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Vaccinate athletes ASAP, says PM Modi at meet to prep for Tokyo Olympics

New Delhi, Jun 3: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday took stock of India's preparations for the Olympics in Tokyo, Japan and directed officials to ensure that every athlete and support staff travelling for the games is vaccinated as soon as possible. A scaled down version of the Games, postponed from last year at the cost of an extra \$3.5 billion, is scheduled to start on July 23. On Thursday, according to news agency Reuters, the head of Japan's Olympics organising committee ruled another suspension of the Games, despite deep disquiet at the prospect of thousands of athletes and officials arriving during a fourth wave of Covid-19 infections. In New Delhi, officials told the prime minister that ef-



forts are being made to ensure uninterrupted training for athletes. "From vaccination to training facilities, every need of our sportspersons must be fulfilled on top priority," PM Modi told the officials, according to a statement by the Prime Minister's Office. PM Modi was told that a total of 100 athletes have qualified for Tokyo Olympics across 11 sports disciplines and

about 25 more athletes are likely to qualify. "While a total of 19 Indian athletes had participated at the last Paralympics in 2016 at Rio de Janeiro, 26 para-athletes have qualified (this year) and 16 more athletes are likely to qualify..." the PMO statement said. PM Modi said that he will connect with the Olympics contingent through a video conference in July to encourage them

and wish them on behalf of all Indians "...Sports is at the heart of our national character... For every young sportsperson shining on the global stage, a thousand more will be inspired to take up sports," PM Modi said. Tokyo Olympics chief Seiko Hashimoto has said that the cancellation of the games was not very likely and could happen only if the majority of the countries are

CM Naveen Patnaik Sanctions Rs 67.52 Lakh From CMRF for Stray Animals In Third Phase

Bhubaneswar, Jun 3: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today sanctioned an amount of Rs 67.52 lakh from his relief fund for stray animals in urban areas. The money will be used to feed all stray animals

20,000 per day, four other municipal corporations can spend Rs 10,000 per day, each. Besides, 48 municipalities can spend Rs 5,000 each and 61 NACs can spend Rs 2,000 thousand each,

the CM sanctioned Rs 15 crore from the CMRF for management of COVID-19 situation in Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) area. Earlier, CMC had received Rs 26.71 crore for the purpose.



during the extended lockdown. While the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) will spend Rs

per day. Earlier this year, the Chief minister had sanctioned Rs 1.13 crore in two phases for this purpose. This apart,

With this, CMC received a total amount of Rs 41.71 crore for COVID-19 management.

Odisha Lockdown: This Service Exempted From Restrictions



Bhubaneswar, Jun 3: Revising the guidelines, Odisha Government today allowed optical shops to operate during the lockdown. Optometrist, opticians and optical shops have been exempted from

lockdown restrictions. They are now allowed to operate during lockdown period since these are health/medical related activities, said Information and Public Relation Department today. During the extended lockdown, which will remain in force till June 17, shops dealing with only essential services have been allowed to operate from 7 AM till 11 AM every day.

5% General, ICU Beds In Odisha Hospitals To Be Reserved For Health Care Workers

Bhubaneswar, Jun 3: The Odisha government has decided to reserve 5% of total general beds and ICU for health care workers at the hospitals designated for doctors and their family members for treatment of Covid infection. The Health and Family Welfare Department issued a notification in this regard today. Also, the department



asked hospitals to screen all the patients with suspected Covid symptoms by the Rapid Antigen test (RAT) while attending IPD or OPD services. The decision has been taken to ensure appropriate

precaution at right time so that the Health Care System remains free from Covid infection. This will also help in maintaining preparedness for the possible third wave of Covid pandemic, the HFW notification added. The entry points to the hospital shall be screened by thermal detectors and sanitizers shall be provided. Wear-

ing a mask shall be mandatory for all without which the entry will be prohibited. The Health Care Workers shall be provided with PPE and they shall follow Covid appropriate behavior, the notification read. As Covid Warriors, the Health Care Workers will be entitled for all benefits as per existing guidelines, it mentioned.

ST and SC Development dept rolls out telephonic counselling programme for students



Bhubaneswar, Jun 3: The SC and ST Development department has rolled out telephonic counselling programme for school students in view of Covid-19 pandemic. The department has introduced the telephonic counselling for all boarders of SC and ST hostels in order to provide psycho-emotional support to those in need and also to monitor their behavioural changes.

Officials said that training sessions were conducted for matrons and nodal teachers with the technical support of SCSTRTI and UNFPA to orient them to deal with sexual and reproductive health and related issues and counselling techniques. "They are constantly in touch with the SC, ST students with the objective to keep them connected and make them

Covid Sachetanata Rath Flagged Off For 10 Dists

Bhubaneswar, Jun 3: Covid Sachetanata Rath jointly developed by the departments of Odia Language, Literature & Culture; Information & Public Relations; and Unicef to spread awareness on Covid and related issues among the people in 10 districts and two municipal corporations was launched today, informed an official press release. Earlier, the campaign was launched for 116 blocks of 16 districts and three urban areas. The Sachetanata Raths launched today will publicize awareness messages through the audio-visual medium in the districts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Gajapati, Khordha and Cuttack and also in the areas un-

Centre sets up expert panel to fix minimum wages



New Delhi, Jun 3: The government has constituted an expert group led by Professor Ajit Mishra, that will give recommendations on fixation of minimum wages and national floor minimum wage. "The Ministry of Labour and Employment issued an order and has constituted the Expert Group to provide technical inputs and recommendations on fixation of Minimum Wages and Na-

tional Floor Minimum Wages," a labour ministry statement said. Minimum wage is different for different categories of workers. National floor refers to the minimum level of wage that is applicable to all categories of workers across the country. The group has been constituted for a period of three years from the date of notification. To arrive at the wage rates, the group

Gautam Gambhir Foundation Found Guilty In FabiFlu Case



New Delhi, Jun 3: The Delhi High Court has adopted a strict attitude in the matter of hoarding of medicine and oxygen cylinders. At the same time, the drug controller has held the Gautam Gambhir Foundation guilty in this case. On behalf of the drug controller, the court was told that 2349 strips of Fabiflu were purchased

by the Gautam Gambhir Foundation. During the hearing of the case, the Drug Controller has also told in the High Court that in this case, a notice has been issued to the Gautam Gambhir Foundation, asking from where did he buy the medicines and whether he had taken permission from the licensing authority for this? Advo-

cate Nandita Rao, appearing for the Drug Control Department, submitted that the Gambhir Foundation procured 120 oxygen cylinders and were refilled by authorized dealers and distributed to various people under the supervision of Dr. Siddhartha. Medicines given free of cost by Gautam Gambhir Foundation were received by 1,139 patients. The Gautam Gambhir Foundation also did unauthorized stocking of FabiFlu, committing an offense under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. Gautam Gambhir Foundation has violated the Drugs and Cosmetics Act by storing medicines.

Govt asks private TV channels to spread awareness about 6 Covid-19 helplines

New Delhi, Jun 3: The government has added two new helpline numbers to the list since a similar advisory was issued last month on May 30. In its latest advisory on Thursday, the Union government has asked all private TV channels in the country to help in promoting awareness about the six national helpline numbers for Covid-19. The government has added two new helpline numbers to the list since a similar advisory was issued last month on May 30. The pan-India helpline numbers are 1075 of the Union health ministry, 1098, the child helpline number of the ministry of women and child development, ministry of social justice and empowerment's senior

citizen helpline 14567, NIMHANS (National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences) psychological support helpline 08046110007, Ayush Covid-19 counselling helpline 14443 and the MyGov WhatsApp helpdesk 9013151515. The Ayush Covid-19 counselling and the MyGov WhatsApp helpdesk have been added additionally on Thursday's advisory. The ministry of information and broadcasting issued the advisory in which it noted that the number of Covid-19 cases in the country is "still high" despite the declining trend it is witnessing. "Over the last month, the Government has created awareness through various instrumentalities and

media platforms, including, print, TV, Radio, social media etc. for creating awareness on the three critical issues - COVID treatment protocol, COVID appropriate behaviour and Vaccination. National helpline numbers for the benefit of the citizens were also created and propagated by the government," the Union government said in its advisory. "Private TV channels have played an important role in

supplementing the efforts of the government in fighting this pandemic by creating awareness and informing people about the aforesaid three issues [Covid treatment protocol, Covid appropriate behaviour and vaccination]. In order to further this cause, the private general entertainment (Non-News) TV channels are advised to promote awareness of the following six national level helpline nos. by way of a ticker or such appro-

priate ways as they may consider at periodical intervals," the government's advisory further said, listing the helpline numbers. Earlier on March 23, Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with representatives from the electronic media as part of his meetings with multiple stakeholders in tackling Covid-19. "Even greater caution, zero carelessness. Urged electronic media to counter misinformation related to COVID-19, which is creating panic. Also urged them to take relevant precautions in their own organisations especially when their team members do on ground reporting," Modi had tweeted following the meeting.



ing the total number of infected in the state to 57,76,184. The Health Department said that 285 people died during this period, while 268 earlier deaths were also confirmed to be from Covid-19. With this, so far 96,751 people have lost their lives in this epidemic

in Maharashtra. The Maharashtra Health Department said that the cases reported on Wednesday are more than the 14,123 cases reported on Tuesday. The department said that the number of cured patients has gone up to 54,60,589. There are currently 2,16,016 patients under treatment in the state. In

Maharashtra To Unlock In 5 Phases

Mumbai, Jun 3: The process of unlocking has been announced in Maharashtra, one of the states most affected by the corona virus epidemic. According to the announcement of the state government, the process of unlocking Maharashtra will be in 5 phases. Apart from this, Maharashtra Minister Vijay Gedattivar said that the annual examinations of 10th and 12th board exams have been canceled in the state. Gedattivar said, "We have planned a 5-level unlock process for the state. The entire plan is based on the rate of infection in the state and the availability of oxygen beds in the districts of the state. In the districts

where the rate of infection will be very low, there will be no restrictions." According to the instructions of the state government, the total districts of the state were divided into 5 levels. Level-5 means that the infection rate is very low in the districts of this level. There are 18 districts out of total 36 in the state, where there will be no restriction of any kind. All things will be opened in these districts from Friday. Other districts of the state are in Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4, where restrictions will be relaxed if the infection rate is low. Let us inform that 15,169 new cases of Covid-19 were reported in Maharashtra on Wednesday evening, tak-

ing the total number of infected in the state to 57,76,184. The Health Department said that 285 people died during this period, while 268 earlier deaths were also confirmed to be from Covid-19. With this, so far 96,751 people have lost their lives in this epidemic

Government Should Give Exemption To Each Vaccine Manufacturers: SII



New Delhi, Jun 3: Serum Institute of India (SII), the manufacturer of the Covishield vaccine, has also demanded exemption from the liability of compensation from the government. Serum sources said on Thursday, 'Not only Serum Institute of India (SII) but if foreign companies are allowed this, then all vaccine companies should be exempted on the issue of damages. Health ministry sources indicated on Wednesday that the government may also relax the issue of damages to Pfizer and Moderna to speed up approvals for vaccines in India. A top government official said on Wednesday that there is "no problem" in paying

compensation to Pfizer and Mardana in India. DCGI announces exemption Earlier on Wednesday, India's top drug regulator has relaxed the requirement of testing anti-Covid-19 vaccines manufactured abroad by the Central Drugs Laboratory, Kasauli, and bridging trials for such companies after they

start using the vaccines. The availability of vaccines will increase. This decision of the Drug Controller General of India has come in the backdrop of demand from companies like Pfizer and Cipla. He had made this demand during negotiations for the supply of imported vaccines to India.

India under PM Modi successfully fought Covid-19 battle: Shah



Ahmedabad, Jun 3: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi successfully fought the battle against Covid-19 and managed to bring disease curve down with the help of 135 crore citizens. "Now, the cases are dipping, the number of patients is decreasing. The oxygen requirement has come down to 3,500 MT from 10,000 MT. This indicates that the Covid-19 curve is going down," Shah said. He also said the speed of India's vaccination drive is the fastest in the world and it will further gain momentum in future to cover maximum number of people in the shortest possible

time, as envisioned by the Prime Minister. Shah was speaking via video conference after virtually inaugurating nine medical oxygen plants set up at government-run hospitals in different parts of Gujarat. The plants have been set up by an NGO – Vallabh Youth Organisation – at government-run hospitals in Tilakvada, Sagbara, Ahmedabad (Sola civil), Daskroi in Ahmedabad district, Kalavad, Kapadvanj, Bhanwad, Mehsana and Porbandar. Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani joined the virtual event from Gandhinagar. Shah said the government succeeded in controlling the spread of the virus and bringing the curve down through collective efforts. "As you

In Kovalam village near Chennai, a lucky draw with gifts for taking Covid vaccine



Chennai, Jun 3: There are at least five healthcare workers from Kelambakkam primary healthcare centre administering the doses to residents. A few welfare organisations have come together to hold a lucky draw for people who get vaccinated against the novel coronavirus in Kovalam, a fishing hamlet located on the East Coast Road, just outside Chennai in Tamil Nadu. Aiming to make the village a "Covid-19 free zone", the organisers are offering winners a range of items, including free biryani, daily recharge coupons, a gold chain, two-wheeler, refrigerator, washing machine or a mobile phone. The drive has been organised by local NGO STS Foundation and funded by CN Ramadas Champions Development Trust and Chiraj. After receiving permission from the Chengalpattu district administration, the vaccination drive was launched on May 29 at Bruno Palace Marriage Hall, and the first beneficiaries were Susila (88)

and Subramani (91), the oldest couple in the village who are called paati (grandmother) and thatha (grandfather) by locals. The first beneficiaries were Susila (88) and Subramani (91), the oldest couple in the village who are called paati (grandmother) and thatha (grandfather) by locals. There are at least five healthcare workers from Kelambakkam primary healthcare centre administering the doses to residents. The drive is currently being held from 10 am to 2 pm, but organisers want to extend the timings depending on the supply of vaccines. Volunteers who arranged the drive said they want to remove apprehensions about

vaccination in the village, and create a "festival-like atmosphere" to encourage more people to get jabbed. A two-wheeler that can be won in lucky draw at the vaccination centre. The drive seems to be picking up pace; 98 people were vaccinated against Covid-19 in the last three months, while 345 received their shots in the last three days and 838 more have registered for the jab. Girish Ramdas, trustee of the non-profit CN Ramadas Champions Development Trust, said they aim to administer the first dose to everyone in the village in the next 45 days. He said the exercise to inoculate everyone in the village will cost about Rs 50 lakh excluding the cost

Drug Peddler Arrested and 55 gram's Brown Sugar Sized



(A.O. Bureau)
Khordha, Jun 3: On receipt of credible information as per the direction of SP, Khordha, under the supervision of Sushil Kumar Mishra, SDPO, Khordha, Inspector, Sanjaya Kumar Pattnaik, Model PS, Khordha, a team was formed headed by SI, Anuva Das, SI, A. K. Rath, SI, Bijaya ketan

Behera, SI, Digbijaya Biswal Hav. B. K. Pratap Singh, Manash Ranjan Sahoo along with Special Squad. As per the direction they proceed to the alleged location with information that the accused persons will arrive in their XUV-300 car bearing Registration no-OD-02BC-3009 near the house of Mahendra



Behera at Samantapur, Swapneswar Sahi, Khordha along with Brown Sugar for selling purpose. On getting this information raiding team remained at the spot in conceal manner and when the said vehicle arrived at the spot raiding team along with witnessed round up the vehicle and nabbed the suspected persons namely Sarat Behera (21) and Bharat Behera (23) of Samantapur, Swapneswar Sahi Khordha. All the formalities of search and seizures were made. During search 55 brown sugar approximately cost Rs. 2.50 Lakhs, Cash-20,300 and costly mobile phone along with XUV-300

car bearing Registration no-OD-02BC-3009 were seized from their possession and case was registered vide Khordha model PS case no-219/21/U/S-21(B)/29 NDPS Act. The two accused were forwarded to the Judicial court of Khordha. This is the great achievements of Model PS, Khordha.

The Prachi Center for Cultural Relations hosted a panel discussion



(A.O. Bureau)
Cuttack, Jun 3: The Prachi Center for Cultural Relations on Friday launched a seminar on "The Impact on the Teaching Method of Epidemic Covid-19" at 5 p.m. Dr. Pabak Kanungo, President of Prachi Institution, contributed to this. Coordinating the Mira Beura discussion cycle, the parents said they would take care of solving the

problems of the students and Dr. Onkar Raut was the moderator of the seminar. Surekha Sundari Swayamsevak added that both parents, teachers and the government should provide education to the students as a way to find out how today's students are suffering from the effects of the epidemic. Dr. Santos Mohapatra, a distinguished columnist, was the keynote speaker. The

Journalist Sanat Kumar Pattnaik threatened and Misbehavior to him by using mobile phone to some uncivilized language and to transfer him elsewhere after corona and he is the godfather of government etc. Being an a responsible officer and Executive Magistrate he always work to control the covid-19 pandemic situation in Khordha area. For a result of which he was raid along with Executive Officer

seminar was attended by many academics and students from different parts of Odisha and Dr. Deepak Kumar Das, Dr. Pushpalata Sahu, Poet Mahiza Dalhera, Dr. Sumantha Swain, Hriday Ranjan Panda, Dr. Mamata Khandayat Roy, Dr. Narayan Mahanti, Dr. Niladri Nath Jagdev, Latika Mohapatra, Ava Kanungo, Deepak Dalai, Dr. Ravi Narayan Maharana, Babita Das Mohapatra, Sulochana Das, Rakesh Shatapathi, Sanyukta Behera, Sangram Keshari Samantaiah, Brabandhu Bihari, Jertimay Sahu, Pratap Chandra Pattanayak Priyadarshini, Sanatan Lekha, Anita Pani, Ajit Kumar Das were the prominent contributors. Finally, Krishna Mishra thanked them.

Bhubaneswar, Jun 3: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today accorded approval for the appointment of 750 doctors as Medical Officers. The appointment letters have been sent to the new appointees and the same can be used as a pass for travelling to the place of joining during

SAI International School Founder & OAVS Adviser Bijaya Kumar Sahoo Succumbs To Covid-19



(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, Jun 3: Noted educationist and Chartered Accountant, Bijaya Kumar Sahoo passed away at a private hospital in Hyderabad today. Sahoo was 58. Earlier he was undergoing treatment at Ashwini Hospital in Cuttack after testing positive for Covid-19. Sahoo was airlifted to Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) Hyderabad after his condition deteriorated. Sahoo was under extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) treatment at KIMS Hyderabad for the past few days. He

succumbed to the complications at 1:18 pm today afternoon. Arrangements are being made to bring his body to Bhubaneswar today, reports stated. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed deep grief over the demise of Sahoo. "Deeply saddened to know about the passing away of noted educationist and entrepreneur, Dr. Bijaya Kumar Sahoo. As Advisor of Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan, he had a pioneering role in transforming Govt School education. My condolences to his family, friends & students," the CM tweeted.

FIR lodged against Journalist

(A.O. Bureau)
Khordha, Jun 3: A first information report (FIR) has been registered against the Journalist of SAMJ, Khordha representative Sanat Kumar Pattnaik. The is based on a complaint filled by Tahasildar -cum-Executive Magistrate Khordha. The FIR was registered vide Khordha Model PS, case no-180/21/U/S-323/506 IPC. The complaint Tahasildar Khordha has stated in his report that

Khordha Municipality in a hotel near Laxminarayan Mandira New Bus stand Khordha for violating the covid-19 guidelines of the government. That's why the Journalist Mr. Pattnaik was irritated and misbehaves to a responsible senior most OAS, officer and front line corona warrior through mobile phone. The investigation is going on and the complaints demand the Journalist must be punishable as per law.

Brown sugar worth Rs 1.10 crore seized in Cuttack, three arrested



(A.O. Bureau)
Cuttack, Jun 3: Madhupatana police has seized brown sugar weighing 1120 grams

and arrested three persons, police said today. Officials said that the market value of the seized contraband would be Rs 1.10 crore. The accused have been identified as Sk Gulsaruddin, Soubhagya Ranjan

Singh and Lipu Behera, all residents of Jagatsinghpur. Acting on tip-off police officials conducted a raid at Tinigharia and nabbed the accused. Officials said that the accused had procured the brown sugar from Balasore and were involved in the smuggling of the contraband for past few months.

Youth Abducted In Filmy Style In Odisha Capital

(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, Jun 3: A youth was allegedly kidnapped by five persons in a car near Delta Chhak in Bhubaneswar today afternoon. The Commissionerate of Police stated the abducted person has fled from a deaddiction centre and investigation is on from all angles. An eyewitness, Tusarakanti Parida said at round

5:30 PM today two men brought a youth on a motorcycle from Baramunda village side. The motorcyclists along with the youth reached near a Tata Nixon car bearing registration no-OD02BE 7656 that was parked at Delta Chhak. The two motorcyclists beat up the youth and forcibly put him in the car in which three men were already present. When they tried to drive away along with the youth, some locals waylaid them. The miscreants then threatened the locals of running over them, said the eyewitness. As fearing for life the locals did not oppose, the miscreants fled the spot along with the abducted youth, the eyewitness added. After receiving information, the Commissionerate of Po-

lice reached the spot and launched an investigation. Meawhile, Bhubaneswar DCP Umashankar Dash took to Twitter and stated, "The today's alleged incident of kidnapping in Delta Chowk was promptly investigated. The boy has been located. Apparently he had fled a de-addiction centre. All aspects of the incident are being investigated including conduct of the centre."

lakh for constructing a volleyball court, badminton court and a basketball court in the school playground under Mo School Abhiyan. However, the move of the government to allot the land for construction of the transit house emerged as a shock for the association. ter. The school's alumni association has recently collected over Rs 25

lockdown/shutdown. According to a press note issued by the State Government today, the newly appointed Medical Officers have been asked to join within 7 days. The place of joining was decided through online counselling held at NIC Bhubaneswar. The Chief Minister and

Health Minister Naba Kisore Das have congratulated all the 750 Medical Officers on their appointment. Earlier this year, the Odisha Public Service Commission had recommended the appointment of 786 doctors as Medical Officers under the Odisha Medical and Health Services cadre.

Religion matters: In-laws thrash woman, chase out



(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, Jun 3: A woman in Bhubaneswar has been reportedly chased out by her in-laws for not belonging to their community. The father-in-law and the brother-in-law drove her out of home after thrashing her black and blue. Acting on it, Khandagiri police arrested the alleged husband who loved, lived in, married and later left her wife due to communal dogmas. Police said, Bishnupriya Rout had married Hyder Alli who is a native of Dumduma area in Bhubaneswar before Amphoi in 2021. Before it, they were in live-in relationship since 2016 after falling in love from their workplace. Meanwhile, Hyder left Bishnupriya saying that his family did not approve his inter faith marriage. On the other hand, she tried to woo her husband but in vain. Consequently, she came to her in-laws' house at Dumduma on

EDITORIAL

The Genesis

The second wave of the Corona pandemic may be waning but its scare remains intact. After it first came to light in late 2019, the origins and its spread of Novel Coronavirus have been a subject of study. It is being probed by various agencies around the world. Many conspiracy theories of its origin have been doing the rounds ever since some figment of imaginations others not. One plausible theory is that it came from the Huanan seafood and wildlife market in Wuhan. Another attributed to Wuhan virology lab in Wuhan. It was said that it leaked from a Coronavirus lab in China that was working or developing the virus strain. So where did it come from? The latest findings by the US Intelligence suggest that it was indeed a lab leak that led to this pandemic on a global scale. It refutes the theory of it originating at the Huanan seafood and wildlife market. The revelations are the result of ongoing investigations by the US and the UK agencies that are trying to connect the dots. Some startling facts have come to light. They give insight into the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the official name of Novel Coronavirus. The story goes that three miners were entrusted to clean an abandoned copper mine in Moijang way back in 2012. They had to work in the knee-deep filth of bat excreta and urine. All three fell sick. Three more men replaced them and also fell sick. Three of the six men died. They had the same symptoms that we now associate with Corona. The bat excreta, taken to the Wuhan lab, revealed that the fungus on the fleece was in the lungs of the dead miners. Later, three researchers also died, and somehow the virus leaked out. We would never know. A conspiracy theory doing the rounds suggests that Corona spread in the countries which were competing with China—the US, the UK, and India, you name it. One thing is for sure, Coronavirus does not have an ancestral history. Yet another study, by a British professor and a Norwegian scientist, claim that Chinese took a natural Coronavirus “backbone” found in Chinese cave bats and spliced a new “spike” onto it to make it a military-grade. Remember, the Chinese Premier never wore a mask or protection while visiting Wuhan. Of course, China also suffered in Wuhan but then all bomb makers lose a finger or two.

Exam muddle

The CBSE Class XII examinations stand cancelled for 2021 on account of the second surge of COVID-19. For the health and safety of the students, explained Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A formula will be arrived at to “assess” the candidates and give them marks. Will anyone fail in such a situation? The question is rhetorical, but underlines some contrarian issues with the manner in which the country tackles student examinations. The announcement has been met with glee all around. After the CBSE Class X exams were cancelled a couple of months ago, the possibility of holding XII exams was already doomed. The “mood” for the exams was not there. The social media was crowded with messages for cancelling them. Myriad reasons were given for not taking the exams. The “results” will take some weeks coming. Those who were planning to go abroad for undergraduate studies or were ready for a fall term admission will be the most troubled. If the foreign universities do not extend the deadline for the results, they stand to lose a term. Will students who apply for admissions after getting their XII results have no problem taking IELTS or TOEFL or GRE? What about COVID and lack of vaccination? Those looking for domestic admissions have to wait to see if there is to be a common entrance test. If not, how can a university assess a student on the basis of marks not obtained through an examination? What about admissions to IITs and medical colleges that require an entrance test? The circumstances for the now-cancelled XII exams would be the same for these tests too, won’t they? The top-of-the-class students would be the most affected by the contrived results and most of them would not want to waste more time by appearing in a re-exam in the future. If anything, the cancellation may have created an “exam-class” divide of sorts. There is such a brouhaha over 14 lakh students appearing in the CBSE XII whereas close to a crore appear in the state boards and nobody is talking about them. There is a National Education Policy and yet CBSE, ICSE and state boards dish out a decentralised fare. There was a need for a centralised decision-making in times of the pandemic. One question that escaped being asked is: Why were not the CBSE XII exams not held this February? They were held in February 2020, weren’t they, when nothing was known about COVID-19 and there was no vaccine either? Nearly 16 lakh students appeared for the NEET exam last September and none of them encountered a COVID-inappropriate situation at the exam centres. It is true that an exam can be deferred or cancelled if the circumstances are adverse. But to begin discussing the holding of the exams with the idea of cancelling them? Or, for that matter, what about vaccinations for and safety of students of those state boards intent on holding the examinations?

Left politics wanes but ideology stays!



Gyaneshwar Dayal

As it seems, the Communists are themselves to blame for the deep fall that they find themselves in, from Tripura to West Bengal. Kerala was the first State in the world to have an elected Left Government. It may well be the last in India; the two strongholds of the Left Bengal and Tripura have already fallen. Today, Kerala is the only state where the Left is in power. It is rare for any party to repeat the term but the Left has done it and must be happy about it. However, their happiness may be short-lived. The Left has done everything to decimate itself and make it irrelevant to Indian politics. Though It would be too early to write its obit, one thing is for sure; there is something wrong with the Left. When the CPI loses its national party status and the CPM holds on to it, it should be a cause of concern for the Left leaders, the win in Kerala notwithstanding. Fifteen years back, the left alliance had 59 seats. That has come down to five, four courtesy DMK. The political pundits may be worried about the Congress, but it is the Left that is a politically endangered species right now. The Left parties that should have been at the forefront to voice people’s concerns are nowhere on the streets. The Left is silent on unemployment, rising prices, privatisation, crony capitalism. The concern for the poor is at the core of the Left ideology. The Left should have made big strides in times of economic meltdown and communal disarray but that is not happening. The Left has not able to strike the right chord with people. This is bad for Indian democracy. In our de-

mocracy, there is a place for all shades of political ideologies — Right, Left and Centre, even fringes. The burnout of the Left leaves large sections of society rudderless and voiceless. Tribals, Dalits, the down-trodden, landless laborers, peasants who looked up to the Left have to seek mentors. The Left is to blame itself for its current state. It turned against the very people it was supposed to protect and nurture. The Left did some path-breaking work in its early days. Operation Barga, the land reform programme, which gave a big blow to feudal agriculture, was one such programme. It managed communal harmony well. Barring a few skirmishes, no communal riots were reported from the Left-run States. It did instill in common people that they had a place in Indian society, but it all fizzled out soon. It doesn’t take too many follies to kill you in politics. A single blunder is enough to push you out of the game. The Left has shot itself in the foot many a time. Its Politburo became a club of bhadrakali out of sync with reality. It became deaf to new voices and failed to adapt to Indian conditions. In 1977, the Jyoti Basu-led Left dispensation came to power in West Bengal and went on to rule for 34 years. Its major election plank was to punish policemen and the Congress netas who indulged in excesses in the name of countering the Naxalbari movement. The Haratosh Chakravarty committee was appointed, which recommended action against certain individuals and policemen. Not only no action was taken against those involved and even indicted policemen were given promotion. The reason was, of course, that the Left wanted to show that it was mainstream and had nothing to do with the ultras. It abandoned the very people who were part once

part of it. No efforts were made to bring them into the mainstream. The CPI(M)-led Government in West Bengal was using the Central armed forces and even seeking help from Israel to crush the tribal movement in Lalgarh. The final blow in West Bengal came when Buddhadeb Bhattacharya tried to forcibly acquire 997 acres of agricultural land in Singur. Thereafter, the Left became a relic of the past. What Buddhadeb did in Bengal, Pinarayi Vijayan is doing in Kerala. There is anger among the farmers against the land acquisitions in Kerala. The Government is evicting farmers and acquiring land. The cadres are helping it by burning makeshift shelters of the protesting farmers. In a typical emperor style, Vijayan ignominiously shunted out KK Shailaja from his new Cabinet. But he might end up wiping the Left from the State instead. The Left is caught in a quagmire. It missed the “historic opportunity” to have a Left Prime Minister. Its leaders fail to see things from an Indian perspective. Rather, it borrowed the template from China, for which it is often criticised. The Chinese goods and ideas don’t last in India. It made little effort to understand the Indian mindset. It couldn’t take on the Right-wing; in an ostrich-like manner it never addressed the question of religion in politics. In fact, its vote bank shifted to the BJP. It contemplated a just society based on human dignity but never bothered to even ban the man-pulled carriages in Kolkata. Not many Left leaders are visible today. In the era of TV, your presence matters more than your work. And right, now its presence and work are both suspect.

Giving Wings to Startup Dream



Business is as old as civilization itself but Startup Business is a gift of contemporary time. Startup is not an existing business. It is a new business centred around innovation or aggregation or both. In this new business it is idea that has replaced capital as prime prerequisite for doing business, thus making the business more plebian. Industry and Startups are intimately connected. If the output of the Startup, be it goods or services, are used as inputs by industry then Startups are upstream units to that Industry and in reverse way, Startup are downstream units of mother plant. Startup as a business have caught the attention of young generation bubbling with enthusiasm and ideas but with little or no resource. But resource constraint is no limitation to launch Startup Business as entrepreneurial mindset of Startup is different from business manager. While the former mobilises resources for realising the business goal, latter leverage means to fix the business goal. Ola, Uber, Airbnb and others of this class did not have that much resource but they mobilised resource in the business ecosystem and have become successful Startup Unicorns. What matters is how to leverage the resources around. Industry is a vast reservoir of resources for Startups very often missed by many. Industry provides all that Startup need in its journey towards developing an innovative idea into a business enterprise. Precisely speaking Startup journey is spread into two phases with seven stages. The journey covers pre-ideation, ideation & POC : 3 Stages under 1st phase of incubation & then Phase-2 escalation with networking, target setting, benchmarking and vision building as 4 stages elevating the Startup to a full-grown business enterprise. Primary need of a Startup is a break through idea. Industry is full of inputs for such ideas/issues/projects. Research and Development (R&D) Department, TQM/TQP,

QC, Kaizel Cells are having issues/projects that Startups can bank upon to develop their project. In industry many innovative projects have achieved lab scale success but have remained stagnant due to lack of initiatives for commercialisation. Here is where a win-win situation prevails for industry and Startup. The latter starts where former stops. These Startup projects will have strong industry connect and handholding. Startup interaction at pre-ideation and ideation stage will prove to be immensely rewarding for both. In third stage of POC/Product Development Industry have huge scope for copious collaboration. Transition of Startup from incubation phase to escalation is quite crucial to shape it up as desired business enterprise. Between incubation and escalation there is a trap called Death Valley where majority of Startups peter away and perish. Standalone Startups are more susceptible to fall into this trap. After successful product development very often than not Startups fail to raise fund to finance product making. The situation gets aggravated when they don’t get required market. In 2019, the failure rate of Startups was around 90%. Research concludes 21.5% of Startups fail in the first year, 30% in the second year, 50% in the fifth year, and 70% in their 10th

Dr. T.K. Chand
Ex-CMD, Nalco

handholding by the industry. Mother industry with its up and down stream units are also potential customers and suppliers to Startup. We have seen in the entire journey of Startup, at every phase and stage industry connect is valuable for survival and growth of Startup during the first ten years. It is industry that can indeed give wings to the dream of Startup entrepreneurs. What matters is how the Startup makes its pitch before the industry to make its mentor. Industry & Startup are in symbiotic relationship. While Startup grows with industry, the latter is sure to get benefit of the following: a) Startup can grow up as an upstream/downstream unit that industry has responsibility to encourage. b) It expands the depth of industrialisation in the hinterland transforming into a door step market for the mother industry. c) Startups create employment for the locals reliving the mother industry from social pressure and facilitates its competitiveness in the market. d) It enables just-in-time inventory by developing a band of vendors and customers around the mother industry. In the long run, both Industry and Startup become the winner and their symbiotic association a game changer. In Odisha there are 263 medium and large industries. If each industry is having a minimum of 20 Startup projects there will be more than 5000 viable Startups with industry handholding making the cherished dream of Odisha Startups to be at top at National Level come true. The existing level of 1000 plus Startup gets pitch forked to 5000 plus. In short it is industry pitching that can give wings to individual Startups in the State as well as Startup Odisha at large. In association with industry bodies like CII, FICCI, ASSOCHEM etc and prominent incubation centres in the state like AIC-NITF, IIT, TBI-KIIT etc industry may go for bootcamp for campus placement of Startups. Let a new initiative be taken to boost Startups in Odisha.

Three child labour rescued from electric power company at Balimela



(A.O. Bureau)

Malkangiri, Jun 3: Despite reports of child labor in various parts of the district, the district labor officer is fast asleep. According to reports, Tata Power's Odisha Distribution Limited has taken over the post after the South Co Electricity Department became privatized. As a result, water was dripping from

the roof of the main house of the Kalimela power plant and the roof was falling down. For security reasons, Tata power was awarded a temporary housing contract by a company called Shraddha Enterprises. The company was bringing workers from Koraput to work. Three of them are children Mr. Bishwa Ranjan

Two killed in two several accidents



(A.O. Bureau)

Ganjam, Jun 3: Two people were killed and several others were injured in separate accidents at two places in Ganjam district today. Ganjam district Gangapur police station lost its balance near Mereipata village and overturned. One person was killed and 14 others were injured in the incident. Renu Nayak a resident of Dhimiripalli village, was killed. Fif-

teen workers from Dhimiripalli village lost their balance and overturned this morning as they were on their way to Ratnapur village to dig ponds. Serious workers were rescued by locals and rushed to Bhanjanagar Medical College and Hospital by ambulance. One died while undergoing treatment there, while others were undergoing treatment. Gangpur police, on the other hand,

Poor mother cries to save life of Corona affected son in Berhampur



(A.O. Bureau)

Berhampur, Jun 3: A poor mother cries for help to save the life of her 24 year son who struggles with Corona virus at a Covid hospital. The poor mother appeals the government to provide him essential Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) care if possible. At the same time, she begs for financial assistance from the volunteers for his liver transplant.

Lockdown locks the way: 4 Maharastra based families in distress at Daspalla

3/06/2021 at 1:03 PM

(A.O. Bureau)

Daspalla, Jun 3: Four Maharastra based families those ventured for Odisha with a mission to propagate conservation of Indian cattle are in distress at Daspalla. Around 23 members including 7 infants have been stranded here due to lockdown and live a painful life, out of food and water. The stuck families are from Mohmmadabad village under Mungelwad police limit of Solapur district in Maharashtra. Sources said, the family of Bhimrao Bhonsle, Viwaji Bhonsle, Sunitabai Bhonsle and Suvali Sinde venture for different states in order to promote service towards the Indian cattle. They set out their mission from the month of December after harvesting the crops.

Around Odisha Corona not reached to Kankia, The village free from Corona

(A.O. Bureau)

Kukudakhandi, Jun 3: Now the whole world is in the deadly grip of the corona. Across India, corona continues to fear its second wave. But today there are some areas where the corona has not entered till now. One such area is Kankia Panchayat under Kukudakhandi block of Ganjam district. Kankia a fully tribal habitat area in the Kukudakhandi block. In this tribal prone area with a population of 2,879, citizens of 21 small forested hills surrounded villages. The whole area surrounded by forested and hills, it is an area where many as children of nectar (Amrutar Santan) live in tribal communities with free from the fear of corona. The first wave of pandemic the corona and now in the second wave of the present stage, corona has not entered their panchayats or villages, and no one has been affected by the epidemic. The health workers in this area, including Anganwadi, Asha, Anm, have been alerted. Local BDO Gadadhar Patra and Tahsildar Kalyani

Sanghamitra Devi's dedication priorities to aware against corona are said to be the result of their key efforts. Kamaksha Prasad Patra, chairman of the Kukudakhandi block belonging to Kankia samiti member he is personally touring the area to raise awareness. Personally Mr Patra and team with Local sarpanch Puspanjali Malik and members of 11 local ward members are on high alert. They continued their efforts to try their best to keep his Panchayat free from corona. The people of Kankia depend on the forest for their hard work, whether it be forest products or wood collected from the forest and fully functions their daily livelihood by forest. Today, that panchayat is a model for the state or the district. The locals of Kankia are not very well educated but they are very innocent and well conscious about corona. Today no one in the village has been affected by the corona. The people there wear masks and always take care to keep themselves clean and safe. They are very diligent as



the area is surrounded by forested hills so the people there get a lot of oxygen.

People are being protected from epidemics like corona today in what they are getting in touch with the local forest without

relying too much on the outside. In a special Report Around Odisha, we urge people to understand that if people

in an intact village understand corona, why don't we educated people in big cities, metropolises and villages very educated people's not follow the rules of the administration to protect their families and nation too.

I represent this area, but even though it is a backward area inhabited by the Kankia. But the local tribe people they know very well how horrible is corona. Today not only kankia but along with all kukudakhandi block very soon going to swipe up corona.

The whole credits goes to admin ganjam district said Mr Patra.

Kamaksha Prasad Patra

Chairman, Kukudakhandi Block

Scarcity of drinking water in Pedalanka village

(A.O. Bureau)

Malkangiri, Jun 3: Villagers in the village of

any other water. The village is about two kilometers from the forest stream water and that the water is being pumped into



Pedalanka in the Chitrakonda block of Kapututi panchayat in Malkangiri district have complained of a shortage of drinking water. The village has no access to tube wells or

est and fetching an abandoned drainage water. Drinking water is also contaminated. Locals have complained that a water tank has been set up in the forest where they are us-

the village. According to Peda Lanka villagers, they have not been seen by any government officials in their village to date. so development is dream for them.

World Bi- cycle day observed at Malkangiri

(A.O. Bureau)

Malkangiri, Jun 3: World Bicycle Day is celebrated today at the local Malkangiri DNK play ground on behalf of the Biker's Club under the chairmanship of Dr. Ranjan Kumar Swain, Professor of Commerce, Malkangiri College. On June 3, 2018,

the United Nations ordered the observance of World Bicycle Day. It prevents air and sound pollution and cycling regularly will make your health feel like exercising. People with high blood pressure diabetic heart disease and stress should cycle. Senior Journalist Devabrata Sana, Gopi



Shantilal, a well-known businessman died of corona disease



(A.O. Bureau)

Malkangiri, Jun 3: Shantilal Somani, a successful businessman from Malkangiri district, was diagnosed with kidney and heart problems earlier in the day. Was transferred to Raipur for health check up. There he was tested for coronary heart disease. He was pronounced dead at Raipur Hospital today. He was 66 years old at the time of his death.

Upon hearing the news of his brother's death, his younger brother Suresh Somani visited Raipur. Shantilal was a calm, altruistic, socialite, religious, sweet-spoken person. He had full cooperation in all the festivities held in the district. He has various businesses in the district such as rice mills, petrol pumps, clothing shops, hotels, constructions, hardware. The loss of a successful businessman in Malkangiri district in his absence has cast a shadow of mourning over the entire region.

Theatre made me fall in love with acting

New Delhi, Jun 3:
RAJAT VERMA, who shot to fame playing Rishi in Beyhadh 2, is now playing a parallel lead role on Sony TV's Ishk Par Zor Nahi.

What is Ishk Par Zor Nahi about?

The show is about two ideologies related to marriage and how they collide in this situation. Hence, the parallel lead. The show progresses



from here on and every character here has different views about how they perceive love and marriage, be it the character who plays my elder brother, everyone has a different take. Tell us about your role. I play Kartik. He is witty and whatever he says resonates with how people think in real life. His thoughts are similar to how the young think today — there should be equality between men and women — that a woman should be allowed to work because she is capable of working and looking after the home as well. This is such a positive message to send out to the viewers. I feel that my character's views are progressive and on the right track.

What made you say yes?

First, the director of Beyhadh 2, is the director of this show as well. But he left this show mid-way due to a family emergency. When he approached me for Ishk Par... I couldn't say no to the project. Second, in Beyhadh, my character, despite being good, was small. I couldn't explore different shades that a character can have. With Kartik, I have that opportunity.

How much do you identify with Kartik?

This is another reason why I agreed to this project, Kartik is very close to what and who I am in real life. Kartik is from Delhi; he is 22-23. He is like how people are at this age. I am from Noida; a lot of my friends are from Delhi. I am able to relate to how they speak and think. Kartik's thinking about equality is something that I subscribe to as well. It made it easy for me to play this role. There are some things that one keeps hidden in real life, we don't want to show people certain aspects of our life, Kartik is able to showcase all that.

Did you think your character in Beyhadh2 would get so much attention?

I was not expecting it at all. Jennifer Winget, was someone that I

there. You did comic content on YouTube. Tell us about that. I created content and started with a web series – Nalayaks Season 1 & 2 with Nazarattu Productions on YouTube. I wanted to work on the digital platform; that was the time when TikTok was at its peak. It led to the era of influencers and I too got inspired from this and decided to explore this platform. Then the production house offered me to do comedy sketches. During my Mass Communication days, we would make short videos. Doing these sketches made it easy for me to understand cinema better.

How did acting happen?

It's a long story. I was in Lucknow and did a fashion show. That got me interested. I was already on the stage before acting happened. When I dropped BTech, I was looking for something to do. Family and friends would tell me that I was a bit of a nautanki baaz and decided to explore acting. I got to work with Ras Theatre Group. I got a lot of clarity there. Theatre made me fall in love with acting.

Is it tough to shoot during the present pandemic?

It's been rather tough. Where we go, the place where we have to shoot, one has to take a lot of precautions. We have to be careful who we meet, who we speak with. We keep having quick COVID-19 tests. In our subconscious mind there is constant stress. On the sets, we have senior actors as well. We have to be careful that they remain healthy. I am lucky that my parents were not with me when I was shooting in Mumbai, they are in Delhi. Otherwise, I would have kept myself in one room.

What next?

At present, I am concentrating on this show but am also looking for other projects that offer me a chance to explore different shades and characters. Due to the pandemic, it is tough to deal with it. I am grateful that I have work.

looked up to when I was in my teens. When I was offered the show, I knew that I would not say no. I had to work with her. Beyhadh had become a brand even before Season 2 was announced. I knew that this season would be loved as well even though my role was for a short span. I had given it my 100 per cent and am glad people appreciated my work

Parineeti Chopra takes centrestage

Mumbai, Jun 3: The movie had a theatrical release on March 19, 2021. Given the present pandemic few would have heard of this movie getting released let alone going to the cinema hall to watch it. The good thing is that the makers decided to release it on an OTT platform catering to a much wider audience who are looking

two. For Kapoor it is his second film to be released in a week, Grandson Of Sardar released last week. Directed by Dibakar Banerjee, who has directed movies like Khosla Ka Ghosla, Oye Lucky! Lucky Oye and Lust Stories delivers yet another black comedy. Yet Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar is different from



the run to save their lives. The good part is that the film is off on an interesting note – a killing – that too a wrong one. The pace picks up. With the story told in present and flashback, the picture gets clear about why a suspended cop, Pinky, played by Arjun Kapoor and a bank employee, Sandeep, played by Parineeti Chopra are on

the run. Another plus is that the plot sucks you in from the word go even though the second half is sluggish. While Arjun Kapoor stands tall, it is Parineeti Chopra who takes centrestage. After The Girl On The Train, she shines and the different shades and emotions that she showcases here has been done rather brilliantly.

Neeti Mohan and Nihaar Pandya blessed with a baby boy, 'maasi' Harshdeep Kaur sends love to the baby



Thank you All ?? Gratitude ??

@neetimohan18#gratitude #blessed," shared Nihaar in a post last night. Good friend Harshdeep Kaur was the one to break the happy news on social media with a heartfelt post last night. Congratulating the new parents, the "Dilbaro" singer showed her excitement at becoming a 'maasi'. She also called it a divine connection that both their children were born on the same date but different months. Harshdeep

welcomed her son in March with husband Manjeet Singh.

"Yay!!!! I'm a Maasi to a beautiful Baby Boy ?????? Congratulations @ neetimohan18 & @nihaarpananya on becoming parents! Call it a divine connection that Neeti's baby & my Baby both were born on the 2nd ?? Lots of love to you my soul sister! So so glad that we're going to experience motherhood together. Can't wait to hold the little one in my arms ???" wrote Harshdeep Kaur.

Many celebrities showered Neeti and Nihaar with congratulatory messages. Actor Nakul Mehta and wife Jankee Parekh sent love to the family, and also said that this was the season of 'baby boys'.

Mira Rajput is a stunner in red in new pic, fans call her 'royal beauty'



New Delhi, Jun 3: Mira Rajput has shared a new photo on Instagram and it shows her posing in a red outfit. See it here. Shahid Kapoor's wife Mira Rajput has shared a new picture on Instagram. The photo shows her striking an intense pose while looking at something away from the camera. In the picture, Mira is seen dressed in a bright red outfit and wearing diamond jewellery. Her hair is falling on her shoulders and she is sitting on a blue chair. Mira wrote with her picture, "Looking at the

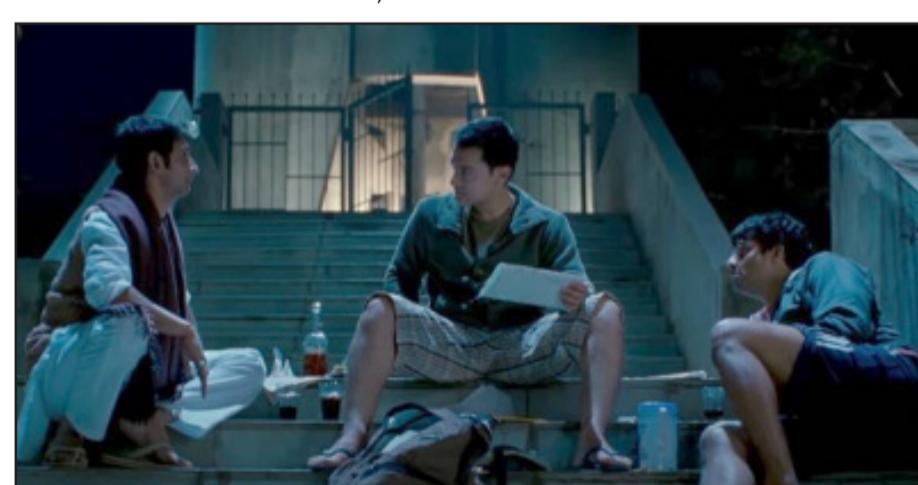
bright side." Her expressions and good looks got her many compliments from her fans. "You look Gorgeous and Beautiful! My Lady in Red!", wrote one fan. "Mira you are a true rockstar," wrote another. "I can only look at you, cause you are the brightest site for me," read another comment. A fan also called her a 'royal beauty'. Recently, Mira impressed everyone with her workout video. She was seen using workout ropes on a tree for her exercise routine. Mira and Shahid got married in 2015. A

year later, they welcomed their daughter Misha and their son Zain was born in 2018. Shahid will soon

make his digital debut with a drama-thriller series directed by Raj and DK, produced by Ama-

zon Prime Video. "I loved the story idea when I first heard it and since then it has been an exciting ride so far! Can't wait to share this series with the audience," the actor had said in a statement. He was last seen in Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Kabir Singh with Kiara Advani. His next film will be the Hindi remake of Telugu film Jersey. He will be seen as a former cricketer who starts playing again in his mid-30s. The film also stars Mrunal Thakur and Shahid's father Pankaj Kapur. It will hit the theatres on November 5.

When R Madhavan, Aamir Khan and Sharman Joshi got drunk for a scene in 3 Idiots



New Delhi, Jun 3: 3 idiots drunk scene aamir sharman madhavan 3 Idiots released in 2009. Even after a decade, Rajkumar Hirani directorial 3 Idiots, starring Aamir Khan, R Madhavan and Sharman Joshi, re-

mains one of the best friendship dramas of Bollywood. Recently on the occasion of Madhavan's 51st birthday, Sharman revisited the 3 Idiots scene, where the three friends get drunk before Aamir goes to confess his

love to Pia (Kareena Kapoor). Sharman, who played the character of Raju Rastogi in 3 Idiots, told ETimes, "I especially remember the one scene where Aamir, Maddy and I were drunk and cursing Boman Irani's char-

acter in the film. Aamir suggested that we drink and perform. Aamir and I were on time to start drinking but Maddy had some work and reached a little late. Aamir told him to catch up with us. Madhavan is not much of a drinker but in order to catch up with us, he had a few drinks too fast. By the time we were ready for the scene, we were a little too high, but Maddy was even more so. He performed the scene brilliantly!" Sharman further called Madhavan a "lovable guy". He added, "Not often do you get to see

India cricket teams depart for England

Mumbai, Jun 3: Indian men's and women's cricket squads departed for England in the wee hours of Thursday on a charter flight. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) tweeted pictures of skipper Virat Kohli, Ishant Sharma and Mohammed Siraj along with those of senior women cricketers Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami just prior to departure. The players were all masked up. This is the first time the



men's and women's teams travelled together. "Off we go [emoticon: airplane]," the BCCI tweeted on

its handle along with the pictures. Both the teams will travel to Southampton on arrival in London and un-

dergo tests. They will spend their mandatory quarantine in Southampton, where the men's team plays

the World Test Championship final against New Zealand from June 18. The women's team plays a one-off Test against England in Bristol from June 16. This will be their first Test after seven years. While the women's tour ends on July 15, the male team members stay on for a five-Test series against England in August-September. The women's team is also scheduled to play three ODIs and three T20Is against England after the Test match.

Panghal still angry about defeat in Asian C'ship final

New Delhi, Jun 3: He is still a bit angry about that "unfair" loss in the finals but Olympic-bound Indian boxer Amit Panghal (52kg) on Wednesday described his Silver-winning performance at the Asian Championships as the best of his career so far. The 25-year-old boxer from Haryana was the defending champion before he lost to old nemesis, Uzbekistan's reigning world and Olympic champion

Shakhobidin Zoirov in the final of the event in Dubai. The result read 3-2 in favour of the Uzbek and the Indian team's protest, seeking a review of the boxer's second round, was rejected by the jury. "This is by far the best performance by me in the 52kg category. I should have won that final and I was angry when I did not," Panghal, the reigning Asian Games cham-

pion, said. "I had given it my all and I felt I deserved to win but it's ok, it can happen. It was still way better than the last time I lost to him. The score-line has narrowed down to 2-3, it was 0-5 earlier," he said referring to the world championship final loss to Zoirov in 2019. "The contingent protested against the decision, we could have been a bit more forceful but it's ok, at least we tried,"

he said. Proud of his performance he might be but Panghal said there are some chinks in the armour that he has figured and will iron out before the Olympics. "I have improved but my third rounds can be better. I don't think I land enough scoring punches in the third round. I have improved enough to ensure that my first rounds start early, I used to hold back earlier," he elaborated.

No prep, no problem for Virat's India

Mumbai, Jun 3: Indian skipper dismissed talk about lack of preparation, past results against Kiwis to have impact on WTC final. India captain Virat Kohli is not too concerned about the limited preparation time that his team will get for the World Test Championship final against New Zealand as he believes that it has the requisite understanding of conditions from its past experience of playing in England. India take on

used to the conditions, if you don't enter the field in the right frame of mind, you are going to nick that first ball or you are going to find it tough to pick wickets," added the superstar. According to Kohli, his side would not have any issues even if it gets just four practice sessions. "...We don't have any issues even with four practice sessions heading into the game, because we are absolutely sure of what we can do as a team and

dia had lost the series in New Zealand last year and conditions in England are similar to the UK. Asked what lessons India learnt from the loss in New Zealand, Kohli added: "Play better Test cricket. That is all. Conditions are the same for us as well as New Zealand. Australian conditions should have favoured Australians (but India won). It's how you look at the situation. If you want us to board the flight from here, feeling

New Delhi, Jun 3: There's a hint of irony as Igor Stimac returns with his team to the site of their biggest achievement together. In September 2019, Doha's modest Jassim bin Hamad Stadium was where India, in Stimac's words, started to 'dream' big when they stole a point from Asian champions Qatar in a World Cup qualifier. But on the eve of their 'return' leg, Stimac's dream has turned into a nightmare. All India Football Federation (AIFF), for all practical purposes, has passed a motion of no confidence against the Croat after they extended his contract as national coach by just three months; a not-so-subtle hint that they are not entirely convinced with the results. Now, as qualifying for the 2022 World Cup and 2023 Asian Cup resumes on Thursday, India's three matches in the next 12 days against Qatar, Bangladesh and Afghanistan will decide Stimac's future at the helm of the

national team, which is still winless and placed fourth among five teams in Group E. The situation did not look so ominous that September evening when, banking solely on goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu's heroics, India eked out one of their most famous results of this century. But a lot has changed since then. And the pandemic is only partly responsible for it. Stimac had inherited an Indian side that was on an upswing and forging an identity of its own after years of soulless football. The Qatar match was the culmination of a string of eye-catching perfor-



mances against reputed Asian teams, including China, UAE and Thailand. But in the 12 matches under Stimac, the counter-attacking Indian team that exploited the blistering pace of its wingers has turned into a bumbling unit that looks unsettled and clueless. After peaking with the draw against Qatar, India haven't been able to arrest the slide. It required last-minute goals from Adil Khan and Len Doungel to eke out face-saving draws against lowly Bangladesh and Afghanistan respectively. By the time the team travelled to

had tried 11 new players in the two March friendlies and has handed debuts to 19 players since taking charge in May 2019. But India's woes began much before the pandemic hit. India have been resolute while defending in most matches, but often looked unsure while going forward. It did not help that Udanta Singh, whose pace on the wings and telepathic understanding with Sunil Chhetri was critical to India's counter-attacks, has dramatically lost form. Sahal Abdul Samad, who at one point looked like the team's creative outlet in midfield, too has endured a tough season. The loss of form of attacking players meant that India's goal-scoring avenues dried up and Stimac has not found a solution for it. Under him, India has averaged less than one goal per game – just 11 in 12 matches; at times because of questionable selections and on some occasions, due to lack of composure shown by the attackers.



New Zealand in the marquee game at Southampton from June 18. Currently, New Zealand are engaged in a two-Test series against England, while India would be in quarantine after landing there, including three days of hotel quarantine. "...Look, in the past we have landed in places three days prior even in a proper schedule and have had a hell of a series and hell of competition, so it is all in the head," Kohli said in the pre-departure press conference. Virat insisted that it was also about the mindset. "...It is not the first time we are playing in England, we all know what the conditions are like," he said. "And even if you are

like New Zealand's got the edge, then there's no point taking that flight. "We are going to board that flight knowing that we are at equal terms. And whichever team performs well session by session, hour by hour is going to win that championship." Kohli said he wants to enjoy the WTC final and not take any pressure of past losses in crunch games of ICC tournaments in England. "We don't want to take pressure. If we start thinking about it (the losses in 2017 Champions Trophy final at The Oval and 2019 World Cup semi-final at Old Trafford), we won't be able to perform. We want to enjoy the final without any pressure."

Vidit Gujrathi qualifies for chess World Cup

New Delhi, Jun 3: India No.3 Vidit Gujrathi has qualified for the FIDE chess World Cup 2021, to be held in Sochi, Russia from July 10 on the basis of his rating. With this, Grandmaster Gujrathi becomes the fourth Indian man to qualify for the upcoming World Cup, a press release said on Thursday. The Nashik-based player joins Grandmasters P Harikrishna, Aravindh Chidambaram and P Iniyam as the Indian men to have qualified for the World Cup. Meanwhile, Koneru Humpy, D



Harika, Bhakti Kulkarni, R Vaishali and Padmini Routh have qualified for the women's event at the World Cup. This will be Gujrathi's third World Cup appearance, having previously featured in 2017 and 2019. The Indian said he is confident of putting up a nice show in the tournament. "Really happy to be a part of the WC squad. Playing for India is always a proud moment and especially the World Cup which is the most prestigious event across any sport," Gujrathi was quoted as saying. "I am confident of

putting up a nice show and will surely try to give my best in each and every game I play. Eagerly looking forward to the event as this is going to be my first Over the Board (OTB) event since February 2020," he added. He is presently ranked 23rd in the World. The FIDE World Cup 2021 will be a Classical event with standard time control. Iniyam had recently won the AICF online qualifying event to book a berth in the World Cup.

Won't be easy to secure podium finish at Olympics: Sindhu



with an opportunity to learn new skills and technique. "I'm focussed and all the hard work would enable me to tackle my opponents in Japan," said the 2019 World champion. The Hyderabad-based shuttler said the Japanese players wouldn't enjoy home advantage since the pressure of Olympics is different from other global competitions. "When it comes to Olympics, I don't think the home team would have an edge over others. All top players have different styles of play and that makes the situation unpredictable. On a given day, anyone can spring a surprise," she explained. Sindhu said she is more experienced than she was four years ago when she won silver at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. "I'm better in all aspects of the game. Hope that would be an advantage," she added.

Ramco Cements contributes Covid Medical Relief worth Rs.1 Crore to Odisha Government



(A.O. Bureau)

Bhubaneswar, Jun 3: Last week Ramco Cements had committed Rs.1 crore worth of Covid medical relief to the Government of Odisha. On 1st June the Covid medical relief items were delivered to Dr. S.R.Ransingh, General Manager (Equipment), Odisha State Medical Corporation

Rs.1 Crore worth Covid Medical Relief Delivered to Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited.

Ltd. (OSMCL). The medical equipment / materials include BPL Make Ventilators (Elisa 600), BPL Make Ventilators (VENT 50 C), Venus Make N95 Masks and Oxygen Face Masks. The com-

pany has been closely coordinating with various Government agencies and providing relief by procuring lifesaving equipment and instruments and making the same available to the health care systems.

Antigua and Barbuda prefers repatriation of Choksi from Dominica to India directly: Local media

(A.O. Bureau)

New Delhi, Jun 3: Antigua and Barbuda prefers that fugitive diamantaire Mehul Choksi be repatriated from Dominica to India directly, the Cabinet of the Caribbean island country decided in a meeting, local media reported. The Cabinet minutes published by the media outlet show that "Choksi matter" was one of the agenda items discussed during the meeting on Wednesday where it was held that Choksi is now a "problem" of Dominica and if he comes back to Antigua and Barbuda the "problem reverts" to it. The meeting

chaired by Prime Minister Gaston Browne and attended by all his ministers physically and virtually decided that law enforcement officials will continue to gather intelligence in the circumstances of Choksi's "departure" from Antigua, media outlet Antigua Breaking News said. "The preference of the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda is for Choksi to be repatriated to India from Dominica," the Cabinet minutes said. He was detained in neighbouring island country Dominica for illegal entry after a possible romantic escapade with his rumoured girlfriend.

upGrad to upskill 1,00,000 women in Data & Technology Roles

(A.O. Bureau)

Mumbai, Jun 3: upGrad for Business, the B2B arm of South Asia's largest higher edtechupGrad, is in talks with corporates to train over 100,000 women in Data Science, Technology and Management roles as part of their WISDOM (Women in Science, Data, Organisational behaviour & Management) initiative. This will enable organisations to enhance gender diversity in these fields which are typically seen as male dominated. "We have 23.3% women in

the workplace today as compared to 42.7% two decades ago. This is alarming in the context of the Indian corporate ecosystem. As part of our 'WISDOM' initiative, we aim to bring holistic learning for our women colleagues, by melding our Data and Soft Skills expertise. Our vision is to empower women professionals to not only thrive but also drive success for their organisations." said Minaxi Indra, President - upGrad for Business, who is a woman leader in Tech herself. upGrad for Business has

curated three buckets of women-centric programs with a focus on Young Professionals, Middle Management and Business Heads. These programs will be an excellent addition to their bestselling Data,

Tech, Management and Behavioural programs. upGrad alumna Supriya Raman, who's been ranked as one of the top 10 women data scientists in India in 2021, by Analytics Insight said, "What I learned at



'Deeply appreciate': PM Modi thanks Kamala Harris after US Covid vaccine assurance

New Delhi, Jun 3: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday spoke to the United States Vice President Kamala Harris and expressed his appreciation for the assurance of Covid vaccine supplies to India as part of the US Strategy for Global Vaccine Sharing. "Spoke to VP Kamala Harris a short while ago. I deeply appreciate the assurance of vaccine supplies to India as part of the US Strategy for Global Vaccine Sharing. I also thanked

her for all the support and solidarity from the US government, businesses and Indian diaspora," Modi tweeted. During the call, Kamala Harris conveyed that the United States will begin sharing vaccines with India, along with other countries by end of June. The two leaders also discussed ongoing efforts to strengthen the health supply chain between the US and India, including in the area of vaccine manufacturing, a statement from

Prime Minister's Office said. "They highlighted the potential of the India-US partnership as well as the Quad vaccine initiative in addressing the long-term health impact of the pan-

demic," PMO statement said. During the phone call, PM Modi also said that he hopes to welcome Harris in India once the global health situation normalises. Meanwhile, US President

upGrad helped me go through all the interviews and hackathon rounds smoothly. I secured a role as a Data Scientist in Levi Strauss and Co. with a salary hike of 120%. The case studies/assignments I did during the course, acts as a good code repository base & quick references for the day-to-day project work. I went through a huge learning curve, and I give all credit to upGrad to help me with the most systematic learning experience." To learn more about the initiative, please write in to: business@upgrad.com



Joe Biden laid out the plan to share some 25 million of a planned 80 million Covid-19 vaccine doses with the rest of the world, including India. In a statement, President Biden provided details on how the US will allocate the first 25 million of the vaccines to lay the ground for increased global coverage and to address real and potential surges, high burdens of disease, and the needs of the most vulnerable countries.

Important Information For Train Passengers: Cancellation Of Trains Up To 20th June, 2021



- Six Pairs Of Daily Special Trains Will Remain Cancelled Up To 20th June, 2021.
- Four Pairs Of Daily Special Trains Will Remain Cancelled Up To 20th June Except On 17th & 18th June, 2021.
- Six Trains Will Remain Cancelled From 11th To 20th June, 2020 And Six From 12th To 21st June, 2021.
- Three Pairs Of Special Trains To Remain Cancelled Partially.
- One Pair Of Special Train Will Be Cancelled On Saturday & Sundays.
- This Is For Poor Patronisation And To Break The Chain Of Covid19 Infection.
- PRS Counters To Remain Open Till 2000hrs.

(A.O. Bureau)

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CANCELLATION OF TRAINS FROM 11TH TO 20TH JUNE EXCEPT 17TH & 18TH JUNE, 2021: 01. 08428/08427 Puri-Angul-Puri Special, 02. 08432/08431 Puri-Cuttack-Puri Special, 03. 08433/08434 Bhubanewar-Palasah-Bhubaneswar Special 04. 02892/02891 Bhubanewar-Jagadpur-Bangiriposi-Bhubaneswar Special from Bhubaneswar from 11th to 20th June and from Jagadalpur from 12th to 21st June, 2021. 08445/08446 Bhubanewar Special from Bhubaneswar from 11th to 20th June and from Bangiriposi from 11th to 21st June, 2021 except 18th & 19th June.

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS ON NOMINATED DAYS FROM 11TH TO 21ST JUNE, 2021: 08528/08527 Visakhapatnam-Cuddapah-Rajpur-Visakhapatnam Special from Visakhapatnam from 11th to 20th June

11th to 20th June and from Raipur from 12th to 21st June, 2021. 08515/08516 Visakhapatnam-Kiranandul-Visakhapatnam Special from Visakhapatnam from 11th to 20th June and from Kirandul from 12th to 21st June, 2021.

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS ON WEEKENDS, 12-13 & 19-20 JUNE, 2021 (SATURDAY & SUNDAY): 08301/08302 Sambalpur-Rayagada-Sambalpur Special PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF TRAINS: A. 08428/08427 Puri-Angul-Puri Special from both the directions on 17th & 18th June, 2021 will run between Puri and Talcher and will remain cancelled between Talcher and Angul. B. 08301/08302 Sambalpur-Rayagada-Sambalpur Special

from both the directions on 11th June and from 14-18th June, 2021 will run between Sambalpur and Titilagarh and will remain cancelled between Titilagarh and Rayagada. C. 02097/02098 Bhubaneswar-Junagarh Road-Bhubaneswar Special from Bhubaneswar from 11th to 20th June and from Junagarh Road from 12th to 21st June, 2021 will run between Bhubaneswar and Rayagada and will remain cancelled between Rayagada and Junagarh Road from both the directions.

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.

ACC Trust provided 'DISHA' to 14,304 lives in 2020

(A.O. Bureau)

New Delhi, Jun 3: ACC Limited, one of the leading players in the Indian building materials space, through ACC DISHA, is identifying and training young people with employment under the CSR & social development wing of ACC Ayushman Trust. ACC's DISHA aims to provide alternate livelihoods around plant locations to unemployed youth

- ACC trust has allotted close to 4 crores to its DISHA initiative in 2020
- ACC trust also provided education in 186 schools and supported 13,576 children in Anganwadis

Anganwadis and equipped 65 government schools with e-learning in 2020, under the Vidyavikash initiative. We have worked diligently through ACC TRUST towards the social and economic welfare of our host communities. DISHA has been successful in impacting a large group of community youths through various skill development initiatives. The younger generation look up to DISHA and hopes to realize their employability potential," said Mr. Sridhar Balakrishnan, CEO & MD, ACC Cements. ACC DISHA is driving the development of communities around ACC's business presence and has so far covered 14 districts where it has implemented the project to eliminate unemployment. All the 14 DISHA centres follow an innovative way of solving the problem of unemployment through Participatory Rural Appraisal study of