

Mamata skips Yaas review meet with PM Modi, Nadda hits out at 'petty politics'

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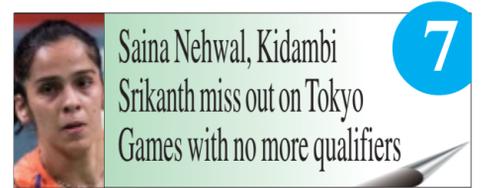
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Cyclone Yaas: PM Modi Announces Rs 500 Cr Immediate Assistance For Odisha



Bhubaneswar, May 28: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today announced an immediate assistance of Rs 500 crore for Cyclone Yaas-affected areas of Odisha. The PM announced an overall financial assistance of Rs 1000 crore for immediate relief activities, out of which Rs 500 crore would be immediately given to Odisha

while another Rs 500 crore has been announced for West Bengal and Jharkhand, which will be released on the basis of the damage. He also announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 to the seriously injured ones in the cyclone. Modi today

visited Odisha and West Bengal to review the situation arising out of Cyclone Yaas. He undertook an aerial survey of the cyclone affected areas in Bhadrak and Balasore districts of Odisha, and Purba Medinipur in West Bengal. In Bhubaneswar, the Prime Minister chaired a meeting to review the

relief and rehabilitation measures being undertaken. The Prime Minister was briefed that maximum damage due to Cyclone Yaas happened in Odisha, and some parts of West Bengal and Jharkhand have also been affected. The Union Government will deploy an inter-ministerial team to visit the states to assess the extent of damage, based on which further assistance will be given. The Prime Minister assured the people of Odisha, West Bengal and Jharkhand that the Union Government would closely work with the State Governments at this difficult time, extend all possible assistance for restoration and rebuilding of the infrastructure in

the affected areas. The PM said that we have to continue the focus towards more scientific management of disasters. As the frequency and impact of cyclonic systems are increasing in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, communication systems, mitigation efforts and preparedness have to undergo a major change. He also spoke about the importance of building trust among people for better cooperation in relief efforts. Modi appreciated the preparedness and disaster management activities by the Government of Odisha which has resulted in minimal loss of lives. He also noted that the state has embarked on long term mitigation efforts for dealing with such natural disasters.

CM Seeks Central Assistance For Long Term Measures To Make Odisha Disaster Resilient

Bhubaneswar, May 28: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today instead of seeking any immediate financial help for the damages caused by Cyclone Yaas sought Cen-

tral assistance for long term measures to make Odisha disaster resilient as the State is frequented by such climate hazards every year. During his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi who was on a visit here today to review

damages caused by Cyclone Yaas which pounded the State two days back, Patnaik highlighted Odisha's demand for disaster resilient power infrastructure and ongoing restoration efforts. Patnaik has stated on Twitter, "As the country is at the peak of Covid-19 pandemic, we have not sought any immediate financial assis-



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Govt To Provide Monetary Assistance Through DBT Under MDM Scheme

Bhubaneswar, May 28: Union Minister for Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has approved the proposal to provide monetary assistance to 11.8 Crore students (118 Million Students) through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of the cooking cost component of the Mid Day Meal Scheme, to all eligible children, as a special welfare measure. This will give a fillip to the Mid-

day Meal programme. This is in addition to the Government of India's announcement of distribution of free-of-cost food grains @ 5 Kg per person per month to nearly 80 Crore beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY). This decision will help safeguard the nutritional levels of children and aid in protecting their immunity during the challeng-

ing pandemic times. The Central Government will provide additional funds of about Rs 1200 crore to State Governments and UT Administrations for this purpose. This one time special welfare measure of the union Government will benefit about 11.8 crore children studying in class I to VIII in the 11.20 lakh Government and Government aided schools across the country.

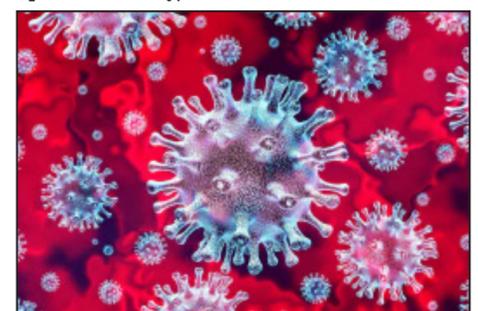


First Covid Advisory Committee Meeting of Odisha

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 28: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today, at the first Covid Vaccination Advisory Committee Meeting of the State, sought the advice of top health experts of the country on a strategy to tackle the future waves of the pandemic and on how to strengthen the healthcare system further. Looking for experts' suggestions, the CM said that we need to fine-tune our processes the defeat the Coronavirus with your advice. Eminent health experts and doctors, Dr. K. Srinath Reddy (Chairman), Dr. Devi Shetty, Dr. Ramakanta Panda, Dr. Subrat Acharya, Dr. Lalit Kant,

CM Seeks Advice from Experts on Strategy to Tackle Future Waves, Strengthen Healthcare System

Dr. Mrudula Phadke, Dr. Subrata Acharya, Dr. Datteswar Hota, Dr. E. Venkat Rao, Dr. Sanghamitra Pati, Dr. MR Patnaik, Dr. Ajay Parida and Dr. CVK Mohanty (Convenor) attended the meeting. Addressing the meeting on virtual platform, the Chief Minister appreciated and thanked all the expert members for accepting the invitation. The Chief Minister said that Covid-19 pandemic has devastated families, communities and economies across the World. For the first time, humanity across the globe are affected by a pandemic at the same time. It's been more than a year and still there is no end in sight, he added. He



further said that in India, the second wave has caused so much turmoil that people are very scared about the future. They fear more variants and more waves. They fear the uncertainty. On top of it, the lockdowns and its effect on the economy, has caused great financial pressure on many families and businesses, he expressed

concern. The CM said that people today need the counsel of reputed respected experts like you to tell them words of wisdom and courage to withstand this onslaught of the virus and motivate them to continue the fight. Speaking on the situation in the State, the CM said that Odisha has been able to provide timely help to the Covid patients and

take care of their health care requirement to a large extent. "We have been able to manage the oxygen support systems and even provided help to other states for their oxygen systems. We have been able to manage without our health care systems getting overwhelmed," he added. He further said that the current trend of the Covid cases is on decline across the state except for a few districts. The second wave is beginning to recede, he hoped. We are focusing on vaccination and intend to utilise all resources to quickly vaccinate our people, he conveyed the resolve. Expressing his concern, on..

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India has no vaccination strategy, third wave of Covid-19 likely: Rahul Gandhi

New Delhi, May 28: Claiming that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government never understood Covid-19, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said the Centre was responsible for India's current crisis and a third wave of infections was highly likely. Speaking to media persons in a live interaction, Gandhi said the "evolving" virus was strengthening by the day, and the central government's ignorance of its nature was giving the virus space to grow and spread. Gandhi also said the

"permanent" solution to fight the virus was vaccination, and the reason behind India's poor Covid performance was because the Centre had "no vaccination strategy". "The problem is that there is no vaccination strategy. The Prime Minister doesn't think strategically. He is an event manager, he thinks one event at a time," Gandhi said. If the current pace of vaccination continues, Gandhi said, India will face not only a third wave, but multiple waves of the virus. Targeting the Centre, Gandhi said, "You're



creating a liability for the whole planet. Why? Because you are allowing 97 per cent of the population to be attacked by the virus as only 3 per cent are vaccinated." He reiterated that the government had

become overconfident and focused on "vaccine diplomacy" and exporting vital Covid jabs to the rest of the world, instead of anticipating a future crisis and need at home. On India's Covid-19 death

figures, Gandhi asked the government to tell the truth as the country's current fatality rate according to him was a lie. "Actual death numbers might be disturbing but we must stick to telling the truth," he said. India recorded 1.86 lakh new Covid-19 cases on Thursday, the lowest spike in daily infections in the last 44 days. The number of active cases further declined to 23.43 lakh while over 2.48 crore people have recovered from the virus till now. With 3,660 new fatalities, the death toll is now over 3.18 lakh.

Odisha: Universities, Colleges To Resume Functioning From June 1



Bhubaneswar, May 28: All State Public Universities and Degree Colleges coming under the Higher Education Department of the Odisha Government shall resume functioning from June 1. The State Government has written to the vice chancellors of the universities and the principals of the colleges

in this regard. "The summer vacation as declared by this department will come to an end on 31.05.2021. After the end of summer vacation, the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) shall resume functioning w.e.f. 01.06.2021 as per the earlier guidelines communicated," the govern-

ment said in the letter. Odisha Government had on May 4 announced summer vacation for all higher educational institutions in the state from May 5 to May 31. As per the order, no online classes or examinations were held during the period. Prior to that, online classes by various universities and colleges were underway in the state. Worth mentioning, the state government is yet to take any decision regarding physical classes at the educational institutions, which were suspended due to the second wave of COVID-19.

Mehul Choksi Was Tortured Claims His Lawyer



New Delhi, May 28: Fugitive diamond trader Mehul Choksi, arrested in Dominica, has resorted to law to escape. According to media reports, Choksi's legal team has filed a Habeas Corpus petition in Dominica. Under this, the person arrested has to appear before the judge or court. Choksi's lawyer has accused him of torture. Choksi's legal team has moved the court in Dominica. According to news agency ANI, this has been confirmed by Choksi's lawyer Vijay Agarwal. In the petition, the diamond businessman's lawyer has al-

leged that there were 'marks of torture' on his body. It has also been said that Choksi has been 'forcefully raised' against his will from Antiga and Barbuda. According to the ANI, Choksi's lawyer in Dominica, Wayne Marsh, stated that the fugitive diamond trader had the right to get a legal representative and not to do so was a human rights violation. Marsh said in a conversation with ANI, '... first thing, Choksi has the right to legal representation. Whether it is in Antiga or Dominica. The fact that he is a citizen of Antiga, not of India

GST Council Meeting To Be Held

New Delhi, May 28: The 43rd meeting of the GST Council (GST Council) is scheduled to be held from 11 am today. The meeting will be done through video conferencing, which will be headed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Several issues are likely to be discussed in the GST Council meeting, which is being held after about 8 months. In this meeting, along with reducing the GST rate on goods related to Covid 19 such as medicines, vaccines and medical devices, petrol diesel will also be considered. Let us know that the meeting of the GST Council is now being held after 7 months. Earlier, the GST Council met in October 2020. The GST Council may have to decide on the fiscal support sought by the states due to the damage caused by the coronavirus epidemic in the meeting to be held on May 28.



Unlock To Start In Delhi From Monday

New Delhi, May 28: In view of the decreasing cases of Coronavirus in Delhi, the process of unlock (Unlock in Delhi) is going to start. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that the lockdown will be lifted gradually from 31 May, ie Monday. Construction work can be started from 5 am on Monday morning. Factories will also be opened. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Friday that about 1100 new corona cases have come in the last 24 hours. In Delhi, the rate of infection is close to 1.5 percent. In such a situation, now is the time to unlock. He said that till 5 am on Monday morning there is a lockdown in Delhi. Af-



ter that, Delhi will gradually move towards unlock. DDMA had a meeting today, in which these decisions were taken. Kejriwal said that economic activities will be started gradually. In opening the lockdown, one has to take care of those classes who are daily wage laborers and migrant laborers. He said- 'Construction and factories will be opened for a week. Unlock will be done gradually based on the suggestions of experts and experts. It will be opened till the corona cases start growing again. The CM said that if the Corona cases increase, then the lockdown can be imposed again. He has appealed to the people not to come out of the houses until the need arises.

Mamata skips Yaas review meet with PM Modi, Nadda hits out at 'petty politics'

New Delhi, May 28: Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP's) national president Jagat Prakash Nadda on Friday criticised Mamata Banerjee after the West Bengal chief minister gave a miss to a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to review the impact of Cyclone Yaas, which hit her state and the neighbouring Odisha earlier this week. Nadda said "Mamata ji should also set aside her ego" and pointed out that the Prime Minister has been in touch with chief ministers of states, irrespective of party affiliations, to help the people impacted by Yaas, which killed at least five people and left a trail of destruction in Odisha, Bengal and Jharkhand. "When Hon PM Shri @narendramodi stands strong with the citizens of West Bengal in wake of cyclone Yaas, Mamata ji should also set aside her ego for the welfare of people. Her absence from the PM's meeting is murder of constitutional ethos & the culture of co-



operative federalism," Nadda said in a post on Twitter. "PM @narendramodi ji holds the principle of Cooperative federalism very sacred & has been actively working with all CMs irrespective of party to give relief to the people. Unsurprisingly @MamataOfficial's tactics & petty politics has once again come to haunt the people of Bengal," he also tweeted. News agency ANI reported citing people familiar with the developments that the West Bengal chief minister and the state's chief secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay were late to the meeting by almost

half an hour. ANI cited the people mentioned above that she handed over the reports related to the impact of Cyclone Yaas and left saying that she has other meetings lined up. On her part, Mamata Banerjee said she could not attend the review meeting with Prime Minister Modi as she was scheduled to meet with officials in another area of the state. "The Prime Minister called a meeting. We did not know that I had a meeting scheduled in Digha. I handed him the report asking for ₹20,000 crore for Digha development and ₹10,000 crore for Sunderban development. I told him that state

government officials had a meeting with me so I took his permission and left," Mamata Banerjee said, according to news agency ANI. "After having review meetings in Hingalgaon & Sagar, I met the Hon'ble PM in Kalaikunda & apprised him regarding the post-cyclone situation in WB. The disaster report has been handed over for his perusal. I've proceeded now to review the relief & restoration work at Digha," Mamata also tweeted. Mamata Banerjee said she submitted a report to PM Modi on the damages caused by Cyclone Yaas in the state and sought a

₹20,000-crore package for redevelopment of the worst-affected areas. "We have sought a package of ₹10,000 crore each for the redevelopment of Digha and the Sunderbans... It could well be that we might not get anything," she said following an administrative meeting held in the tourist town of Digha. Modi also flew down to Odisha to review the post-cyclone situation before going to West Bengal, where the storm wreaked havoc in the coastal districts. A release issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said PM Modi announced a financial assistance of ₹1,000 crore for immediate relief activities. "₹500 crore would be immediately given to Odisha. Another ₹500 crore has been announced for West Bengal and Jharkhand, which will be released on the basis of the damage. The Union Government will deploy an inter-ministerial team to visit the states to assess the extent of damage, based on which further assistance will be given," the statement said.

DRDO's anti-Covid drug priced at Rs 990 per sachet

New Delhi, May 28: The drug is available in powder form in a sachet, and can be taken orally after dissolving in water. The anti-Covid drug developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has been priced at Rs 990 per sachet, news agency ANI reported citing officials. The drug, developed in collaboration with Hyderabad-based pharma company Dr Reddy's Laboratories (DRL), will be provided to central and state government hospitals at a discounted price, officials said. The price of DRDO's 2DG anti-COVID 19 drug has been kept at Rs 990 per sachet by Dr Reddy's lab. Govt hospitals, central and state govt would be provided the medicine at a discounted price: Govt officials pic.twitter.com/FEic70fSq5 — ANI (@ANI) May 28, 2021 Earlier, Union

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had said that 10,000 sachets of the anti-Covid drug, known by the name 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG), will be available

clinical trial data show that the molecule helps in faster recovery of patients hospitalised with Covid-19, and reduces their dependence on supplemental oxygen.



in the market initially. "This 2-DG drug developed by DRDO and DRL is a perfect example of India's scientific prowess and a milestone in the efforts towards self-reliance," Singh had said. The drug was approved by the Drugs Controller General of India (DGCI) earlier this month for emergency use as an adjunct therapy in moderate to severe coronavirus patients. During its release, the government said that

The drug accumulates in virus-infected cells, and prevents the growth of the virus by stopping viral synthesis and energy production. Its selective accumulation in virally-infected cells makes this drug unique, a government release said. "The drug will be of immense benefit to the people suffering from Covid-19," it added. The drug is available in powder form in a sachet, and can be taken orally after dissolving in water.

Covid-19: Telangana begins vaccination for high risk groups

Hyderabad, May 28: Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar who visited a few vaccination centres here told reporters that more than 1.4 lakh people in the districts will be administered vaccine over the next three days during the special drive. The Telangana government on Friday launched mass Covid-19 vaccination for high risk groups, including accredited journalists, across the state. Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar who visited a few vaccination centres here told reporters that more than 1.4 lakh people in the districts will be administered vaccine over the next three days during the special drive.

Similarly 32 centres have been set up in Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC)



area, which will operate for seven days, where around 30,000 people will be vaccinated daily, he said. He said the vaccination centres will start work from 8 AM daily and street vendors and those working in pesti-

cide shops and other kirana shops identified by officials and who are given coupons, will be given the shots as no walk-ins are allowed. A senior official earlier said that about 7.75 lakh people are in the high risk groups and vaccination will be done for them during the special drive from May 28 to 30.

Mamata meets PM to submit report on damage in Bengal, skips review meet

New Delhi, May 28: PM Modi announced financial assistance of Rs 1,000 crore for immediate relief activities. Of the total amount, Rs 500 crore would be immediately disbursed to Odisha. Another Rs 500 crore, announced for West Bengal and Jharkhand, will be released on the basis of the damage. Banerjee conducted an aerial survey of cyclone-hit areas in North 24 Parganas district, officials said. Along with Chief Secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay, Banerjee took stock of the situation in Hingalgaon, Hasnabad, Sandeshkhali, Pinakha and other areas of the district, they said. "I have seen that most of

the areas have been inundated. Houses and large tracts of agricultural fields are under water. A field survey will also be conducted," Banerjee said. Earlier in the day, PM Modi held a review meeting with Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in Bhubaneswar to discuss the impact of the cyclone. He also undertook an aerial survey of the parts of Odisha and West Bengal which have been impacted by the Cyclone Yaas. During the meeting, Odisha government demanded long term solutions to mitigate problems caused by the repeated cyclones and provision of disaster resilient power

systems. The state government however sought no immediate funds to tackle the expenditure incurred in disaster management, Odisha's Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) P K Jena told reporters after the meeting. As Cyclone Yaas made landfall in north Odisha around 10.30 am on Wednesday, strong winds and heavy tides lashed several coastal towns and villages on either sides of the Odisha-West Bengal border, inundating low-lying areas and uprooting trees, and claiming at least three lives — two in Odisha and one in West Bengal. Odisha Chief Minister



Naveen Patnaik conducted an aerial survey to assess the extent of damage in the state on Thursday. The cyclonic storm weakened into a deep depression over southern Jharkhand and adjoining Odisha, according to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD). It is likely

to move northwestward and gradually weaken into a depression later today, the IMD said. Meanwhile, a spokesperson for UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said the world body was ready to assist the country in its relief efforts if it needed help.

Odisha Minister Urges Industry Champions To Be Environment-Friendly

Bhubaneswar, May 28: Dibya Shankar Mishra, Minister of Energy, Industries and MSMEs, Government of Odisha while addressing the Annual General Meeting of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) Odisha State Council today urged industry champions in the state and the country to be environment-friendly and conserve nature. "We will have to protect nature and work towards a zero-discharge industry. We need to take care of our workforce and workplaces for a healthy and holistic growth of our industries," he said. While the world is still discussing effects of global warming, Odisha is facing those ad-



versities year after year. We will keep facing adversities like COVID, cyclones and floods until we take care of the environment, he said. Further, the Minister said that the six focus industries in the state—tourism; food processing; chemicals, plastics, and petrochemicals; electronics manufacturing; ancillary and downstream industries in metal sector; and textiles and apparels, have been performing well, both in terms of production and investments. "However, if the state has to aim for further development and investments, we need to focus on IT and electronics. There is a vast scope of development in this sector. The state government will facilitate all necessary actions towards this effect," he noted. Elaborating on Odisha being a land of opportunities, Mishra

said, "Odisha boasts of available land bank. It is time to shift from the coast to the west and south of the state for available land resources for industries." Speaking at the event, Hemant Sharma, Principal Secretary, Industries Department, Government of Odisha noted that the state government is committed to bring more progressive industrial policies and facilitation mechanisms for investments. "Major pillars of industry in the state—mining, metallurgy, textiles, food processing and petrochemicals continue to do well. Our endeavour is to continue to broad base our industrial development. We are devis-

ing our industrial policies to make it more progressive and forward looking," he said. Dr Nitin B Jawale, MD, IPICOL and Special Secretary, Industries Department, Government of Odisha said that the state government has taken huge strides in investment and industrialisation in the state. "Whatever heights we (the state) have reached and whatever accolades we have achieved, FICCI has been a very important part of it." FICCI and the Govt of Odisha share the same vision for the next stage of industrial development, noted Dr Jawale. "We have largely shifted to broad based inclusive industrial growth. FICCI has really understood the terms of this game and has helped us by not just getting large-scale investments but also investments in the medium and small sector industries," he added. "Vision 2030 is our (the state government's) very ambitious plan; we want to establish ourselves as the biggest primary producer of industrial metals—steel and stainless steel and aluminium.

CM Naveen Patnaik Seeks Advice From Experts To Tackle Future COVID Waves

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 28: Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today at the first Covid Advisory Committee Meeting of the State sought the advice of top health experts of the country on strategy to tackle the future waves of the pandemic and on how to strengthen the healthcare system further. Eminent health experts and doctors, Dr. K. Srinath Reddy (Chairman), Dr. Devi Shetty, Dr. Ramakanta Panda, Dr. Subrat Acharya, Dr. Lalit Kant, Dr. Mrudula Phadke, Dr. Subrata Acharya, Dr. Dattaswar Hota, Dr. E. Venkat Rao, Dr. Sanghamitra Pati, Dr MR Patnaik, Dr. Ajay Parida and Dr. CVK Mohanty (Convenor) attended the meeting. The CM said that Odisha has been able to provide timely help to the Covid patients and take care of their health care requirement to a large extent. We have been able to manage the oxygen support systems and even provided help to other states for their oxygen systems. We have been able to manage without our health care systems getting overwhelmed, he added. He further said



that the current trend of the Covid cases is on decline across the state expect for a few districts. The second wave is beginning to recede, he hoped. We are focusing on vaccination and intend to utilise all resources to quickly vaccinate our people, he conveyed the resolve. Expressing his concern on the next wave, he said that all of us are concerned about the next wave and if it's going to affect the children. If it's true, then we will have to be better prepared since taking care of the children in the hospitals is a big challenge, he said. Expressing his support to the suggestions of the Committee, he said that our Government values the advice of this committee and assured unstinted support to take forward

the strategies suggested by the Committee. Chairman of the Committee Dr. K. Srinath Reddy advised on different strategies for advance planning which could possibly be taken up as per advice of the expert doctors. Making a presentation on the Covid 19 situation in Odisha, Prof. Venkat Rao made a comparison between the first wave and the second wave in the state. He said that Odisha has dedicated Covid hospitals to treat the patients and over ten thousand hospital beds with sufficient ICU facilities. He also said that two crore people in the age group of 18-44 need vaccination. Dr. Lalit Kant spoke about the efficacy of vaccine available around the world. He said that USA has a large num-

ber of unused vaccine doses which they may not use. We may look for AstraZeneca vaccines from USA, he added. He further said that Covaxin production in India will touch 7.82 crore per month by August and Covishield production to touch 10 crore per month. 250 million Sputnik V doses will also be available. Apart from these three, Novo Vax and Zydus Cadila may be available in future. He said that only Pfizer has been approved for children above 12 years. All other vaccines are studying on children. He also advised to make Covid data available for studies by medical students. Dr. Ramakanta Panda said Odisha has the best experience in managing disaster. The virus is likely to stay for

long like flu. He spoke on the importance of universal vaccination to counter the pandemic. He advised for ramping up the capacity, safe & clean Oxygen delivery, especially the use of medical grade oxygen for Black Fungus. He also advised for the decentralisation of health system and dedicated infrastructure like cyclone shelter. Dr. Devi Shetty appreciated the Odisha Government for being the first State to announce free vaccine for the age group of 18-44. He said that vaccination is better than lockdown. The cost effectiveness of the vaccination is far far better than lockdown. He advised for priority in vaccination on the basis of occupation rather than age group. He also said this is the best time to conduct examinations as the cases are going down. Dr. Mrudula Phadke advised to focus on vaccination of pregnant and lactating mother. Dr. Subrat Acharya advised for focus on rural area and migrating population and IEC campaign for vaccination. Dr. Ajay Parida proposed to identify the vulnerable groups and vaccinate them on priority.

Extends COVID Vaccine Global Tender Deadline By 7 Days



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 28: Odisha Government today extended the last date for its global tender for procurement of COVID vaccines by seven days. The last date for online

bid submission is 10 AM of June 4 whereas the online technical bid will open at 11.30 AM of June 4. The price bid will be open at 5 PM of the same day. "The deadline was extended in view of requests from many prospective vendors, cyclones and also for greater participation," informed an official statement. Earlier on May 15, Odisha State Medical Corporation (OSMC) opened online bid for global vaccine manufactures through e-tender portal for supply of 3.80 crore COVID-19 vaccines. The decision was taken in a bid to increase the vaccination drive in the state.

Odisha Adds 7216 New COVID Cases; Cuttack Highest At 1091

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 28: As many as 7216 more persons in the state contracted COVID-19 in the last 24 hours taking the tally to 7,39,955. Of the fresh cases detected from all 30 districts, 4041 are quarantine cases and 3175 local

contact cases. A total of 43,768 samples were tested in the last 24 hours. Cuttack records highest 1091 cases followed by Khordha (809) and Kendrapada (487). With the fresh cases, the number of active cases in the state surged to 1,02,072.



Rs 55.50 Lakh Financial Assistance To Journalists & Their Families In Distress

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 28: The State Government today disbursed compensation of Rs 55.50 lakh to families of journalists who succumbed to Covid-19 recently. They are Ashok Kumar Sahoo of Manthan, Dharendra Rout of Odisha Bhaskar, and Solomon Sahoo of EPA Weekly. Their families were awarded compensation of Rs 15 lakh each. The Government has sanctioned Rs 2 lakh for the treatment of Freelance Journalists Ambika Kanungo and Rs 50,000 for Rajendra



Mohanty. The families of Radhanath Mohapatra of Nitidin and Pravat Das of Pratidin were provided financial assistance of Rs 4 lakh. The State Government is awarding Rs 15 lakh compensation for families of journalists who

succumb to Covid-19 and Rs 4 lakh for non-Covid deaths. So far, 6,944 journalists have been enrolled under Gopabandhu Journalist Health Insurance Scheme introduced by the Odisha Government.

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CM Seeks Advice from...

the next wave, he said that all of us are concerned about the next wave and if it's going to affect the children. If it's true, then we will have to be better prepared since taking care of the children in the hospitals is a big challenge. Expressing his support to the suggestions of the Committee, he said that our Government values the advice of this committee and assured unstinted support to take forward the strategies suggested by the Committee. Chairman of the Committee Dr. K. Srinath Reddy advised on different strategies for advance planning which could possibly be taken up as per advice of the expert doctors. Making a presentation on the Covid 19 situation in Odisha, Prof. Venkat Rao made a comparison between the first wave and the second wave in the state. He said that Odisha has dedicated Covid hospitals to treat the patients and over ten thousand hospital beds with sufficient ICU facilities. He also said that two crore people in the age group of 18-44 need vaccination. And this is a challenge as Government of India is providing vaccines for 45 plus people. Dr. Lalit Kant spoke about the efficacy of vaccine available around the world. He said that USA has a large number of unused vaccine doses which they may not use. We may look for AstraZeneca vaccines from USA, he added. He further said that Covaxin production in India will touch 7.82 crore per month by August and Covishield production to touch 10 crore per month. 250 million Sputnik V doses will also

be available. Apart from these three, Novo Vax and Zydus Cadila may be available in future. He said that only Pfizer has been approved for children above 12 years. All other vaccines are studying on children. He also advised to make Covid data available for studies by medical students. Dr. Ramakanta Panda said Odisha has the best experience in managing disaster. The virus likely to stay for long like Flu. He spoke on the importance of universal vaccination to counter the pandemic. He advised for ramping up the capacity, safe, clean Oxygen delivery, especially the use of medical grade oxygen for Black Fungus. He also advised for the decentralisation of health system, and dedicated infrastructure like cyclone shelter. Dr. Devi Shetty appreciated the Odisha Government for being the first State to announce free vaccine for the age group of 18-44. He said that vaccination is better than lockdown. The cost effectiveness of the vaccination is far far better than lockdown. He advised for priority in vaccination on the basis of occupation rather than age group. He also said this is the best time to conduct examinations as the cases are going down. Dr. Mrudula Phadke advised to focus on vaccination of pregnant and lactating mother. Dr. Subrat Acharya advised for focus on rural area and migrating population and IEC campaign for vaccination. Dr. Ajay Parida propose to identify the vulnerable groups and vaccinate them on priority. ACS Health PK Mohapatra made a presentation on the fight against Covid in Odisha.

Weather Forecast: Rain To Lash These Odisha Districts During Next 5 Days

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 28: Light to moderate rain or thundershower may occur at many places over few coastal, north interior and southern districts of Odisha during next five days. According to Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar, the rainfall ahead of onset of southwest monsoon is likely to continue in Odisha till June 2. The weathermen have issued yellow warning for several districts of coastal, north interior and southern regions for 3 days starting from May 30. Weather forecast and warning for districts of Odisha for next five



days:
Day 1 (valid from 1330 hrs of May 28 upto 0830 hrs of May 29): Forecast: Light to moderate rain or thundershower very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Coastal Odisha, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Malkangiri, Koraput, Kalahandi and dry

Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur and dry weather very likely to prevail over the rest districts of Odisha.
Day 3 (valid from 0830 hrs of May 30 upto 0830 hrs of May 31): Forecast: Light to moderate rain or thundershower very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of North Coastal Odisha, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Gajapati and at one or two places over the rest districts of Odisha.
Day 4 (valid from 0830 hrs of May 31 upto 0830 hrs of June 1): Forecast:

Light to moderate rain or thundershower very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Gajapati and at one or two places over the rest districts of Odisha.
Day 5 (valid from 0830 hrs of June 1 upto 0830 hrs of June 2): Forecast: Light to moderate rain or thundershower very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Gajapati and at one or two places over the rest districts of Odisha.

EDITORIAL

In disarray

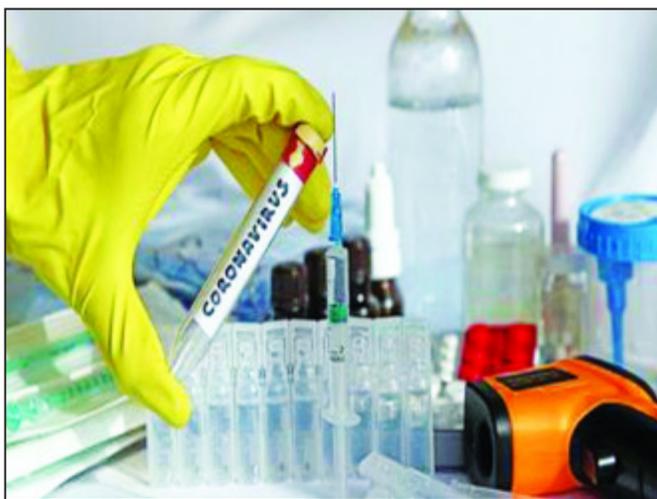
The claims of the Union and the State Governments about the efficient and expedient handling of the vaccination campaign notwithstanding, the hydra of confusion and problems obdurately refuses to be slain. After a roller-coaster of accusations and counter-accusations, revolving mainly around vaccines, or rather the lack of those, now fresh colours of fungus in human body are being discovered almost every other day. Even if we were to leave the state of vaccine preparedness to the experts, the element of human error or oversight occasionally creeps in and adds to the already existent apprehensions of “vaccine hesitancy”. In the latest such case, nearly 20 villagers in Uttar Pradesh’s Siddharthnagar district were recently given a vaccine “cocktail” — the first shot they received was of Covishield and the second dose happened to be Covaxin. Of course, a probe into the incident has been ordered but instances like this go a long way in germinating the seeds of doubt into the minds of the common populace that is already scared and confused, what with the various variants of the virus and multi-coloured fungus being discovered inside human bodies. To precipitate matters, the left hand of the Government is bereft of the knowledge what the right hand is up to. We have seen it with regard to the announcement of opening up of the inoculation drive for all individuals in the 18-44 age bracket. Almost immediately, however, several States announced that they were not yet ready for this kind of vaccination experience, largely on account of the shortage of vaccines. For its part, the Centre steadfastly maintained that there was no dearth of jabs while, at the same time, several States were crying hoarse that they had been left in the lurch since the foreign manufacturers were taking the plea that they were authorised to do business only with the Centre and not with individual States. Then, as mentioned in these columns recently, there’s the debate whether it’s finally time to hold class XII Board examinations. Compounding the matter is the fact that all stakeholders, mainly the students, teachers, the support staff at examination centres and even the parents, need to be vaccinated. Even if arrangements are made to provide all such candidates their first shot over the next fortnight, they would still have to wait three months for the second dose. The Governments must be on guard against any information misfiring or negligence.

Ctrl+Delete?

The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, are like a cat set among the pigeons. The Government says the rules have been enacted for effective oversight over social media platforms and to bring the digital media and streaming platforms under a strict regulatory net. The most important social media regulation rule in the last two decades has fuelled angry reactions not only from social media giants like WhatsApp, Facebook and Twitter, but also from the public. Those supporting the platforms say it is an attempt to force the companies to break their end-to-end encryption protocols for both receivers and originators. Some alarmists go to the extent of saying it heralds a surveillance State. Both are crying hoarse about the violation of the citizen’s freedom of expression and right to privacy. The protests are focused on one particular ingredient in the new rules, that is, the Government asking the intermediary platforms to make provisions for “identification of the first originator of the information”. The identification “is required only for the purposes of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution or punishment of an offence related to sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, or public order or of incitement to an offence relating to the above or in relation with rape, sexually explicit material or child sexual abuse material punishable with imprisonment of not less than five years,” a Government release says. The Government defends the rules saying these are not enacted in isolation but have precedence in countries like the United Kingdom, US, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. The critical question is whether the rules violate the right to privacy. On August 24, 2017, the Supreme Court declared the right to privacy as a fundamental right protected under the Constitution and stemming from the fundamental right to life and liberty. The right, like all rights, comes with reasonable restrictions. Who will decide if the new tech rules are reasonable restrictions? There is a joint parliamentary committee which is to submit its report on the Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill, 2019. It has been granted several extensions. The PDP Bill becomes relevant to the current debate because it has the potential to explain what precisely are the reasonable restrictions on the right to privacy. The right itself needs to be settled conclusively by courts and is not automatic. In the absence of a PDP law, the citizens will be in the dark as to what their specific privacy rights and obligations are with relation to sensitive personal data like consent, processing, sharing with prior consent, having a grievance resolution system and so on. The right to privacy by itself is nothing without the right, and the law, to enforce that right. For this, the PDP Bill has to see the light of the day and result in amendments to the Information Technology Act, 2000, as well as the latest set of rules in order to make them transparent.

When institutions are out on a limb

The systemic institutional breakdown since Modi took office as the PM and its adverse impact on pandemic response are costing the nation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s appearance and theatrics on television of late hardly inspire confidence, appearing to suggest instead that enormous and prolonged stress he faces is, expectedly, taking its toll. Banal platitudes can never cover up for the lack of foresight, incompetence and callousness displayed till now. Cynics suggest that much of this is an act aimed at garnering sympathy and attempting to portray purposeful and strong leadership. Indeed, in hindsight, one can surmise that his single-minded focus on self-preservation necessitated his winning the Bengal election at all costs. In the process, he acceded sovereign territory to the Chinese and ignored all warnings on the likely impact of COVID’s second wave, with disastrous results. Ironically, he still lost Bengal and, in the process, destroyed his carefully cultivated image of being a strong and decisive leader. The likelihood of being confronted by a pandemic had been visualised two decades earlier, and appropriate processes and structures positioned for its control and mitigation. A cursory examination of the functioning of these institutions, this past year, will give us clarity on what went wrong and those responsible for the lapses. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is the apex body responsible for “framing policies, laying down guidelines and best practices for coordinating a holistic and distributed approach to disaster management”. Its responsibility extends to preparedness and capacity building, including requisite measures to



Deepak Sinha

prevent and mitigate disasters. Its importance can be gauged from the fact that its chairman is the Prime Minister, supported by a vice-chairman, of Cabinet rank, and nine other members. The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) is the second pillar of this triad and is the lead agency for formulating responses to control and mitigate pandemics. It is tasked to “undertake investigations of disease outbreaks... employing epidemiological and diagnostic tools”. In addition, it provides information, diagnostic and emergency preparedness training to officials and is responsible for applied research, quality testing of vaccines and other biologicals and providing laboratory support to the investigation and control of outbreaks. Its third pillar is the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), which is a research-oriented institution responsible for “the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research”. This amounts to “undertaking, coordinating and implementing medi-

cal research and translating medical innovations in to products/processes and introducing them in to the public health system”. In theory, the NDMA ensures that the country is prepared to deal with any disaster that may occur, and provides the necessary coordination, expertise and inputs to the Governments when needed. In the event of a pandemic, the NCDC sends out teams, conducts epidemiological research and suggests the best course of action. The ICMR, on receipt of epidemiological data, undertakes research into vaccines and processes to counter the virus and also assists in their marketing, after necessary approvals have been obtained. In practice, however, politics and turf wars have ensured a disparate response, leaving citizens to fend for themselves. Clearly, Modi had little time for the NDMA because, since the commencement of his first term, he emasculated it completely. He downgraded the vice-chairman’s post to the level of Cabinet Sec-

retary and politicised its functioning by forcing the incumbent vice-chairman and members to resign on the specious grounds of having been appointed by the previous Government, thereby ensuring that the available experience, continuity and expertise were lost. He compounded this by failing to appoint a vice-chairman, which remains vacant to this date, and appointing only five of the authorised nine members. The final nail in the coffin was to replace it, with the NITI Aayog being made the lead for providing forecasting, coordination and guidance of our response, something it was ill-equipped to do, with neither the experience nor the expertise required. As for the scientific thrust of our response to this pandemic, it appears that the NCDC was divested of its lead role by the ICMR which, as we have seen, has a completely different role. As a result, it has been overwhelmed and has been unable to do justice in fulfilling its own mandate. The reasons for this lopsided approach appear to be rooted in bureaucratic wrangling. Probably the fact that the Director General (ICMR) is also a Secretary in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, under which the NCDC also functions, and would obviously have more influence within the Government may have something to do with it. In the final analysis, this once proud nation has been brought to its knees, thanks to one man’s culpability and inability to see beyond his own selfish needs. His failure to comprehend the importance of institutions and their role in ensuring effective and efficient governance has resulted in avoidable fatalities. His enablers too must share much of the blame and be held accountable, be they Cabinet colleagues, bureaucrats or uniformed senior officers.

On board exams, we need empathy and flexibility

We have to weigh the risks and benefits of holding the Class XII board examinations. The risks posed by the virus are hidden as well as visible in terms of its intensity in the second wave. At the same time, 14 lakh students are waiting to give the year-end exams that hold the key to their academic and career progress — two lakh among them have confirmed offers of admission to foreign universities, the rider being a year-end certificate from the CBSE. Education systems around the world have had to stop classes in schools and universities. This break has led to a shift towards remote learning. Policymakers were supposed to put into place processes and procedures related to the end of key levels in school learning, especially gateway exams in schools and universities. But this wasn’t planned systematically and in a transparent manner. With increasing standardisation over the years, the stakes related to board examinations have increased. Any delay in holding these exams has a bearing on students’ academic progress. It is a challenge, therefore, for school boards to rework evaluation systems. But despite innumerable education policies talking about this imperative, we have never revisited assessment and teaching practices. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has underlined that optimising learning outcomes and the development of all students requires a change in assessment procedures. Its prescriptions include continuous tracking of learning outcomes of each child, and flexibility in board examinations. We are supposed to align our systems with the NEP and get them up and running by 2022. Some aspects of this process could have been integrated into our learning and assessment spaces, once we



Ameeta Mulla Wattal

realised that it was becoming difficult to hold the gateway exams in March. The procedure applied for Class X could have been brought into play for Class XII, with modifications. The International Baccalaureate and International General Certificate of Secondary Education announced in early February their decision to not hold exams. Their assessment systems are robust, yet flexible. It is time we went beyond conversations, webinars, and seminars on NEP 2020 and worked towards aspects of its implementation, particularly in the areas of teaching-learning and assessment. Though predicted scores can only be used as an emergency measure, this is the only recourse if examinations are cancelled. The situation demands flexibility from universities. There is no perfect solution to the current predicament beyond a clear approach and a recognition that there could be more contingencies. Of course, we have to move towards permanent changes to the exam-based system. Coursework for different levels will need to be framed and timings adjusted depending on the school’s resources and teachers. We must start moving towards school-based assessments that will help us override crises such as the one we are confronted with today. Globally, there is a trust deficit on the issue of school assessment. There is, therefore, a need to make in-

ternal assessments more representative of students’ actual achievements. Ways must be found to increase the credibility of evaluation by teachers. The digital divide has made fairness a significant issue in assessing students. During the pandemic, there is a need to offer exemptions and make adjustments. The CBSE’s two suggestions for holding the board examinations are based on offline methods. But isn’t it far-fetched to assume that the virus will not affect students appearing for fewer exams in a shorter period? How can we take for granted that those who give exams in their own schools are more secure compared to those who take these tests in other schools, over a longer time span? Schools may manage classrooms with fewer children. But how do they reduce the risk of the virus outside their premises? Many students do not have the luxury of private transport. They commute in groups in the metro, buses and cabs. Even in normal times, parents wait outside the school centres for their children to complete the exam. It has always been a challenge to manage crowds during examinations. Some states are, reportedly, prioritising teachers and students for vaccinations. However, is it certain that one shot will protect them? Caseload numbers are going down slowly. But isn’t that essentially be-

cause of lockdowns and curfews? A certain amount of time has to be given after a lockdown is lifted for the situation to normalise. Intuitively, most educators, boards and parents may want the examinations to take place but new options have to be worked out. We need immediate recovery in academic schedules, premised on the recognition that students have cleared the boards through a variety of assessment processes — predictive scores, percentiles, practicals, internal assessments of Classes XI and XII or assessments using data on a student’s performance for over a year. Exams could also be made optional. Children who need results early can be marked on internal evaluation and given pass certificates. Those wanting to follow career paths that require term-end evaluation can do so when the situation normalises. The NEP’s proposals on assessment systems for admission to higher education, slated to come into effect in 2022, can be advanced by a year — surely, there has been some work on how to take this proposal forward. Most higher education institutions in south India have tested and given provisional admissions to students. We also need to work swiftly to meet the needs of children applying to foreign universities. Some universities in Canada, the US, and UK have given firm offers with no requirement of qualifying marks except a Class XII certificate validated by the board. Normally, students are expected to join undergraduate programmes by mid-August. Their school-end results have to be received by the end of July. Last year, many students missed deadlines, even after they were stretched, and had to drop an academic year.

Rameswari and team kalanjali severd dry food to the jobless



(A.O. Bureau) Berhampur, May 28: The pandemic at his peak lockdown shut-down downs the lowers middle-class families back bone. This type such as a difficult period for many families to get a daily livelihood

product's for surve there family. In that mean time Team Kalanajali mentor Rameswari Nanda take a new hope for distributes some daily grossry dry food for some needy. Today Team Kalanajali survey and distributed dry rasan to

deserved 22families of Harijan street, Gosaninuagaon and 7 families from various places of Berhampur at outside permises of RAJARANI EN C L A V E GOSANINUAGAON. Team kalanjali distrib-

uted Rice, Dal, Puffed Rice, chatua, rojana, soyabin, dry peas, onion, potato, tomato, sugar, bread, semolina, Atta with a manner quantity. Kalanjali Chief coordinator Rameswari Nanda, Ardhendu Sekhara Panigrahi, Adv

Pranab Kumar Panda, Sradhanjali Padhy, Tapas Sahu, Kamal Raut, Asish Kumar Panda, Shiva Achary, Chandan Patro, Suresh Gouda, Tarini Charan Panda, Satyabrata Panda, Rajkumar bhai, Sunil Pradhan and Manoj Kumar Behera were attend there and helping the to distribute the package. The novel efforts from Mrs Mumbai Global India Brand-ambassador Rameswari and volunteer service from the team kalanjali highly appreciated by the local intellectuals of city.

NOC Aailed Dry Food To Cyclone Affected Slum Residers In Paradip

(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, May 28: The cyclone Yaas somehow terrified the underprivileged, who

masked, sanitizers etc. in low-laying slum areas in Paradip through its volunteer network on Thursday. NOC

Anil Kumar Senapati for making this program possible. NOC is in the process of launching mega



Jana Samasya Nivaran Sansthan Feed Every Needy People

(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, May 28: Today is world hunger day so our resolution to feed every needy people. So our leading NGO Organization named jana samasya nivaran sansthan already started it's journey. So today our team members including especially Ramakant Jena (District President), Pradeep chuli (Secretary), Himanshu



Parida (General Secretary), Amit ku Behera (TREASURER), RICH-

ARD RAMAN BISWAL (Paradeep President), Chinmay ku

Samal (Paradeep Secretary) and all our jsns members also supported a

lot. We distributed cooked food from paradeep township to attharabanki gate to the poor & physically unwell people. Apart from that our members also distributed mask, santizer & cooked food at old age home. On these pandemic situation our organisation always stand for the poor people and need a major support of paradeep people.

have already been bearing the brunt of the COVID-19 second wave. Anticipating a rise in food insecurity and scarcity, 'New Opportunity for Children's' (NOC) an leading social organization of the country as well as in the Port city of Paradip has distributed dry foods and essential goods like bread, chuda, sugar, amul powder, biscuits and candle, matches,

state coordinator Sailendri Senapati thanked organization's founder cum national secretary Jitendra Kumar Mukhi for his support and cooperation for make this drive success. Besides she thanks ground zero NOC volunteers Sukanti Mallick, S w a r n a l a t a R o u t, P r a t i m a Samantray, Prasant Mallick, Bijayalaxmi Behera and advisor

projects in various locations. And this will strengthen our work to help our slum dwellers poor brothers and sisters across the Port city of Paradip, stated Sailendri. On the other hand it is the talk of the Port city that there are many small and large industrial establishments are here and near to Paradip, but they have forgotten their moral social responsibilities.

Indian Navy Continues Relief Operations at Cyclone Affected Areas in Balasore



(A.O. Bureau) Balasore, May 28: The Navy Disaster Relief Team was deployed on 27 May 21 at Sadar block of Balasore district for carrying out relief activities in the area around Parikhi village which is worst affected due to water logging. The HADR Naval team have set up and operationalised a Community Kitchen at the Multipurpose Cyclone Shelter of Parikhi Village, Sadar block. Meals were prepared and distributed at fisherman colonies of

B u d h i g a d i y a, Nandachak, Boulbeni at Parikhi village for over 700 personnel. The community kitchen has been a big success and has provided much-needed succour to the affected people and they expressed gratitude for the timely service provided during the disaster. Another Naval Relief team is scheduled to proceed for Talasari (Northmost fishing village of Odisha) to distribute relief material in affected areas of Talasari, Bhograi, Chandramani and

Inchundi villages on 28 May 21. The team has also carried out tree cutting/clearance of certain roads at Balasore. Four naval ships with relief material have already reached Dhamra anchorage to provide relief to the people of the Bhadrak district. The helicopters from the ships were launched to augment the efforts at Balasore district. They supplied 100 prepared food material packets and 300 dry provision packets to the relief team for distribution.

COVID 19 Awareness Chariot rolled at rural area of Jharapalli

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 28: The Carana Awareness Chariot, organized by the Utkal Journalists Association in collaboration with the District Administration Police Administration Merchants Association, was attended by women and men of the village at Jhileriguda in Jharapalli Panchayat under Malkangiri block of Malkangiri district today. How to wear masks maintain social distance during the second wave of corona, repeatedly wash hands



with soap, maintain a distance of six feet, do not go outside for no reason, do not go to crowded places, everyone will be vaccinated, if there are symptoms, local Asha Didi,

Anganwadi Didi Awareness programs such as reporting to the ambulance, if necessary, The Block workers union Block president Mr Narasimha Madhi, ward member,

Sunamani Kabashi, ward member, Ram Madhi, Ura Kabashi, Sitaram Durua, Dina Madkami, Trinath Badnayak, Jitendra Khila. Mukunda Madkami, Rampad Pradhan, Manoj

khara, Batakrishna Sahu and Utkal Sambadik Sangha President Shri Duryodhan Patra, secretary Satyanarayana Das, Srinivasa Patra are also key members were present.

The mother of a journalist from the UJA Malkangiri pass away

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 28: At the age of 50, the mother of Sanjay Dhali, a Malkangiri district representative of ONA Media, was died on Wednesday night. She died at the Malkangiri District General Hospital two days ago after suffering from kidney disease for many years. He was a sweetheart and a matchmaker. The son and daughter-in-



law were having a good time. They were rushed to a hospital, where he was treated for chest pains. Three sons, a daughter-in-law

and a husband were present at the time of her death. The funeral was held at Malkangiri Hospital in MV 84 village of Padmagiri panchayat. Other members of the Malkangiri Utkal Journalists Association, including the president, secretary, joint secretary, and treasurer, were present at the funeral. the great loss for the journalists family

Covid-infected Naxals killed, 3 arrested dramatically



(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 28: The Maoists are no longer afraid of the Javanese shooting. "It simply came to our notice then. Odisha and Chhattisgarh state police have confirmed the allegations. The corona infection has played havoc in the Maoist camp. yesterday morning, a dead and three living Maoists were caught in a dramatic Telangana Kotagudem police net. A Maoomer and lost the survivors, as the rest of three others. According to police, the deceased was identified as

Kursam Gangia. He is the commander of the Dakshakaran South Bastar Technical Team. For the past four days, three other Maoists have come to hospital after being infected with coronary heart disease. However, Maoist commander Kursam died just before being admitted to the hospital. The three Maoists, who were brought to the hospital by the corona-infected Maoist leader, were spotted by Manuguru police in a car. The police arrested them after they were the mob in more pathosha.

New police officer Prashant Kumar Nishika joined at Padia

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 28: New police officer Prashant Kumar Nishika has joined the Padia police station under the Padia block of Malkangiri district. According to information received, police officer Prashant Kumar Nishika was worked as the the IIC in the Ramgiri station of Koraput district.



Incharga was working, and he joined the Padia police station as a new police officer last Saturday. Earlier, IIC at Padia

police station. Ranjan Kumar Majhi, who, has been transferred to the Malkangiri police station in the district. "It is my first duty to maintain law and order in the field, to act in accordance with the law, to provide security and justice to those who come to the police station or to the police," said Prashant Kumar Nishika.

A Maoist and Javanese clash in the Bengapali forest in CG. one Maoist killed

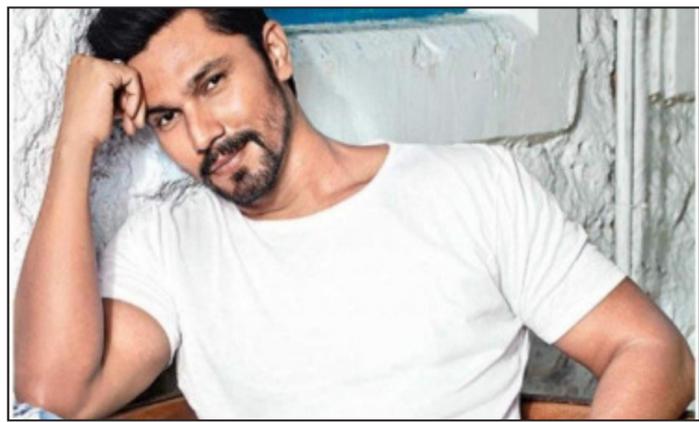


(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 28: Encounter in Dantewada district of border state Chhattisgarh. The police killed a Maoist

in an encounter bullets. Two indigenous guns at the scene, as well as landmines and a large quantity of explosives were seized. Accord-

ing to information received, DRG Javan's combing operation was going on in Bengapali forest under Kirandul police station. At that time, the Maoists and the Javanese came face to face. Dantewada District SP Abhishek Pallabh informed Javan were not injured in the exchange of fire. search operation is under process.

Randeep Hooda Trolled For Casteist Remark On Mayawati



Mumbai, May 28: Many times we speak and say something, due to which people have to fall prey to anger. Bollywood actor Randeep Hooda recently said something against the former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati, due to which people are provoking him on social media. He joked 'sexist' and 'racist' by taking the name of BSP supremo Mayawati, whose video is now becoming very

viral on social media. After this video of Randeep appears, people are asking him to apologize as soon as possible. Bollywood actor Randeep Hooda has come under target of a section of netizens for this lewd joke about Mayawati. In the video which is going viral to the actor, he tells the sitting audience that he wants to tell them a 'dirty joke'. In the video, he is heard saying, 'Mayawati is going with 2 children. During this time a person asked

them that these children are twins? So Mayawati said that no one is four years old and the other is eight years old. 'All is well here, but after this, people do not like what they say. Sharing the video, a user tweeted and said, 'Top Bollywood actor Randeep Hooda is talking about a Dalit woman who has been the voice of the oppressed'. The user called it racist and sexist. Another user wrote, 'Randeep Hooda, it shows how sexist, racist and stupid you are'.

Sonia Rathee: Sidharth Shukla was an absolute favourite of everyone on Broken But Beautiful 3

Mumbai, May 28: Debutante Sonia Rathee is 'beyond excited' about her upcoming show, Broken But Beautiful 3. A story of love and heartbreak, with obsession and complicated emotions thrown in for good measure, the AltBalaji show returns with a new cast this time — fan favourite Sidharth Shukla, who is making his first big appearance after stepping out of Bigg Boss house, with Sonia in tow. Sonia is all set for the journey. "I am just in awe at how many people liked our trailer. I am just hoping they like the show too," she said hours before the premiere of Broken But Beautiful 3. The Indo-American actor, in an exclusive chat with indianexpress.com, said she was aware of her co-star's popularity but refrained from reading too much on him. "He is all over social media and we all know how much he is loved. But I really did not want to go in with a preconceived notion. I

wanted to judge him for myself," said Sonia, adding that it was a blast working with Sidharth. "It was great and so much fun with him. There was actually never a boring moment when Sidharth was around. He used to pull jokes at everyone, and I was such an easy target. He is an absolute favourite of everyone and I really enjoyed shooting with him," shared Sonia Rathee. The Bigg Boss 13 winner is also making his digital debut with the show. From the time the first look of his character, Agastya Rao, has been revealed fans have been in a frenzy. However, there has been a section that wanted Sidharth and Shehnaaz Gill in the lead role. However, for Sonia, the actor shared that she is overwhelmed with the way his fans welcomed her, "I have gotten such great feedback. I am just overwhelmed to have got an audience like that. Honestly, I wasn't expecting so many people

to show so much love. I am just too grateful for it." Interestingly, the actor revealed that she feels she manifested Broken But Beautiful 3 in her life. Her brother Ankur Rathee's fiancée Anuja Joshi was part of the second season (Debbie), and Sonia had accompanied her to

actress of Rumi that made the young actor say yes. Having gone through three rounds of audition, as she started finding more about the part, she wanted to do it. "Rumi is this 20-something girl still figuring out life. She is like most of us and what I really loved about her was

were loved by all. However, she says she didn't feel any pressure. "While filming I knew it was a very different project from what has been done, hence I didn't feel like that. I had blocked out the past seasons and I am thankful that no one made a comparison. However,



a photoshoot for the show. "I had just moved to India and tagged along with her. I was so impressed that I was wishing I could also get a project like this. I think I completely manifested it," she shared with a smile. However, it was the char-

acter of Rumi that made the young actor say yes. Having gone through three rounds of audition, as she started finding more about the part, she wanted to do it. "Rumi is this 20-something girl still figuring out life. She is like most of us and what I really loved about her was

now that people are asking then, yes, maybe there is a pressure," she said. Lastly, stating that everything that 'breaks' leaves something 'beautiful' behind, Sonia said, "We all go through heart breaks, we all get our trust broken.

Kamya Panjabi: It's difficult seeing my husband go for hospital rounds everyday wearing PPE kits

Mumbai, May 28: Given the health crisis the country is grappling with, venturing out anywhere is a big no-no unless really urgent. However, for frontline workers and those who providing on-ground help, it's a risk they take every single day they spend outside. Actor Kamya Panjabi says she understands this feeling too well, as her husband, Shalabh Dang, is on the management board of a hospital chain worldwide and is, thus, supposed to visit the branches across India. "He has to visit hos-



pitals across Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Punjab. He has to travel and go to the corporate office even during this crisis. The way they show it on television, I've seen him wear the full PPE kit and go out everyday for rounds; it's very diffi-

cult," Panjabi admits. Well aware of the situation in hospitals, and the way frontline workers have been working tirelessly, the actor confesses, "At times, I want to tell him that he shouldn't go, but I can't say that." She had recently taken to social

media to help someone in need, asking them their details, so Dang could do whatever was possible. "So many people are dying every single day. There's lack of oxygen and beds in hospital. Bauhau dar lagta hai, aam janta pareshaan hai, itna kuchh ho raha hai. It's painful watching the news, but you can't run away from reality. You can't escape something, which is happening around you. I'm not one of those, who wouldn't see what's happening. So, in whatever capacity I can help, I will,"

she tells us. On how she processes SOS requests on social media, Panjabi shares that she checks with her husband first, if it's possible to help. "If he says he'll try, I get in touch with the person. I'm not the one to say, 'Maine yeh donate kiya, woh donate kiya'. At times, before directly messaging someone, I've to put it on social media. A person in such a situation is mentally disturbed or busy, so the person will check his phone if they know they're going to get a call," ends the actor.

Sushant Singh Rajput's Friend Arrested By NCB



Mumbai, May 28: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) team has arrested Sushant's friend Siddharth Pithani (Siddharth Pithani) in connection with the murder of Bollywood

actor Sushant Singh Rajput. It is reported that Siddharth Pithani has been arrested by the team of Narcotics Control Bureau from Hyderabad and brought to Mumbai. Siddharth

Pithani, friend of Sushant Singh Rajput, has engaged last week. Photos of Siddharth Pithani's engagement became increasingly viral on social media. After the death of Sushant, the name of many people related to his life came in the media. One of these people was his friend Siddharth Pithani. It is said that for the first time, Siddharth Pithani saw Sushant's body hanging from the fan inside the house. After which he called the police and the hospital.

Bimbisara first look: Nandamuri Kalyanram transforms into the barbarian king, seated on a throne of corpses

Hyderabad, May 28: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of his grandfather, late actor NT Rama Rao, actor Nandamuri Kalyanram unveiled the first look motion poster and the title of his next film. Titled Bimbisara, the film

give a glimpse of the mythical kingdom that is surrounded by huge mountains on one side and the waterfalls of Baahubali variety on the other. From there, the visuals shift to a warzone where many soldiers are seen eviscerated by the

with blood and gore. Kalyanram is producing the film under his NTR Arts banner. The movie marks the directorial debut of Vashist and has the musical score from Chirantan Bhatt of Gautamiputra Satakarni fame. Bimbisara stars



marks Kalyanram's foray into the socio-fantasy genre. Sharing the motion poster on social media, he wrote: "In a mythical land lost to history, there lived a barbarian King. This is his tale." In the first look motion poster of Bimbisara, the makers

"barbarian king" Bimbisara, played by Nandamuri Kalyanram. To give a picture of his bloodlust and power, the first look presents him seated on a throne of dead bodies. Overall, the first look of Bimbisara promises a mythical tale that is filled

Catherine Tresa, Samyuktha Menon, Vennela Kishore, and Srinivasa Reddy in other lead roles. On the work front, Kalyanram will also star in a yet-to-be-titled movie under the direction of Rajendra. Mythri Movie Makers are the producers for this project.

Kishwer recalls casting couch experience, says she was told to sleep with hero

New Delhi, May 28: Actor Kishwer Merchant has opened up about how she once faced casting couch. She said that she was asked to 'sleep with the hero', adding that the hero and the producer were 'big names'. Kishwer is expecting her first child with husband Suyash Rai. She has been giving her fans glimpses of her pregnancy journey. Kishwer has shared her diet as well as pregnancy clothing hacks. Speaking to a leading daily on casting couch, she said, "It happened with me when I had gone for a meeting - but just once. My mother was accompanying me. I was told that I'll have to sleep with the hero. I politely



turned down the offer and we left. I wouldn't say ki ye bahut hota hai

(I wouldn't say that it happens a lot) or it's a normal thing. Industry

badnaam hai lekin har industry mein ye cheez hoti hai (The industry is infamous but it happens in every industry)." When asked if the hero and the producer, were very big names, she replied, "Yes, very big names." Asked if the experience had kept her away from movies, she replied, "Nope, I was very focused at work...I was more inclined towards TV. I kept getting work in quality and quantity. All said and done, I am very happy with the way my career shaped up." She also added, "I stuck more to TV because I think it gives you more recognition. Small roles in films serve no purpose." Kishwer and Suyash had announced that they

were expecting a baby in March. On Instagram, Suyash had written, "Mai tere bacche ka baap banne wala hun @kishwersmerchant (I am going to become the father of your child)! Coming this August." Kishwer, on her Instagram page, had said, "You can now stop asking 'when are you guys gonna have a baby?' Coming Soon." In an interview with Hindustan Times, she spoke about becoming a mother at 40. "Being a mother at 40 is cool and age is just a number. It was destined to happen this year, I guess. I asked all sorts of questions to the doctor but she's asked me not to worry," she said.

Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt's moms Neetu Kapoor and Soni Razdan party together

Bengaluru, May 28: Neetu Kapoor and Soni Razdan met up with their friends on Thursday night and the photos of the get-together are being shared

online. It seems while Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor are keeping a low profile these days, their mothers had a good time with their friends. Neetu, who is

quite active on her Instagram account, shared a photo on her Instagram story where she is seen with Soni Razdan, Anu Ranjan and another friend on

Thursday night. Soni had also shared a photo from the jungles of Ranthambore in Rajasthan where she was vacationing along with Shaheen, Alia,

Ranbir, Neetu and Riddhima Kapoor Sahni on New Year's Eve. Coincidentally, Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone were also holidaying at the same place.

WTC Final: India, NZ to be adjudged joint winners in case of draw or tie

Dubai, May 28: India and New Zealand will be adjudged joint winners of the inaugural World Test Championship if their final clash in Southampton ends in a draw or tie, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said on Friday. According to the playing conditions unveiled by the global body, "a draw or a tie will see both teams crowned as joint winners..." The ICC has also allocated a Reserve Day to make up for any lost time during the regular days of the Final, scheduled to be played from 18 to 22 June, with 23 June set aside as the Reserve Day. "Both of these decisions were made in June 2018, prior to the commencement of the ICC World Test Championship." The Reserve Day has been scheduled



to ensure five full days of play, and it will only be used if lost playing time cannot be recovered through the normal provisions for each day. "There will be no additional day's play if a positive result is not achieved after five full days of play and the match will be declared a

draw in such a scenario," the ICC stated. In the event of time being lost during the match, the ICC match referee will regularly update the teams and media about the way in which the Reserve Day may be used. The final decision on whether the Reserve Day needs to be used

will be announced at the scheduled start of the last hour on the fifth day. While India play at home with SG Test and New Zealand use Kookaburra at home, the final will be played with Grade 1 Dukes balls. The final will also feature the implementation of three changes to interna-

tional playing conditions, which were brought into effect with the ongoing World Cup Super League series between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka: Short Runs -- The Third Umpire will automatically review any call of a 'short run' by the on-field umpire and communicate the decision prior to the next ball being bowled. Player Reviews -- The fielding captain or the dismissed batsman will be able confirm with the umpire whether a genuine attempt has been made to play the ball prior to deciding whether to initiate a review for LBW. DRS Reviews -- For LBW reviews, the height margin of the wicket zone has been lifted to the top of the stumps to ensure the same Umpire's Call margin around the stumps for both height and width.

Lausanne, May 28: Olympic athletes were told by the IOC that a waiver they must sign releasing Tokyo organizers from liability for COVID-19 issues was "standard practice" for major sports events. The issue was raised when IOC president Thomas Bach took questions to cap a two-day online conference hosted by the official Olympic commission representing athletes. "I know this is a concern for a number of you," Bach said, before asking IOC chief operating officer Lana Haddad to give what he called "an expert's answer." The waiver is included in the traditional entry form Olympic athletes must sign, which was "updated to include COVID-19 related consideration," Haddad said. "This is really to provide transpar-

ency and ensure the informed consent from the games participants," she explained. "The entry

part in the July 23-Aug. 8 Tokyo Olympics. The games will bring tens of thousands more



forms are consistent with the standard practice of all other big event organizers. And the forms are within the framework of the law, if I may add." Athlete groups not formally recognized by the IOC have argued that too much risk and responsibility is being placed on the 11,000 competitors set to take

coaches, officials, media and other support workers into Japan. The IOC and Japan's government insist the games will be safe and secure with participants kept mostly isolated from the general public. Tokyo is currently in a state of emergency and fewer than 5% of Japanese people have been vaccinated.

Asian Boxing Championship: Sakshi Choudhary loses final spot on bout review

Dubai, May 28: Indian boxer Sakshi Choudhary (54kg) has lost her final spot in the Asian Championships after her rival, top-seeded Kazakh Dina Zholaman, successfully challenged the narrow vic-

tority that the two-time youth world champion had clinched in the last-four stage. Sakshi had prevailed 3-2 in the regulation bout but the decision was challenged by the Kazakh team and eventually overturned. "Kazakhstan's Dina Zholaman defeated India's Sakshi Choudhary at the women's bantam-

weight (54kg)," the Asian Boxing Confederation announced. Zholaman was the declared winner in the official result sheet that came out at the end of the day's proceedings late on Thursday night. "The Kazakh team sought a review of the third round, which it felt should have been scored in favour of their boxer. On review, the jury found their contention to be correct and overturned the original verdict," a source in the Indian contingent told PTI. The bout review system was introduced by the International Boxing Association (AIBA) in 2019. The team manager or the head coach of the losing boxer gets 15 minutes after the decision is announced to submit their protest and complete the paperwork for it in the next 30 minutes. Decisions with scores 5-0 or 4-1 are not reviewable under this system. Each team is allowed up to two failed reviews. "If the Technical Delegate determines, after consulting the Bout Review Jury, that the protest should be allowed to proceed, the bout will be reviewed by the Jury, the Observer, the Referee Evaluator and the Judge Evaluator," the AIBA had said. In case of a protest claiming that an AIBA technical rule was violated by the referee, the aggrieved team has to specify the breach, the round in which it allegedly took place, and how it affected the final result.



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Saina Nehwal, Kidambi Srikanth miss out on Tokyo Games with no more qualifiers

New Delhi, May 28: Kidambi Srikanth and Saina Nehwal's slim hopes of qualifying for Tokyo Games ended after the game's governing body (BWF) on Friday made it clear there will not be any change in the current ranking list and no further tournament will be held inside the qualification period. Former world no 1 Srikanth and London Games bronze-medallist Saina's hopes were all but dashed when the last of the Olympic qualifiers in Singapore was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The duo had hung on a slim hope when the governing body said it "will issue a further statement on Tokyo Olympics qualifying at a later date". "The Badminton World Federation (BWF) can confirm no further tournaments will be played inside the To-



kyo 2020 Olympic Games qualifying window," the apex body said in a statement on Friday. "As such, while the qualification period officially closes 15 June 2021 as per the Revised Tokyo 2020 Qualification System, the current Race To Tokyo rankings list will not change." Owing to the

health crisis, the world body had earlier revised the qualification period, extending it by nearly two months to June 15 after postponement of three important events. However, with no respite from the pandemic, BWF was forced to cancel or postpone the last three qualifiers — India

Open, Malaysia Open and Singapore Open, leaving players, including Srikanth and Saina, with no chance to earn a qualification. "The Olympic qualification process is in effect closed as there are no additional opportunities for players to earn points," BWF secretary general Thomas Lund

said. "However, we still need to receive confirmations from National Olympic Committees and Member Associations, followed by any possible reallocations, and this will take a number of weeks to complete." According to the qualification rules, the top 16 players — a maximum of two players each in men's and women's singles from a country — as on June 15 will gain direct entries. The BWF said "invitations will be sent shortly with final participation lists and seedings to be published at the conclusion of this process." Indian shuttlers who have already made the cut for the Olympics include PV Sindhu, B Sai Praneeth, and the men's doubles pairing of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy.

Bird, plane, Johannes Vetter's javelin 'No-one is invincible'

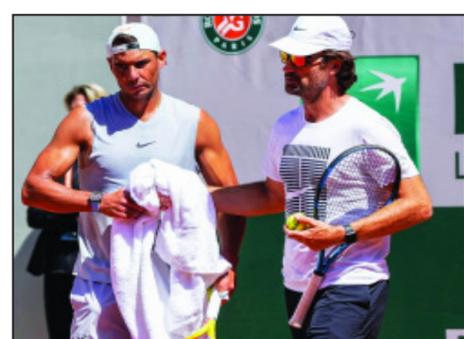
New Delhi, May 28: What has become habitual this season for the 6'1" and 103-kilogram athlete from Dresden are 90 metre-plus throws. Vetter, a favourite for the Olympic gold in Tokyo, has seven such throws this season. His recent feats are evoking comparisons with one of the greatest, world record holder Jan Zelezny. The Czech's 14 throws over 90 metres back in 1995 is a single-season record, according to World Athletics. Vetter remains in the shadow of the Czech great, but for how long is the question. In September, Vetter came close to bettering Zelezny's hallowed mark of 98.48 metres set in the mid-nineties. At the Continental Tour Gold event in Chorzow, Poland, officials, caught napping, had to run to the far end of

the field to retrieve the javelin. Vetter's 97.76 metres was as close as anyone had got to rewriting the record books since Zelezny in 1996. In the year of the postponed Olympics, the 28-year-old has made 'consistency' his middle name. In a short span of time, he has won four events in a row with 90-metre throws. Only Zelezny, with five back-to-back wins in the same year, can boast of a better run at this distance. Built like an oak and strong as an ox, Vetter has combined technique and power to become an awe-inspiring giant in the javelin throw. Every other week, he has launched

carbon-fused meteors across stadiums as 'gravity-defying' becomes less of a cliché. Wind conditions or the temperature, two factors that can affect participants of the

here, the wind was a bit difficult, always changing a bit, the wind directions, still 94.20 metres." Two days later on Friday, Vetter didn't go off the boil. At the Anhalt Meeting, part of the World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze series, in Dessau, he registered a throw of 93.20 metres in the third round. He followed it up with 88.09 metres after which he decided not to stretch himself and skipped the last two rounds. "It was a great throw," said the 2017 World Championships gold medallist. "But of course the world record would be even better. It was great training for me. I made only small mis-

takes and managed to hit the javelin very cleanly." Questions about the world record are bound to be asked to Vetter. With two months to go for the Olympics, experts believe one of the longer-standing marks could fall. "His technique has improved and is more stable in the important parts. He will probably do it sometime (break the record). Maybe this year. He is also not far from 100 metres. Can't see someone else doing this at the moment," Uwe Hohn, the only athlete to throw the javelin over 100 metres, tells. Hohn, the javelin coach of the Indian team, achieved what is known as the 'eternal world record' of 104.80 metres in 1984. Two years later the centre of gravity of the sphere was moved forward to shorten distances.



Paris, May 28: Rafael Nadal said "no-one is invincible" in an interview on Thursday as he targets a 14th French Open title and record-setting 21st Grand Slam crown. "No-one is invincible, anywhere," said Nadal whose career record at Roland Garros stands at 100 victories against just two losses since his title-winning Paris debut in 2005. "This year I lost (early) in Monte Carlo and Madrid. I hope not

to lose here (Paris) at Roland Garros. What I can do is fight." Victory in the final in Paris on June 13 will take Nadal past the record of 20 majors he currently shares with Roger Federer. Despite his remarkable history in Paris, Nadal, who turns 35 on June 3, admits he remains stunned at his longevity in a sport where he has been an ever-present in the world top 10 since 2005. When asked if he

could have imagined still playing in his mid-30s, Nadal said: "Ten years ago, no. But if you had asked me the question two years ago, maybe I would have answered yes. "Ten years ago, I had so many physical problems that it was difficult for me to imagine that my career would last so long," added the Spaniard, whose career has been plagued by a series of knee injuries. Nadal will start this year's French Open as the overwhelming favourite once again, boosted by his recent win over world number one Novak Djokovic in the Rome Masters final. 62 clay court titles of Nadal's 88 career titles, 62 have come on clay. He has won at least 10 times each at Roland Garros, Monte Carlo, Rome and Barcelona.



TPCODL's proactive steps prevent major damage and ensure quick restoration



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 28: Amidst the ongoing pandemic, Tropical cyclone 'YAAS' whiplashed the country's eastern coasts on Wednesday i.e. 26.05.21 dumping heavy rain, damaging houses, farmlands and the electrical network. TPCODL prepared the Disaster Management Plan (DMP) well in advance to mitigate the risk based on learning from previous experiences. In DMP, structured approach was defined covering preventive measures, defined roles and responsibility during disas-

ter and plan for arranging required material/machinery in case of exigency. After the announcement of Cyclonic Storm 'Yaas', TPCODL immediately identified the area which were expected to be impacted by the severe cyclonic storm, well in advance. In line with defined DMP, approx. 10,000 present, and additional manpower along with adequate materials and machineries were deployed at the likely affected areas to take up restoration work immediately. Quick restoration teams were formed within Sub Divisions and

clear roles & responsibilities were defined to complete the restoration in the least time possible. The after-effects of YAAS has been devastating, amongst the most severely affected areas are sections of Kendrapada (Area-Aul, Rajkanika, Rajnagar-2), Marshaghai (Area-Babar, Mahakalpada), Paradeep (Area-Chatua) and Jagatsinghpur (Area-Balikuda-2). The entire area has been submerged in water, roads have been blocked due to fallen trees, conductors have snapped under

the weight of branches, and most of the area is suffering with heavy waterlogging. Post cyclone, restoration work was initiated on a war footing note. Within a record time of 2hrs, power supply to all hospitals, COVID Care Centres, ICU units and Oxygen Plants were provided. All District HQ's/CHC were restored with power supply on priority basis. With continuous monitoring, systematic patrolling of feeders and clearing of network lines, TPCODL was able to restore 70% of the power supply within 8hrs of landfall. Addi-

tionally, TPCODL was able to maintain 100% power supply to the twin cities (Cuttack and BBSR) due to clear focus area and systematic maintenance of the network. As of now, 85% of the network has been restored and power supply is provided to the affected areas. For the remaining 15%, we are waiting for the water to recede to restore the balance supply. TPCODL Team is working round the clock to restore power supply in phase manner with safety and caution. Speaking on restoration of power supply Mr. M Shenbagam, CEO, TPCODL said, "Key to mitigate the risk of Cyclone and reduce its impact is to be well prepared with pre-monsoon activities like tree trimming, rectifying identified vulnerable hotspots, preventive maintenance of Distribution Transformers etc. Having done that, we reduced the impact and jumped into action with all the resources for quick restoration to ensure customers are least affected".

Cancellation Of Trains From 1st To 10th June, 2021

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 28: 01. 08456/08455 Bhubaneswar-Kendujhargarh-Bhubaneswar Special; 02. 08412/08411 Bhubaneswar-Bhadrak-Bhubaneswar Special; 03. 08438/08437 Cuttack-Bhadrak-Cuttack Special; 04. 08461/08462 Cuttack-Paradeep-Cuttack Special; 05. 08454/08453 Cuttack-Bhadrak-Cuttack Special; 06. 08493/08494 Bhubaneswar-Balangir-Bhubaneswar Special.

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS ON NOMINATED DAYS FROM 1ST TO 11TH JUNE, 2021: 08528/08527 Visakhapatnam-Raipur-Visakhapatnam Special from Visakhapatnam from 1st to 10th June and from Raipur from 2nd to 11th June, 2021. 08445/08446 Bhubaneswar-Jagadapur-Bhubaneswar Special from Bhubaneswar from 1st to 10th and from Jagadapur from 2nd to 11th June, 2021. 08515/08516 Visakhapatnam-Kirandul-Visakhapatnam Special from Visakhapatnam from 1st to 10th and from Kirandul from 2nd to 11th June, 2021. 08561/08562 Visakhapatnam-Kacheguda-Visakhapatnam Special from Visakhapatnam from 1st to 10th and from Kacheguda from 2nd to 11th June, 2021. 02882/02881 Bhubaneswar-Pune-Bhubaneswar Special from Bhubaneswar on 1st & 8th and from Pune on 3rd & 10th June, 2021. 02882/02881 Puri-LTT-Puri Special from Puri on 1st & 8th and from LTT on 3rd & 10th June, 2021. 02882/02879 Bhubaneswar-LTT-Bhubaneswar Special from Bhubaneswar on 31st May & 3rd, 7th, 10th June and from LTT on 2nd, 5th, 9th & 12th June, 2021. 07488/07487 Visakhapatnam-Cuddapah-Visakhapatnam Special from Visakhapatnam from 1st to 10th and from Cuddapah from 2nd to 11th June, 2021. 02831/02832 Visakhapatnam-Lingampalli-Visakhapatnam Special from Visakhapatnam from 1st to 10th and from Lingampalli from 2nd to 11th June, 2021.

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS ON WEEKENDS, 5TH & 6TH JUNE (SATURDAY & SUNDAY): 08428/08427 Puri-Angul-Puri Special, 08432/08431 Puri-Cuttack-Puri Special, 08433/08434 Bhubaneswar-Palasa-Bhubaneswar Special, 02892/02891 Bhubaneswar-Bangiriposi-Bhubaneswar Special, 08301/08302 Sambalpur-Rayagada-Sambalpur Special.

PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF TRAINS: A. 08428/08427 Puri-Angul-Puri Special from 1st to 4th and from 7th to 10th June, 2021 will run between Puri and Talcher and will remain cancelled between Talcher and Angul from both the directions. B. 08301/08302 Sambalpur-Rayagada-Sambalpur Special from 1st to 4th and from 7th to 10th June, 2021 will run between Sambalpur and Titilagarh and will remain cancelled between Titilagarh and Rayagada from both the directions. C. 02097/02098 Bhubaneswar-Junagarh Road-Bhubaneswar Special from Bhubaneswar from 1st to 10th and from Junagarh Road from 2nd to 11th June, 2021 will run between Bhubaneswar and Rayagada and will remain cancelled between Rayagada and Junagarh Road from both the directions.

RAJDHANI SPECIAL TRAINS TO



RUN TWICE A WEEK: 02823 Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express Special via Tata will run on Tuesdays from Bhubaneswar up to 10th June, 2021. Remaining days of this train will remain cancelled w.e.f. 3rd June, 2021. 02824 New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express Special via Tata will run on Wednesdays from New Delhi during the period. Remaining days of this train will remain cancelled up to 10th June, 2021. 02825/02826 Bhubaneswar-New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express Special via Adra from Bhubaneswar will run on Sundays and from New Delhi will run on Mondays during the period. This train will remain cancelled on 2nd & 9th June from Bhubaneswar and on 4th & 11th June, 2021 from New Delhi. 02855/02856 Bhubaneswar-New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express Special via Sambalpur City & Rourkela will remain cancelled on 5th June, 2021 from Bhubaneswar and on 6th June, 2021 from New Delhi.

PRS COUNTERS TO REMAIN OPEN TILL 2000HRS: In view of preventive measures for Covid19, it has been decided to open Passenger Reservation System (PRS) Counters till 2000hrs (08.00p.m.) only till the lockdown is in force.

Cross Sections of Society Mourn Shrimantini Dwibedi's Death

(A.O. Bureau) New Delhi, May 28: Cross Sections People of the Society have mourned the demise of Shrimantini Dwibedi. Thousands of condolence messages have been received by Dwibedi family since her passing away on 14th May 2021. The Representatives of Odia Samaj in different Countries, prominent leaders of Odia Diaspora and people of different walks of life have expressed shock and sorrow in Smt Dwibedi's Death. Distinguished dignitaries



have paid glowing tributes in the memory of departed soul and prayed for her ultimate salvation and eternal peace. In a Condolence message the Governor of Odisha Professor Ganeshi Lal mentioned that Smt

Shrimantini Dwibedi was well known as a Philanthropist and pious person. The Governor of Andhra Pradesh Shri Biswabhusan Harichandan described Smt Dwibedi as a Woman having

cool, simple, affectionate and affable nature. The Speaker of the Odisha Legislative Assembly Dr. Surjya Narayan Patro in a message expressed shock over the sad demise of Smt Dwibedi. Pointing that Smt Dwibedi was the mother of his close friend Senior Journalist Kishore Dwibedi, Dr. Patro said that he has been knowing her and Dwibedi family since a long time. Describing Smt Dwibedi as a soft spoken, affectionate, helpful, religious and benevolent human being, Dr.

Patro prayed Lord Jagannath to rest the sacred soul in eternal peace. Expressing sorry to hear about the sad news Comptroller and Auditor General of India Girish Chandra Murmu, conveyed his heartfelt condolences. In a message the Governor of Reserve Bank of India Shakti Kant Das expressed his deep condolences and prayed for the soul to rest in peace. The renowned spiritual Guru Dr. Chandrabhanu Satpathy, invoked Lord Sai BaBa to bless her and provide peace to her soul.

The snake released the snake into the forest with oxygen



(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, May 28: Any animal needs oxygen to survive. Life is guaranteed to be lacking in oxygen. Similar incidents have been reported in the case of snakes. Today, a snake broke into the house of a man in Nuaguda Sahi in Malkangiri Sadar sub-division. So the snake was completely unconscious after the snake was rescued by

members of the Snake Help Line. So the snake regained consciousness after the snake filled the mouth of the snake with a pipe in its mouth with the help of a pipe. Showing such humanity has shocked everyone across the region. According to reports, a snake was spotted at a man's house in Nuaguda Sahi and reported to the Snake Helpline. Snehashish Nayak, a

member of the Snake Helpline, and his team arrived at the scene and rescued a four-foot-long snake from the house wall. But the snake was found to be unconscious. After all attempts to bring the snake back to consciousness failed, the protagonist gave oxygen to Cobra's face with the help of a pipe; As a result, the snake regained consciousness after a while and began to move. Members of the team drank the snake and released some water to the nearby forest. This beautiful relationship between humans and reptiles is incomparable. Locals congratulated him and his team on their efforts to save the snake.

Startup Story features the journey of Arvind Pani & his brand Reverie Tech

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, May 28: The third episode of OdishaLIVE produced monthly web series 'Startup Story' features the interesting journey of Arvind Pani, a young, Odia techno entrepreneur and his startup Reverie Language Technologies. Hosted by Odisha Skill Development Authority Chairman Subroto Bagchi, 'Startup Story' showcases the dreams, struggle and success of young Odia startup founders. The new episode of the series airs on June 1 at OdishaLIVE YouTube & Facebook channels. Arvind Pani, an innovative Odia entrepreneur, is an inspiration to the younger generation and students of technology and business administration those who are interested in

startups. Subroto Bagchi, host of 'Startup Story' has delved deep into Arvind's entrepreneurial life, bringing out the struggle and success behind his journey. Arvind Pani, along with his brother Vivek Pani, and other co-founders first started a company dealing with mobile payments and commerce solution in 2007. But within a couple years, they decided to wind it up. The mixed experience of success and failure in the first startup gave him the hard taste of entrepreneurship which led to the next venture i.e. Reverie. In the last few years, India has made rapid strides in the digital domain. Today, the use of Indian languages on the internet and mobile phones has reached a new height. Arvind's startup 'Reverie



Language Technologies' stands as a unique solution provider in the field of language localization for web and mobile mediums. Leading digital news platform OdishaLIVE brings the monthly web series 'Startup Story' to capture and showcase the journey of successful Odia startup founders. While the video interview is posted to the YouTube and Facebook channels of the digital media, the audio and text versions reach the audience

through partner media channels. Mr. Subroto Bagchi, an inspiration to the younger generation and the startup and business world has been a special attraction of the series as he conducts the conversation in his inimitable style. The videos under Startup Story series can be a source of information and inspiration for young entrepreneurs, startup companies, students and people interested in enterprise development. The programme

is being produced by OdishaLIVE in association with Startup Odisha, the startup arm of govt. of Odisha. Similarly, 'Mo College', an autonomous wing under the higher education department, Govt. of Odisha has been linked as the knowledge partner. Industry partners include IMFA, TIE Bhubaneswar and FICCI. Being the print partner, leading Odia daily 'Sambad' publishes the interview in 'Rabibar Sambad'. The audio is being broadcast on Radio Choklate 104 FM and Community Radio Stations like Radio Namaskar and Radio Surabhi. Moreover, a short version of each interview is published on the OdishaLIVE News Portal and the digital platforms of Sambad.