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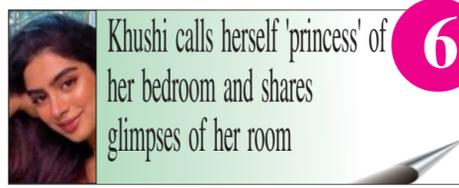
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Take Every Possible Step To Protect Life: Odisha CM To Officials



Bhubaneswar, May 25: While reviewing the arrangements regarding cyclone preparedness this evening, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said every life is precious and all possible steps should be taken to protect life. Patnaik directed the administration to monitor the situation regularly. Also, he sought the cooperation of people in evacuation. Odisha Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra and Special Relief Commis-

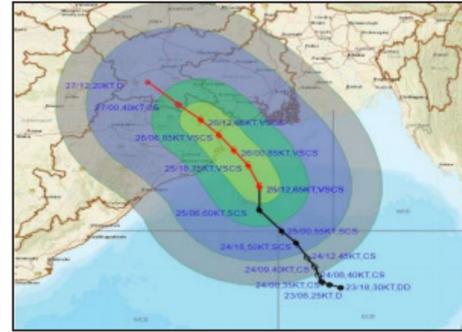
sioner PK Jena attended the review meeting held through virtual platform linking the state control room and cyclone dashboard. The Chief Secretary briefed the Chief Minister about steps taken by the administration regarding evacuation. The SRC made a presentation regarding the position of cyclone. He said latest data suggest that cyclone will make a landfall between Bahanaga and Basudevpur. He also briefed on arrange-

ments made for drinking water, special arrangements at Covid hospitals, oxygen buffer, power supply communication network and other arrangements. He said that evacuation is going on in full swing. Over 2.5 lakh have already been evacuated. All will be evacuated from vulnerable places by tonight, he added. He assured the Chief Minister about full preparedness. All are ready to face the cyclone with the rescue and restoration plan.

Severe Cyclonic Storm Yaas Over BoB Intensifies Further: IMD

New Delhi, May 25: In its latest weather bulletin, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) today stated Severe Cyclonic Storm Yaas intensified into a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm over northwest Bay of Bengal. During past 6 hours the Severe Cyclonic Storm Yaas over northwest and Bay of Bengal moved north-northwestwards with a speed of about 15 kmph and lay centred at 1730 hrs IST of today over northwest Bay of Bengal near latitude 19.5°N and longitude 88.0°E, about 160 km east-southeast of Paradip

(Odisha), 250 km south-southeast of Balasore (Odisha), 240 km south-southeast of Digha (West Bengal) and 230 km south of Sagar Islands (West Bengal). It is very likely to move north-northwestwards, intensify further and reach near north Odisha coast close to Dhamra port by the early morning of May 26. It is very likely to cross north Odisha-West Bengal coasts between Paradip and Sagar Islands close to north of Dhamra and south of Balasore, during noon of May 26 as a Very Severe



Cyclonic Storm. The Cyclone is being tracked by Doppler Weather RADAR at Paradip. Light to moderate rainfall is likely at many places of Odisha with heavy to very heavy rainfall

and extremely heavy rainfall (= 20 cm) in Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Bhadrak, Balasore districts, heavy to very heavy rainfall over Puri, Khurda, Cuttack, Jajpur,

Mayurbhanj and heavy over Ganjam, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar districts on May 25. The IMD further stated heavy to very heavy rains are likely at a few places with extremely heavy falls at isolated places in Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar and heavy falls at isolated places in Puri, Khurda, Angul, Deogarh, Sundergarh on May 26 and heavy falls at isolated places in north interior Odisha on May 27.

Rs 50L For Kin Of On-Duty Anganwadi Workers Dying Of COVID-19

Bhubaneswar, May 25: Extending the coverage of financial assistance in case of death of COVID Warriors in line of duty, Odisha Government today announced that next of the kin of supervisors, Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) will receive Rs 50 lakh, if any of them succumbs to the virus.



"Supervisors, AWWs and AWHs are also covered under the financial assistance scheme and their spouse or next of kin will be eli-

gible for the financial assistance of Rs 50 lakh, if any of them succumbs to COVID-19 while on active line of duty, following the due guide-

lines prescribed by the Govt for the purpose," said a notification issued by Women and Child Development Department. It has also been decided to continue with the earlier policy and allow payment of financial assistance of Rs 50 lakh to the spouse or next of kin of any person drafted by Government to perform COVID-19 related duty

and succumb to it while in active line of duty, provided, he/she is not covered under the Centre's PMGKP insurance package, said the order issued by the department. The department reiterated that Collectors have been requested to provide masks, gloves, face shields and sanitizers to those engaged in the COVID-19 duty as a safety measure.

Cyclone Yaas: Odisha port issues 'Signal 10' danger warning ahead of landfall

Bhubaneswar, May 25: As cyclone Yaas is likely to hit the landmass near Dhamra and south of Balasore on Wednesday morning, Odisha government on Tuesday launched a massive evacuation in the coastal villages of Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, and Jagatsinghpur districts. Operations at Dhamra and Paradip ports were completely suspended since Monday in the wake of the approaching cyclone. While Dhamra port that is on the path of the cyclone hoisted signal number 10 indicating 'great danger', Paradip port has hoisted signal number 4. Dhamra port sources said all vessels berthed at the ports have been freed and the people around a two-km radius of the port area have been evacuated to safer places. "As per the weather forecast from the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the Adani Dhamra Port and Special Economic Zone has hoisted the highest signal that means great danger and the cyclone is expected to move over or close to the port," said an official of



Dhamra port. Sources said 22 ships berthed at both the ports and 20 others at the harbours have already moved to high seas where the vessels would be safer. The jetties inside the ports have also been made vessel free. The vessel tracking and monitoring system is constantly in touch with the vessels and all the control rooms at the ports are active. "We have evacuated all manpower from the port area. Port security booms and all hanging and high-mast lights have been downed. All electric equipment has been shut down and all precautionary measures taken to prevent damage to costly equipment. Marine unloading arms have been fastened

properly and some of them removed. While all loose materials have been netted, train engines and bogies have been hooked," said the official. People in nearly eight panchayats close to Dhamra port have been put on high alert and those who are living in thatched and kutcha houses have been moved to cyclone shelters. The district administration and port authorities are making all arrangements to provide them dry rations. The National Disaster Response Force and Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force have been pressed into service along with the Fire Service personnel for the evacuation of people that is underway in at least 20 coastal villages

in Chandabali and Basudevpur blocks in Bhadrak district. More than 60,750 people in Balasore district and 70,000 people in Bhadrak district have been shifted to cyclone shelters and safer places. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has initiated precautionary measures to protect the missile testing complex at Abdul Kalam Island, nearly 12 km from Dhamra coast. Defence sources said nearly 150 personnel have been evacuated from the island and all electric equipments have been shut down barring the communication network. Director of Integrated Test Range (ITR) HK Rath said

barring only a few officials who are monitoring the situation and security personnel, all others have been shifted. "The communication network, towers and control room have been built in such a way that they can withstand wind speeds up to 200 km. The structures will remain unaffected even if there is a tidal surge of over 10 metre. The ferry service to the island has been suspended," he said. Meanwhile, the State Government has asked the Collectors of the coastal districts to keep all pucca public buildings open for the public to take shelter anytime other than identified shelters. Special Relief Commissioner PK Jena said the cyclone is likely to landfall around Dhamra (a few km north) on Wednesday morning. "We have alerted Collectors of Balasore and Bhadrak districts to remain fully prepared. The Covid hospitals in the districts have been fortified with additional strengthening of doors and windows with plywood. The health department is taking all cares for uninterrupted services to patients," he added.

Covid Vax Drive Today In Odisha Capital Has Been Rescheduled: BMC

Bhubaneswar, May 25: In view of Cyclone Yaas, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) rescheduled the Covid vaccination drive, which was to be held tomorrow, in the area under its jurisdiction. As per a decision taken by the municipal corporation, there will be no vaccination drive at any centre in the BMC area tomorrow due to the impending cyclone. Those who booked their appoint-



ment for May 26 can take the vaccination at the same time on May 29. They have to carry relevant ID and the

same appointment slip during the visit to the vaccination centre, the municipal corporation stated.

Cyclone Yaas: Red alert issued in four Odisha districts



Bhubaneswar, May 25: Ahead the predicted May 26 landfall of cyclone Yaas in coastal areas of the Odisha, the state on Tuesday issued a red alert warning for Kendrapara, Bhadrak,

Jagatsinghpur and Balasore districts, which are likely to be affected with heavy rainfall. Umashankar Das, Deputy Director of India Meteorological Department (IMD) in

Bhubaneswar said, "A red alert, i.e. extremely heavy rainfall warning has been issued for Kendrapara, Bhadrak, Jagatsinghpur, and Balasore for today. The rainfall will exceed more than 20 cm."

We need Taiwan as observer at WHA and Covid investigation, says US

New Delhi, May 25: United States secretary of health and human services Xavier Becerra also stressed need for the second phase of the study on the origins of coronavirus with terms of reference that are transparent, science-based, and give international experts the independence to assess the source of the virus and the early days of the outbreak. Addressing the 74th World Health Assembly (WHA) on Tuesday United States secretary of health and human services Xavier Becerra said the world leaders must do more to understand the current pandemic and look forward toward detecting, preparing, and responding to future biological threats. "The Phase 2 of the Covid origins study must be launched with terms of reference that are transparent, science-based, and give international experts the independence to fully assess the source of the virus and the early



days of the outbreak," Becerra said. He stressed the need to implement and adhere to obligations under the international health regulations. "We need to improve transparency, immediately share critical information about outbreaks with pandemic potential, and strengthen health systems to withstand shocks," he said. He also reiterated the US demand for inclusion of Taiwan as an observer. "Global collaboration will be key in tackling the many challenges still before us. Collaboration

with non-state actors must continue, and we must invite Taiwan to be a part of the World Health Assembly as an observer," he said. China considers Taiwan as its undisputed territory and retaliates at any country which wants to have separate and independent diplomatic ties with Taipei. For US to ask for Taiwan to become an observer at the WHA is akin to showing the red flag to president Xi Jinping. "The Covid-19 pandemic not only stole a year from our lives, it

stole millions of lives," he said at the gathering. "The challenges before us are many, but not insurmountable," Becerra acknowledged. He praised the pan-American health organisations for leading efforts to combat the pandemic and deliver much needed supplies and vaccines to our neighbors in the Americas as well as AFRO and its concurrent work to respond to multiple Ebola outbreaks on top of Covid-19. "Now we must honor our departed by taking urgent action

this year – to strengthen health security and pandemic preparedness so that we are better prepared for the next global health crisis," he said, adding, "This means improving global triggers, so all countries take swift action toward the next biological threat." He stressed the need for developing surge capacity for the global manufacturing of personal protective equipment, vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, and the healthcare workforce. "Together, we must address racial, gender and other forms of inequality, promote sexual and reproductive health and rights, and strive for equity across society," he said. The WHO kicked off the main annual gathering of World Health Assembly with 194 member states on Monday with all eyes on the global response to Covid-19 - and what concrete steps can be taken to avert future pandemics.

'Toolkit' probe: Delhi Police asks two Congress leaders to join investigation

New Delhi, May 25: The official confirmed that notices were served to Congress social media head Rohan Gupta and party spokesperson MV Rajeev Gowda with connection to the probe. Delhi Police on Tuesday served notices to two Congress leaders Rohan Gupta and MV Rajeev Gowda in the 'Covid toolkit' case and asked them to join the probe following a complaint into the matter, officials familiar with the developments told news agency PTI. The official confirmed that notices were served to Congress social media head Rohan Gupta and party spokesperson MV Rajeev Gowda with connection to the probe. The enquiry into the complaint is in its preliminary stage and no FIR has been filed so far. The police official also said that the notices are not fresh. "These notices were served around 8-9 days ago based on a complaint



received from the Congress party. They were asked to join the probe so that it could help us in carrying the investigation forward," the officials said. Earlier on Monday, Delhi Police searched Twitter India's offices in New Delhi and Gurgaon and sent a notice to Twitter India asking it to clarify as to why BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra's tweet on a 'toolkit' allegedly made by Congress to defame the government and PM Modi was tagged as 'manipulated media' by the social media giant. "The Delhi police team went to the Twitter India office to serve a notice to the social media giant as a part of

routine process. This was necessitated as we wanted to ascertain who is the right person to serve a notice, as replies by Twitter India MD have been very ambiguous," Delhi Police PRO Chinmay Biswal was quoted as saying by news agency PTI. Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have been at loggerheads since the past week over a purported 'toolkit' which the BJP claims was made by Congress to diminish the image of the Prime Minister and criticise government's efforts to contain the pandemic. The Congress claims that the alleged 'toolkit' being tweeted by the BJP is fake.

UP May Get New Deputy CM



Lucknow, May 25: In the wake of the performance of the BJP (BJP) in the recently concluded Panchayat Chunav in the Corona Pandemic, speculation of a big reshuffle between the Yogi Government and the state BJP has intensified. According to media reports, the state may get a new deputy CM before the 2022 assembly elections. According to the information, Arvind Kumar Sharma, a bureaucrat turned politician and close to PM Narendra Modi, can be made Deputy Chief Minister. Also, the districts where the party performed poorly in the panchayat elections and the ministers who failed to meet expectations in the corona epidemic can be cut off. According to the news published in Dainik Bhaskar, Arvind Kumar Sharma may get

the post of deputy CM before the assembly elections. This news got a boost when the news went viral on social media on Monday that there was talk of calling Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya to Delhi. However, Keshav Prasad Maurya denied that he is present in Lucknow. Actually, the speculation of the expansion of the Yogi cabinet before the Assembly elections is quite sharp. It is being said that some ministers with non-performance may be discharged or may be cursed. It is also coming to light that the way Arvind Sharma, who is close to MLC-turned-Prime Minister Modi, has been praised for the Corona management in Varanasi, it is being speculated that he may get an important post in the Yogi cabinet. According to the infor-

mation, RSS and BJP leaders have met in Delhi. Many important decisions have been taken in this meeting. In this meeting, Sarkaryavah Dattatreya Hosbole of the Union, Union Leadership, BJP and Organization General Secretary of Uttar Pradesh were present. According to sources, in this meeting, the strategy for the next year's assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh was discussed. According to sources, Modi is happy with Sharma's success in management in Banaras and Purvanchal and now after the meeting of BJP and Sangh, major changes can be seen in the Uttar Pradesh government soon. According to sources, the Yogi government's ministers may fall short, whose performance was poor in the panchayat elections and the Corona epidemic. In the districts where the performance was poor in the panchayat elections, the regional and district officials can be removed. Not only this, ministers who do not perform well during the epidemic can either be removed or departments can be changed.

India, New Zealand for closer cooperation for free and open Indo-Pacific

New Delhi, May 25: India and New Zealand on Tuesday agreed to cooperate for a rules-based world order and a free and inclusive Indo-Pacific region during their foreign office consultations. The consultations, held virtually after a gap of more than two years because of the Covid-19 pandemic, reviewed bilateral cooperation and focused on steps to enhance engagement in key areas such as defence and security, trade and investment, counter-terrorism and climate change. The consultations were held



against the backdrop of New Zealand's foreign minister Nanaia Mahuta warning that the country could find itself at the heart of a "storm" of anger from China, and that exporters need to diversify to ensure they can survive deteriorating relations with Beijing. Both

sides exchanged views on regional issues and "reiterated the importance of closer cooperation for a rules-based international order and a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region", the external affairs ministry said in a readout. The two sides further dis-

cussed ways to strengthen coordination in multilateral and regional forums and carried out a comprehensive review of bilateral cooperation. They also discussed steps to "enhance the depth and momentum of engagement in different areas including defence and security, trade and investment, space, counterterrorism, cyber security, disarmament and climate change, and for strengthening people-to-people ties", the readout said. The Indian side at the virtual meeting was led by Riva Ganguly Das,

secretary (East) in the external affairs ministry, while the New Zealand delegation was led by Mark Sinclair, deputy secretary for the Americas and Asia group in the foreign ministry. The previous round of consultations was held in New Delhi in February 2019. Mahuta added: "The signal I'm sending to exporters is that they need to think about diversification in this context – Covid-19, broadening relationships across our region, and the buffering aspects of if something significant happened with China." she asked.

After CJI Ramana cites 'rule of law', Rakesh Asthana and YC Modi out of CBI chief race

New Delhi, May 25: Two 1984-batch officers, YC Modi of Assam-Meghalaya cadre and Rakesh Asthana of the Gujarat cadre, are out of contention for the post of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) director, it is learnt. The two candidates, among the frontrunners to the post, were dropped after Chief Justice of India N V Ramana cited a Supreme Court guideline on appointment of police chiefs. CJI Ramana is learnt to have pointed out that the apex court's guidelines in

the Prakash Singh case of March 2019 made it clear that no officer with less than six months to retirement should be appointed as police chief. It is learnt that CJI Ramana was rather insistent on this point. With Leader of the Opposition Adhir Ranjan Chaudhary supporting CJI Ramana's arguments, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is learnt to have said the rule of law would be followed in the selection. While YC Modi, who is currently the chief of the National Investigation Agency, retires at the end of this month, Asthana,



who is currently heading the BSF, retires in July. Both, known to be trusted by the Modi regime and having served many years in the CBI, were supposed to be top contenders for the post. The three choices made by the PM-led Selection Committee (CJI Ramana

and Chaudhary being the other two members) on Monday included CISF chief Subodh Jaiswal, SSB DG KR Chandra and Special Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) VSK Kaumudi. Interestingly, of the 109 officers whose list

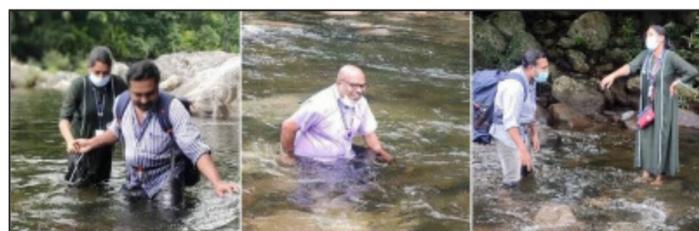
was given to the committee to choose from, these were the only centrally empanelled officers who had more than six months to retirement. While Chandra will retire in December this year, Jaiswal is due for retirement in September 2022. Kaumudi has the maximum time, with his retirement scheduled on November 30, 2022. However, Jaiswal is the senior-most among the three officers and could be the natural choice for the post, if the government considers seniority.

On Covid SOS call, Kerala doctors cross river, trek several kilometres to reach tribal village

Thiruvananthapuram, May 25: After receiving an SOS call, a medical team from Puthur Domiciliary Care Centre (DCC) reached a tribal village, which is 20 km from Attapadi in Palakkad and comprises around 100 people of Irula, Mudugar and Kurumba tribes. Last week, three members from one family in the

settlement had developed high fever and were in need of immediate medical attention. The journey to the Murugula village wasn't, however, easy. The team comprising three doctors and a driver realised they can use their vehicles only up to the bank of the Bhavani Puzha river and that they had to cross the river on foot thereafter. After

crossing the river Saturday morning, the team then trekked another eight km inside the Attappadi forest before they reached the village. Once there, they conducted rapid antigen tests for Covid-19 of more than 30 people, of which seven tested covid positive. They were shifted to the Puthur DDC. Significantly, Dr Sukanya, who



was part of the team, besides health inspector Dr. Sunil Vasu, junior health inspector Dr. Shaij and driver Sajesh, received an

appreciation call from Kerala Health Minister Veena George for their work. To reduce Covid infection and mortality

rate, the Kerala government has made many internal medical structure changes since the Covid-19 outbreak last year.

DCC is one of the changes. "Each gram panchayat has its own DCC and it is monitored by a gram. There are 67 villages that function under this Puthur gram panchayat. To reduce the burden on mainline hospitals and dependency on oxygen, the DCCs are utilised vastly in these areas. Now, we have around 120 beds in the

Puthur DCC. We are saving more lives with this facility" said Rajan, former Palakkad district panchayat councillor. Meanwhile, Attapadi-based tribal activist Odiyan Lakshmanan said: "Kerala government's Domiciliary Care Centers work efficiently. It encourages people to take tests and get vaccinations.

TPNODL Prepares For Cyclone 'Yaas', Rolls Out Emergency Toll Free No. 1800-345-6718

(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, May 25: As per the IMD report, cyclone 'YAAS' is likely to move in districts along northern Odisha and adjoining West Bengal by the evening of May 26 and intensify into a cyclonic storm. TP Northern Odisha Distribution Ltd (TPNODL) 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 systematically receive alerts for disasters, examine them, send pre-disaster alerts and devise mechanisms for invoking and revoking BCDMP. Understanding the need of the hour, TPNODL has formed dedicated teams to ensure a 24x7 power supply to oxygen plants. It has also strategically placed dedicated quick response teams at various locations across the licensed areas. One can call our 24x7 call centre toll-free number 1800-345-6718 or 7682036516 for any emergency service. "As a safety measure, TPNODL requests everyone in the affected areas not to do the follow-



ing: 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 using hand gloves, safety shoes or insulated platform; and Do not allow children to play near storm drains after rainfall. TPNODL has also undertaken the following activities as a relief measure: Engaged with over 950 people for 'Project CleanUp' which involved tree cutting. Also, allocated each 33 kV Feeder to a JE and each 11 kV feeder to a Linesman for pre cyclone tree clean-up, damage assessment & supervision of restoration; Mobilised over

14,000 PSC poles and over 2900 Rolled Steel Joist (RSJ) Poles; Conductors made available for 350 Km; Arranged PPEs like safety helmets, safety shoes, safety belt & safety equipment like discharge rod, neon testers, meggers etc. along with sundry Items such as cross arm, insulators, ab switches, pole brackets, clamps etc; Allocated individual feeders to lineman and J.E. for patrolling to identify the extent of damage & restoration details and further assess the damage immediately after cyclone by the estimator & monitor restoration; Civil team with BAs has been kept on standby; Deployed 600 manpower along with 15 engineers from nearby Discoms (TPSODL & TPWODL) for TPNODL. Teams are also trained on the various

safety measures & the "Do's & Dont's" during Cyclone & Post Cyclone Restoration work; Arranged for employee two wheelers with sufficient fuel to meet exigency needs. Vehicles put on standby for shifting man & material; List of materials available in different stores and under different Government Scheme viz, IPDS, D D U G J Y, SOUBHAGYA is prepared and being made available to the field offices; Co-ordination between District administration and local Electrical officers has been developed to expedite power supply restoration by utilisation the ODRF/ NDRF team if required in critical cases; Close coordination with OSDMA is planned to tackle the eventualities in case of emergency situation; and Set up labour camps at

school buildings. Deployed an admin team at division level for managing food, drinking water, dry food (Biscuits, Maggi, Chiwra) and lodging requirements. Further Customers can reach out as per below contact details: Speaking on the initiative Bhaskar Sarkar, CEO, TPNODL said, "Keeping the IMD's prediction in mind, we have taken all the necessary measures and aim to ensure uninterrupted power supply, especially in these testing times of Covid-19. Our team is working relentlessly to ensure an uninterrupted power supply. 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'. The company has also carried out all the preventive maintenance of equipment at both distribution as well as consumer sub-stations. Dedicated teams have been strategically placed at various nodes of the city to cater to any emergency. Adequate stock of essential spare parts, tools and equipment including transformers, switchgear, etc. has been ensured to minimize the restoration time towards power interruptions. Special teams will be operative for making the power supply to hospitals and oxygen plants.

Class VI Student From Odisha Capital Wins Heart By Donating To Police

(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, May 25: Ishan, a student of Class VI from Bhubaneswar, has won hearts of many. He has donated Rs 43,000 from his savings to the Commissionerate of Police as assistance amid the Covid-19 pandemic. According to Ishan, he has donated the money to help the police personnel who are working round-the-clock during the ongoing crisis. Ishan has handed over the donation to the Commissioner of Police Saumendra Priyadarshi at the latter's office in Bhubaneswar. The Class-VI student's donation will be used for buying essential items for police personnel of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. Ishan is a



student of a private school in Bhubaneswar. Earlier this month, Devank Agarwal, a Class-I student of a private school in Bhubaneswar, had donated his piggy bank savings to the Commissionerate of Police. He had donated Rs 11,000 from his savings as assistance for the police personnel who are performing their duties amid the pandemic.

Bhubaneswar airport closed from 11 pm till 5 am on May 27



(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, May 25: The Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar airport has been closed from 11 pm today till 5 am on May 27 in view of cyclone Yaas. Earlier, the

Railways has cancelled a total of 124 trains passing through East Coast Railway (ECoR) jurisdiction for the cyclone. Cyclone Yaas has intensified into a very severe cyclonic storm on Tuesday evening.

The cyclones has moved north-northwestwards with a speed of 15 km/hr in last six hours and currently lay centered over north-west BOB about 160 km east-southeast of Paradip.

13KL Liquid Medical Oxygen Plant To Be Setup In Baripada In 3 Months

(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, May 25: The State Government has accelerated commissioning of 13,000 Litre capacity Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) and 1,000 LPM PSA Plant at Mayurbhanj. For this purpose, the State Task Force for medical oxygen management today reviewed the implementation of various LMO and PSA plants in Odisha. It was decided to accelerate the implementation of 13,000 litre capacity Liquid Medical Oxygen plant at



the Pandit Raghunath Murmu Medical College & Hospital at Baripada. This facility will support the Isolation Wards, O&G Wards, Pediatric Wards as well as the ICU and HDU beds being run at the hospital. Keeping in view the emerging and future requirements, the Task

Force also prioritized early commissioning of a 1,000 LPM capacity PSA oxygen generation plant at the institute. Both the facilities – the LMO plant as well as the PSA plant – will be commissioned within maximum 12 weeks and ensure long term medical oxygen security in the district.

Cyclone YAAS: Bhubaneswar - Cuttack To Receive Heavy Rains, Wind Speed Of 70 To 80 Kmph

(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, May 25: Very severe Cyclonic storm YAAS is very likely hit coast or make a landfall during afternoon on May 26 (Wednesday). The location of landfall will be near Dhamra. During this period (of Landfall), the Twin City of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack are expected to witness wind speed of 70 to 80 kilometres per hour, said Director General of IMD, Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra. By today evening



YAAS has transformed into a very severe cyclonic storm with a wind speed of 120 to 130 kmph, gusting up to 145 kmph. The cyclone is centered at north Bay of Bengal and around 180 kms south southeast

from Paradeep and 250 kms from Balasore, Dr Mohapatra said. From past experiences, of Cyclone in Odisha, it has been observed that cyclone with wind speed of 70 to 80 kmph, gusting to 90

kmph causes damage. Therefore, it is very likely that Cyclone YAAS has the potential to uproot small and medium trees, and electricity poles in the Twin City. While the impact will not be as severe as Fani,

but squally winds gusting to 80 kmph, accompanied by heavy rains might cause some damage. "The cyclone will proceed in north north-west direction and will be around 30 kms away from Dhamra at 5:30 am. During afternoon the cyclone will make a landfall between Dhamra and Balasore. The impact of this cyclone will begin in Dhamra, Kendrapada and Jagatsinghpur and Bhadrak from today midnight," said Mohapatra.

33 More Succumb To COVID-19 In Odisha; Khurda Reports Highest 7 Deaths

(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, May 25: COVID-19 claimed 33 more lives in Odisha as the toll in the state mounted to 2549. Khurda reported highest number of deaths as seven more persons succumbed to the virus in the district. The deceased have been identified as: 1. A 58 years old male of Angul district. 2. A 75 years old male of Angul district who was also suffering from Hypertension & Asthma. 3. A 32 years old male of Angul district. 4. A 46 years old male of Angul district who was also suffering from Psychiatric Disorder. 5. A 60 years old male of Bhubaneswar. 6. A 70 years old male of Bhubaneswar who



was also suffering from Diabetes Mellitus & Coronary Artery Disease. 7. A 60 years old female of Bhubaneswar who was also suffering from Diabetes Mellitus & Hypertension. 8. A 65 years old male of Deogarh district. 9. A 42 years old male of Ganjam district. 10. A 59 years old female of

Ganjam district who was also suffering from Hypothyroidism. 11. A 35 years old male of Jajpur district. 12. A 33 years old male of Jharsuguda district. 13. A 33 years old male of Jharsuguda district. 14. A 37 years old female of Jharsuguda district. 15. A 45 years old female of Jharsuguda dis-

trict. 16. A 34 years old male of Kalahandi district. 17. A 35 years old male of Kalahandi district. 18. A 76 years old male of Kalahandi district. 19. A 60 years old male of Kalahandi district. 20. A 70 years old female of Kandhamal district. 21. A 47 years old male of Keonjhar district. 22. A 34 years old

female of Keonjhar district. 23. A 53 years old male of Khurda district who was also suffering from Diabetes Mellitus. 24. A 65 years old male of Khurda district who was also suffering from Diabetes Mellitus, Hypertension, Hypothyroidism & Asthma. 25. A 41 years old male of Khurda district. 26. A 74 years old male of Khurda district. 27. A 44 years old male of Koraput district. 28. A 71 years old male of Sundargarh district. 29. A 72 years old male of Sundargarh district. 30. A 61 years old male of Sundargarh district. 31. A 62 years old male of Subarnapur district. 32. A 72 years old male of Subarnapur district. 33. A 55 years old male of Subarnapur district.

Cyclone Yaas: MoS Home Dibya Shankar Mishra To Camp In Balasore



(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, May 25: In view of the expected landfall of Cyclone Yaas at Balasore, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today di-

rected Minister of State (MoS), Home, Dibya Shankar Mishra to reach Balasore today and camp there to monitor the situation. Earlier today, Director

General (DG) of India Meteorological Department (IMD), Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, had informed the Severe Cyclonic Storm is to intensify into a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm today and to lay centred near Dhamra in Bhadrak district at around 5 AM on May 26. It will cross the land in between north of Dhamra and south of Balasore in the afternoon of May 26.

Charan Ramdas, Renowned Preacher, Dies Of COVID-19

(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, May 25: Noted preacher Charan Ramdas passed away while undergoing treatment of Covid-19 at a Covid Hospital in Puri town on Monday. He was 61. Reportedly, Ramdas had been admitted to a private



hospital in Bhubaneswar after testing positive for Covid-19. He was later discharged and

was in home isolation. As his condition deteriorated, he was admitted to the Infectious Disease Hospital (IDH) in Puri where he breathed his last at around 10 PM last night. Ramdas used to give speeches on Lord Jagannath and the Hindu religion.

EDITORIAL

Oli-garchy

On the day Nepalese Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli failed to prove his majority in the House of Representatives, he had published an appeal in The Guardian, requesting the UK Government and the international community for assistance in Nepal's fight against COVID-19. The article received significant backlash within his country. The people were unconvinced since Oli has left no stone unturned to turn Nepal into a political mess; beginning with his quest to remain in power, to misusing the office of the President. Despite losing majority in the House, Oli was invited to form a minority Government. Within days, the same Parliament has been dissolved again, and new elections have been scheduled for November. Noteworthy, Nepal is experiencing the worst of COVID-19 amid rising cases, fatalities and looming doubts over the supply of vaccines from international manufacturers. The shadow of corruption in procuring vaccines and medical equipment is dark enough to be seen. So, a plea from Oli is nothing but a mockery of good governance and a forced blindfold on the international community to overlook. Oli has become an authoritarian leader who disrespects the will of the people, political mood and remains unbothered by what the country is facing. If anyone can be held responsible for paralyzing Nepal in every sphere, it's the present-day "Oli-garchy". The apex court has nullified Oli's earlier attempt to dissolve Parliament, and ill-intended overnight ordinances on political parties were withdrawn by the President amidst opposition. He was once again challenged to prove his majority, but he failed. Currently, unshamed, Oli continues to be the caretaker Prime Minister. Voices are emanating from the Army veterans, civil society and the democratic forces to hold Oli responsible for the current crisis. These are the same voices that fought an autocratic monarchy for more than a decade to establish an envisaged democratic order in the Himalayan country. However, in less than 15 years, leaders like Oli have done no good but fueled the ethnic divide, economic slowdown, soured relations with India and institutionalised corruption. When Nepal became the world's sixth Communist-ruled country in 2008, questions were asked whether Communism and democracy could coexist. With parties like the CPN-UML led by Oli and the Maoists in Nepal, self is prioritised before ideology, nation and people. Therefore, Nepal needs a second wave of democracy to re-establish institutions in the truer sense with education, medical and economy at the priority.

Pandemonium

COVID-19 is a national disaster. There is a national task force in place handling the pandemic centrally. However, when it comes to the procurement of vaccines, the one and only element to fight the virus with, it is being done in a decentralised manner, with the Centre and the States both in a race to get hold of as many doses as they can from the market, even from abroad. Why is procurement not a national task being taken up by the Centre? The question has been doing the rounds since the third phase of the Government's vaccine policy was announced earlier this month. Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia made a pertinent point to bring out the pointlessness of such an exercise when he asked rhetorically what if the States asked the districts to procure their own vaccines, just like the Centre is asking the States to? The Chief Minister of Punjab, Captain Amarinder Singh, has already said that US pharma giant Moderna has refused to supply the vaccine directly to the State, saying it deals with requests only from the Government of India and not from the States or private companies. The Supreme Court a fortnight ago asked the Centre why cannot it buy 100 per cent of the requirement and why cannot the Centre follow the national immunisation programme policy with respect to the procurement of COVID-19 vaccines? The control of infectious diseases falls in the Concurrent List and is, therefore, said to be a shared responsibility between the Centre and the States; that is how the former's argument goes. However, former Health Secretary K Sujatha Rao pointed out that all these years, the Union Government was supplying vaccines and drugs to the States under the National Programme and that it was for the first time that the Centre was leaving the States alone to buy vaccines on their own and at a price to be determined by the manufacturers. The Centre is the nodal agency to facilitate nearly all aspects of vaccination. It is the Centre, not the States, that can persuade the United States for the raw materials; can help the suppliers expand production capacity; approve more vaccines and balance the domestic supply with obligations of the Indian manufacturers under Covax. Procuring vaccines is a logical extension of the Centre's job. The current policy has created a divide of sorts: The Centre lowered the threshold age for vaccination to 18 years but will not vaccinate the nearly 90 crore people in the 18-45 age group. It is left to the States while the Centre takes care of the older, high-risk categories. Where will that leave Punjab? Where will that leave the other States if the rest of the pharma companies react like Moderna? The vaccination, obviously, cannot stop. The Centre will then be forced to retract its policy; something it can do voluntarily and without compulsion today.

Do the States have any responsibility?

Several COVID patients have tragically died, either due to the depletion in oxygen supply at hospitals or for other reasons, across 14 States. The death of patients due to depletion of oxygen in some hospitals in Delhi and in many other States in the past weeks along with the shortage of beds and drugs for COVID-19 patients has shaken the nation's conscience. Apart from Delhi, dreadful stories of criminal negligence and utter incompetence, leading to the death of COVID patients due to oxygen shortage, are surfacing from many States. In Karnataka, 24 COVID patients lost their lives on May 2 and 3 when the district hospital in Chamarajanagara ran out of oxygen. A three-member committee appointed by the High Court indicted the district administration and the hospital authorities for their failure to supervise the crisis and said the oxygen shortage was the result of callousness at various levels. Reports from Goa were equally grim as over 80 patients in the Goa Medical College and Hospital reportedly lost their lives because the hospital ran out of oxygen. While the hospital authorities claim not all of these cases can be linked to depletion of oxygen, one hears that this institution had a very primitive system of oxygen supply and insufficient storage capacity. The Goa Bench of the Bombay High Court also had to step in and press for speedy action to resolve the logistics issues. In Haryana, such deaths were reported in hospitals in Gurugram, Rewari and Hisar while the cities in Maharashtra that were hit by oxygen shortage included Kandri, Malegaon and Nasik. And, as if all this was not enough, there have been disastrous fires in hospitals in



A Surya Prakash

several States. An analysis of the death of COVID patients due to oxygen shortage shows that such incidents have occurred in Delhi, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Goa, a total of 14 States — half the number of the States in the country. And the elected Governments are run by a wide range of political parties, including the BJP, the Congress, AAP, Shiv Sena, YSR Congress, the Telangana Rashtra Samithi and the DMK. The Maharashtra Government is run by a coalition of eight parties, including the Shiv Sena, the Congress, the NCP and the SP. The DMK-led coalition in Tamil Nadu has the Congress, the CPI, the CPM and the MDMK, among others. While everyone is indulging in the blame game, it must be noted that the Prime Minister has chosen not to blame anybody. However, some fundamentals must be understood. Under the Constitution, the

State Governments are primarily responsible for hospitals and their disasters. The sharing of powers between the Centre and the States is delineated in the Seventh Schedule, which lists the items that fall within the domain of each entity. Item six in the State List in this Schedule states: "Public health and sanitation; hospitals and dispensaries." In other words, public health and the management of hospitals and dispensaries is wholly the responsibility of the States and they cannot get away by pointing fingers at somebody else. The States also have the duty to prevent spread of infectious diseases (Item 29 in the Concurrent List). Therefore, no State can claim that it was helpless or powerless to deal with these issues. Over the last month, the Prime Minister has been made the fall guy — a convenient ruse to deflect blame from all other entities. But once we overcome this crisis, we must take stock of what the following entities did or did not do in the first quarter of this year:

The Chief Ministers; State Health Ministers; Chief Secretaries; Health Secretaries; the Indian Council of Medical Research and the administrators of all major Government and private hospitals, apart from the Union Government, the Union Health Ministry in particular, the Union Health Secretary and all senior officials in that Ministry. Did any of the administrators of private hospitals who are studio-hopping over the last three weeks and blaming all and sundry for the oxygen depletion, take any measures to augment the supply and storage of oxygen in their hospitals over the past year? But, as stated earlier, this is not the time for this exercise. It is true that the Centre should have woken up to the disaster much earlier. Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat summed it up when he said after the first wave of COVID-19: "The Government, administration and public dropped their guard." However, this is not the time for finger-pointing. "We have to stay positive ... to keep ourselves COVID-negative," he says. Emphasising the need for positivity at this juncture, Bhagwat referred to a particular phase in World War II when England appeared to be losing the war. Yet, there was a note on Prime Minister Winston Churchill's desk that read: "There is no pessimism in this office. We are not interested in the possibilities of defeat. They don't exist." Bhagwat said India too needs to have such courage and resolve to defeat COVID-19. He is absolutely right. While it is true that not a single family is unaffected by either the COVID illness or consequential bereavement, we have to exhibit superhuman courage, resolve and positivity in the face of personal tragedy to defeat this rampaging scourge.

Pandemic Situation and Climate Change

There are several causes directly or indirectly attributed to this present unprecedented pandemic situation in our country. Climate Change is also one of them. Odisha is a relatively poor State of India having low nutritional status and poor health infrastructure, so prone to climate induced health related problems. In Odisha, damp, humid and hot weather, and frequent flooding have caused the spread of vector-borne diseases such as malaria, dengue, chikungunya, filariasis, etc.; changes in sea temperature, reduced access to clean drinking water have increased the risk of diarrhoeal disease, increased salinity in soil and drinking water due to sea level rise in coastal belts have caused elevating blood pressure. The intensity and frequency of extreme weather events like heat-waves, cyclones, droughts and floods have increased health related issues such as heat strokes, skin diseases, eye diseases, injuries, psychological distress and human mortality; air pollution from industrial pollutants and automobile emissions has increased the diseases like allergies, asthma, bronchitis, heart attacks and other cardio-vascular diseases; altered food productivity and associated pest and diseases especially in agriculture have resulted in malnutrition, hunger, impaired child growth and development. As the quality of life strongly depends on climate, climate change affects human amenity. Climate Change is projected to increase threats to human health,

particularly in lower income populations, predominantly within tropical/sub-tropical countries. There are both direct and indirect effects of climate change on health. The consequences of climate change on human health can be categorized as asthma, respiratory allergies and airway diseases; cancer; cardiovascular disease and stroke; food-borne diseases and nutrition; heat-related morbidity and mortality; human developmental effects; mental health and stress-related disorders; neurological diseases and disorders; vector-borne and zoonotic diseases; and water-borne diseases. According to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Odisha provided the evidence of 22 per cent of the total malaria cases occurred in India during 2007-08. According to Health Ministry Report, the number of malaria patients in Odisha has been rising at a faster pace, and in 2014 it was about 3.88 lakh which is 36.26 per cent of total malaria afflicted people in India. Similarly, Odisha reported 1520 cases of dengue in 2012, 3490 cases in 2013, 1547 cases in 2014 and 1002 cases in 2015. It is observed that chikungunya virus has been rapidly spreading in Odisha since 2006. During April 2011 to March 2012, 174 positive cases for chikungunya virus were identified in Odisha. According to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, the number of cases of acute diarrhoeal diseases in

Odisha was 7.43 lakh, i.e., 6.35 per cent of total cases in India which slightly decreased to about 6.0 lakh, i.e., 5.51 per cent of total cases in India in 2012. In 1998, the heat-wave in Odisha was recorded as one of the worst, claiming more than 2000 lives. Thereafter, every year heat-wave has been taking a substantial toll of lives in Odisha. As on May 18, 2016, the heat-stroke cases reported was 191, and as on June 6, 2015, the heat-stroke cases reported was 150 in the state. In 1999, Super cyclone in coastal Odisha recorded as one of the severe cyclonic storms, claiming nearly 10,000 lives. In 2013, Phailin cyclone left 44 people dead, 2,56,633 houses and affected 13 million lives. The cyclone and floods affected 44,806 fishermen households and 1564 artisan households. In 2014, Hudhud cyclone left three people dead, damaged 44,413 houses and affected 33,43,966 lives. Fish farms to the extent of 53.15 hectares have also been silted. About 718 traditional craftsmen have been affected with damage of their equipments and raw/finished materials. From all these, it is inferred that in Odisha, there is increased health risks due to the climate change and in particular, there is the potential of aggravating infections, vector-borne, water-borne, and food-borne diseases. The climate

change affects people's livelihood, economy, increase poverty and displace people. Climate change impacts hold serious implications for communities, business and for the state's future growth and development. This climate change is an additional burden in the state because ecological and socio-economic systems are already facing pressures from rapid population, industrialization and economic development. Since poor are the most vulnerable to climate change, the efficient climate change adaptation and mitigation is a serious concern in Odisha because majority of people in Odisha lack basic amenities like pucca house, safe drinking water, sanitation, access to electricity, access to clean cooking energy, all weather roads, transportation and so on. Thus, poverty eradication and improving standards of living of people can reduce climate related vulnerability. In other words, it is the quality of socio-economic development that would provide an insurance against the impacts of climate change and increase the adaptive capacity of the vulnerable. Now the causality in Corona patients are increasing in many folds due to this climate change as the oxygen level is less than expected percentage. So, we need to open our eyes and gear up for some action to save our mankind in this earth and show up humanity i.e. Plant Trees and make your environment as much green as possible to safe guard you, your family and finally mankind in this earth.

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Covid awareness chariot rolled at kiang panchayat and awared people



(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 25: Corona Awareness chariot, organized by the Utkal Journalists Association in collaboration with the District Administration Police Administration Merchants Association, was organized today by the Malkangiri District Argya Foundation and

the Pushpak NGO and UJA in collaboration with the Argya Foundation and Puspak. A public awareness program was held at sindhi Guda village near Kiang Panchayat, which was attended by secretary Basanta lemka UJA President Shri Duryodhan Patra, Dr. Asis Kumar Giri, and

Mathili PHC In-charge Dr.Amiya Kumar Swain, Pharmacist Sanjay Kumar Nayak. Members of the UJA association, including Anganwadi, Asha, Kiang PEO of the panchayat, and Kortan Palli PEO, Kiang Sarpanch.Salimi Medical officer Dr. Aditya Kiran Das, were also present.

Unique effort done by combo of teacher's Madhu-Priti



(A.O. Bureau) Berhampur, May 25: Everywhere you look today, the tide of protectionist sentiment is flowing during covid. Two teacher friends from ganjam Preeti Ranjan Pradhan and Madhusudan Mishra, two intimate friends teachers and good actor's from Berhampur, they are making funny videos and posting them on social media. People really enjoy watching their videos. They both are government teachers Preeti Ranjan worked Bharati Vidyapeeth Ganjam as PET teacher while Madhu Sudan is a sports teacher working at Kusumi Model School in Kukudakhandi block. They are also a well-known actor and stage drama directors. In the midst of all this, the discussion of these two teacher-artist friends in the current situation is all over Odisha today. The two friends are always trying do something new. While Priti



Ranjan continues her performance in a different way from the local language of her own hometown keunjhore dist. Voacl laguage , Bekaria Nuka and Madhu Sudan is completely in the role of Anna in the traditional style of the local Andhra and Oriya languages ??of Ganjam in dakhini style Berhampur style Anna. Which, of course, made the video an overnight sensation. The general public is of the opinion that people can learn a lot by watching all this and having some kind of entertainment. However, local artists and intellectuals from Berhampur thanked both for his efforts. In the face of adversity, the efforts of these two friends are commendable. "Both Madhu and Preeti will continue their efforts," they said. They Appeal to the general public to follow the covid guidelines stay home save ur life wear mask and keep sanitize always.

The people of swabhiman region,complaining, the government schemes are just to show

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 25: For the last two years after construction of the Gurupriya Bridge, which has been deprived of roads, health and other basic amenities for 70 years of independence, has moved to the isolated areas of Malkangiri district for the past two years. There are now a number of problems in the



area. Housing is one of the basic human needs. The government-provided housing for the poor has seen irregulari-

ties in the Papermetla gram panchayat near the Gurpriya Bridge.It is true that a man named Jayaram Khila of the vil-

lage has got a Bijupakka house under the government scheme but it is becoming clear when he sees the condition of the house. While the total cost on the plaque is Rs 75,000, the beneficiaries are forced to live in dilapidated and semi-constructed clay houses with only Rs 30,000. But the question is, where has the money for the unfin-

ished house gone for four years? If the money is found, it must be a waste. The situation of many such beneficiaries is almost the same. There is a general demand that the government should investigate all these acts and take action against the culprits if they really want to develop instead of acting in self-respecting areas.

Again the pregnant woman was carried in the wooden stretcher

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 25: It is very sad news again that a pregnant carried to hospital by wooden stretcher. She gave birth to a baby girl with a distance covering of 40km. An unfortunate incident took place today in Gangapada, a remote village in Nakamamudi panchayat in the Korukonda block of

Malkangiri district. Subudri Visoyi, wife of Lochan Visoyi of Gangapada village, was pregnant. Suddenly, her stomach ached yesterday.As there was no road to the village, two young men from the village were forced to carry the first bypass from Gangapada through the hilly road. Later, a student



named Arjun Bhaj from Bayapada village and another young man from the same village brought him

from Bayapada to Tumbapadar village. Asha Didi Pandri Bhaj has also been seen walking with the

pregnant woman. An ambulance came from the Gumma health center in the village of Tumbapadar after carrying a 40-kilometer-long load. From there, the pregnant woman was hospitalized.Now that Subudri is in good health, she appears to have given birth to a baby girl. Even before that, there had been similar maternal pain.

Utkalmani Yubak Sangha is Ready to Tackle Cyclonic Storm 'Yaas'

(A.O. Bureau) Kendrapara, May 25: While the number of corona infections and deaths in the state is endangering public life, Cyclonic Storm 'Yaas' has now created a dire situation for the people. Extensive measures have been taken by the administration to protect the people. That's why people have been evacuated. Utkalmani Yubak Sangathan, a leading voluntary organization in Kendrapara district, has



taken two steps for the people, President of the Utkalmani Yubak Sangha Mr.Gouttam Behera., Secretary Bishnab Behera, Vice President



Gudu Biswal, Nishal Sanjeev Swain, Sraban Behera, and Sahadev Behera. reached various wind shelters in K e n d r a p a d a ,

Pattamundai and Rajnagar blocks to mask people and discuss Covid-19 Guidelines with awareness.. "We are fully alert. All our staff are

vigilant if there is any problem," Mr.Biswal said. We will immediately inform the departmental officials about the incident by calling the special 24x7 helpline number (9090-8884-454) issued by our organization to report the problem. "Our goal is to ensure that all members of our organization are vigilant throughout the district so that no loss of life is lost." The event has become a hot topic in the general public.

24X7 Helpdesk launched at COVID Hospital, Joda

(A.O. Bureau) Joda, May 25: In a bid to keep the family members informed regarding the daily health status of COVID-19 patients, a dedicated COVID-19 Helpdesk has been launched at COVID Hospital, Joda on Tuesday. This helpdesk will be managed by Tata Steel Hospital, Joda. The helpdesk was inaugurated by Mr Rajesh Kumar, Chief, Joda, Tata Steel in the presence of Dr Suchismita Das, Officiating Chief Medical Officer, Tata Steel Hospital, Joda and other senior doctors and staff of



the hospital. The helpdesk led by a doctor will operate 24 x 7 and will act like a communication channel between the patients and their family members. The doctor will guide the helpdesk executives to decipher the health status data so that they can explain the family members of the COVID-19

patients in a better way. While the hospital will have a tablet to upload the health data of each patient, the helpdesk will also have a tablet that will reflect all the stored data which will be communicated to the family members upon confirming their relationship with the patient. The helpdesk will also facilitate video

calling facility for the family members with the patient admitted in the hospital. The family members can also get the health status of the patient over phone by calling the helpdesk(Toll Free Number - 1800 313 4360 / Emergency Number - 7440037006).While the emergency number is already active, the toll-free number will be active from Thursday. It may be noted here that the COVID-19 hospital was set up last year in April by the District Administration in partnership with Tata Steel Hospital, Joda and

has been funded entirely by Tata Steel. Well equipped with 50 beds, including five critical care facilities, 5 isolation wards and isolation cabins, the hospital has all necessary equipment to treat COVID-19 patients.A 67-member team including doctors, health care workers, sanitisation support staff, house-keeping staff and ambulance staff of Tata Steel Hospital, Joda are proactively working to combat the pandemic. Besides, food and accommodation, treatment would be provided free of cost to the patients.

Pregnant women evacuated in Dhenkanal ahead of cyclone 'Yaas'

(A.O. Bureau) Dhenkanal, May 25: With cyclonic storm "Yaas" inching closer, the district administration of Dhenkanal has started shifting people from vulnerable categories, to safer places. On Monday, over 200 pregnant women across the district were identified for evacuation. Almost 50 per cent of these women, most in advanced stage of pregnancy, have reportedly been shifted to the nearest shelters in their respective areas. As of now, there are 126 school buildings serving as cyclone shelters and eight multi-purpose relief centres to accommodate the vulnerable sections in the district. Official sources said dry food, safe drinking water and necessary medicines are being provided to pregnant women at the shelters. Project Director, DRDA Narottam Behera, who is monitoring the preparatory measures, said masks are being given to all evacuees and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) in villages are extending all support.

Father and son died mother and daughter hospitalized in the crash



(A.O. Bureau) Kukudakhandi, May 25: According to sources, the parents and son and daughter of a family from Balipada village collided head-on with a vehicle coming from the opposite direction while the son and daughter of a family were on their way to own village Sidheshwar, leaving the mother and daughter where seriously injured in veichle crash. As a

result, the father and youngest son died on the spot while the mother and daughter was shifted to Berhampur MKCG Medical in critical condition. While the local public gathered start a protest and block the Berhampur Digapahandi main road. On the spot Local tehsildar K a l y a n i Sanghamitra Devi and Sadar IIC Mahendra Sahu reached and briefed

the people. This is a crucial time the period of corona pandemic appeal to the public to cooperate and the protests road blocking closed by the locals. This gathering may be reasoning for spread of covid while social distancing violating of pandemic act. The locals cooperate to the admins and the protest road blocking withdwal immediately done transportation normalized again.



COVID19 Vaccination site Visit , Health kit for staff involved in Covid Management,Mask & dry ration distribution for Covid affected families by Honourable Minister ST n SC DEV Deptt. GoO Sri Jagannath Saraka at Khajuri & Khambesi PVTG villages of DKDA-CHATIKONA.

Shehnaaz Gill flaunts her desi look in new video, fans say 'so gorgeous'



Mumbai, May 25, May 25: Grooving to Harshdeep Kaur's 2015 song "Jutti Kasuri", Shehnaaz is seen dressed in a traditional salwar suit, paired with jhumkas. She also used a black-and-white filter on the video, adding to the old world charm. From playing with her hair to posing and smiling at the cameras, the Bigg Boss 13 star wins heart in the new video. Her fans

were equally effusive with their compliments, calling her 'gorgeous'. On the work front, Shehnaaz wrapped up the shoot of her first big film "Honsla Rakh" with Diljit Dosanjh. In a recent live session, she told fans that while she has a few projects lined up, she is not allowed to speak about them. Recently, she featured in a promotional video for Amazon Prime Video's LOL: Hasse Toh

Phasse along with good friend Sidharth Shukla. Shehnaaz also turned producer for brother Shehbaz Badsha's music video "Little Star". As readers would know, Shehnaaz Gill started her career as a singer and actor in Punjab. She became a sensation with her participation in Bigg Boss 13. Her chemistry with co-contestant Sidharth Shukla was also much loved.

Anusha Dandekar pens lovely post for sister Shibani: 'I know what you've done for me my whole life but especially the last 1.5 years'

New Delhi, May 25: Anusha Dandekar on Tuesday took to her Instagram handle to share a lovely, heartwarming post for her sister Shibani Dandekar. In the post, Anusha mentions how her sibling bond with Shibani has deepened over time. She began the note by stating that it is an appreciation post for Shibani and went on to write, "Appreciation post... I'll try not to cry while I write this... (yes I know I cry a lot). This whole last year and a half has been a whirlwind of emotions for everyone, I can only hope that every experience good or bad made us more grateful for everything we do have. My Sister and I, for everyone that knows us, have a unique relationship. We have fought a lot but the Love runs so deep. She is probably the only person

who I'm genuinely afraid of because her approval was always the most important, she's more like a parent to me. She makes me laugh and cry the most, is super strict in some ways but also super chill in other ways," read a section of Anusha's post. Anusha thanked Shibani throughout the note for a number of times for standing by her side through the worst phase of her life. "But when it comes down to it, whenever I'm heart broken, really sick, felt alone, was in big trouble with the parents or struggling in general... she's there, standing tall, fighting my battles and making sure I am protected, more than okay and rising above. Most times she does it with tough Love which scares me into feeling better quickly, hehe... but I know she does that because to be honest, she's the most

scared when I'm not okay, I know she loses sleep and worries more than anyone. ??." Anusha concluded the letter of love by letting her

then hand me over to Apeksha for the soft love hehe... I love you Shibani and I just want you to know how much I appreciate what you are, who you are and your heart. A sisters love is like no other... ?? Now Apeksha and you can go back to making fun of me after you read the mush! #middlechild," read the rest of the post. Anusha and

Shibani are often seen sharing posts featuring the other on social media. Both the sisters have dabbled a bit in various mediums, including



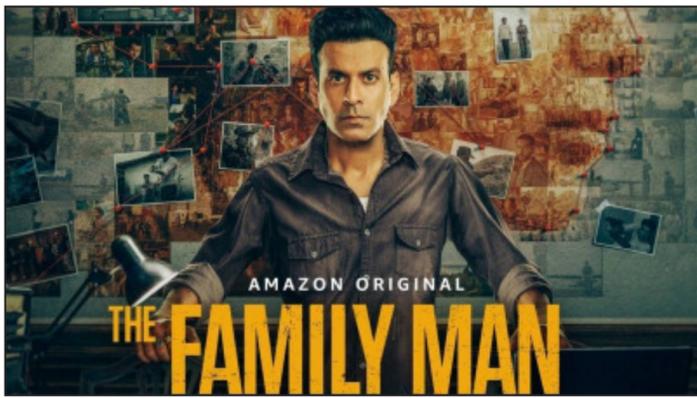
readers know that 'a sister's love is like no other.' "Shibani, I know what you've done for me my whole life but especially the last one and half years. I also know what you did for so many but you still managed to be there for me and

television and music. The two have also made news for their personal lives as well. While Anusha was previously dating Karan Kundrra, Shibani Dandekar is currently in a relationship with filmmaker-actor Farhan Akhtar.

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Manoj Bajpayee, directors Raj and DK respond as Tamil Nadu seeks ban on The Family Man 2: 'Have utmost respect towards Tamil people and culture'

New Delhi, May 25: Raj and DK, the directors of Amazon Prime Video web series The Family Man Season 2, have responded to the calls for banning the series, noting that assumptions have been made based on a few shots in the trailer. Requesting people to wait for the show, they said utmost pains have been taken to present 'a sensitive, balanced, and riveting story'. The same statement has been shared by the show's cast including Manoj Bajpayee and Sharib Hashmi on their social media handles. On Monday, the Tamil Nadu government had requested the Information & Broadcasting Ministry to either stop or ban the release of The Family Man Season 2 for allegedly depicting the Eelam Tamils in a negative light. In a letter to I&B minister



Prakash Javadekar, Tamil Nadu IT Minister T Mano Thangaraj said the trailer presented Tamilians in a "highly objectionable manner" and their was an attempt to discredit the struggle of the Eelam Tamils in Sri Lanka. Raj and DK said in the statement, "Some assumptions and impressions have been made based on just a couple of shots in the trailer. Many of our lead cast members, as well as

key members of the creative & writing team, are Tamilians. We are very cognizant of the sentiments of the Tamil people and Tamil culture and have nothing but the utmost love and respect towards our Tamil people." Requesting everyone to watch the show first, they added, "We have put in years of hard work into this show, and we have taken great pains to bring to our audiences a sensitive, bal-

anced, and riveting story —much like we did in Season 1 of the show. We request everyone to wait and watch the show when it releases. We know you'll appreciate it once you watch it." The TN minister pointed to the portrayal of actor Samantha Akkineni in The Family Man 2 trailer in his letter. "Branding Tamil speaking actress Samantha as a terrorist in the serial is directly an at-

tack on the pride of Tamils living around the world and no one will tolerate this kind of motivated and mischievous campaign," he said. "I would like to bring to your notice about the condemnable, inappropriate and malicious contents of The Family Man 2 serial in Hindi, which depicts the Eelam Tamils in a highly objectionable manner. The trailer of the above said serial which was released in the social media network is aimed at discrediting and distorting the historical struggle of Eelam Tamils in Sri Lanka," read a section of the letter. Earlier, Rajya Sabha MP Vaiko also wrote a letter to Prakash Javadekar demanding the ban on the show's broadcast on Amazon Prime Video. The series is scheduled for June 4 release on the OTT platform.

Khushi calls herself 'princess' of her bedroom and shares glimpses of her room

New Delhi, May 25: In a new post on Instagram on Tuesday, Khushi Kapoor has shared glimpses of her bedroom. The 20-year-old, who is the daughter of producer Boney Kapoor and late actor Sridevi, is currently in Mumbai with her sister Janhvi Kapoor. On Tuesday, she shared pictures in which she was seen seated on the floor of her bedroom, wearing a purple floral dress. Khushi posed by her window, with white drapes covering a cupboard behind her. The floor was covered with a pink-coloured faux fur carpet. Khushi shared the picture with the caption, "Princess of.....my bedroom." Her half-sister Anshula Kapoor and her aunt Maheep Kapoor were among those who reacted to the post. Anushla took to the



comments section and dropped a heart, heart-eyed and fire emoji. Maheep showered the post with hearts. Khushi was seen stepping out of her house a few times since her return from the US. She was seen taking her dog for walks and cycling with Janhvi near their home. On one occasion, the siblings navigated around sev-

eral photographers on their cycles. While Janhvi asked the paparazzi to be careful, Khushi was heard requesting them to give them some space as they entered their housing complex. Earlier this year, Boney had confirmed that Khushi will be making her acting debut but he was not going to launch her in the industry.

Shweta Tiwari's daughter Palak deletes her Instagram account amid her mother's ugly spat with Abhinav Kohli?



New Delhi, May 25: Actor Shweta Tiwari's 20-year-old daughter Palak Tiwari seems to have deleted or deactivated her verified Instagram account, in the midst of her mother's ongoing public spat with estranged husband Abhinav Kohli. Since Shweta is currently away in Cape Town, participating in Khatron Ke Khiladi 11, Palak is taking care of her brother Reyansh back home in

Mumbai. The public fight between her mother and step-dad Abhinav began soon after Shweta left for the shooting of the show. Shweta and Abhinav, who tied the knot in 2013, have a four-year-old son Reyansh. The couple, however, separated in 2019. Abhinav had recently shared a couple of videos on social media accusing Shweta of leaving their son alone at a Mumbai hotel to partici-

pate in KKK 11 in South Africa. Refuting all his allegations, Shweta released CCTV footage of her estranged husband trying to forcibly get hold of Reyansh and allegedly assaulting the two of them. The National Commission for Women (NCW) wrote to the Mumbai Police recently and sought their intervention in this case. Palak's father and Shweta's first husband, Raja Chaudhary had recently said in an interview, "I had messaged Abhinav not now but last year after I read about the sexual harassment allegations against him by my daughter Palak Tiwari. As a father I was concerned for her and wanted to know what exactly had happened."

Kareena Kapoor shares family pool photo to wish Kunal Kemmu on birthday



New Delhi, May 25: Actor Kareena Kapoor wished her brother-in-law Kunal Kemmu on his birthday with a lovely throwback family photo. She also promised that they will recreate the happy picture again soon. The click has Kareena's husband Saif Ali Khan, her sister-in-law Soha Ali Khan and the kids of the two couples — Taimur

and Inaaya. The pool pic seems to be from one of their past family vacations. Kareena shared the photograph on her Instagram account and wrote, "Happy Birthday, brother in law... I promise we will recreate this picture soon... have a lovely one." Kunal, on his part replied, "Hahahahaha.. yes yes we have to."

Kareena's good friend and actor Amrita Arora also wished Kunal on the same post, along with Kareena's other sister-in-law, Saba Ali Khan. Saba also took to her Instagram handle, and shared a birthday wish for Kunal. Posting an old click with Kunal and Soha, Saba wrote, "Blast from the past... Birthday wishes to my other brother!"

@kunalkemmu Happy Birthday." But, the most beautiful wish for Kunal came from wife Soha who posted a video specially curated for Kunal's birthday. From Kunal's childhood clicks to his older self, from being a family man to an actor who's experimented with his films starting off as a child artiste, Soha gave a perfect recap of her husband's life and achievements. She even revisited her falling in love with Kunal, their wedding and with daughter Inaaya. In her caption to the video, Soha wrote, "Happy Birthday @kunalkemmu. Another year, another lockdown... but I am grateful for all that you are and all that you have become. They say a

Gemini has two sides but you are a polygon of provocation, a prism of perfection — whatever shape you are, you complete the jigsaw that is us. Thank you @entropydigital for putting this together!" Kunal Kemmu turned 38 on Tuesday. The actor who first faced the camera as a kid in Doordarshan TV show Gul Gulshan Gulfaam (1987), did his first Bollywood film Sir in 1993. He then appeared as a child actor in a dozen films like Hum Hain Rahi Pyar Ke, Raja Hindustani, Bhai, Zakhm and more. He made his debut as a main lead in Kalyug (2005). Some of Kunal's popular films include Dhol, Golmaal series, Go Goa Gone, Kalank, Malang, Lootcase and others.

PCB bars fast bowler Naseem Shah from PSL in Abu Dhabi for breach of COVID protocols

Karachi, May 25: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has barred fast bowler Naseem Shah from playing in the remaining matches of Pakistan Super League in Abu Dhabi for breach of COVID-19 protocols before departure from the country. The Board has released Shah of Quetta Gladiators from isolation in Lahore after arrived at the designated hotel with a non-compliant RT-PCR test result. "As such, the fast bowler will not be travelling to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on 26 May and is now out of the competition," the PCB said in a statement. The 19-year-old Shah has appeared in nine Tests. The PCB had asked all the players travelling in chartered flights from Karachi and Lahore to assemble at the team hotels on May 24 with negative reports of RT-PCR tests taken not more than 48 hours prior to their arrival. "Naseem presented a PCR report from a test conducted on 18 May. Upon submission of the report, he was placed into isolation on a separate floor before being released following a decision made by a three-member panel on the recommendation of the independent Medical Advisory Panel for PSL," the PCB said. Director (Commercial) and head of HBL PSL, Babar Hamid, said Quetta Gladiators have accepted PCB's decision to bar



Shah. "If we ignore this breach, then we will potentially put at risk the entire event. We appreciate Quetta Gladiators for accepting this decision as it confirms we are all aligned to strictly following and implementing the protocols. "This decision will also send out a loud and clear message to all involved that the PCB will not compromise on any violations and will expel the player or support personnel irrespective of his stature and standing if they are found to be flouting the prescribed protocols or regulations," he said. Hamid said that participating players and support staff must understand that these protocols have been put in place for the health and safety of all involved as well for the integrity and credibility of the event and the PCB. The PCB plans to resume the PSL-6 in Abu Dhabi on June 5 but is yet to announce the schedule. The tournament, which is being shifted out of Pakistan, was postponed in March with 20 games to go when several players and support staff among the six franchises tested positive for COVID-19.

Milan, Juve qualify for CL

Milan, May 25: Rossoneri, Bianconeri without Ronaldo win on final day to seal top 4 spot as Napoli miss out after 1-1 draw against Hellas Verona. Juventus qualified for the Champions League on the final day of the season on Sunday with a 4-1 win at Bologna and were joined by AC Milan who beat Atalanta 2-0. Napoli had to settle for a Europa League spot, finishing fifth, one point behind Juventus, after a 1-1 draw at home against Hellas Verona. A pair of Franck Kessie penalties at the end of either half ensured AC Milan finished the season second — 12 points behind city rivals Inter Milan — and return to the Champions League for the first time since the 2013-2014 season. "We deserved the Champions League as well as second place," said Milan coach Stefano Pioli whose side had missed the chance to seal their berth last weekend against Cagliari. "We went through the whole

championship at the top, unfortunately we had thrown away the match point last Sunday. "I'm really excited, happy, I have to thank the club because they made us work in a spectacular way." Atalanta had already ensured a third consecutive season of Champions League football but missed out on a first second-place Serie A finish days after losing out in the Coppa Italia final to Juventus. Cristiano Ronaldo was left on the bench by Juventus coach Andrea Pirlo who opted for an attacking line-up of Paulo Dybala and Alvaro Morata flanked by Federico Chiesa and Dejan Kulusevski. "It was a shared choice, Ronaldo was tired after the fatigue on Wednesday," said Pirlo. "He made himself available to the team but I chose to have another player named Morata play, who is not the latest arrival. I have a quality team, with many choices available." A Morata brace along with goals from



Chiesa and Adrien Rabiot prevented Juventus missing out on the elite European competition for the first time since 2012. In Naples, Amir Rrahmani scored for Napoli after an hour against his former club, which would have been enough to secure a berth at the top table but Davide Faraoni pulled one back for the visitors nine minutes. Gennaro Gattuso's side were denied a return to elite European action after also missing out last season. Lazio join Napoli in the Europa League despite a 2-0 loss at Sassuolo with Roma finishing seventh

after coming from two goals down to hold Spezia 2-2. Napoli president Aurelio De Laurentiis on Sunday confirmed that coach Gennaro Gattuso will leave the club after failing to qualify for the Champions League. The southerners finished fifth, one point behind fourth-placed Juventus, after a 1-1 draw at home against Hellas Verona. A win would have guaranteed a top four finish, but Napoli miss out on a second season of Champions League football. "Dear Rino, I am happy to have spent almost two seasons with you," De Laurentiis wrote on Twitter. "Thanking you

for your work, I wish you success wherever you go. A hug to your wife and children too. Aurelio De Laurentiis." The relationship between the pair had been tense with the club having imposed a media boycott for months. Former AC Milan coach Gattuso took over after Carlo Ancelotti was sacked in December 2019. The 43-year-old also missed out on a Champions League return with AC Milan in the 2018-2019 season by just one point. The Italian 2006 World Cup winner as a player has been linked with clubs including Fiorentina and Tottenham.

Tottenham, Roma to hunt new European title on road to Tirana

New Delhi, May 25: Tottenham and Roma are starting on the road to Tirana next season. The two clubs that recently fired and hired Jose Mourinho are the highest-ranked entries in the list being finalized this week for the inaugural Europa Conference League — the third-tier UEFA competition that kicks off in July. The first winner will be crowned next May in a final at the 22,500-seat new national stadium in Albania. It is not a glamorous or lucrative option for clubs that reached Champions League semifinals in the past three years. Tottenham went to the 2019 final. "Yes, it's not the competition we want to be in next year,"



Tottenham's interim coach Ryan Mason said Sunday. "But it's a European competition, and we will respect it." Qualification was celebrated more enthusiastically Saturday by Union Berlin, which will make its European debut in August. The new competition was not created to

prioritize seventh-place teams from Europe's richest leagues. The Europa Conference League will ensure some lower-ranked nations have clubs involved beyond August after years of struggling to advance to the Champions League and Europa League groups. In 2018,

Juventus president Andrea Agnelli said as then-leader of the European Club Association that some members wanted the new competition to "allow them to grow and showcase their players going forward." In Lithuania and Slovenia, this is it. Since 2009, 32 teams

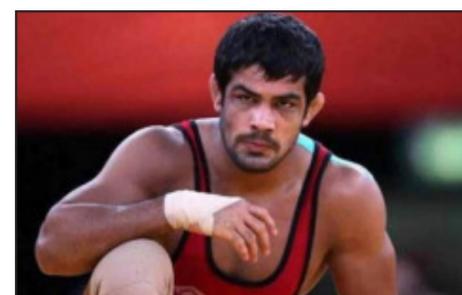
played in the Champions League group stage and 48 in the Europa League. Now until 2024, there will be 32 in each of the Champions, Europa and Europa Conference Leagues. All will play in round-robin groups of four teams feeding into knockout rounds. A total of 96 teams playing in the September-to-December groups instead of 80 does not mean more entries from domestic leagues. Each country keeps its overall quota of teams, from seven for England, Spain, Germany and Italy down to three for the minnows. A big change is teams from leagues ranked No. 17 downward have no direct entry to the Europa League.

Wrestling Federation of India may not renew contracts of Sushil Kumar, Pooja Dhanda

New Delhi, May 25: Arrested in a murder case, double Olympic-medalist Sushil Kumar is set to be dropped from the Wrestling Federation of India's annual contracts list along with Pooja Dhanda on account of non-performance when the body holds a review meeting next month. The meeting between the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) and sponsors Tata Motors was to be held in 2020 but was put on hold due to the coronavirus pandemic. A WFI source said the decision to drop Sushil is purely based on performance and has nothing to do with his arrest for his alleged involvement in the

murder of a fellow wrestler, Sagar Dhankad, at the Chhatrasal stadium.

offer central contracts to its players in 2019. About 150 wrestlers had got



"It is clear that Sushil and Pooja have not done anything notable since they were offered contracts. They will not make the cut when the review meeting is held next month," a WFI source told PTI. The WFI had taken a leaf out of BCCI's book to

one-year contracts which are subject to review. Sushil was promoted to Rs 30 lakh Grade A contract after initially being placed in Grade B that gave the wrestlers an annual remuneration of Rs 20 lakh. Pooja was also placed in Grade A.

What happened to Novak Djokovic's mission to transform pro tennis?



New Delhi, May 25: Nine months ago, a group of tennis players started an organization aimed at giving them more say in how their sport operates and divides the roughly \$2 billion the game generates annually. A group of former players who brought tennis into the modern era of sports commerce have been watching their work. But since Novak Djokovic, the world No. 1, gathered with the others at the U.S.

We'd have meetings at 4 a.m. after we finished playing." The new association wants to represent the top 500 singles players and the top 200 in doubles, doing everything it can to make sure those players can make a viable living. It is a significant goal. For now, only about the top 100 players do. But Djokovic has played just three tournaments since winning the Australian Open in February.

US warns against all travel to Japan as Olympics loom

New York, May 25: US health officials and the State Department has warned Americans against travel to Japan because of a surge in coronavirus cases in the country, which is preparing to host the Olympics in just two months. The twin alerts don't ban US citizens from visiting the country, but they could have an impact on insurance rates for travellers may factor into decisions by Olympic athletes and spectators on whether to compete in or attend the games, which are due to start in July. There was no immediate indication as to what effect the warnings might have on "Travellers should avoid all travel to Japan," the At-

lanta-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in a new COVID-19 update on Monday. "Because of the current situation in Japan even fully vaccinated travelers may be at risk for getting and spreading COVID-19 variants and should avoid all travel to Japan." The State Department's warning, which followed the CDC alert, was more blunt. "Do not travel to Japan due to COVID-19," it said in the announcement, which raised the department's travel alert from Level 3-Reconsider travel to Level 4-Do not travel. The previous alert was issued on April 21. The United States Olympic and Paralympic



Committee said it still anticipates that American athletes will be able to safely compete at the Tokyo Games. "We feel confident that the current mitigation practices in place for athletes and staff by both the USOPC and the Tokyo Organizing Committee, coupled with the testing before travel, on arrival in Japan, and during Games time, will allow for safe participation of Team USA

athletes this summer," the committee said in a statement on Monday. Earlier on Monday, Japan mobilized military doctors and nurses to give shots to older adults in two major cities, as the government tried desperately to accelerate its vaccination rollout and curb coronavirus infections before it hosts the Olympics. That move came amid growing calls for the games to be cancelled.

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga is determined to hold the Olympics in Tokyo beginning on July 23, after a one-year delay, and has made an ambitious pledge to finish vaccinating the country's 36 million older people by the end of July. Japan has recorded just over 12,000 COVID-19 deaths, good by global standards, but poor in Asia but Tokyo and Osaka and several other areas are under a state of emergency until May 31 that is likely to be extended. There is fear of new variants spreading, with only a tiny percentage of the Japanese estimated at 2 per cent to 4 per cent vaccinated.

Vedanta supplies drinking water to locals facing water scarcity in Jharsuguda

(A.O. Bureau) Jharsuguda, May 25: Vedanta, India's largest producer of aluminium and value-added products, is supplying drinking water to thousands of Jharsuguda's residents facing an acute shortage of drinking water due to the ongoing summer. Last month, the company started a daily supply of drinking water to 16 wards of Jharsuguda district marked as water scarcity areas and will continue to cater to the region's needs throughout peak summer. Currently, more than 15,000 locals belonging to Kabrastanpada, Talibhata and Itabhata, BTM Nua Sahi, Industrial Estate, Mahuatoli, BadheimundaRangiapada, Hospital Road, and other wards are getting their daily quota of water through water tankers deployed by Vedanta. Speaking about the company's initiative, Mr. CN Singh, CEO - Vedanta Ltd., Jharsuguda, said, "We



are committed to creating a lasting positive impact in the communities where we operate, through our operations and social development initiatives. The extreme summer weather has induced water scarcity in the region, adding to the ongoing distress due to the pandemic. Vedanta is working with the Jharsuguda District Administration to provide proper treatment to those affected by COVID, as well as alleviate drinking water concerns and other problems arising due to the heatwave." Mr. Joginder Manjhi, Executive Of-

ficer (Jharsuguda Municipality) cum Deputy Collector, Jharsuguda, appreciated the company's support saying, "Vedanta works in tandem with the District Administration for the welfare of the community. Their water supply programme helps address the water shortage in the region. On behalf of the Jharsuguda Municipality team, I thank the company for their dedicated efforts and encourage them to continue the good work and support to the community." Every year Vedanta partners with the Jharsuguda Municipality to supply drinking water to localities facing acute water shortage during the summer season, and keep people from depending on unhygienic and unreliable water sources. The company has created various community infrastructures in its peripheral villages, like ponds, tube wells, dug wells, percolation tanks, etc. for water management and availability. Each summer, the company also undertakes cleaning of ponds and other water sources in the nearby areas. Vedanta's social interventions in the domains of quality education, sustainable livelihood, women empowerment, health, water and sanitation, bio-investment and community infrastructure reach out to a total of 72 villages in Jharsuguda and nearby areas, benefiting nearly 80,000 people in a year. It empowers more than 4000 women from over 330 SHGs, provides doorstep

healthcare services to about 32,000 people annually, gives educational support to more than 6400 students, has planted more than 1.48 lakh trees in partnership with the community, and built 570 plus infrastructural projects at the community level. Vedanta is India's largest producer of the green metal, aluminium, operating a world-class 1.6 MTPA aluminium smelter and 3615 MW thermal power generation facility in Jharsuguda, Odisha. The only Indian smelter in the global '1 Million Tonne' production and export club, Vedanta Jharsuguda is a leader in value-added aluminium products that find critical applications across core industries. With one of the largest technically qualified and diverse workforces in the country, the company is working towards a sustainable and greener future for all by spurring emerging applications of aluminium, the 'Metal of the Future'.

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Covid support from Essel Mining



(A.O. Bureau) Koida, May 25: The covid assistance program has been launched in the koida iron mines area of Essel Mining in Koida. The event which began in the villages of Kanodiha and Nuagaon near mines, continues to Distribution of masks and

soaps to all members of the family. Keeping in the view of the weather of the branch. The two villages will be cleared after the rains. In the village again, mosquitoes will be smoked and bleaching powder will be dumped in every drain. Today's event was inaugurated

by A.B Singh, Manager, Koida Mines at Kalyan Mandap in Kanodiha. The program will then be launched with the help of village Ward members, ASHA and Volunteers to provide door to door assistance. It will benefit 500 families of both villages.

District-level Covid Awareness Group by NSSS Cell of Vikash Degree College



(A.O. Bureau) Bargarh, May 25: A joint venture between the NSSS Cell of the Vikash Degree College and the Bargarh District DPO was held yesterday. Dr. Himanshu Shekhar Mishra, Medical Director and Developmental Lung Disease and Critical Care Specialist of Vikas Multi-Specialty Hospital, spoke on the topic "Covid-14 Medical Perspective" Mr. D. Nageshwar Rao, Executive Director, Vikash

Group, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and highlighted the role of Vikash Multi-Specialty Hospital in facing the first and second waves of Covid and all the contributing physicians, nurses and educators. The event, sponsored by Dr. Samrendra Nath Panda, Director, Vikash Group of Institutions, was also attended by program officers from various colleges in the district, including Bargarh DPO Mrs.

Babita Sadangi. Mr. R.S.S.V. Hundreds of students attended the event, which was supervised by Krishna Satya Ranjan Patnaik, Program Officer, NSSS Cell, Vikash Degree College, under the supervision of Krishna. According to the president of the Vikash Degree College, the event was the first of its kind in the Covid-Lockdown series, and it is planned to hold an awareness program on Covid in the coming days.

Major fire at HPCL plant in Visakhapatnam

(A.O. Bureau) Visakhapatnam, May 25: A major fire broke out at the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) plant in Visakhapatnam on

Tuesday afternoon, but no immediate casualties were reported. According to sources, the fire erupted in the crude distillation unit in the HPCL old terminal.

Memorandum by RMPM to CM for accelerating vaccination in the district, as well as preventing the smuggling of essential consumer goods

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 25: Today the Rastriya Madhyabit paribar Mahasangh, Malkangiri has submitted a memorandum letter to CM Through BDO, Malkangiri to accelerate vaccination in the tribal-dominated district of Malkangiri, as well as offline registration and preventing the smuggling of essential consumer goods in the district during the Karona period. About 70 per cent of the population in the block,

such as Khairput, Mathili, Malkangiri, Padia, Kalimela, Korukunda, Chitrakonda, belong to the tribal community, especially among the tribal community, many of whom still do not know how to use the internet or smartphones. Malkangiri district, Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh are also among the most inaccessible tribal people in the world who are already inaccessible to the tribal people and the need to make arrangements for



them to be vaccinated easily. In the tribal-dominated areas of the district, vaccination needs to be intensified and 18 to 44-year-olds should be

expedited. In each case, the people have, for the first time, been offered a chance to vote in addition to the stockists have a chance to smuggling of essential con-

sumer goods in the district during the Karona period so the Rastriya Madhyabit paribar Mahasangh demanding to the government to look into the matter.

Medical Oxygen Generation enhancement and supplies of life-saving equipment for state governments by Ramco Cements

(A.O. Bureau) New Delhi, May 25: Ramco Cements has been the front runner in providing prompt support to all state governments at times of calamities. The corona virus has been creating havoc across the country and the need for Oxygen has become paramount. Ramco Cements has immediately stepped in to commission Medical Oxygen generators and to provide life-saving medical equipment. Tamil Nadu: The company has committed to the Government of Tamil Nadu to install five medical oxygen generators at the

company's factory locations across the state. The first generator unit with a capacity of 14 cubic metre of oxygen per hour was commissioned at Virudhunagar district on 14th May 2021, in the presence of the Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Mr. Thangam Thennarasu and Hon'ble Minister for Revenue and Disaster Management Mr. K.K. S.S.R. Ramachandran. Since then 48 nos. of Medical Oxygen cylinders are being supplied per day, free of cost, to the Government hospitals across the district every day. Four

more oxygen generators of higher capacity of 56 cubic metre each have been ordered. While one generator will be installed at Madurai, the other three will be installed at RR Nagar, Ariyalur and Alathiyur. The four generators will be commissioned within four to six weeks. The aggregate cost of the five Medical Oxygen gen-

erators is Rs.5 crores. These five oxygen generator plants can cumulatively produce 800 Oxygen cylinders per day. Ramco Cements has also contributed Rs.1 Crore to Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Authority for Covid Relief. Kerala: The company has committed Rs.1.5 Crore worth high-end medical equipment including monitors, oxygen concentrators, pulse oximeters and ventilators to the Government of Kerala, and the same will be delivered to the authorities this week. Andhra Pradesh: Two Medical

Oxygen generators will be commissioned in Andhra Pradesh at a cost of Rs.2 Crores, within four to six weeks. Odisha: The company has committed Rs.1 crore worth high-end medical equipment including oxygen concentrators to the Government of Odisha and the same will be delivered to the authorities within two weeks. The company has been closely coordinating with various Government agencies and providing relief by procuring lifesaving equipment and instruments and making the same available to the health care systems.



Testing on demand vehicle flagged off

(A.O. Bureau) Hinjilicut, May 25: Testing on demand mobile covid testing vehicle was launched in Hinjilicut today. Ganjam Collector Vijay Amrit Kulange flagged off the vehicle for general public at Bijupatnaik bus stand in Hinjilicut today. Emphasis is placed on the control and formality of the

state government's covariates. How can people easily have a vehicle for a covid test and a team of experienced health worker along with specially trained pharmacist managed to the Swab samples will be collected by vehicle. Today, local intellectuals have expressed a positive view that the gen-

eral public can benefit greatly from this mobile testing van. On the occasion Hinjilicut Tahsildar Prabhat Kumar Parida, BDO Subrat Kumar Jena, NAC Executive Officer Dr. Manoranjan Sahu Hinjilicut IIC Abhimanyu Das is presence at the flag off program.

