

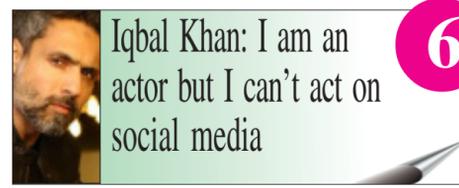
Kamal Nath spreading anarchy: Shivraj Singh Chouhan on 'Indian variant' remark

2



Cyclone YAAS: State Govt Fully Prepared, Naveen Patnaik Apprises Amit Shah

3



Iqbal Khan: I am an actor but I can't act on social media

6



Mickelson wins PGA at 50 to become oldest major champion

7

## Ensure timely evacuation: PM reviews cyclone preparations



New Delhi, May 24: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday met with senior officials to review the preparedness for Cyclone Yaas that is building on the east coast. Prime Minister Modi directed senior officers to work in close co-ordination with states to ensure safe evacuation of people from high-risk areas, and instructed departments to evacuate those working in off shore activities. IMD officials at the meeting said the Cyclone is set to cross West Bengal and north Odisha coasts by the evening of 26 May with wind speed of 155-185 kmph. The Prime

Minister's meeting comes a day after Cabinet Secretary Rajeev Gauba held a meeting of the National Crisis Management Committee on May 22, with Chief Secretaries of all coastal states and the ministries concerned. "PM also asked officials to ensure proper co-ordination and planning with state governments to ensure no disruptions in Covid treatment and vaccination in hospitals. He also spoke about the need to involve district administrations in the process of planning and preparedness from best practices and seamless co-ordination.

PM directed officials that advisories and instructions on do's and don'ts during the cyclone be made available in easy to understand and local language to citizens of the affected districts. PM spoke about the need to involve various stakeholders i.e. coastal communities, industries, etc by directly reaching out to them and sensitising them," a government press release said. In the meeting on Saturday, Cabinet Secretary Gauba had similarly stressed that all boats and vessels must return to the shores to ensure zero loss of life, and also emphasized the

need to take steps to maintain the generation and movement of oxygen from cyclone affected parts to other parts of the country. In preparation for the cyclone, the NDRF has positioned 46 teams equipped with boats, tree cutters, telecom equipment in 5 states and Union territories. "In addition, 13 teams are being airlifted today for deployment and 10 teams are on standby", a government official said. The Indian Coast Guard and the Navy have deployed ships and helicopters for relief, search and rescue and seven ships with humanitarian

assistance and disaster relief units are on standby along the western coast. "Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has taken measures to secure all oil installations in the sea and to bring back their shipping vessels to safe harbour. Ministry of Power has activated emergency response systems and is keeping in readiness transformers, DG sets and equipments etc. for immediate restoration of electricity. Ministry of Telecom is keeping all the telecom towers and exchanges under constant watch and is fully geared to restore telecom network. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has issued advisory to the States/UTs, likely to be affected, for health sector preparedness and response on COVID in affected areas. Ministry of Port, Shipping and Waterways has taken measures to secure all shipping vessels and has deployed emergency vessels (Tugs)," a government official said.

## Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik Appeals To Wear Double Mask To Face Double Danger, Covid 19 Pandemic And Cyclone Yaas

Bhubaneswar, May 24: The safety of my family in times of danger is my top priority. "We are facing two major dangers at the same time - Covid and Batya Yash," Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik warned in a video message today.

for government". "It's time to dump her and move on," he said. The Chief Minister also requested that you wear two masks at the same time, wherever you are, in a wind shelter or a permanent home. In the current situation, wear-

with the storm. He hoped that only the co-operation of the people would strengthen our preparations. "We need to be more vigilant during the storm and after the storm," he said. Seeing the need, he said, he has in-



The Chief Minister therefore appealed to all to cooperate in the transfer of the administration and to wear double masks. "Our goal is to get everyone to safety," he said. He encouraged ordinary people as well to take part in solving this great task: "One of the things you and other people can do is keep up the pressure ... there are going to be some difficult decisions for government". The administration has been under pressure for the past two months. He encouraged ordinary people as well to take part in solving this great task: "One of the things you and other people can do is keep up the pressure ... there are going to be some difficult decisions

ing one, not two masks is very important for our health. Double mask for double risk. He also asked her to wash her hands with soap and sanitizer. "The whole human race is going through a difficult time and we have been fighting against Covid for more than a year now," he said. We have to deal with two major hazards at the same time: Even in May last year, we encountered a lightning strike with Covid and the people "In each case, they have seized it, despite obstacles we can scarcely imagine." The storm is not new to Odisha, but we must be careful. He warned that the slightest danger could pose a major threat. The government is fully prepared to deal

structed collectors to provide masks to people through the Mission Shakti group. "Odisha has always done a good job in the face of natural disasters," he said. "Once again, the Chief Minister is confident that we will all work together to fight these two dangers and win," he said. The chief minister once again urged everyone to wear two masks. He encouraged ordinary people as well to take part in solving this great task: "One of the things you and other people can do is keep up the pressure ... there are going to be some difficult decisions for government". In the end, he appealed to the administration to cooperate in winning the two battles.

## Holidays, Leaves Of Odisha Govt Employees Cancelled Ahead Of Cyclone Yaas

Bhubaneswar, May 24: To expedite preparatory measures and ensure smooth rescue and relief operations post cyclone Yaas, Odisha Government has cancelled holidays and leaves of all Government employees with immediate effect. Issuing the order, the General Administration and Public Grievance Department said all Government holi-



days are cancelled till May 31. All Government officials are required to stay in respective headquarters

and in no case, shall be permitted to leave headquarters without permission of the authority.

Leaves availed by all Government employees are cancelled and those on leave are required to join duty forthwith, said the department. "In order to expedite pre-cyclonic arrangements and ensure post cyclonic rescue/relief operations in the vulnerable districts and facilitate provision of human resource, material and logistics support to the affected

districts, it is imperative that all the state Government offices and officials remain in a state of readiness," the order read. Cyclone Yaas, which is likely to reach West Bengal and north Odisha coasts around May 26 evening, may severely affect the coastal as well as the adjoining districts of the state, the department cautioned.

## Now 18-44 People Can Take Vaccine Without Online Registration

New Delhi, May 24: The Health Ministry has taken a major decision regarding Corona's vaccine (Covid-19 Vaccine). Now people between 18 and 44 years will be able to apply the vaccine even without online registration. Such people will now be able to register at the vaccination center as well. However, at present, this facility will be available only at the government center. The centers of private hospitals will still have to register online and book a slot for the vaccine. Let us tell you that from May 18, the people of 18-44 years had announced to apply the vaccine. The government had earlier made online registration necessary to control conges-



tion at the vaccination center, but there were two types of problems in online registration. The first is that the people of the village who did not have smartphones were having problems in booking the slots. Apart from this, there were also reports from many states that people are not reaching the center for vaccination even after booking a slot. So in such a situation, the vaccine was going to be wasted, but

now the remaining vaccine will be applied to the people who come without registration. The Health Ministry has ordered all the states to work with the district administration to implement the facility of onsite registration. Along with this, the Ministry also told the states that care should be taken at the center that there should not be any rush during the on-sign registration. So far, more than 19.60 crore doses of Covid-19 vaccine have been applied in the country. Let me tell you that there is a shortage of vaccine in many states at present. Therefore, people in the age group of 18-44 are not being vaccinated in states like Delhi, Punjab and Maharashtra.

## Odisha Preparing For Probable Landfall Of Cyclone Yaas In State: SRC

Bhubaneswar, May 24: Odisha is preparing for a probable landfall of cyclone 'Yaas' in the State as a very severe cyclonic storm with a wind speed of 120-165 kmph gusting up to 185 kmph, informed Special Relief Commissioner (SRC), Odisha, Pradeep Kumar Jena on Monday. As per the latest prediction of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), cyclonic storm 'Yaas' has been formed over Eastcentral Bay of Bengal. It is moving north-northwestwards and likely to make a landfall between Paradip and Sagar islands around noon of May 26. "Considering the different aspects of meteorological conditions, different weather channels, and the technical inputs of



IMD, we in Odisha are preparing for a probable landfall in the State of Odisha associated with a very severe cyclonic storm, meaning wind speed of 120-165 kmph gusting up to 185 kmph, heavy rain of more than 300 mm and a storm surge of 3 to four and a half metres" said Jena. Considering all these conditions, extensive preparations have been made for

evacuating people from low lying pockets, storm surge prone areas, and vulnerable households, he added. Considering the probable paths, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj have also been included in the zone of alert. So the above two districts along with Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, and parts of Puri, Khurda, Cuttack, and

Nayagarh, and maybe part of Dhenkanal are already under full alert and the local administration is geared up to affect evacuation in large number, said the SRC. The State has so far deployed 22 NDRF, more than 50 ODRAF and 175 Fire Service, and 35 specialized tree cutter teams. The NDRF has been requested to give additional 30 units which are to arrive in Odisha by today evening and they will all be deployed. Various engineering departments have formed more than 500 specialized road clearance teams. Energy Department has mobilized more than 10,000 to 12,000 manpower along with associated equipment, materials, and tools for ensuring speedy restoration if required, informed Jena. All

arrangements have been made for smooth evacuation following Covid norms. All district hospitals, Covid hospitals are having all required standby arrangements of power, drinking water, food materials, drugs and consumables, and oxygen. Oxygen manufacturing plants and refilling plants have been given additional alternate power backups and all strengthening has been made so that oxygen production and refilling are not impacted. Adequate buffer oxygen stocks are being made available to all the Covid hospitals in the cyclone prone areas so that for the next 72 to 120 hours, there should not be any problem for the treatment of Covid patients, he added.

## After White And Black Fungus , Yellow Fungus Cases Creating Havoc

New Delhi, May 24: Following the Black Fungus and White Fungus, now Yellow Fungus has also given entry amidst the growing infection of Corona in the country. The first case of yellow fungus has been seen in Ghaziabad. Yellow fungus is said to be more dangerous than black and white fungus found in patients so far. Let me tell you that the patient of Ghaziabad, where yellow fungus has been found, is 34 years old and has been infected with corona. Along with this, he is



also suffering from diabetes. Yellow fungus is more dangerous than black and white fungus and is one of the deadly

diseases. Yellow fungus weakens the body first. The patient suffering from yellow fungus complains of feeling lethar-

gic, less hungry or even complete hunger. As the effect of fungus increases, the weight of the patient starts de-

creasing rapidly and it becomes quite fatal. If someone has a wound during this time, pus starts to leak from it and the wound heals very slowly. During this time, the patient's eyes get sunk and many organs stop working. If a patient has been feeling lethargic for a long time, feels less hungry or does not feel like eating at all, then it should not be ignored. In such a situation, you should immediately go to the doctor. Its only cure is amphotericin b injection. Which is a broad spectrum antifungal.

## PM Modi-led panel to decide next CBI chief

New Delhi, May 24: A high powered committee led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be meeting today to decide and select the next chief of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), sources said. Along with PM Modi, Chief Justice of India, Justice NV Ramana, and Leader of Opposition Adhir Ranjan Chowdhary will be part of the meeting to decide the next CBI director.

Modi, a 1984-batch IPS officer, is currently posted as the NIA chief and SS Deswal, a 1985-batch IPS officer, is the DG of ITBP. Meanwhile, HC

was appointed CBI director on February 4, 2019, after the then CBI Director Alok Verma was removed by the government following an ugly spat with



The meeting is expected to take place at 7 pm at Prime Minister's residence. Sources said officers from 1984, 1985 and 1986 batches are in consideration, however, Rakesh Asthana, YC Modi and Subodh Jaiswal are front-runners for the post of the next CBI director. Subodh Jaiswal is a 1985-batch officer currently posted as DG CISF whereas Rakesh Asthana is a 1984-batch officer currently posted as DG BSF. YC

Awasthy, a 1985-batch officer and DG UP Police, is also a top contender in the race. Apart from these officers, Kerala DGP Loknath Behera and Gujrat ACB chief Keshav Kumar are also in the race along with over a dozen other officers. Sources said the panel may also consider a "non-controversial" officer as the next CBI chief like it did last time with the selection of Rishi Kumar Shukla. Rishi Kumar Shukla

his deputy Rakesh Asthana. Currently, Praveen Sinha, a 1988-batch Gujrat cadre IPS officer, is holding the position as the acting chief of CBI after the tenure of former CBI Director Rishi Kumar Shukla ended on February 3. Praveen Sinha, the CBI additional director, will hold the position of acting director till the time the high powered committee appoints the next chief of the top investigating agency.

## Delhi Police raids Twitter India's offices at New Delhi, Gurugram, reports ANI

New Delhi, May 24: Delhi Police on Monday raided social media giant Twitter's India offices in New Delhi, Lado Sarai and Gurugram. Team of Delhi Police Special cell is conducting raids in the offices (in Lado Sarai, Delhi and Gurugram) of

Twitter India. A team of the Delhi Police special cell carried out raids at Twitter's offices in Lado Sarai, Delhi and Gurugram, visual shared by news agency ANI showed. The special cell teams raided the offices of the social media giant with connection to



the Covid-19 toolkit matter, news agency PTI reported quoting Delhi Police officials fa-

miliar with the developments. Delhi Police special cell has also sent notice to Twitter in connection with the inquiry after a complaint regarding the alleged 'Covid-19' toolkit. It sought clarification from Twitter regarding a related tweet by BJP

leader Sambit Patra which was deemed "manipulative" by the site. "It appears that Twitter has some information that is not known to the police. This information is relevant to the inquiry," Delhi Police PRO Chinmoy Biswal told news agency PTI.

## 4 arrested for assaulting Muslim meat-seller in Moradabad



New Delhi, May 24: Four people were arrested on Monday for allegedly thrashing a Muslim meat-seller on Sunday afternoon in Uttar Pradesh's

Moradabad district. According to the police, on Sunday night, they received a video where the meat-seller was seen being assaulted. They filed

a case against those involved in the assault based on a complaint by the victim Mohammad Shakir's brother. "Four accused have been arrested in the incident which took place in the Katghar Police Station area," said an officer with Moradabad Police. Potential targets are being continuously pressed for arrest of the remaining two accused, he said, adding that the legal proceedings will be completed soon.

## Kamal Nath spreading anarchy: Shivraj Singh Chouhan on 'Indian variant' remark

New Delhi, May 24: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Monday took a dig at senior Congress leader Kamal Nath for his remarks that labelled the B.1.617 Covid variant as the "Indian Variant" and accused him of spreading anarchy. "While we're busy serving people, Congress is ready to ignite fire. Kamal Nath has to answer this. It is the time to fight together and you are busy celebrating



deaths," Chouhan said. He asked Sonia Gandhi if she approved of Nath's remarks about Covid-19. "Kamal Nath spreading anarchy

in state. I would like to ask Sonia Gandhi - Do you approve what he is saying? If no, then why are you watching blindly like Dhritrashtra? If she approves this then she should tell the country, the thinking of Congress," the chief minister said. Police in Madhya Pradesh on Sunday registered an FIR against Kamal Nath for allegedly spreading panic. The FIR was registered on the basis of a complaint filed by BJP Bhopal district president Sumit Pachori. In his complaint, Pachori said that Nath, while addressing a virtual

press meet, had referred to Covid as the Indian variant Corona, which had sullied the image of India and spread fear among the masses. According to the complaint, Nath had also said that the disease that has now spread across the world has come to be known as "Indian Corona", and that several Prime Ministers and Presidents around the world were referring to it as the "Indian variant".

## Bharat Biotech confident of Covaxin making it to WHO EUL: Sources

New Delhi, May 24: Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL), the manufacturer of indigenous coronavirus vaccine Covaxin, is confident of being included in the World Health Organization's (WHO) Emergency Use Listing (EUL) given that other vaccines produced by the company have been previously prequalified by WHO, reported news agency ANI. "BBIL is confident about obtaining WHO EUL subsequently, given its experience of getting its other vaccines prequalified by WHO," said ANI citing sources. WHO developed the process of listing vac-

cines for emergency use to help deal with public health emergencies similar to the Covid-19 pandemic. EUL helps the United Nations in procurement agencies and WHO member-states in determining if any necessary unlicensed medical product should be approved for use. The rotavirus, polio, and typhoid vaccines produced by the Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech have been pre-qualified by WHO. Bharat Biotech is also in the final stages of submission of documents for regulatory approval of Covaxin in Brazil and Hungary, who are reportedly confident about



the efficacy of the vaccine as they are in possession of data to show that antibodies following immunization persist even after 6-8 months after vaccination. "BBIL is in the final stages of submission of required documents for Covaxin's regulatory approvals in Brazil and Hungary," sources told news agencies. "BBIL is in regular touch with regulatory authorities in Hungary & Brazil. They're confident

about the robustness of their dossier, as they've data for antibody persistence after 6 as well as 8 months," the source added. Bharat Biotech held a meeting with government officials to discuss the EUL listing of Covaxin, sources told agencies. The meeting was attended by the managing director V Krishna Mohan, senior officers of the Ministry of Health, department of Biotechnology and Min-

istry of External Affairs. Foreign secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla was also in attendance, reported PTI. The manufacturer conveyed to the government that 90% of the required documents asked for by WHO for emergency listing has already been handed over and the rest will be submitted in June. Individuals inoculated with both Covaxin and Russia's Sputnik V may not be allowed to travel as WHO is yet to include either in its emergency use listing. Covaxin needs to be included in WHO's EUL to be eligible for procurement through global vaccine alliance Covax.

## Narada case: CBI moves SC against Calcutta HC house arrest order of 4 leaders

New Delhi, May 24: The CBI on Monday moved the Supreme Court to challenge the Calcutta High Court order allowing the house arrest of four political leaders from Bengal—two sitting ministers, one MLA and the former Kolkata mayor—in the Narada bribery case. This comes days after the High Court ordered shifting of two West Bengal ministers, an MLA and a former

India Tushar Mehta, during Monday's virtual session prayed before the five-judge bench that it adjourn hearing in the case, as the central investigating agency has filed a special leave petition (SLP) before the SC, in connection with the high court's May 19 and May 21 orders. The high court bench, however, refused the prayer and decided to commence hearing in the

and Subrata Mukherjee, MLA Madan Mitra, and Sovan Chatterjee, who had quit the Trinamool to join the BJP before leaving that party too in March. In dramatic developments last week, CBI officials had picked up the four leaders from their residences, took them to the agency's Kolkata office and arrested them. The arrests sparked massive protests and Chief Minis-



Kolkata mayor to house arrest from jail. A division bench, presided by Acting Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal, differed on the issue of recalling the stay on bail to the four accused. It decided to refer the matter to a larger bench of five judges. Representing the CBI, Solicitor General of

matter since the SLP is yet to be listed for hearing before the apex court. The High Court had ruled that while under house arrest, the ministers will be able to work virtually, but will not be allowed to meet anyone personally. Those arrested include ministers Firhad Hakim

ter Mamata Banerjee herself rushed to the probe agency's office, daring officials to arrest her as well. The Trinamool has questioned the timing of these arrests, which comes barely days after her party's electoral victory in the recently held assembly elections.

## Smarting under statement withdrawal, Ramdev poses 25 questions to IMA

New Delhi, May 24: Having been forced to withdraw his statement questioning the efficacy of allopathy medicines, yoga guru Ramdev on Monday asked the Indian Medical Association (IMA) if allopathy offered permanent relief for ailments such as hypertension and diabetes. In an 'open letter'

posted on his Twitter handle, Ramdev posed 25 questions to IMA, which had objected to his video clip running down allopathy treatment for COVID-19. He asked if allopathy offered permanent relief from hypertension (BP) and type-1 and 2 diabetes. "Does the pharma industry have per-

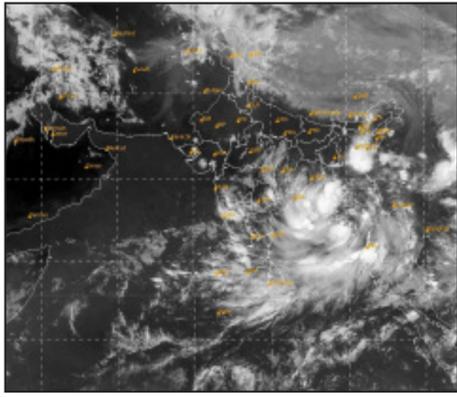
manent treatment for thyroid, arthritis, colitis and asthma?" he asked. Ramdev went on to ask if allopathy had medicines for fatty liver and liver cirrhosis. "Like you found a cure for TB and chicken pox, look for treatments for liver ailments. After all, allopathy is now 200 years old." He further

asked what non-surgical cure does the pharma industry have for heart blockage. "What treatment is there for cholesterol?" "Does the pharma industry have treatment for migraine?" or treatment for constipation and bloating without any side effects, he said. The yoga guru went on to list

modern day ailments such as Parkinson's disease and asked if allopathy had any painless cure to treat infertility as well as to reverse ageing and increase hemoglobin. "Doctors should not fall ill at all if allopathy is all powerful and 'sarvagun sampanna' (having all good qualities)," he remarked.

## 'YAAS' To Cross Odisha Coast Between Rajnagar And Baliapal : CEC

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 24: Cyclonic storm 'Yaas', which lay centered about 530 km south-southeast of Paradip on Monday, will move in a north-northwesterly direction and cross the Odisha coast somewhere between Rajnagar in Kendrapara district and Baliapal in Balasore district in the forenoon of May 26, according to the Centre for Environment and Climate (CEC), Siksha 'O' Anusandhan here. While crossing the coast, the wind speed would be between 80 to 100 km per hour gusting to 120 km per hour, Dr. Sarat Chandra Sahu, Director of CEC, said. There was, how-



ever, the probability that this wind speed could be little less as most of the meteorological parameters such as upper atmosphere outflow and wind shear (difference in wind speed between 1.5 km to 12 km height from the surface) were not supporting intensification of the system, Dr.

Sahu said. Latest analysis showed that the system would be located about 140 km from Paradip at 5.30 pm on Tuesday and lay close to Rajnagar in Kendrapara district early on the morning of May 26 before crossing the Odisha coast near Chandbali or its

neighbourhood and the wind flow would continue till May 26 night, he said. Model products were changing from hour to hour making it difficult to predict the cyclone track, he said. However, the point of landfall could change based on actual data, he said adding wind speed reaching 35 km to 50 m per hour, would continue from Monday afternoon off and along the coastal belt. The wind speed would increase in Jagatsinghpur on Tuesday morning while the wind speed would rise in Kendrapara, Bhadrak and Balasore districts in the afternoon and continue till May 26. Once a cyclone moved ahead,

the wind speed in the rear side would decrease, he said. Light to moderate rain would continue from Monday afternoon till Tuesday forenoon followed by heavy rainfall in the districts of Kendrapara, Cuttack, Bhadrak, Balasore, Jajpur, Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal and Keonjhar till Thursday afternoon. "Zonal wind from west to east is very strong and it will have effect over Bangladesh and eastern West Bengal upto 25th evening but Odisha's Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts from the night of May 25 as the earth moves from west to east," he said adding this wind became stronger when any cyclonic system formed.

## Congress Party Submit Memorandum to the Collector Khordha



Khordha) Congress party submitted a memorandum to the Collector Khordha for demands that the state government had taken decision on - 21.05.2021 not to collect the license fee from the liquor shops as per Odisha Municipal Act. from June -2021 to December -2021. The Congress Party in state opposed this decision of the government and demand the license fee of all retailers small and marginal shops to be waived because they have also lost everything during the covid-19 pandemic period. The state Con-

gress urges to the state government to reduced VAT on Petrol Diesel and Cooking Gas. The prices of edible oil, pulses and most of the food items have increased beyond common man's reach. The senior Congress leader and MLA, Jatni Suresh Kumar Routray, PCC, Member Sisir Kumar Parida Ranjit Mohapatra, Soumya Pattnaik, Padma Charan Ray, Ashok Kumar Mangaraj, Jayanta Bhoi, Batakrushna Routray, Dibakar Routray and other Congress leaders were remain present.

## Khordha Model PS Arrested Cattle Trafficker



(A.O. Bureau) Khordha, May 24: Khordha model police getting some reliable information that illegally

transported the cattle and bull in a container. On NH-16 near Collector office Khordha the container and the drive was

detained with full of cattle and bull were supply to the slaughter house of West Bengal. The said cattle and bull were handed over at Gasala (Peoples for animals at Sijua near AIMS, BBSR). In this connection Khordha model PS case no-211/21 was registered and the accused container driver was forwarded to the Judicial court Khordha. And the case is now under investigation.

## East Coast Railway Achieves A Century Of Oxygen Express Trains

- ECoR despatched 35 loaded Oxygen Special Trains towards different States of the country.
- 2252.07 Tons of Liquid Medical Oxygen Transported from ECoR jurisdiction.
- C33 loaded Oxygen Express Specials from SER and ER jurisdiction have run through ECoR for their destination via the Green Corridor.
- 38 empty Oxygen Express Trains have run through this zone for loading of LMO.
- ECoR arranged food packets for the crew members on the way to the destinations.
- Priority given for running of Oxygen Special Trains.



ern Railway have also been handled by ECoR. Loaded LMO rakes form Durgapur, Tatanagar, and Rourkela going towards Secunderabad, Chennai and Bangalore have traversed through ECoR. Apart from this, 38 empty Oxygen express trains have run through ECoR to reach various loading points for filling LMO. Out of the above Oxygen express special trains from ECoR jurisdiction, almost half of them received by Delhi & Haryana. Oxygen Express Trains from ECoR jurisdiction have also been sent to Maharashtra, Telangana, Kerala, Tamilnadu & Karnatak States. ECoR has carried

545.31 tons of LMO to Maharashtra, 842.4 tons to Delhi & Haryana, 117.9 tons to Kerala, 505.44 tons to Telangana, 120 tons to Tamilnadu and 120.98 tons to Karnataka. East Coast Railway is providing Food packets and water bottles for the Crew Members of all Oxygen Express Special Trains going to various States in ECoR jurisdiction. Apart from the Crew members, the staff of Road Vehicles carried in Trains are also being taken care in ECoR jurisdiction. Steel Plants like Tata Bhusan Limited and Jindal Steel & Power Limited at Angul and Tata Steel Limited at Kalinga Nagar have contrib-

uted majorly in Oxygen loading from ECoR jurisdiction. Till now, 35 Oxygen Express Trains loaded in 140 tankers have utilised to supply LMO towards various States from ECoR jurisdiction for saving life of patients in this pandemic. East coast Railway has taken all precautions for safe running of Oxygen Express Special Trains from its jurisdiction and sending these trains at the earliest. Apart from this, Oxygen Special Trains from other Steel Plants beyond ECoR jurisdiction have also been given priority as in "Green Corridor" for safe running and early movement to their destinations.

## IMS and Sum Hospital gets NABH Certification



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 24: Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital, faculty of medicine of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA), has received the presti-

gious accreditation from National Accreditation Board of Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH). The accreditation, which came into force with effect from May 13, 2021 will con-

tinue for four years. NABH is a constituent board of the Quality Council of India. IMS and SUM Hospital has received the NABH accreditation for the second time.

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 24: In a move to provide succour and relief in the pandemic period to those areas having insufficient oxygen, Indian Railways is running Oxygen Express Special Trains to & from different parts of the country. SO far 15000 on of LMO have been transported by the National Transporter. During this COVID-19 upsurge, East Coast Railway has taken up the mantle of transporting Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) in a major way for saving lives of patients. Till today, ECoR has carried 2252 tons of LMO from different

Steel Plants of its jurisdiction towards different States. The Story began on 22nd April, 2021 when the first rake from Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Visakhapatnam went to Nasik. So far East Coast Railway has handled about 106 Oxygen Express Special Trains in its jurisdiction till now, out of which 35 Oxygen Express Special Trains loaded with Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) were sent from ECoR jurisdiction towards different States of the country. 33 loaded Oxygen express trains from South Eastern Railway and East-

## Cyclone YAAS: State Govt Fully Prepared, Naveen Patnaik Apprises Amit Shah

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 24: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik participated in a meeting with Union Minister for Home Affairs, Amit Shah over cyclone YAAS in the Bay of Bengal. During the meeting, Naveen apprised Shah that Odisha Government is fully prepared for the cyclone. "We are fully prepared and our officers are in touch with officers of the Union Government. "We will get back on requirements," the CM said. Shah held a review meeting, through video conferencing with the Chief Ministers of Odisha, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh and the Lt. Governor of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, to assess their preparedness and



that of Central Ministries and agencies concerned, to deal with the situation arising out of Cyclone 'Yaas', which is forming in the Bay of Bengal. "As practised by Odisha, volunteers, such as Home Guards, NCC and civil defence may also be mobilised in helping in the evacuation of people," Shah said and advised to disseminate messages in local languages over

mobile phones, television, social media and through village panchayats, with a view to educate and motivate people. The Home Minister re-iterated to make adequate power backup arrangements in all COVID-19 hospitals, labs, vaccine cold chains and other medical facilities. Further, he advised them to ensure adequate stocks of all es-

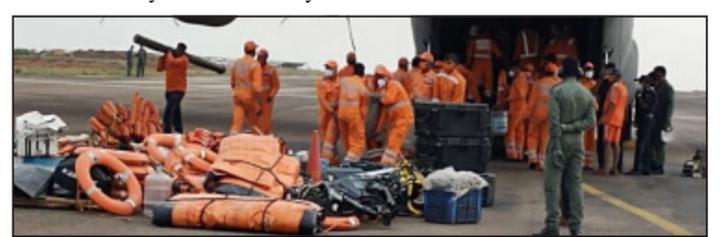
sential medicines and supplies in hospitals, keeping in view likely disruption of movement of vehicles. For health facilities, including temporary hospitals, likely to be affected by the cyclone, the Union Home Minister advised them to make adequate arrangements for securing them from losses and for evacuation of patients in ad-

vance, if necessary. The Union Home Minister said advance action taken in this regard on the Western coast ensured that there was no adverse impact on any medical facility. The Union Home Minister also reviewed the impact of the cyclone on oxygen generation plants located in the States of West Bengal, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. He advised them to make advance planning for keeping a buffer stock of oxygen for two days and movement of oxygen tankers to allocated States, so that in case of any disruption, supply to allocated States is not impacted. Shah also asked the State Governments to ensure the safety of oxygen generation plants.

## NDRF Deploys 52 Teams In Odisha In View Of Cyclone Yaas

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 24: As the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicts possible landfall of Cyclone Yaas around Balasore district of Odisha, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Director General SN Pradhan today informed a total of 52 teams will be engaged in the State. Pradhan further stated as many as 32 NDRF teams have already been in place in Odisha whereas 20 more teams are on the way. He added over 100 NDRF teams will be deployed in six states and one Union Territory which are likely to be affected by the

Cyclone Yaas. Following request from the West Bengal government, a total of 35 teams have been engaged in the State. Some teams have been deployed in Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar UT in view of Cyclone Yaas. "We are in constant touch with the State governments and highlighted the measures taken during the meetings with the Prime Minister, Home Minister and Prime Minister and Secretaries. This time, extra preparation has been done to ensure zero casualty," Pradhan added.



## EDITORIAL

## Corona's cost

For more than a year now, the Corona pandemic has been playing havoc with people's lives and livelihood. Hundreds of thousands of people have died within the year, and many have been rendered homeless. The pernicious virus has not only impacted individuals, but also businesses and normal life. The lockdown, which had been seen as an effective tool in the fight against the virus, is now showing side effects. It has brought the nation's economy to almost its knees. Many industries, like aviation and tourism that provided a huge number of jobs, have been maimed. The indicators suggest that the economy of the country is going through a grim phase and the lockdown is partially responsible for it. The biggest effect of the lockdown has been psychological as many people have postponed their business decisions or curtailed their operations, leading to more job losses and weaker purchasing power in the hands of the people. On the one hand, people have lost jobs and their source of livelihood; on the other, the prices of essential commodities are on the rise. This comes as a double whammy for the people. For instance, mustard oil that sold for around Rs 120/litre is now selling at Rs 180/litre. Arhar dal, which sold around Rs 90 in March last year, is selling for around Rs 110 a kg. Since several expenses, like the home rent, cannot be curtailed, the daily earners are leaving for their villages and hometowns. This has led to the migration of the workforce in large numbers, having repercussions for various industries. The pandemic, let's face it, is here to stay. We know that it will not go anywhere, anytime soon. As we approach the end of the second wave, a third wave is staring us in the face; experts say in October, probably. So the businesses in the revival mode will face another jolt then. It is not clear how much has the lockdown helped in containing the disease. In Delhi, the number of cases rose and fell with the rest of the country despite the lockdown. However, the Government doesn't seem keen on lifting the lockdown. People are already questioning the rationale for going ahead with the lockdown in Delhi when the positivity rate is 3.5 and the total deaths recorded have come down to less than 2,500 a day. It is not only inconvenient to the people but also a great revenue loss for the country.

## Hasty decision?

Should the Indian Government reconsider its May 13 decision to increase the gap between Covishield doses to 12-16 weeks? The Government has accepted the recommendation of the technical group to extend the gap from six-eight weeks after reports that the second dose after a longer gap can develop stronger immunity. NITI Aayog member VK Paul said the efficacy of even a single dose was not a problem. A month earlier, Adar Poonawalla of the Serum Institute of India had said the AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccine was 90 per cent effective when the gap was three months. The Indian Government got a shot in the arm when scientist Andrew Pollard, who co-developed the AstraZeneca vaccine with Sarah Gilbert at the Oxford University, said that a three-month interval produces "very good" protection; this gets even better with a longer interval from three to four months. However, within days of India extending the gap, the UK Government, which was earlier following a three-month gap, reduced it to eight weeks. This was done because of concerns that an extended first dose may not be of help against the notorious B.1.617 variant that was first discovered in India. The Financial Times reported using the latest UK data that a single dose "offered 33 per cent protection against symptomatic infection from B.1.617.2 and 51 per cent against B.1.1.7". These are the mutants of B.1.617. Both doses together reduced this gap in protection to six percentage points, giving 81 per cent protection against B.1.617.2 and 87 per cent against B.1.1.7. The Cornell University's Weill Cornell Medicine community said the UK Government's decision to delay the second dose was controversial and risky and the Indian policy needs "reconsidering". A virologist of the centre said a single dose does not give enough protection against B.1.617. India is in an unenviable situation as on date. The vaccination for 18+ has either stopped or is at a snail's pace. There is vaccine shortage in the country since the last week of April. From a total of 2.47 crore vaccinations in the week of April 3-9, it has come down to 92.1 lakh during May 15-21. Of the 19.33 crore people who received vaccination till May 22, only 4.13 crore received both doses. Delhi, for instance, has halted vaccination in the 18-44 age group centres, claiming shortage. Against a demand of 80 lakh doses a month, it got only one-fifth, or 16 lakh doses, in May. Full relief is not available till July end when the SII would have reached ramped up production capacity. And yet, the Government is confident of vaccinating all adults by this year's end as 16 crore doses would become available in July and 25 crore in October. Where does this confidence emanate from? It may be too soon to say if the delayed dose policy is a definite risk, but there are no second thoughts on the need for scaling up vaccination.

## The genesis of the Israel-Hamas scuffle

The various sides claiming to be the rightful owners of the land of Palestine, or Judea, have their sharp arguments at the ready. Who has the superior right over Palestine or, say, Judea? Hamas per se is an authorised organisation but it does represent the Arab point of view. Just as the Israeli forces are acting on behalf of virtually Jewish sentiment the world over. Who provoked the current clash and why or how, is a matter of detail. If only one side were to get the whole of Palestine, which side has a more valid right to the ownership of that land? I had an opportunity to discuss this fundamental issue with a few educated Jews as well as Arabs and, believe it or not, also with an Israeli Christian couple when we were visiting Jerusalem a few years ago. The Arab viewpoint was that we have lived in Palestine for centuries and the fewer Jews who were here were treated well by us. There was no tension, no rioting and no fighting. Even when we saw shiploads of Jews arriving in the late 19th century and early years of the 20th, we did not resist. We might not have welcomed them warmly but we took them as people of the Book or ahl al-kitab. They call our first prophet Abraham, we call him Ibrahim; their biggest prophet was Moses, whom we call Musa and respect him. So we were cordial. It was the Balfour Declaration of 1917 which gave us Arabs a jolt. Britain then was a big imperial power and Prime Minister Lloyd George had blessed the declaration which promised the Jews a homeland, by implication, in the Holy Land. As the



Prfull Goradia

20th century progressed, more shiploads of Jews started coming in. That is when the tensions started between us and the Jews. In due course, we came to know that they were also importing arms and ammunition. That left us no choice but to get military help from the neighbouring Arab countries. After all, Palestine belonged to the Arabs who had been in a majority for centuries; it is our homeland. Where else could we go and resettle, and why should we? Remember our Prophet, riding Barukh the horse, ascended to Heaven to meet Allah the Merciful from Jerusalem and returned at the same place in two days. That also makes the city one of our holiest ones. Until a few decades ago, our namaz used to be read facing Jerusalem. Only recently the mehrabs in the masjids point to Mecca. Above all, the whole of Palestine is ours legally by adverse possession for centuries. Quite accidentally, soon after listening to these Arab

gentlemen, I bumped into a Christian couple at the hotel who claimed that their family always belonged to Palestine and, since 1948, the parents became Israelis. They said they were happy in Jerusalem which should belong to Christians, if at all, not to Muslims just because of the Al Aqsa Mosque which celebrates Prophet Muhammad's journey to Heaven and back. On the other hand, Jesus, the son of God, was born at Bethlehem, a few miles from Jerusalem. The Lord spent his life around here, preached in Judea, was betrayed and crucified on Calvary Hill. The lady pleaded fluently. She asked me: "So, you judge, is it an Arab area by right or more Christian? The Jews are nice to us Christians here." The several Jews I got to talk to on the subject were clear that they had the first right to Judea. They belonged here before they went to Egypt for em-

ployment but, unfortunately, the Pharaoh trapped and enslaved us. When Prophet Moses after long years liberated us, he brought us back to Judea. He was a great soul and wrote the five books of the Torah. In fact, there were no Islam in this world until 14 centuries ago whereas the Jewish right to this land is thousands of years old. Jerusalem was founded by us, we believe. Our temple on the mount was built by our ancient kings but demolished by Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon. We rebuilt it and it was destroyed by another invader. Now only the mount is there on whose Wailing Wall local as well as visiting Jews pray, often break down and weep. Please remember that we have no other country that we can call our homeland and go to. We have had to roam all over the world like gypsies since we had no place of our own. Muslims have nearly 57 countries; they have no problem, why harass us with bombs and missiles from time to time? At present, it is the Hezbollah; tomorrow it could be the Hamas and the day after another group. Palestine should have been reserved for us Israelis. That would have averted so much of our suffering, anti-Semitism, pogroms and all that. It has been nice of us to let others stay in Israel and be happy. Half of Palestine is still theirs. "What more, sir?" one of them asked. When I raised the issue of adverse possession they have enjoyed in Palestine for centuries, the answer was ready and reflex. You mean that because I stole your grandfather's watch 30 years ago, it is legitimately mine now? You have no right over it? How would you feel?

## Writing a digital history of India's second Covid wave

Bhaskar Chakravorti

Future students of history will find evidence of broken leadership and institutions in online traces from 2021, as well as reminders of the resilience of Indians. What will the history books say when they look back on this dark time? Surely, amidst the darkness, they will note that this was also a time when two of Narendra Modi's signature campaigns came together quite nicely. Digital India and Atmanirbhar Bharat — self-reliant India — joined hands to form the national response as Covid made its ferocious return. Surely, history will speak of hashtags replacing hospitals, "Indian matchmaking" switching from matches for brides and grooms to matches for plasma and empty ICU beds and India turning to self-reliance when confronted by the reality of one doctor per 1,456 people and one internet connection for every two people. While I have my eye on how history will record these times, I am not blind to the fact that history is itself an endangered discipline and will be revised in the re-telling. Fortunately, Digital India leaves electronic traces of today's anguish. Google, for example, will tell those future generations that in late March, cricket reigned supreme across India — as it should. It sat atop all Google searches. Come mid-April, oxygen was king. Top searches included: "oxygen cylinder on rent" and "how to make oxygen at home". Astute students of history will, no doubt, recall that Mahatma Gandhi spun his own dhoti in the 1930s. Babu's descendants made their own oxygen in 2021. Indeed, they will note that India came a long way. These electronic traces yield insights into the state of India itself and how it might

change as it emerges from the crisis. Let me name just three. For one, as always, the elite had access to better resources. No doubt, the usual markers of privilege, money and connections helped get a leg up. Arguably, connections on Twitter helped even more as Covid overwhelmed systems and institutions. Less than 3 per cent of the 700 million internet-connected Indians are on Twitter. The platform's "re-tweet" function could radically multiply the number of people who could view and pass on a desperate call for help or a Google spreadsheet with life-saving information. This experience might create a wider appreciation for gaining familiarity with digital productivity tools for better life and work beyond Covid. Second, self-reliance meant going beyond family and friends and relying on the anonymous crowd. India has an abundance of both humans and humanity. Sadly, especially in times of such desperation, crowdsourcing brings out the worst and the best of this humanity. Unscrupulous "entrepreneurs" were repainting fire extinguishers and selling them as oxygen canisters, peddling fake medicines and bogus treatments or engaging in price gouging. In far too many cases, well-meaning advice on available resources was outdated, which meant that desperate families spent hours barking up the wrong tree. The good news is that the crowd included many digital do-gooders, who assembled sites, such as Covidfightclub.org, aggregating leads from Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, while others debunked

false leads and made lists of verified resources, and hashtags like "#covidhelp" helped collect crowdsourced verifications. India's youth, among the most active inhabitants of the digital planet, came through. A Bengaluru-based software developer created a website that allowed users to select a city, the life-saving product needed and then directed them to the relevant tweets. Another smart chap from Mumbai put up a video for the Twitter-uninitiated by advising them on how to "put the minimum number of likes", the "location where you want something", "the need (oxygen!)" and toss in "verified" in the search bar. To add to the mix, internet platforms joined the digital jugaad. While a Columbia graduate student turned to Tinder for a plasma match for a friend in Kolkata, the Indian dating app, TrulyMadly, adapted its technology to set up a plasma matchmaking platform. Separately, plasmaline.in or Blood Donors India matched seekers with donors. India does crowds better than any other country in the world; instead of just packing cricket stadiums or the Kumbh Mela, we can tap the potential of this crowd in rebuilding and filling in for missing institutions beyond Covid. Third, India's Covid catastrophe was not just due to the inadequacy of hospital beds or oxygen tanks. Broken infrastructure was made much worse by the broken state of politics, broken management systems, broken leadership and a breakdown in cooperation between different entities responsible

for protecting society. The stunning gap between the two largest cities, Delhi and Mumbai, teaches us lessons about human failures. Delhi had 20 per cent more active cases than Mumbai on April 22, but the daily new cases out of Delhi at that point were skyrocketing far beyond those of Mumbai. While one can legitimately question the official counts, the digital record tells its own story of the ground realities: The urgent digital cries from Delhi were three to four times as many as those out of Mumbai. According to bellingcat, the open-source investigative site, Delhi had over 120 unique tweets per hour on April 22, with the word "urgent" out of which 40 had "oxygen" in it. On the same day, Mumbai had just above 40 unique tweets with "urgent" and under 10 with "oxygen" in them. Many have spoken of the "Mumbai model" from which there is much to be learned. We should learn and apply it nationwide. Future students of history, as digital natives, will need little encouragement to go directly to today's electronic traces. They may already be sceptical of historians and history books. I would advise them to tread cautiously and navigate with care as they piece together their self-reliant record of history. As the medical journal, The Lancet, noted, the "government has seemed more intent on removing criticism on Twitter than trying to control the pandemic." Indeed, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has asked both Twitter and Facebook, among others, to remove posts not to its liking — and India's new rules governing social media will permit the ongoing digital revisionism.

## "Cooking Food, Dry Food, Mask, Sanitizer Distributed By Smile Charitable Trust



(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, May 24: Today again Smile charitable trust, Paradeep, distributed 100 Cooking food at Paradeepgrah, IFFCO chhak, Bhumundai, area and also in afternoon, 100 nos Dry food packets, Mask & Sanitizer Distributed to 40 Kinners and other poor peoples at Ramachandi

and bangali Bangali Pada, area in presence of Sri Sachitra Kumar Rout-(President), Adv. Sanjay ku Behera (Adviser) Adv.Suresh ch Das (Chief Adviser) and Rashmi Ranjan Sahoo (Vice President) and supported by TMILL international Logiatic. @# crises on lock down period of 2nd wave of Covid-19 and

also President- Sachitra Rout told Cooking food, Dry food, Mask and Sanitizer distribution programme will continue at Paradeep area by turst till Lock down continue and lastly Chief Advisor- Adv. Suresh ch Das told Smile charitable Trust ready to helping for expected Cyclone " Yash".

## The young gun of Aska, Shiva Nahak a warrior against Corona

(A.O. Bureau) Aska, May 24: A number of precautions and regulations have been put in place to prevent the second wave of coronary disease. Many young people, starting with administrative officials from various departments, have been working day and night to protect people from infections, including strictly enforcing the law and raising awareness about the disease. One of them is Shiva Nahak, a samiti member of the Aska Block Bargaon Panchayat Samiti and a youth leader of the Biju Janata Dal. Shiva has been serving the people since the beginning of the corona infection for a year. Not only that last year UNICEF certified Siva for his dedicated selfless service mortality. He is now well known in the local as a warrior and a real hero in the crown. He has

already done a lot of development work for the panchayat and created a special place for the people of the area or the people of the panchayat he make a new era spreading a new hope's for a better option for the people's very popular results a man with new goals be a new front-line figure for future. Now he has joined the ranks of the corona war and has come forward to serve the people. Even reaching out to everyone from children to the elderly in the panchayat has set an example for many youth groups in WhatsApp and made special arrangements for those who are in need of help from the poor needy, through which people around the world have been asked to provide help. Last year in the first wave of the coronation, he took full responsibility



as a chief monitor, starting with the provision of food and other facilities to the normal people's along with migrants at the TMC. He has even urged the people of the panchayat and the city of Aska to clean up the streets along with various institutions and raise awareness. However, in view of the current situation in the second wave of the corona, the panchayat is advising

people to be vigilant through social roadside dramas. Everyday, the Biju janata party's youth group has been cooperating with the first wave of coronation, providing food distribution to the poor, helpless and mentally ill. However Honorable Aska MLA Manjula Swayam, Ganjam Zone Youth BJD president Nachiketa Swayam, Senior BJD leader Dillip Kumar

Panigrahi, Bhagwan Sahu, BJD leader Suryakant Parida, Nagarjun Bisoi, Youth BJD leader Satyanarayana Swayamsevak, B. Manoj Kumar Dora, Sarpanch Sanjay Jena, Shiv Shankar Mohanty, Nigmananda Raoul, Jitendra Maharana, Bimal Pradhan, Pratap Chandra Pradhan, Sukant Sahu, Pramod Pradhan, Debashis Panda, Balakrishna Jena and others are praising him in the intelligentia.

## Children's literature bi-monthly magazine Jugopajogi Subarnadeepa published from Bargarh unfolded its first edition

(A.O. Bureau) Bargarh, May 24: The moral development of children starts at the very beginning of life. The role of parents with teachers is very important to encourage the children for reading some literature. Now

the whole world suffered in covid 19. A Children's literature bi-monthly magazine Jugopajogi Subarnadeepa published from Bargarh unfolded its first edition of 27th year edition. A zoom Meeting

organised by teacher Kedarnath Sahu which was presided by editor Pradipta bhanu Mohanty. A number of children writers of different part of Odisha joined virtually and pointed those above lines. Dr Ramachandra

Deo of Baripada, Premananda Nayak from Salepur, Dr Rajkishor Padhee of Jajpur, Babul Palei from Kendujhar, Bankim Chandra Nayak Kunjabihari Sahu from Bhubaneshwar, Prasanta

Mamgaraj from Puri, Dr Subas Meher, Rohit Das, Asutosh Rath, Damodar Sahu, Dr Jaspreet Singh, Surendra Hota, Dharmaraj Padhan, Uttama Padhan from Baragarh joined the meeting.

## This Issue on rural hospital Covid management in Balangir district

(A.O. Bureau) Balangir, May 24: Many rural peoples have been vaccinated against Covid-19 virus in the Loisingha block's primary health care centers. Hundreds of people over the age of 45 have been vaccinated. However, the number of chair used when vaccinating is only one. People are taking vaccine by sitting in the same chair. People from all classes of life have been vaccinated one by one. The same table is used for people with minor symptoms. Due to this kind of behaviour, healthy people are more likely to become infected. The government is urging the public to follow Covid appreciate behaviour and to obey social distances and wear masks. This is because of the fact that corona is a viral disease that has the potential to spread even if it touches one another. if there is any guarantee that a normal and healthy person can not be infected by getting vaccine sitting in the same chair? Because



the chair is usually using for all classes of the peoples. person with minor symptoms are also there. Similarly, the rooms of the vaccination center have not been sanitized. In the other side, the condition of the room where the patient rested after the vaccination is also same. Similarly, people who come to be vaccinated are more likely to become infected. There are fewer health facilities in rural areas than in cities. Therefore, infection control is essential in rural areas. The Department of Health needs to take immediate steps to prevent this from happening again. The vaccination center needs to

be sanitized and cleaned every day. The public, who comes to hospital to be vaccinated, authorities need to guide them to enter to the vaccination ward not more than one person at a time. Instead of resting with the general patient after the vaccination, hospital authorities also need to advise the patient to move to another room. Doing so can prevent infection. The district health department and the local hospitals authorities should be more sensitive to the management of Covid, as well as the provision of better health care to the general public and patients of Covid.

## National level webinar organised by koraput district culture office



(A.O. Bureau) Koraput, May 24: Koraput district is a place of culture, tribalism, dance, art and literature. The Odisha Sahitya Akademi, Sangeet Natak Akademi and Lalit Kala Akademi will work to-

wards enriching and developing the rich history, culture and traditions of the region in the coming days. Commented in voice. "Joining Vishnapad Sethi, Chief Secretary, Department of State Culture

and Information and Public Relations, as the chief guest, the history and culture of the vast continent have given a new direction to the world to this day. "Cultural literature" The webinar was held this evening. A national level seminar on tribal culture literature in undivided Koraput district, including Koraput district, has been organized by the Koraput district culture department for the first time. "Distinguished talents from the district, undivided Koraput, the state and India were present. For the first time, the presidents of three academies in the state took part in the talks. "Koraput District Culture Department Officer Archana Das presided over the function with a welcome address.

## Huge destruction by kalabaisakha at Podia

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 24: A severe natural disaster has been reported in Padia block under Malkangiri district. Since last two days it is continuing in the 2nd hour. The epicenter was reported below about

Kumar, n. Ravi Kumar, Rajen Madhav, Gundam Binod, C.H. Prabhakar, C.H. Binod, C.H. saroj CH Binod N Ravi Kumar number of people have been affected by this catastrophic kala baisakh affect Accord-



60 thatched houses blown away 15 trees fall down vegetable destroyed The victims of the catastrophic disaster were C.H. Moses, Gundam Yan Babu, b. Deva Danam, Vantal Abadanik, Vantal Sedark, G.S. Binod, Pedi Vijay, etc. Anand

ing to locals, it rained a little at first and suddenly a terrible storm came and caused such terrible damage, someone's house was blown away, someone's house wall collapsed, someone's house was uprooted, someone's auto van collapsed.

## Rajgangpur police have arrested 3 accused in the theft case

(A.O. Bureau) Rajgangpur, May 24: Theft and snatching are on the rise in Rajgangpur city, while Rajgangpur police have arrested three accused in two separate thefts.

Police arrested two accused in the first theft case and seized one Philips LCD TV (32 inches) and two Intex offerers from him. The case was settled under Section C. Police have

arrested two suspects in connection with the robbery. Similarly, a mobile theft case was registered in Rajgangpur police station on May 15 last year.



## TPWODL prepares for the cyclone 'Yaas' likely to hit Odisha

(A.O. Bureau) Sambalpur, 24 May: As per the IMD report, the deep depression over the North Andaman Sea and adjoining East-central Bay of Bengal is likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm within the next 24 hours. TP Western Odisha Distribution Ltd (TPWODL) has a detailed Business Continuity and Disaster Management Plan (BCDMP) in place for dealing with this cyclone. The BCDMP entails categories of disasters based on the severity along with a corresponding action plan, a Disaster Management Structure to systematic-

ally receive alerts for disasters, examine them, send pre disaster alerts and devise mechanism for invoking and revoking BCDMP. The ongoing second wave of Covid-19 pandemic has significantly affected Western Odisha. TPWODL is always in a state of readiness to respond to any eventualities and prepared to address customer's requirement for power supply. Customers can call the Company's 24x7 toll free number 1912/18003456798 for any emergency service. TPWODL CEO, Mr G. Kale, Chief Operation Services, Mr

S Ghosh along with their respective SE, EE teams have been personally monitoring the situation on continuous basis and prepared to handle any eventuality. As a safety measure, TPWODL has requested people to refrain from doing the following: Do not touch any wires or plumbing inside a building during lightning strikes as telephone lines/metal pipes can conduct electricity; Do not take shelter beneath tree/any temporary structure in case of heavy wind, thunderstorm and downpour; Do not touch any electrical installations with wet hands or without us-

ing hand gloves, safety shoes or insulated platform; Do not allow children to play near storm drains after rainfall; Do not allow any unauthorized person to work on any electrical equipment. Speaking on the initiative Mr. Gajanan Kale, CEO, TPWODL said, "Keeping the IMD's prediction in mind, we have taken all the necessary measures and aim to ensuring uninterrupted power supply, especially in these testing times of Covid 19. Our team is working relentlessly to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the affected areas within record time. We would

also like to appeal to the public to adhere to all the essential safety measures to avoid any accidents during this storm "YAAS". All preventive maintenance of equipment has been carried out at both distribution as well as consumer substations. They have also deployed dedicated maintenance teams at various locations along with special operations teams to ensure 24x7 power supply all the 11 oxygen plants and 20 Covid hospitals in that area. Besides this, it has also deployed dedicated quick response team across the licensed areas.

## Iqbal Khan: I am an actor but I can't act on social media



New Delhi, May 24: For the actor, there is "nothing out there" for him and he feels writing a post about something isn't going to make a difference. "Moreover, whatever happens on the internet is not the real mood of the country" Iqbal Khan quit Twitter last year and this month, he quit Instagram too, as he says he didn't have much to say. "There is nothing out there for me. I realised writing a post was not making a difference. Moreover, whatever happens on the internet is not the real mood of the country," says the actor. He doesn't feel the need to work on struggle to increase

number of followers like others. Explaining his reasons, he says, "I am a private person and I don't have lots of things to say, especially what people are looking for. I usually post what I want to and I am an actor but I can't act on Instagram. There is nothing out there for me. You can't express your opinion on social media and I also realised that your post doesn't make a difference. I also don't get why people doing charity would want cameras to follow them? Making videos while getting vaccinated is fine as celebs are asking others to get jabbed like them. Par jo nakli hai woh

dikh jaata hai. In today's times, people are judged for a silly post, even if they are a good person. It is our moral responsibility to be a little sensitive at this time. Flaunting privilege on social media is insensitive like many celebs posted their vacation photos." With two lockdowns, the second wave, Khan admits that he is not concerned or worried about anything in life as he feels, "We have to get the message loud and clear now that nothing is in our hands! We can do our best with what we have and the rest-lockdown, rising cases, Covid, work etc is in God's hands. Do our best and wait this out."

## Charu Asopa says she wants her baby to be like sister-in-law Sushmita Sen

Mumbai, May 24: Charu Asopa and Rajeev Sen are expecting their first child together. Charu has revealed that she's due close to sister-in-law Sushmita Sen's birthday, which is in November. Charu Asopa has revealed that her first child with Rajeev Sen is due around her sister-in-law Sushmita Sen's birthday. The television actor had confirmed the news of her pregnancy last week with a post on Instagram. Speaking with SpotboyE, Charu revealed said that although she's currently in her hometown, Bikaner, Sushmita is in constant touch. She added that Sushmita is excited about the baby's arrival

and even helped her connect with a doctor in Mumbai. "She is continuously in touch with me and keeps asking about my and baby's health. She is so excitedly waiting for the baby. She only recommended a doctor when I was in Mumbai. Now that I am Bikaner, I keep consulting that doctor as well while I am showing myself to doctors here. My due date is around Sushmita didi's birthday so that thing is making me even more excited as whatever we get blessed with a girl or a boy is going to be amazing just like her. As Didi is someone who is unbiased, follows her principles and I really respect her for that. I want



my baby to be like her," she said. Charu also confessed she feared becoming pregnant during the pandemic. "Honestly, I was scared of being pregnant in this pandemic because my doctor had clearly told me that if I contract the virus in the first trimester we won't be able to

treat you. So, you have to be very very careful. I wasn't keeping well so my immunity was also weak and recovering with low immunity becomes extremely difficult. In the second and third trimester still there is a scope of treatment," she said. Rajeev and Charu married in 2019

but the wedding was followed by speculations of their separation. She had also accused him of abandoning her during the lockdown. But in September 2020, the couple appeared to have reconciled. They celebrated their first wedding anniversary together.

## Inside Sugandha Mishra's lockdown birthday celebration with Sanket Bhosale

Mumbai, May 24: Sugandha Mishra took to Instagram to share glimpses of her lockdown birthday bash and thanked her husband, Sanket Bhosale, for making her feel 'special'. She posted photos on Instagram, in which their house could be seen decorated with balloons and streamers. They smeared cake on each



other's faces and posed together. Their family members also featured in some of the images. Fans dropped heart and heart-eyes emojis on the post and used adjectives such as 'super', 'cute', 'beautiful' and 'fantastic' to describe the pictures. On Sunday, Sanket shared photos of himself doing push-ups outdoors as Sugandha sat

on his back. He shared one of the pictures on Instagram Stories and wrote, "Happy birthday Guddu." Earlier this month, Sanket celebrated his birthday at home and Sugandha shared a video from the intimate party. The cake featured a picture from their pre-wedding shoot and he said that he did not feel like cutting it.

## Khatron Ke Khiladi 11: Shweta Tiwari's 'new friends' include Abhinav, Divyanka

New Delhi, May 24: Shweta Tiwari is currently participating in the new season of Khatron Ke Khiladi. The actor recently shared a couple of pictures with her friends on the sets. Abhinav Shukla, Divyanka Tripathi and Arjun Bijlani are among Shweta Tiwari's 'new friends.' Shweta, on Sunday, took to her Instagram and shared a group picture featuring a few contestants of Khatron Ke Khiladi. The television actor is currently in South Africa, participating in the new season of the adventure show. Over the past few days, she has been sharing videos and photos from the sets of the show.



Over the weekend, she shared a couple of pictures featuring Varun Sood, Nikki Tamboli, Abhinav, Sourabh Raaj Jain, Sana Makbul, Arjun, Divyanka, Aastha Gill and Anushka Sen. The group first posed for the camera before they

burst into laughter. Shweta shared the picture with the caption, "The great thing about new friends is that they bring new energy to your soul..." Last week, Shweta was all praise for Sourabh after he fanboied over the star.

On Thursday, Sourabh shared a couple of pictures with Shweta and confessed he was having a fan moment. Recalling the days he and his family would watch her show, Kasautii Zindagii Kay, he said, "Trust me the first time I

met her on this show. I had my fan moment. I told her about those days and she of course was as humble as ever. Its an honour to share the screen with someone you have admired and watched on screen." Reacting to the post, Shweta said he's as 'committed to his family as he is to his work'. She added, "He is Very focused and hardworking and A True Family Man!" Shweta also had everyone's attention courtesy of her toned physique. In an interview with Bollywood Bubble, Shweta revealed it was her daughter Palak who urged her to undergo a transformation.

## Ira Khan is dating a 'hottie' and she knows it, see their Instagram PDA

New Delhi, May 24: Ira Khan dropped a comment on boyfriend Nupur Shikhare's new Instagram post, in which he flexed his muscles. Actor Aamir Khan's daughter, Ira, couldn't resist commenting on her boyfriend Nupur Shikhare's new Instagram post. "What a hottie," Ira wrote in all-caps, in the comments section of the post, which showed Nupur flexing his muscles. Nupur is a fitness instructor, and often posts pictures with Ira on social media. The couple made their relationship Instagram-official earlier this year. "Looking great bro," one person wrote in the comments section. "Keep it casual," another person commented. In an Instagram Q&A session recently, Ira shared a clip of Nupur and asked her fans, "Do you think you can have someone who's YOUR person?" Reacting to the post, Nupur shared the clip



on his Instagram Stories and replied, "I already have, Her name is Ira" followed by a red heart emoji. @khan.ira. Happy Birthday My Love.. There so much that I would like to say, but I am going to keep it simple .. I love you #birthday #love #bubs," he wrote in his caption. Ira, who made her debut as a theatre director a couple of years ago, has no inclination towards joining the film

industry as an actor. She had told Hindustan Times in an interview, "I've always felt more comfortable and enthusiastic about working off-stage or behind the camera rather than [being] in front of it. I've never felt the inclination to act except if it were in an action film, so I get to learn all the cool stunts. Then again... I can just learn how to do the stunts without a film to work on."

## 'Ban The Family Man season 2': Rajya Sabha MP Vaiko writes to Prakash Javadekar

New Delhi, May 24: In his letter, the Rajya Sabha MP has claimed that actor Samantha Akkineni's character Raji in The Family Man season 2 portrays Tamilians in poor light. The show will release on Amazon Prime on June 4. Manoj Bajpayee Samantha Akkineni the family man 2 The Family Man 2 stars Manoj Bajpayee and Samantha Akkineni in main roles. Days before the release of much-awaited web series The Family Man 2, Rajya Sabha member and MDMK leader Vaiko has written a letter to the Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar to stop the broadcast of the show, al-

leging it shows Tamilians in a negative light. The Family Man 2, a sequel to the series that debuted in 2019, has Manoj Bajpayee returning as the main lead, Srikant Tiwari along with actors Sharib Hashmi, Priyamani and others. The show has actor Samantha Akkineni joining the cast as the main antagonist. According to what we saw of her in the Family Man 2 trailer, Samantha plays the role of Raji, a rebel, who has an ulterior motive against the government. The new season is set in Chennai and has undercover spy agent Srikant Tiwari out to stop Raji from leading the anti-establishment force. On May 19, Vaiko sent a

letter to Prakash Javadekar. As per Vaiko, the show depicted "Tamilians as terrorists and ISI Agents and having link with Pakistan." An excerpt of his letter read, "These descriptions have hurt the sentiments of Tamil people and Tamil culture and offensive against the Tamil community. The people of Tamil Nadu are raising serious objections over such act and are protesting against the Serial." Here is the letter sent by MDMK leader Vaiko to the I&B Minister Prakash Javadekar. Earlier, Naam Tamilar Katchi leader Seeman had also demanded a ban on The Family Man 2 for "intentionally portraying the



LTTE as terrorists and Tamils as vicious people". He tweeted his concerns and also alleged that its story being set in Chennai was no coincidence. The Family Man 2 has been created and directed by filmmakers Raj and DK. The first season of the series received a thumping response for its thrilling storyline, amazing performances and crisp editing. Earlier, John Abraham-

starrer Madras Cafe, based on the assassination of former PM Rajiv Gandhi, had also faced opposition for allegedly being anti-Tamil. Seeman and Vaiko, who are protesting against The Family Man 2, had objected to the film and demanded a ban on it. The Family Man 2 is scheduled to premiere on Amazon Prime Video on June 4.

## Priyanka Chopra, Nick Jonas 'crush' Billboard Music Awards 2021



New Delhi, May 24: The power couple Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas looked like a dream together at the Billboard Music Awards 2021. Clad in a contrasting green and beige combination, the couple understandably attracted a lot of attention at the event. On Priyanka's waist was a distinctive aureate padlocked belt. Priyanka also wrote that Nick 'crushed it' at the BBMAs despite a broken rib. "Husband appreciation post??. Not even a cracked rib can stop this force of nature. So proud of you baby.

## Mickelson wins PGA at 50 to become oldest major champion



Kiawah Island (US), May 24: Phil Mickelson has delivered so many thrills and spills over 30

years of pure theater that no one ever knows what he will do next. His latest act was a real stunner: A major champion at age 50. Mickelson captured his sixth major and by far the most surprising Sunday at the PGA Championship. He made two early birdies with that magical wedge game and let a cast of contenders fall too far behind to catch him in the shifting wind of Kiawah Island. He closed with a 1-over 73, building a five-shot lead on the back nine and not making any critical mistakes that kept him from his place in history. Julius Boros for 53 years held the distinction of golf's oldest major champion. He was 48 when he won the 1968 PGA Championship in San Antonio. Pure chaos broke out along the 18th hole after Mickelson hit 9-iron safely to just outside 15 feet that all but secured a most improbable victory. Thousands

of fans engulfed him down the fairway — a scene typically seen only at the British Open — until Mickelson emerged into view with a thumbs-up. Chants of "Lefty! Lefty! Lefty!" chased him onto the green and into the scoring tent, his final duty of a week he won't soon forget. Three months after 43-year-old Tom Brady won a seventh Super Bowl, Mickelson added to this year of ageless wonders. Mickelson became the first player in PGA Tour history to win tournaments 30 years apart. The first of his 45 titles was in 1991 when he was still a junior at Arizona State. Mickelson became the 10th player to win majors in three decades, an elite list that starts with Harry Vardon and was most recently achieved by Tiger Woods. Brooks

Koepka and Louis Oosthuizen had their chances, but only briefly. Koepka was 4 over on the par 5s when the game was still on and closed with a 74. Oosthuizen hit into the water as he was trying to make a final run and shot 73. Mickelson finished at 6-under 282. The victory came one week after Mickelson accepted a special exemption into the US Open because at No. 115 in the world and winless the last two years, he no longer was exempt from qualifying. He had not finished in the top 20 in his last 17 tournaments over nearly nine months. He worried that he was no longer able to keep his focus over 18 holes. And then he beat the strongest field of the year — 99 of the top 100 players — and made it look easy.

## Mother-son duo stitch 143-run partnership in men's club match



New Delhi, May 24: Former England cricketer Arran Brindle added a new chapter in her trailblazing run, adding an unbeaten 143-run opening partnership with her 12-year-old son Harry Brindle in a men's club match. Batting for the Owmy CC Trojans against Nettleham Cricket Academy XI in the Lincoln and District League, the mother-son duo chased down the target of 142 on Sunday. Brindle has 2,852 runs in 134 international appear-

ances for the England women's team and was a three-time Ashes winner. But there have been other ways she is known to have made history. More of this please. I played against England's Arran Brindle. Watched her young son traveling with her on tours. She played for England after having him, with little official maternity support. She made her entry into international women's cricket, under her maiden name Thompson, with a world record 150-run

partnership in 1999, and remains one of the youngest international captains ever. She took a 5-year break in her mid-20s, during which she played high-standard men's cricket and had a son. She then returned to the England team and toured regularly with her family for three years before retiring from international cricket. Happy Birthday Harry Brindle. Can't believe you're 10!! Have a great day and can't wait to see you in a few weeks for @VipersKSL and @hantscricket T20s. ?? pic.twitter.com/LfB7reS4EK — Charlotte Edwards (@C\_Edwards23) June 27, 2018 In 2011, Brindle became the first woman to score a century in men's semi-professional cricket. In October that same year, she scored her first century for England Women against South Africa.

## India will be more conditioned for WTC final: Taylor

London, May 24: Senior New Zealand batsman Ross Taylor feels the suspension of the IPL "played into India's hands", giving Virat Kohli's team more time to get acclimatised to English conditions before next month's World Test Championship final. The Indian Premier League, which was suspended earlier this month due to multiple cases of Covid-19 inside its bubble, was due to finish on May 30, while the WTC final between New Zealand and India is scheduled to start from June 18 in Southampton. "For India, IPL finishing early under unfortunate circumstances has probably played into their hands a little," Taylor told reporters on Sunday. "If IPL would have gone on they would have had a smaller preparation but now they will be a lot more conditioned, their bowlers will have their loads up," he added. However, Taylor reckons New Zealand will still have slight advantage over India as they are scheduled to play two Tests against England in the run up to the WTC final. "I would be lying if you think there isn't some sort of thought about the WTC final but I couldn't think of a better preparation than playing two Tests against England. At the end of the day it's a neutral venue. "Playing two Tests gives us a slight advantage but this Indian team has been number one for a long period of time and has had a lot of success over here," he added. The right hander, who has featured in 195 Tests, 233 ODIs and 102 T20Is for New Zealand also squashed rumours regarding his retirement. "Age is just a number and as long as you're still enjoying it and feel like you're good enough and can contribute to the team on and off the field." "I did have 35 in my mind because of the 2019 World Cup but I went there and felt I could still contribute, and therefore, I didn't think just because it was a World Cup it was time to retire, but no I don't have a number in mind," he added. There had been some talks that the BCCI has requested to alter the schedule for India's five-Test series against England for completing the IPL, something the England and Wales Cricket

Board (ECB) has denied. Asked if he was concerned about the future of international cricket amid T20 leagues' boom, Taylor said, "IPL is probably the most high-profile and countries move it around when they don't have the same power. It is what it is, players want to play in it. "I hope that International cricket still has relevance and priorities at times. As long as things are being moved around it is fine... As long as they aren't getting cancelled and what not." New Zealand batsman Devon Conway feels preparing with the Dukes ball back home has helped his side immensely as it gears up for three Tests in England, including the WTC final against India here. Conway, who is among the three uncapped players in the 20-man squad, feels the camp back home in Lincoln ahead of the tour was ideal. New Zealand play with the Kookaburra at home. "That was very beneficial for us, you know, having that opportunity to play amongst the Dukes ball, get to learn how it works, and try and formulate a game plan, how to go about things," Conway said in an online press interaction. "But yeah, I think not a lot changes. You know, we understand that the Dukes ball does swing a little bit more than than what the Kookaburra does, but you know, you've just got to face the ball and come up with a game plan and stick by it," said the South Africa-born player, who made the team after impressing in limited overs cricket. During the camp back home, Conway sprinkled cat litter on practice wickets to simulate spin bowling on the rough, hoping it will help him counter the likes of Ravichandran Ashwin during the WTC final. On his first Test tour, the 29-year-old is trying to soak in as much as he can from established names like Tom Latham and Ross Taylor in his team. "It has been a massive learning curve for me, in terms of how the protocols are all set in place, and just trying to adhere through all that. You know, just seeing the guys being around the group for an extended period, it's been fun. And, yeah, a lot of memories created already in the short period.

## AC Milan and Juventus take final 2 Champions League places



Milan, May 24: Seventime European champion AC Milan is back in the Champions League after an eight-year break. And Juventus also narrowly qualified on the final night of Serie A. Two penalties from Franck Kessie on Sunday helped Milan to a 2-0 win at Atalanta, which had already claimed a top-four spot along with Serie A champion Inter Milan. Juventus won 4-1 at Bologna with two goals from Alvaro

Morata plus scores from Federico Chiesa and Adrien Rabiot. Still, Juventus needed help and got it when Hellas Verona held Napoli to a 1-1 draw, leaving Napoli in fifth place. Amir Rrahmani had put Napoli ahead on the hour mark but Davide Faraoni quickly equalized for Verona. When Juventus' game finished a few moments earlier, Bianconeri players watched the final moments of the Napoli-Verona match on the

touchline before they could celebrate. The final standings read: Inter (91 points), Milan (79), Atalanta (78), Juventus (78) and Napoli (77). Roma came back from two goals down against Spezia for a 2-2 draw to take seventh place and a spot in the new Europa Conference League for incoming coach Jose Mourinho. Stephan El Shaarawy and Henrikh Mkhitaryan equalized for Roma after Daniele Verde and Tommaso

Pobega had put Spezia ahead. Sassuolo, which finished eighth, beat Lazio 2-0 with goals from Giorgos Kyriakopoulos and Domenico Berardi despite finishing with 10 men after Kyriakopoulos picked up his second yellow. Lazio was already assured of finishing sixth and will go into the Europa League with Napoli. Also, Torino and already-relegated Benevento drew 1-1. Inter got its title party started by crushing Udinese 5-1 in the final round. Inter had clinched the title earlier in the month but there was an award ceremony on the field after its final match, with captain Samir Handanovic lifting the trophy to huge cheers from inside and outside the stadium. There were 1,000 invited guests allowed into San Siro as friends and family and 4,500 fans outside in an allocated area. Hundreds of

them had started gathering hours before the team arrived, carrying flags and setting off flares while chanting songs to celebrate Inter's first Serie A title in 11 years. After the celebrations on the field, the players went to one of San Siro's iconic towers to continue the party with the fans below. Fans have been banned from matches in Italy for the majority of the past year because of the coronavirus pandemic, apart from a brief period shortly after the start of the season when up to 1,000 spectators were allowed into stadiums. Ashley Young and Christian Eriksen set Inter on the way to victory with first-half goals. Lautaro Martínez converted a penalty 10 minutes after the break with Ivan Perišić and Romelu Lukaku also scoring to add to the festive atmosphere. Roberto Pereyra netted a late penalty for Udinese.



## Minara Begum gutted after being axed as coach of Tokyo-bound gymnast Pranati Nayak

Kolkata, May 23: The future of the Tokyo Olympics is in the balance after a fresh wave of Covid-19 in Japan. Opinion is divided on whether the country should stage the sports extravaganza at all. In India, Pranati Nayak, the lone gymnast from to qualify for the Olympics, might be facing a different battle — she will be heading to Tokyo without her long-time coach and mentor Minara Begum, who has been coaching her for the last 18 years. Minara, a veteran SAI trainer, has been left in the lurch by Gymnastics Federation of India (GFI), as her name does not figure in

India's contingent. SAI coach Lakhman Sharma, who has been training Pranati since Minara retired from SAI, will be travelling with the gymnast to the Tokyo Games. "I'm feeling depressed. What else can I say," a fuming Minara told indianexpress.com. The veteran coach has been training Pranati since she was eight, and much of the gymnast's success at the international level can be attributed to Minara's training. A bronze medallist in the 2019 Senior Asian Artistic Gymnastic Championships, Pranati was the second reserve behind Sri Lanka's Milka Gehani for the Asian



quota. She thus became eligible to compete in the World Championship held in Stuttgart in October, 2019 where she secured the Olympic berth in the four apparatus of the All-

Around competition. However, despite Pranati qualifying for the Olympics, it seems the fight is far from over for Minara, as she has been dropped as coach by the GFI. "Every coach

and athlete wants to participate in the Olympics. That remains the biggest dream for anyone associated with the sport. I gave my everything for the sake of Pranati for the past 18 years. Now I am being shown the exit door. Someone else is going in my place. It is really frustrating," said Minara, who retired from SAI in February 2019. "(Retirement) should not be seen as a constraint when you consider and approve the coaches," said Lopamudra Chaudhuri, a former gymnast who opposed the official decision to go with Lakhman, who is 27 years old.

# ECoR Gears Up For Cyclone 'YAAS' With Adequate Safety Precautions PPT Gears Up For Cyclone 'YAAS'

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 24: East Coast Railway has done preparations and ground work to meet the challenges posed by Cyclone YAAS. Taking advantage of the meteorological forecasts and also the experiences of devastation to Railway property in Amphan in May, 2020; FANI in 2019, Titli in 2018, Hudhud in 2014, Phailin in 2013 & Super Cyclone of 1999, ECoR has planned for early restoration of train traffic and railway track, if affected by YAAS. Round the Clock Disaster Management Cell has been opened at ECoR HQs at Rail Sadan and at Divisional Headquarters at Visakhapatnam, Khurda Road and Sambalpur. ECoR has also taken steps for NO RISK TO TRAIN TRAFFIC, positioning of Special Teams for early restoration of tracks, signaling system and electrification etc., Safety of Train Operations, to run train, if there will be no electric supply. Diesel locomotives have been kept in posi-

tion for utilization during failure of electricity. As Red Alert has been given in coastal areas, ECoR is keeping watchful eye at all the stations between Bhubaneswar & Bhadrak in Bhubaneswar-Kharagpur Railway Section. General Manager, East Coast Railway has directed the concerned officials to be on full alert towards any incident like flood situation near Railway Track and to ensure safety of trains and smooth train operations. Accordingly, all precautionary measures have been taken. The catch water drains and side drains have been cleared of silt, vegetation and other obstructions to ensure free flow of rain water. The water ways of bridges have been cleared of vegetation and other obstructions. Close coordination is being maintained with State Govt. officials at different levels. Full Supply Level (FSL) in case of canals & Danger Level (DL) in case of bridges have been painted with bright red band across each pier

adjacent to the abutment so as to be clearly visible to the Patrolman, Stationary Watchman and Drivers. Arrangements have been made not to allow water to stagnate on the track. In station yards, the cross drains and longitudinal drains have been cleared/provided proper grades. Patrolling of Railway tracks by Patrolmen has also been planned. They observe danger or interruption if any and protect the trains from any unusual occurrence. Stationary Patrolmen and Watchmen along with mobile Patrolmen have been deployed in vulnerable sections. Instructions have been given for smooth functioning of Signal & Telecommunication Systems with uninterrupted power supply. All batteries to be charged and kept ready. Apart from this, adequate brakes down gangs are being kept in readiness and on high alert. Over Head Equipments should be switched off at the vulnerable locations has been permitted. All satellite phones and VHF

- Close watch on Railway Bridges, Tracks, Yards & Signaling System
- Silt, Vegetation and other obstructions cleared from catch water and side drains
- Close coordination with State Govt. officials
- Patrolling at vulnerable locations by deputing patrolmen & Watchmen
- Sectional Gangmen will patrol the tracks
- Arrangements made to stock sufficient quantities of track maintenance reserve materials
- Constant watch over Meteorological Department advisories
- All satellite phones and VHF sets are kept in ready condition. Adequate brake down gangs are being kept in readiness and on high alert.
- Additional Control Room & Disaster Management Cell of ECoR to be opened.

sets are tested and kept in ready condition. Diesel Generators are being kept in ready condition to face any kind of eventuality. Tree cutting machines are also being kept handy. Instructions have been issued that whenever there is heavy rain, the sectional Gangmen will organize patrolling of track on their own in their beat to make sure that the track is safe for passage of trains and ensure protection at all locations where washouts/slips are likely to

occur. Arrangements have been made to stock sufficient quantities of track & bridge repair reserve materials, viz., boulders, sand, cinder, quarry dust, ballast at identified locations. The Engineering relief vans and their equipments are kept ready. Bridge materials are kept in readiness so that they can be moved as per requirement. ECoR is in constant touch with India Meteorological Department and getting weather alerts.

(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, May 24: As the Cyclonic storm 'YAAS' is expected to trigger heavy downpour accompanied by high velocity wind in the locality, "PPT Administration is fully geared up to meet any eventuality", said Shri Vinit Kumar, Chairman, PPT while interacting with PPT officials over VC. The drains in the locality have been cleared on a war footing in order to avoid any possible water-logging. Four teams of PPT with chain saws and Pay loader are ready to function round the clock during the cyclone to clear the roads due to possible uprooting of trees. As precautionary measures, no inward movement of Ships has been permitted from 2200 Hrs of May 23, 2021. Currently, the Port has planned only outward movement of Ships which is expected to be completed by 1200 Hrs of May 24, 2021. All operations will be wound up and the Port is being cleared of all personnel by 25th morning. All vessels at Paradip Anchorage have been asked to pick up anchor and move to sea. All Coast Guard Vessels and DCI Dredger XX inside



harbour have also been instructed to move out to sea. DCI dredger Aquarius, DCI dredger XVIII, DCI dredger Ganga and both the OSL cutter dredgers in North basin will be secured properly for extreme heavy weather. Other crafts and Tugs which are going to stay inside harbour will be manned round the clock for attending their moorings with main engines ready for operation at any time. Equipment and Machineries at Under Construction areas will be secured. Unloaders at PPL and IFFCO berths are to be securely fastened. Loaders at MCHP, IOHP, JSW and EBTPL berths, Harbour mobile Cranes at all berths including PICT berth will also be secured. Loading Arms, Gangway at North Oil Jetty & South Oil Jetty will be secured. Tankers from SPM have already been cast off after flushing of pipelines. A

Control Room is functioning round the clock at Gate No. 4 from 24th morning, till the cyclone passes and normalcy is restored. A medical team along with Ambulance will be available to meet any medical emergencies. Five Cyclone shelters have been activated, where around 2,000 people from local slums and low lying areas will be accommodated with proper social distancing norms. They will be provided with dry ration, cooked food items, drinking water, face masks and sanitizers. The cyclone shelters will also be equipped with Gensets for uninterrupted electric supply. In conformance with the Chief Minister's message, Shri A. K. Bose, Dy. Chairman, PPT has stressed on zero loss of life during the upcoming natural calamity.

# Good News For Central Government Employee NPCI partners PayCore to enable RuPay SoftPOS solutions in India

(A.O. Bureau) New Delhi, May 24: The central government has given a big relief to government employees in the midst of Corona crisis. Actually, the central government has doubled the Variable Dearness Allowance. Now it has been increased from Rs 105 to Rs 210 per month. The move by the Ministry of Labor and Employment will now increase the Provident Fund (PF) and Gratuity of more than 1.5 crore central employees. Not only this, there will be an increase in the minimum wages of central employees and workers. All these employees will get the benefit of increasing variable DA - This variable DA, extended by the central government, will be given to the 1.5 crore people who work under the central government



or under the Scheduled Employment in the Central Sphere. This decision of the Ministry of Labor will benefit the central employees, railway employees, mining, oil fields, port employees. Seven will benefit both the contract and casual workers. This variable DA revision has been decided by the Ministry of Labor on the basis of the average consumer price index (CPI) of industrial workers between July and December 2020. Dearness allowance is 'Industrial Dearness Allowance' and 'Variable Dearness Allowance' in

two ways. The variable dearness allowance is changed every 6 months. On the basis of retail inflation, the central government changes it for its employees and workers. The variable DA is calculated based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Labor Minister Santosh Gangwar said that by increasing the VDA by Rs 105 every month, central employees will get some relief in the midst of the Covid crisis. The Ministry of Labor has said that it will be a relief for various categories of employees.

(A.O. Bureau) Mumbai, May 24: National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has announced that it has onboarded Turkey's global payment solutions company - PayCore as one of the certified partners for RuPay SoftPOS, to drive cashless payments across the country. Millions of merchants now can convert their NFC-enabled smartphones into a POS machine to accept contactless payments through RuPay SoftPOS. Under this association, NPCI has authorised the SoftPOS solution developed by PayCore for RuPay. This solution can be integrated into bank or aggregator acquiring systems to enable acquiring of RuPay using mobile phones enabled with NFC capability or add-ons. NPCI aims at widening the spread of

RuPay SoftPOS among micro, small and medium-sized businesses in different parts of the country, with its network of banks along with PayCore. RuPay SoftPOS enables merchants to accept payments securely without any hassle from contactless cards, mobile wallets, and wearables just with their mobile phones. Ali Kançıl, CEO of PayCore commented, "We are very proud to cooperate with NPCI and support their goal of creating a cashless digital society in India. One of our main objectives with SoftPOS is to provide cutting-edge innovative technologies for inexpensive contactless payment solutions globally. With PayCore's SoftPOS solution, which enables smartphones and tablets to be used as POS terminals without any addi-

tional devices, the investment costs required by banks to reach over 63 million micro-, small- and medium-sized businesses will be significantly reduced. India has an enormous economy where we have already invested before and have extensive market insight. Hitachi Payment, one of the largest digital payment companies in India, uses PayCore's SoftPOS technology in its data center and SBI Payment, the payment solutions company of the State Bank of India is also among our customers. Now, with our collaboration with NPCI, we will reach more businesses in the country and introduce them to digital payments with a higher return on investment for all stakeholders." Nalin Bansal, Chief of Fintechs, Corporates & New Initiatives, NPCI said, "We are excited to



- Empower millions of merchants to accept payments at low cost with RuPay SoftPOS
- RuPay SoftPOS enables merchants to turn their NFC enabled smartphones into POS machine to receive payments

work with a global player like PayCore to accelerate the growth of the digital economy through the launch of innovative acceptance solutions within domestic as well as international markets catering to NPCI products. The launch of RuPay SoftPOS solution is aimed at supporting small merchants which form the backbone of our economy and is one of many in the series of launches starting with its open-loop transit program in 2017. The RuPay SoftPOS will not

only help merchants seamlessly manage their business transactions but also reduce the hassle of handling cash by accepting multiple payment modes including QR-based payment solutions over UPI. We believe it is important to digitally empower small merchants to ensure deeper penetration of digital acceptance infrastructure in the country. It's our constant endeavour at NPCI to work towards financial inclusion and creating a cashless society."

# Sputnik-V Production Started In India

(A.O. Bureau) New Delhi, May 24: In India, the Corona Vaccination Drive (Covid Vaccination Drive) is going to get more edge. The country's largest vaccine and pharmaceutical company Panacea Biotech has tied up with the Russian Direct Investment Fund-RDIF. Now, Panacea Biotek will produce 100 million vaccine doses every year. A consignment of the vaccine

prepared by the company has also reached Russia. Its quality will be checked there. The RDIF statement states that Panacea Biotech meets international standards in vaccine manufacturing. In India, the Russian vaccine was allowed to use Emergency on April 12. With the introduction of vaccination of 18+ people from May 1, the third vaccine was also introduced in India



along with Covishield and COVAXIN. However, vaccination from Sputnik was started only on 14 May. RDIF CEO Kirill Dmitriev said,

"Production in India with Panacea Biotech is a major step in the fight against Corona. With the production from Spoonic, India will help

to leave behind this bad phase of Corona. Apart from this, by exporting the vaccine, other countries of the world will also be helped in the fight against Corona. In the last February, Sputnik V showed strong resistance in the third phase trial. The results showed an 91.6% efficacy rate. RDIF then stated that India is a major partner in vaccine production and distribution.

# BJP to go to next assembly polls with achievements of Uttarakhand, central governments: Tirath

(A.O. Bureau) Pithoragarh, May 24: Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat said on Monday that the BJP would go to the next year's assembly election in Uttarakhand with the collective achievements of the state and central governments. The achievements gained in the last four years are significant for the party, Rawat said. He added that several development goals were



achieved by the state under the leadership of his predecessor, Trivendra Singh Rawat. "We will go to the next year's assembly polls

highlighting the achievements of Narendra Modi government, those of Trivendra Singh Rawat government, besides the initiatives taken during my tenure," the chief minister, who was in Pithoragarh in the course of his visit to the Kumaon region, told. The emphasis currently is on preparing to deal effectively with the third wave of the pandemic, Tirath Singh Rawat said.