceedings against the promoters' companies go ahead. In technical parlance, the promoters who give personal guarantees will have to deal with their insolvency on their own, even by selling their private assets, if they have to, and will not hamper the insolvency cases against the corporate debtors. The promoters will now be made to reach a settlement with the banks in the form of a one-time settlement or a repayment plan and give an undertaking that they will not impede the resolution process of the corporate debtor. It gives a fillip to the banks' attempts to clean up the huge amount of bad loans without writing them off as NPAs. The apex court dismissed without costs all the petitions by, among others, Anil Ambani of R-Com, Sanjay Singhal of Bhushan Power and Steel, Videocon's Venugopal Dhoot and Kapil Wadhawan of Dewan Housing Finance Limited, all of whom have stood personal guarantees for loans and were then found defaulting. The decision plugs a major loophole in the bankruptcy law and acts as a powerful deterrent against the defaulters.

When the calendar doesn't go full circle

The strictly lunar character of the Hijri calendar renders it unsuitable for civil use; the Empires had to depend upon solar calendars. The switchover from Ramadan (or Ramzan), the ninth month of the Islamic Hijri calendar, to Shawwal on the 29th, abounds in uncertainty and excitement. The sighting of the lunar crescent (Hilal in Arabic) on the western horizon — in a slender timeframe between sunset and moonset — would herald the new month. The first day of Shawwal is celebrated as Eid-ul-Fitr. A non-sighting could merely extend the Ramadan by another day. On the 30th day, the moon sighting becomes redundant as no Hijri month could be longer. It would automatically lead to Shawwal and, therefore, the Eid. This phenomenon of reckoning is not specific to Ramadan and Shawwal but applies to all 12 Hijri months. However, moon sightings keep in news only for the commencement of Ramadan, Shawwal and Dhu-al-Hijjah for their religious significance. Moon sighting is a big game in Pakistan. Disproportionate amounts of resources are allocated for it. The Ruet-e-Hilal committee announces the beginning of every Hijri month based on intelligence received from various sources. The principal source is Pakistan's meteorological department, which maintains 288 observation centres across the nation. They even employ theodolites, a precision instrument with movable telescopes. "The problem of determining the day when the new lunar crescent can be seen first at any site of observation has remained an open problem since antiquity. The phenomenon remains important for beginning a lunar month in a purely



Priyadarshi Dutta

observational lunar calendar," observes Muhammed Shahid Qureshi. Qureshi completed his PhD on the comparative study of mathematical models for earliest visibility of the crescent moon from the University of Karachi in 2007. Why have lunar observations remained a thorny issue since ancient times? This is because the mean value of the moon's synodic revolution around Earth is 29 days, 12 hours, 44 minutes and 2.87 seconds. Still, significant variations are possible on account of the eccentricities and perturbations of the orbits of Moon around Earth and Earth around the Sun, informs late Sir Harold Spencer Jones, former Astronomer Royal of Britain. The total range of variation is about 13 hours. Qureshi's dissertation informs that the earliest mathematical model of lunar crescent visibility was worked out by Muslim astronomers at the Abbasid court of Al-Mamun in the ninth century. Among those astronomers was Al-Battani. In modern times, Schmidt, Forthingham, Maunder, Bruin,

Schaefer, Ilyas and Odeh, among others, have contributed to better predictability. The Hindu religious calendar is also based on lunar months. The months are, however, determined by calculations rather than observations. It is based on the concept of tithis, where each tithi in the series represents 12 degrees of progressive angular separation of the Moon from the Sun. Every tithi, beginning from Shukla Pratipada to Amavasya, could have religious significance for the Hindus. It is surprising why medieval Muslim mathematicians/astronomers failed to develop a lunar calendar based on calculation to simplify things. They rather went in for complicated models merely to predict the crude principle of lunar sightings, which remain at the mercy of several meteorological factors. Between the eighth and 19th century, well over 200 location-specific zijis (astronomical handbooks) were compiled in the Islamic world, informs Stephen P Blake in Time in Early Modern Islam. The lunar crescent (Hilal)

could not be visible before Shukla Tritiya, if not Chaturthi, on account of its faintness and slenderness. In the 21st century, we have apps like MoonCalc, which provide location-based information on the timing and trajectory of the moon. Yet, the Muslim world insists on the naked eye sighting (Ruya), which now includes telescoping sighting, where split verdicts are common. The most disadvantageous aspect of the Hijri calendar is its purely lunar character. The year comprises 354 days (12 lunar cycles of 29½ days each). The intercalation used by the pagan Arabs, to keep the year abreast of the seasons, was prohibited by Prophet Mohammed as per a command in the Quran (9:36-37). So, the calendar became out of sync with the seasons. The religious austerities/festivities freely wander through the year, advancing by 11 days vis-à-vis the Gregorian calendar every year. Islamic civilisations, however, could not live by religion alone. While the Hijri calendar satisfied liturgical purposes, it could not sustain the agrarian, revenue and administrative work. Blake, in his study of Safavid, Ottoman and Mughal Empires in Iran, Turkey and India, found that each one used solar calendars whether Zoroastrian, Julian or Indic (Saka Samvat) sometimes modifying it to their needs. Seljuk ruler Jalal al-Din Malik Shah (1055-92), who set up Islam's first astronomical observatory at Isfahan, used the services of famous astronomer and poet Omar Khayyam (1048-1132) to devise a solar calendar. He established a new era Tarikh-i-Jalali that began on Vernal Equinox (coinciding with Zoroastrian festival Nau Roz) on March 21, 1079. The Era was used in Iran until the Islamic revolution in 1979.

Future students of history will find Professor Dr. Gokulananda Mahapatra : The man who popularized science in Odisha

Dr. N.N. Mahapatra

Professor Dr. Gokulananda Mahapatra was born on 24 May 1922 at Bhadrak, Odisha to Bijay Gobinda Mahapatra and Fuka Devi. His father was a businessman and money lender. Those days he was called as a mobile bank of Bhadrak. Prof Mahapatra lost his father at a very young age. He had his primary education at his village school and completed his Matriculation from Bhadrak high school in the year 1941. He did his graduation with chemistry honours from Ravenshaw College in the year 1945. Then he went on to do MSc in Chemistry from Presidency College, Kolkata in the year 1947 and did his PhD from the Utkal University in the year 1958 in Chemistry on "Synthesis of new Hetero cyclic compounds and their Mercurial derivatives and testing their Biological activities under Prof M.K. Rout. He was awarded the Cooper Memorial Gold Medal for producing the best research paper in Organic Chemistry in Journal of Institution of Chemist, 1959 and was awarded Fellow of Institution of Chemists, Calcutta (F.I.C) in the year 1961. He did his Post-Doctorate from Brandeis university, Waltham, Massachusetts, U.S.A (1962-64) on "Elucidation of structure of De-oxy guanine under Prof O.M. Freedman. After completing his studies he joined as a chemistry lecturer in 1948 at Ravenshaw college. He retired in 1980 as Professor and HOD of Chemistry, Ravenshaw college. Then he went on to join as the first Principal of Maharishi College. He was in the office from 1982 to 1984. He was also the first director of The Odisha State Bureau of Textbook

Preparation and Production from 1970 to 1972 for preparing college level text books in science, arts, commerce subjects into regional language for under graduate and graduate classes. He was also the founding member of Orissa Bigyana Prachar Samiti which was started in 1949 for popularization of science in Oriya language for common men and college students. Way back in the 1930s, when Gokulananda Mahapatra was in school there was no text book for science in Odia language. Teachers collected texts from Bengali and other regional languages and translated those. Even when he wanted to take up science in college, He found good science books in Odia were not available. He wanted to do something to resolve this problem. When he was studying in Presidency College, Kolkata, English science fiction books inspired him. These things led Gokulananda Mahapatra to write science books. Famous writer Mayadhar Mansingh and Writer Balakrishna Kar also inspired him to write. In the 1950s, the state government decided to publish science text books in Odia language and entrusted Gokulananda Mahapatra with the task of writing the books. The job was quite difficult as he had to write the books in a very simple language and in an attractive manner. Another major problem was unavailability of scientific and technical vocabulary in Odia language. He worked to evolve the terminology and as a result the first science text book in



Odia language was published in 1952. Gokulananda Mahapatra Published his first book "Bhishaniki Man outside Earth" in 1954. This book is claimed by some critics to be not only the first of its kind in Odisha but also in India. Gokulananda Mahapatra has authored over 95 science fiction, Science Novel and children science books and biography of some renowned scientists and many others. Some of his notable contributions are "Krutrima Upagraha" (Artificial Satellite, 1958), "Sputnik (1958), Madhyanhara Andhakara (Darkness of the Noon, 1959) Udhanta Thalia (The Flying Saucer, 1963) "Chandra raMrutyu" (Death of Moon, 1966), Sunara Odisha (Golden Odisha, 1973). In a lucid style he had portrayed the impact of science on human civilization and how human life is influenced by scientific and technological discoveries and invention. His fiction played a significant role in the consolidation of the contemporary scientific imagination. He had a good sense of scientific realism and knew the art of combining it with fantasy. He is known as the H.G. Wells of Odisha. His book "Baigyanika Gyankosha" is a milestone in Odia literature. The book is an encyclopedia of science in Odia language. It took him over ten years to write the two volumes of it. Besides Science Fiction and Science Novel he also wrote Textbooks on

Chemistry for Intermediate Science classes in college. He was the first person to go abroad for higher research with his family and stayed in USA for 2.5 yrs (1962-64). After returning from USA and Europe he had written two books on his travel called "Pashayta Smruti" (Memories of the West, 1966) and "Neelachakrabale Separe" (Beyond the Blue Horizon, 1967) which was very popular among the readers of Odisha. In the 60s very few people from Odisha used to go abroad. For his outstanding contribution to the society in the field of science he was honoured with Doctorate of Science (D.Sc) from Utkal University and Ravenshaw University in the year 2011. On 18th May, 2010 he had set up the Prof. Dr. Gokulananda-Nityananda Mahapatra Foundation (GNMF) helping people improve their own lives, look for solutions to complex problems in poor, remote and challenging parts of the country. GNM foundation has renovated completely, an Advanced Organic Chemistry Laboratory in the PG department of Chemistry, Utkal University Bhubaneswar and yet another fully renovated advanced Organic Chemistry lab, Analytical Chemistry lab and an Ultramodern fully air conditioned PG seminar library in the PG department of Chemistry at Ravenshaw University of Cuttack Orissa on 9th Nov, 2011. He received Odisha Sahitya Akademy Award for his book "E jugarasreshthaabiskara" in 1964. He was conferred with Sarala Puraskar, Utkal Sahitya Samaj and Bijaya Puraskar. He was the first Odia who got Kalinga Prize for the Popularization of Science by UNESCO in 2010 and R K Parija Samman, Sarla Samman for his contribution to science literature in Odia. He expired on 10th July, 2013 at the age of 91 at Ahmedabad (Gujarat).

Big task of cyclone facing during Covid



(A.O. Bureau) Ganjam, May 22: Light pressure is expected in the northern Andaman Sea and the adjoining eastern central Bay of Bengal on the 22nd. The epicenter was reported below the Pacific Ocean floor, however; no tsunami alert was issued. Ganjam district administration collector of Ganjam Vijay Amruta Kulange said the Ganjam district ad-

ministration had made all preparations to deal with possible storms. Meanwhile, the fire brigade has made all the items, such as Aska lights, power boats, mechanical saws, and recycled gears. Firefighters will be called in to deal with the storm. "It's a big challenge for the district," DM said. All preparations have been made by the district administration

to deal with the storm. The district administration is alerting the public at all times and arrangements are being made to relocate people from the open down area. Fishermen have been barred from going to sea due to winds high speed wing ahead. At this juncture, District Magistrate Kulange urged the people of Ganjam to cooperate with the district administration.

A health team organised corona test camp, facilitate health care to maiost effected village

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 22: A 12 members health team climbed the hill, returned with health care. The villages are Mao effected. The Mathili medical team has reached the health village of Khatuapadar in the Mathili block of Malkangiri district. A special 12-member health team walked 12 km through the dense forest on the hilly road to reach the village of Khatuapadar. There are health check-ups for the villagers as well as corona



tests. So all the corona reports are negative. Of these, 2 villagers have been diagnosed with malaria. The health team has provided free medicine to people suffering from various diseases. The team, led by Dr Amiya Kumar Swain, a health officer in charge of the Mathili Sub-division Medical Center, arrived in the village. Dr. Amiya wore a mask to warn the villagers about the corona and told to maintain social distance regular hand wash sanitisation to be done.

Huge amount of Ganja traced from a tractor



(A.O. Bureau) Kodala, May 22: The illegal smuggling held on various ideas by the vendor's. When such as information got from very secret timeline, as per direction of Collector, Ganjam today on 22.05.2021 in the morning during patrolling under direct supervision of Tahasildar, Kodala detain a Tractor bearing Reg.No. OD 07 L 8243 at Kanchana road near Bijaya Family Restaurant. The

Tractor was searched by joint team of Excise & Police officials in the presence of Sri Abani Kumar Sahu, Tahasildar Kodala, Abhiram Behera, Dy. Supdt. of Excise Chatrapur, Debasis Mahanty IIC Kodala PS, with other Excise & Police officials. During search recovered 30 nos of Jari bags in each bag containing 30 kgs of Ganja all total 900 kgs or 9 (Nine) Quintals. The Ganja along with Trac-

tor seized by Smt. Pritidhara Nayak, Inspector of Excise Striking Force Chatrapur & booked an absconded case against the Tractor owner Arun Sahu under NDPS Act, as the driver of the Tractor managed to fled away from the spot. Investigation is under process, the driver & the Tractor owner will be arrested shortly. The approximate value of the seized Ganja is Rs. 45 Lakhs (Rupees fortyfive lakhs) only.

PA, ITDA's visit to Bandaghati, public awareness and distribution of mask sanitizers to prevent corona disease

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 22: Twelve indigenous people have been diagnosed with corona disease in the second wave this year in the remote Bandaghati at the top of the Bonda hills, officials from the district administration and voluntary organizations have visited. Today, Kshiradhi Behera, project administrator of the Integrated Tribal Development Agency, Malkangiri visited the remote Bandaghati to study the situation in Karona and meet the

Ankadili Hata due to a corona infection. In Bandaghati, the district administration has been conducting regular health camps and public awareness campaigns, and masks, sanitizers and handwashes have been provided to all Banda communities to protect them from coronary disease, said PA ITDA Mr Behera. He went to various remote villages in Bandaghati and distributed masks and sanitizers to the people of the Banda community with the



Banda tribes to discuss their benefits and disadvantages. The Indigenous Banda tribe of the Banda Valley has reviewed the Covid-19 relationship with officials on how to protect themselves from coronary disease. He emphasized the need to focus on improving the development of the ITDA in remote Banda Ghati, as well as how the Banda people can become self-sufficient. In Bandaghati, the district administration has set up a special vegetable market to deliver essential goods. The Andhra Pradesh border has been sealed off as the Banda people have gone to the Andhra Pradesh border in

message of public awareness, how to wear masks, how to protect themselves from the Karona infection, how to keep social distance, not to go to crowds. Rajendra Kumnaar Nag, Project Manager, PAITDA, Banda Upliftment Committee Officer, Khairput BDO, Tahsildar, Khairput Doctor and other officials were present. Since the last 13 days, the ITDA has set up public awareness camps in M u d u l i p a d a , B a n d h a g u d a , B a n d i g u d a , R a m l i g u d a and Siliguda villages of Bandaghati to aware corona infections and distribute masks, sanitizers and soaps to the Banda people.

Couple of wedding's open violating Covid guideline Hinjili Admins take strong action

(A.O. Bureau) Hinjilicut, May 22: The second wave of corona has created an atmosphere of fear and panic across Odisha. The government has continued its efforts to tackle corona with a view to people's

in a row for the state's residents until the morning of June 1 due to the unexpected increase in the number of infected people. The state government has emphasized the need to protect people's lives and to fight the epidemic.



livelihoods. After the advent of the second wave of corona in the state, the emphasis was only on vigilance and vigilance. A few days later, however, the state of the infectious disease was slowly deteriorating, with the announcement of a nightclub and then a week-long shutdown process in the state. State Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who was not in favor of the lock down from the beginning, finally announced a 14-day lockdown process from May 5 to the morning of May 14 across the state. The lockdown process has been announced for the second time

Some services have been cut off, while some have been cut off. Weddings, vows, and funerals are permitted to be held in a socially acceptable manner. In the first phase, the administration had directed to hold a wedding party with a maximum of 50 people, but as the situation progressed, guidelines were issued by the state government for the wedding of only 25 people. Hundreds of banquets are being held every day in Ganjam district in blatant violation of the Covid Act. Despite repeated appeals and warnings from the administration, the corona has been found to be com-

pletely ineffective. The party's addiction to eating and eating during the epidemic is raising concerns. Ganjam district Hinjili administration, local police station Durbandha panchayat Godrapalli village has taken

a tough stance on the illegal program. The wedding of Rammurthy's two sons, K. Basant and K. Sushant, took place. Later on Saturday morning, Tahsildar Prabhat Kumar Parida, Block Development Officer Subrata Kumar Jena and Police Officer Abhimanyu Das Sadalbale reached the spot in Godarapalli village. The father and two sons have been arrested and detained at the police station, according to Tahsildar Shri Parida. A case No. 256/21 has been registered in Hinjili police station. He later raided a banquet hall for thousands of people in the village of

Balisahi in Badkhandi and confiscated food items. The confiscated food items were distributed among the poor, helpless people of the urban areas under the supervision of Dr. Manoranjan Sahu, Municipal Executive Officer. Organizer Bairi Ganapati and his son have been detained, according to a complaint filed by Tahsildar Shri Parida. On the other hand, reported writers appear incorrect as a message in other groups were not installed by default. Necessary steps will be taken after testing the antigens of both the organizers and family members, the video said. In the Hinjilicut area, there has been an increase in the number of people infected and killed in the area over the past few days due to the large number of people who have been protesting against the covid cut-off. Local administration, including the state government and the district administration, are raising awareness in various ways. "It simply came to our notice then that we were not aware of the situation and that the situation would improve if the public were aware of this," the admin panel's BDO Tahasiladr and IIC said.

Bhusan Factory provide medical supplies to the district administration



(A.O. Bureau) Rengali, May 22: The jewelry at the Thelkolei in the Rengali block of Sambalpur district has been handed over to the Sambalpur district admin-

istration with oxygen test cylinders with covid testing equipment. The company has already supplied 25 cylinders with oxygen cylinders and 2,000 covid test equipment.

Stranded in Goa, Odia couple seeks government help to return

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 22: Left without a job or money post lockdown, an Odia couple from Malkangiri stranded in Goa has sought help from the Odisha government to return home. Mithun Sarkar (31) and wife Sarita, from Kalimela town, are now staring at uncertainty. Stuck in a faraway state, the couple reportedly has no savings to survive on or even return home. According to sources, the couple has a one and half year old son and Sarita is 8 months pregnant. Mithun along with his wife and son had moved to Goa in February as he was in search of a job. He was hired as a security guard with a private company for a monthly salary of Rs 13,500 and joined duty on March 17. However,

the company paid him 13 days' salary for the month and stopped paying him thereafter forcing him to leave. "The company is not paying my dues despite repeated requests. The house owner is asking us to vacate if we don't pay rent. All my money has been exhausted. How do I feed my child and pregnant wife?" Mithun told the TNIE. He said the lockdown has aggravated their plight as they are away from home. "We want to come back to Odisha but do not have money for the journey. I request the government to come to our rescue and ensure our safe return," Mithun said. Four years ago, his parents had not approved of his marriage to Sarita and did not let the couple to stay with them.



Shyam Metallis has crossed the line of pollution



(A.O. Bureau) Rengali, May 22: All border crossings in Belgaum have been crossed. The company, located at Pandaloi in the Rengali block of

State Highway 10 on the Biju Expressway, has always been parked on the side of the road, causing heavy traffic accidents. The company has taken

over the road under its own control. Thousands of vehicles are parked on the side of the road. No roads are visible in the dust. This is due to illegal

parking. He sprayed water on the road by tanker on the road for a day or three, but the next day he saw the pollution on Saturday. The honeycomb was clearly visible. The effect of the dust was so horrible that small vehicles were parked on the side of the road. Throwing ashes, polluting, exploiting workers without security equipment, illegally occupying national highways, despite so many incidents, the inaction of the administration is pointing the finger at the actions of administrative officials.

Mission Impossible franchise completes 25 years: A definitive ranking of MI films

New Delhi, May 22: Your mission, should you choose to accept it... It all began a quarter of a century ago. The Mission: Impossible franchise completes 25 years today. The first film in the popular action spy series, Brian de Palma's Mission: Impossible, released on this day in 1996. There have been six Mission: Impossible films so far. The original was followed by Mission: Impossible 2, Mission: Impossible III, Mission: Impossible—Ghost Protocol, Mission: Impossible—Rogue Nation and Mission: Impossible—Fallout. There are at least two more movies in development. The franchise, based on the TV show of the same name, revolves around Tom Cruise's Ethan Hunt, an operative of Impossible Missions Force (IMF). Cruise has carried for-



ward the franchise with sheer dedication and perseverance. Here is a ranking of Mission: Impossible movies, from worst to best.
6. Mission: Impossible II: Easily the weakest film in the franchise, Mission: Impossible II is still a lot of fun. Some of the action scenes work, the rest not so much.
5. Mission: Impossible III: JJ Abrams' directorial debut is not a bad movie at all. It has one

of the best villains in the franchise, Philip Seymour Hoffman's arms dealer Owen Davian. But the rest of the film doesn't quite live up to it, including Cruise, who seems to be in bad form here.
4. Mission: Impossible: 22 years on, Mission: Impossible remains a classic. Although some of the action scenes look dated, there is still enough to enjoy this movie.

3. Mission: Impossible—Rogue Nation: The last Mission: Impossible movie brought Jack Reacher director Christopher McQuarrie, and it became a huge critical and commercial success. When most franchises begin to die a slow death by the time they reach their fifth installment, Rogue Nation showed that Mission: Impossible was only getting stronger.
2. Mission: Impossible—Ghost Protocol:

Ghost Protocol has one of the best action scenes in any Mission: Impossible movie—perhaps in any Hollywood movie. In a franchise that is known for death-defying stunts, Tom Cruise scaling the tallest skyscraper in the world was a sight to behold. In case you did not know, Cruise did the stunt himself.

1. Mission: Impossible—Fallout: The latest and (according to this scribe) the greatest Mission: Impossible film, Fallout combined the franchise's now-familiar fast-paced, world-endangering plot with magnificently mounted action set pieces and a great cast. Fallout is the best Mission: Impossible movie so far. The bathroom fight scene is easily one of the best no-holds-barred brawls portrayed in cinema.

Shreya Ghoshal blessed with a baby boy

New Delhi, May 22: Singer Shreya Ghoshal and her husband Shiladitya Mukhopadhyaya welcomed a baby boy on Saturday afternoon. The singer took to Instagram to announce the news. She wrote, "God has blessed us with a precious baby boy this afternoon. It's an emotion never felt before. @shiladitya and I along with our families are absolutely overjoyed. Thank you for your countless blessings for our little bundle of joy." As soon as Shreya shared the news, Neeti Mohan congratulated the couple and wrote, "Many congratulations. This is such a wonderful news. Hope you and the baby are doing well. Lots of love and congratulations from the Mohan and Pandya

family." Shreya Ghoshal had announced her pregnancy earlier this year with an adorable post. She wrote, "Baby Shreyaditya is on its way! Need all your love and blessings as we pre-

pare ourselves for this new chapter in our lives." Shreya Ghoshal tied the knot with Shiladitya Mukhopadhyaya in a private ceremony on February 5, 2015. On



the work front, after "Angana Morey", Shreya Ghoshal released the single "Oh Sanam" in collaboration with Tony Kakkar. "So glad we did a song together and that too

such a beautiful soulful melody?? Loved singing it and I am sure audiences will give their love to this one too..." she wrote while promoting the song on Instagram.

Rakul Preet Singh: Grateful to get the opportunity to choose contrasting roles



Mumbai, May 22: Actor Rakul Preet Singh says "experimentation" in movie writing has enabled performers to pick varied and contrasting roles. The 30-year-old actor made her debut in Hindi cinema with Yaariyan in 2014 and later featured in Neeraj Pandey-directed Aiyaa and Ajay Devgn-starrer De De Pyaar De. "I think it's a great time where

people are writing different kinds of scripts, that possibly the audiences are looking to watch. The experimentation that's happening is different and that leads us to get that opportunity to be able to choose those different roles," Singh told PTI. "I am very grateful that I have an opportunity to be able to choose these different kinds of roles. And each

character is different and contrasting," she added. Singh has an interesting slate of films set for release, including Anubhuti Kashyap's campus comedy-drama Doctor G and Devgn's directorial Mayday. She will also reportedly feature in Ronnie Screwvala-produced movie Chhatriwali and Indra Kumar's slice-of-life comedy. Talking about her process of choosing projects, Singh said she just follows her instincts. "I don't think much as an actor. I just go by my instincts. I feel great that I am getting to do what I want to do. I think about one day at a time. I feel very grateful that I have these films and I am looking forward to having more work," she said. Singh currently stars in Sardar Ka Grandson, alongside Arjun Kapoor and Neena Gupta. The film is streaming on Netflix.

Kumar Sanu, Anuradha Paudwal, Roop Kumar Rathod remember Shriyan Kumar on Indian Idol 12

New Delhi, May 22: This weekend the contestants of Sony TV's singing reality show Indian Idol 12 will be paying a tribute to music composer Shriyan Kumar Rathod (of Nadeem-Shriyan duo). They will be crooning the romantic numbers composed by the veteran musician. Also, besides Himesh Reshammiya and Anu Malik, they will be judged by the ace singers Kumar Sanu, Anuradha Paudwal and Roop Kumar Rathod. While Pawandeep and Arunita will be singing the hit numbers "Dil Hai Ki Manta Nahi" and "Nazar Ke Saamne Jigar Ke Paas", Sawai and Anjali will be impressing the judges with their rendition "Tu Pyaar Hai Kisi Aur Ka". Arunita and Sayli's performance on the song "Bahut Pyaar Karte Hain" and "Jiye To Jiye



Kaise" will leave the special judges in awe of their talent. Anuradha Paudwal tells the two, "I follow Arunita and Sayli's singing as I am very fond of them. Today's performance was outstanding, we enjoyed the way you girls sung the songs." Dil hai ki manta nahi aapki aawaz ke bina #IdolPawandeep aur #IdolArunita! Dekhiye

#TributeToShriyanRathod #IndianIdol2020 kal raat 9:30 baje, sirf Sony par! #HimeshReshammiya #AdityaNarayan @fremantle_india @The_AnMalik @Singerkumarsan #RoopKumarRathod @RajanPawandeep pic.twitter.com/LL9NdEyXuK — sonytv (@SonyTV) May 21, 2021. Contestant Danish will also get

appreciated for his performance. After his performance, Kumar Sanu says, "I am very fond of your singing Danish, from the way you sing and hold onto your tone is outstanding. You are such a trained classical singer and the reason you outshine is that you always respect your Gurus." During the episode, Anu Malik also revealed that he once

recorded a song with Anuradha Paudwal and Mohammed Rafi but couldn't release it. But now, he will be releasing it soon. To this, Paudwal said, "I have vivid memories of those times when we all came together and did a fabulous job on the song. I will be looking forward to it." Indian Idol 12 airs on Sony TV on Saturday and Sunday at 9.30 pm.

Gum disease could lead to a severe Covid-19 infection. Here's why

Washington Dc, May 22: Coronavirus: It is well-established that systemic inflammation is not only linked with periodontal disease but to several other respiratory diseases as well. As per a new report, studies show that maintaining good oral hygiene can help you overcome COVID-19, implying that there is a direct connection between oral hygiene and the deadly infection. This report was published in the US's leading organisation of periodontists, the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP). Dr James G. Wilson, President of the AAP, mentioned in the report, "It is well-established that systemic inflammation is not only linked with periodontal disease but to several other respiratory diseases as well. Therefore, main-



taining healthy teeth and gums in an effort to avoid developing or worsening periodontal disease is absolutely crucial in the midst of a global pandemic like COVID-19, which is also known to trigger an inflammatory response." Furthermore, a report by McGill University in Montreal, Canada, found a direct link between gums with inflammation and infection and even connected how oral hygiene can play a role in aggravating COVID-19 complications and even lead to deaths. According to this

study, people that have gum issues or periodontitis are 8.8 times more likely to die of COVID-19. Not just this, such people are 3.5 times more likely to require hospitalisation for COVID-19 and 4.5 times more likely to require a ventilator. It has also come to light that oral health plays a pivotal role even in the COVID post-recovery period. Shedding more light on this, Dr Mohendar Narula, Founder and Chairman of MyDentalPlan Healthcare Pvt. Ltd. said, "Taking

care of your gums and oral hygiene was always vital but it has become even more significant during this pandemic. In this second wave of COVID-19, oral symptoms are on the rise." Talking about maintaining gum health, he continued, "However, maintaining optimum gum health with simple steps such as brushing twice a day, tongue cleaning, flossing and gargles can help people combat these life-threatening diseases even better. Furthermore, professional dental cleanings twice a year and

regular dental check-ups are known to minimize the severity of COVID-19 and the associated complications." Adding to it Dr Narula said, "The second wave of COVID-19 is also witnessing Mucormycosis, a deadly fungal infection affecting the gums, teeth and the perioral area, developing as a post-COVID-19 complication among immunocompromised individuals with poor gum and oral health status. It has now come to light that taking care of oral hygiene can also help people safeguard themselves even from this post-COVID-19 complication." Oral care should be a part of health recommendations for every individual and its importance has increased significantly during this pandemic.

Dwayne Johnson to voice Krypto the Super-Dog in DC League of Super-Pets



Los Angeles, Hollywood star Dwayne Johnson is set to voice Krypto the Super-Dog in Warner Bros' upcoming animated feature DC League of Super-Pets. The former WWE star is currently in production on another Warner Bros/DC project, Black Adam, which will mark his long-awaited debut in the superhero genre. DC League of Super-Pets

will centers on Superman's dog, who teams up with a flying cat to stop crime while the Man of Steel is on vacation, reported Variety. Jared Stern is writing and directing the film, which will release in US theatres on May 20, 2022. Sam Levine will serve as co-director on the project, which Johnson is producing through his company Seven Bucks Produc-

tions, along with his partners Dany Garcia and Hiram Garcia. Patricia Hicks, Jared Stern will also produce, while John Requa, Glenn Ficarra and Nicholas Stoller will serve as executive producers. Dwayne Johnson's Black Adam, which will also feature Noah Centineo, Aldis Hodge and Pierce Brosnan, is set to release theatrically in July 2022.

FIFA head aims to rethink soccer competitions and schedule

Geneva, May 22: World soccer was put on notice by FIFA president Gianni Infantino on Friday to imagine — and maybe expect — big changes to its international competitions in the coming years. FIFA agreed to study whether the men's and women's World Cups could be played every two years instead of four, with Infantino asking out loud if they could alternate with continental championships to fill the calendar with annual national-team tournaments. Infantino also defended talking with clubs about new projects like the breakaway Super League, which rocked European soccer body UEFA last month before a backlash quickly killed the plan. After reports that FIFA secretly encouraged storied clubs to rebel against UEFA and its Champions League, Infantino insisted at a news conference people "should look at the facts and not rumors or corridor gos-



sip." FIFA has declined for more than three months to respond to specific questions from The Associated Press about its president's involvement in talks with Super League clubs, led by Real Madrid. "To speak with some clubs doesn't certainly mean in any way whatsoever that FIFA was behind or colluding or plotting ... For any Super League project," he said Friday, insisting he never closed his door to talks about new ideas. "This is the way I live the presidency of FIFA," said Infantino, who won election in

2016 as the official candidate of UEFA where he was a long-time senior staffer. FIFA and UEFA have often had poor relations since Infantino switched organizations five years ago, and fulfilling his stated ambitions would put European competitions at risk. Infantino also used the platform of FIFA's online meeting of 211 member federations to say the sport needs to break the domination on and off the field by Europe and South America. "There is a concentration of money and player talent which

does not serve the global development or interests of the game," he said. "We cannot simply ignore it." "We do not see equal opportunities throughout the world. We do not necessarily see too much solidarity either, to be honest." Infantino positioned FIFA as the protector of soccer's worldwide family which is prepared to upend the traditional competition calendar and formats to seek more equality. The chance for change is there because the FIFA-managed calendar of international com-

petitions — which mandates when clubs must release players for national-team duty — expires in 2024. FIFA is now ready to consult widely on redrafting the calendar, after turmoil caused by the coronavirus pandemic delayed the process last year. "What kind of competitions do we need for the world?" said Infantino, also asking whether the season needed fewer breaks for national-team games. Earlier, a Saudi Arabian soccer official proposing a feasibility study into biennial World Cups echoed FIFA's own oft-repeated suggestion of "fewer but more meaningful games" to protect players' health. A biennial World Cup was first suggested more than 20 years ago by FIFA's then-president Sepp Blatter though was not seriously investigated. It has been revived in recent years by allies of Infantino, who has consistently proposed more and bigger tournaments.

Eng Tests great preparation for WTC final: Southee

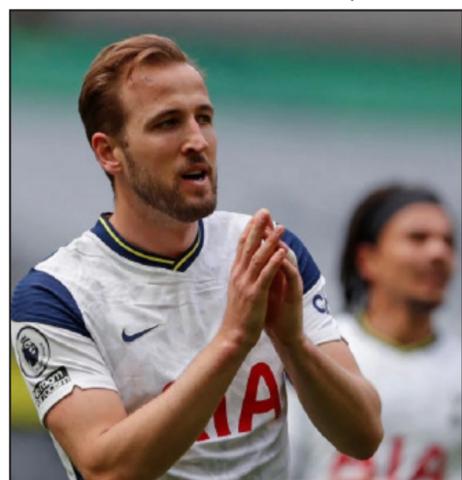
Southampton, May 22: Senior New Zealand pacer Tim Southee believes that the upcoming two-Test series against England would serve as "great preparation" for his team as it gears up for the marquee World Test Championship final against India here. New Zealand are playing two Tests against England at the Lord's (June 2-6) and Birmingham (June 10-14). The WTC final is scheduled from June 18. Asked if the focus will be on the WTC final, Southee said: "Anytime you get to play a Test match for New Zealand, it's an amazing opportunity and I don't think you treat them as warm-ups. Our focus is first and foremost on the two match series against England." But the 32-year-old with 302 Test wickets didn't deny that it is indeed a great opportunity to gear up for the big battle against India. "...But great to have those matches leading to the final. So for us, it's great preparation for that final but we are looking at two-match series against a quality English side in their conditions," Southee said. Southee also didn't feel that three Tests in three weeks will be much of a workload after a welcome break for many. "It's exciting to play three Test matches in a short space of time," Southee said after his first training session at the Ageas Bowl following a three-day hard quarantine. "It is something that the team doesn't get to do that often.

We've come off a bit of a break, which has been nice, and (we have) been able to get some conditioning into our bodies..." Southee said. He believes that they will be ready to cope with the rigours with some quality training sessions in the next two weeks. "So, the guys are refreshed in some sort of way, using the next couple of weeks to get ourselves prepared and ready to play three Test matches. They are in quick succession but we have had a chance to prepare physically leading into this with some strength and conditioning stuff. "Now, it's just getting our loads to a point over the coming weeks so that we can rock on to



those three Test matches." He said stepping in to the Lord's ground will be emotional for them remembering the World Cup final which they lost on boundary countback. "It's tough being emotional and caught up with it, you look at it as an amazing game of cricket, which did wonders for the one day game, from the players that were involved in it. "It's one of those matches you relive and relive for the rest of your lives.

Kane hints at Man City move



London, May 22: Tottenham forward Harry Kane has hinted at a move to Manchester City as speculation mounts over his future, calling the champions' star midfielder Kevin De Bruyne a "striker's dream". Kane has reportedly told Spurs he wants to leave at the end of the season and the England captain has been linked with City, Manchester United and Chelsea. Kane has now raised the prospect of a move to Pep Guardiola's title winners, naming City's De Bruyne as a perfect team-mate. City are reported to be interested in signing the 27-year-old, but Spurs will not let their talisman go without a fight, especially as he is under contract for the next three years. Kane is determined to stay in the Premier League and when asked by former Manchester United defender Gary Neville which player would help him score more goals he said: "De Bruyne for sure. "When I watch De Bruyne play he's a special, special player and some of the

balls I see him put in for City are just a striker's dream if I'm honest." Kane has scored 165 Premier League goals, 95 behind all-time top scorer Alan Shearer, and he wants to topple the former Blackburn and Newcastle striker. The forward, who has 22 top-flight goals this season, told Neville's YouTube channel The Overlap that injuries were the main threat to his ambition to break the record. "Of course there's always the option of maybe moving abroad one day but I don't think that really interests me in the near future," he added. Kane has been involved in two Premier League title races with Spurs, has lost two League Cup finals, and was on the defeated side in the 2019 Champions League final. The forward admits the club missed opportunities to win silverware under former boss Mauricio Pochettino, who is now in charge at Paris Saint-Germain, and challenged Spurs chairman Daniel Levy to deliver quality additions to help rebuild.

Max Verstappen tops 3rd practice for Monaco GP before qualifying

Monaco, May 22: Red Bull driver Max Verstappen posted the fastest time in the third and final practice for the Monaco Grand Prix ahead of qualifying later Saturday. The Formula One championship contender led the Ferraris of Carlos Sainz Jr. and local favorite Charles Leclerc, with defending champion Lewis Hamilton only seventh fastest for Mercedes. His teammate Valtteri Bottas was fourth ahead of Red Bull's Sergio Perez and McLaren's Lando Norris in sixth. Hamilton leads the championship by 14 points from Verstappen after four races, with Bottas already some distance behind them in third overall. The 36-year-old Hamilton is bidding for a record-extending 101st pole and 99th race win. The 23-year-old Verstappen seeks a fifth career pole



and 12th win. An eventful third practice session was twice interrupted for crashes. There was about 15 minutes left when Nicholas Latifi hit the barriers and mangled the front right wheel of his Williams. Then, with moments to go, Mick Schumacher

crashed his Haas car and there was not enough time to restart. Ferrari looked strong in Thursday's first two sessions, with Leclerc topping P2 and Sainz Jr. second in both of them. That came as a relief for Ferrari after it struggled badly throughout last year

in qualifying and on race day. Leclerc is from Monaco and grew up in a flat overlooking the sinewy 3.4-kilometer (2.1-mile) circuit that snakes around the picturesque principality. He lives a 4-kilometer (2.5-mile) cycle ride from Monaco in Cap d'Ail, one of many small and scenic spots dotted along the French Riviera's spectacular coastline. A smattering of fans returned to the stands after the iconic race was canceled last year because of the coronavirus pandemic. Police stopped some buses coming through from Cap d'Ail — which is in France — into Monaco and checked people's work permits. Security officials also checked passengers at the exit of Monaco-Monte Carlo train station, ensuring they had a negative PCR test for COVID-19 when entering the tiny principality.

Working on flaws, hoping to participate in competitions abroad: Sreeshankar

Mumbai, May 22: Olympic-bound long jumper Murali Sreeshankar on Saturday said he was working on his flaws found out during the Federation Cup and optimistic to take part in competitions abroad once the current travel restrictions on Indians are eased. The 22-year-old Kerala athlete had in March had qualified for the Tokyo Games by bettering his own national record with a leap of 8.26m during the Federation Cup Senior National Athletics Championships in Patiala. "Immediately after Federation Cup, we listed/pointed out all my drawbacks, in the sense what are the technicalities I am lagging behind. We coordinated everything and we are working on that," Sreeshankar said at a virtual press conference arranged by Sports Authority of India. "Everything is looking fine. Only concern is since travel restrictions are imposed on Indian athletes, we are not able to compete and train abroad. It's a big challenge and I will face it and overcome it." He said once the travel restrictions are eased, he is looking at taking part in some competitions in the Asian circuit, if not in Europe. "I am optimistic about Europe, but if not Europe then there is competition in the Asian circuit as well. I am looking forward (to) that before competing in the Olympics Games," said the young long jumper. Sreeshankar, who is currently training



with his father, a former triple jumper, at the Government Medical College ground at Palakkad in Kerala, is optimistic of getting 3-4 competitions ahead of Olympics. "I am hopeful of getting at least three-four competitions ahead of the Olympics, so that all the fine-tuning process takes place perfectly and get ready for the big leap in Tokyo," said Sreeshankar, adding that there are no issues concerning his diet too. He said that if he is unable to take part in Asian or European competitions, he would participate in domestic events. "I will definitely be competing in IGP-4 and National Inter-State (in June). If I jump in domestic circuit, it is also a big help for me. We have an 8m jumper here, two guys who are 7.90m, so it is a competitive atmosphere for me. "My peers will be trying to push me hard, so I will be trying to push them even harder.

India versus Australia women's series should have perpetual trophy: Mel Jones

New Delhi, May 22: The series between Indian and Australian women should have a perpetual trophy named after legends of the women's game, like the Border-Gavaskar Trophy for the men's teams, suggested former Australia player Mel Jones. The comments by Jones, also a member of ICC's women's committee, came ahead of the Indian

women team's scheduled tour of Australia in September-October, which will feature one Test (day-night match), three ODIs and as many T20Is. "It's great to have something like Border-Gavaskar, but that's the men's lens of what's happened in the past. So we should do it our way for the women's game, and maybe can come up with something

a little bit different," Jones was quoted as saying by cricket.com.au. "Both the men's and women's games have got these magnificent storylines behind their Ashes trophies, and maybe we can create one just as special that is being talked about in 100 years' time with the same sort of reverence as the Ashes."

Narinder Batra re-elected as FIH President for a second term

New Delhi, May 22: Incumbent Narinder Batra of India was on Saturday re-elected as the International Hockey Federation (FIH) President for a second term during the virtual 47th Congress of the sport's global governing body. Batra, who is also the President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and an International Olympic Committee (IOC) member, narrowly defeated his rival Marc Coudron, chief of Belgium Hockey Federation, by a margin of two votes. Batra secured 63 votes as against his



rival's 61 to emerge as the winner in the online voting process, in which 124 member associations participated.

Orissa Stevedores Limited (OSL) extends logistic support for smooth oxygen supply

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 22: Odisha Stevedores Limited (OSL) along with his experienced staff extended full logistic support in unloading of 24 medical oxygen cylinders of 40 litre capacity each, 5 medical oxygen cylinders and oxygen regulators-humidifiers brought in by MV Anna Maria from Singapore handled by Paradip Port Trust. The OSL Group carried out the work like unloading, coordination with Customs for speedy clearance, port clearance and expeditious evacuation of the cylinders from Port without any cost on behalf of



State Government. A D M Jagatsinghpur Dr. Kanhu Charan Dhir received the cylinders on behalf of Govt of Odisha. Later the oxygen cylinders were distributed among various state run hospitals in Jagatsinghpur district. Supporting to the Humanitarian social cause Chair-

man OSL Group Shri Mahimananda Mishra said, we are facing an emergency situation due to second wave of Covid-19. OSL Group is fully committed for the cause of state and the people as well. We feel proud for supporting to the Government in this Pandemic. Shri Charchit Mishra,

Director OSL Group congratulated the staff for smooth unloading of the Oxygen cylinders. OSL which has all along supported social cause during last three decades of its existence has immediately initiated this massive mask distribution drive in Odisha, after

Hon'ble Chief Minister gave a call urging people to wear mask in COVID-19 pandemic. OSL Group distributed one lakh masks to the general public for creating awareness on use of masks in the pandemic. The district administration appreciated the OSL Group for come forward with all required support in this pandemic. It is to be noted that, the OSL Group has undertaken necessary precautions and strict observance of the Covid-19 guidelines in the office premises. The entire OSL headquarters and branch offices regularly sanitised. Wearing of mask has been made mandatory for both the official staffs and labour forces.

Aditya Aluminium extends support to Jharsuguda Distt. Admin.



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 22: In its continuous efforts to fight against Covid 19, the Aditya Birla Group company, Aditya Aluminium has extended support to Jharsuguda Distt. Admin. The company has donated 10 oxygen concentrators, 200 N95 masks, 200 PPE Kits, 100 double layered Sambalpuri cotton masks (stitched by the SHGs supported by the company), to the District Administration very recently. The Unit Head of Aditya Aluminium,

Mr Sameer Nayak handed over the same to the Distt. Collector Shri Saroj Kumar Samal. Among others Dr. Vivekanand Mishra Head HR Aditya Aluminium, Mr. Satya Das Head ER, Ms. Sweta Upadhyay Head CSR, Mr. Bijaya Kumura Manager HR, Manoranjan Behera Asst Manager CSR and other members of CSR team were present. This gesture was appreciated and acknowledged by the Collector Jharsuguda and the Chief Medical

Officer Jharsuguda. Collector Mr. Saroj Samal said that "this is much needed in the midst of rising cases during second wave of Pandemic". This is in continuation to the ongoing support to Sambalpur District Administration, Rengali Block Administration and community at large since last 18 months including providing Ambulances, ICU beds, masks, sanitizers, sanitising the area and creating awareness about Covid 19 in the region.

Collector and District Magistrate Koraput, today's visited Spring Based Irrigation system, Putsil

(A.O. Bureau) Koraput, May 22: Collector and District Magistrate Koraput, today's visited Spring Based Irrigation system, Putsil a sustainable

development projects which was begged SKOCH AWARD, Silver in Agriculture. Interacted with farmer's. It is a convergence model. As per

farmer's they have earned Rs10 Lakhs from vegetables by selling beans. This is a zero Energy consumed gravity field Spring Based Irrigation system.



IFFCO Paradeep Unit distributed essential commodities and Covid 19 kits to fire victims family

(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, May 22: Few days back, a block of 5-6 families homes were completely burnt under massive fire in the Garharomita village Panchayat of Kendrapada district. The families had great losses of needs and essential. When the Gram Sarpanch approached IFFCO's Senior Executive Director Shri K.J. Patel for a helping hand, Shri Patel arranged all the required things as requested. Today



IFFCO reached on the affected site as soon as possible. IFFCO's Administrative Officer Shri Prasanna Kumar Beura provided all the

basic commodities like rice, dal, sugar, Atta, Chuda, Cooking Oil, turmeric powder, Clothes, water filter and along with COVID Kit also that includes

masks and sanitizer. The Corporate sector IFFCO have been a Massiha to the needy all along this pandemic. Gram Sarpanch Smt. Uttara

Tarai, Social Worker Shri Mihir Kumar Nayak and other dignitaries were present at the site. IFFCO is definitely setting an example for the society.

India asks social media firms to remove reference to 'Indian variant' of coronavirus

(A.O. Bureau) New Delhi, May 22: India's information technology (IT) ministry has written to all social media companies asking them to take down any content that refers to an "Indian variant" of the coronavirus, according to a letter issued on Friday which was seen by Reuters. The World Health Organization said on May 11 that the coronavirus variant B.1.617, first identified in India last year, was being classified as a variant of global concern. The Indian government a day later issued a statement saying media reports using the term "Indian Variant" were without any basis, saying the WHO had classified the

variant as just B.1.617. In a letter to social media companies on Friday, the IT ministry asked the companies to "remove all the content" that names or implies

Organisation (WHO). WHO has not associated the term 'Indian Variant' with the B.1.617 variant of the coronavirus in any of its reports," stated

Indian variant" spread miscommunication and hurt the country's image. The IT ministry could not be reached for comment. Around the world, coronavirus

social media executive said it would be difficult to take down all content using the word as there would be hundreds of thousands of such posts, adding that "such a move would lead to keyword based censorship going forward. "The Indian government is facing increased criticism over its handling of the coronavirus pandemic, with Prime Minister Modi and state authorities being blamed for not adequately planning for the ongoing second wave of coronavirus infections. India has the second-highest tally of COVID-19 cases in the world and has been reporting around 250,000 infections and 4,000 deaths daily.

COVID hospitals in Odisha to have paediatric wing

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 22: The Health and Family Welfare department has asked all Dedicated COVID Health Centre (DCHC) Dedicated COVID Hospitals (DCH) to designate 'Paediatric Covid Wing' within the existing facilities. The decision was taken after surge of Covid-19 cases among children in the country. The department has asked the DCHC and DCH to reserve 15 percent beds in the ICU ward



for children. The department has further asked to earmark COVID-19 newborn unit in existing SNCU/NICU with strict isolation and infection prevention and control measures. "One of the parents will be allowed to remain

as an attendant. Necessary logistics and consumables and other requirements to this effect are to be estimated and kept reserved and placed to Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited," said an official.



"Indian variant" of the coronavirus. "This is completely FALSE. There is no such variant of Covid-19 scientifically cited as such by the World Health

the letter, which is not public. A senior Indian government source told Reuters the notice was issued to send a message "loud and clear" that such mentions of "In-

variants have generically been referred to by doctors and health experts on the basis of where they are identified. This includes South Africa and Brazil variants. A

Former BJD MLA Nabin Nanda's Son Sambit Passes Away

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 22: Former Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MLA Nabin Nanda's eldest son Sambit Nanda passed away today around noon. Sambit was undergoing treatment for lungs infection at the Aswini Hospi-



tal in Cuttack for lungs infection. His father Nabin Nanda had tweeted seeking help that his son who

was undergoing treatment at the aforementioned hospital for lungs infection and needed ECMO treatment which was not available. Reportedly, Sambit was admitted to Aswini Hospital in Cuttack on April 28 for treatment of lungs infection.