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Kamala Harris calls PM Narendra Modi on US vaccines for India; first set is one day's dose

New Delhi, Jun 3: Days after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met key officials in the Biden administration in Washington DC, the US announced Thursday that it will distribute Covid-19 vaccines to India as part of its "strategy for global vaccine sharing". President Joe Biden made the announcement and Vice President Kamala Harris called up Prime Minister Narendra Modi regarding Washington's plans to make vaccines available to other countries, including India. Initial estimates suggest India will get about 2-3 million doses in the first tranche of doses via COVAX and directly from the US. This is a day's dose for India - on Thursday, the country administered 2.62 million

doses, just over 6 million, will be shared directly with countries experiencing surges, those in crisis, and other partners and neighbours, including Canada, Mexico, India, and the Republic of Korea," he said. White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Jeffrey Dunston Zients said the first tranche of 25 million doses will include Pfizer, Moderna and J&J. Biden said: "We are sharing these doses not to secure favours or extract concessions. Prime Minister Modi, after speaking to Vice President Harris, said: "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



doses, according to a provisional official report. These included 24,04,166 first dose beneficiaries and 220,805 second dose beneficiaries. A US statement said that the administration will begin sharing the "first 25 million doses of COVID vaccines" with countries as part of the framework for sharing at least 80 million vaccines globally by the end of June. Biden said: "At least 75 per cent of these doses - nearly 19 million - will be shared through COVAX, including approximately 6 million doses for Latin America and the Caribbean, approximately 7 million for South and Southeast Asia, and approximately 5 million for Africa, working in coordination with the African Union and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention." "The remaining

US government, businesses and Indian diaspora." He said they also discussed ongoing efforts to further strengthen India-US vaccine cooperation, and "the potential of our partnership to contribute to post-Covid global health and economic recovery". US NSA Jake Sullivan said that Biden made a commitment to ensure that India received doses, and an allocation not just under the regional portion through COVAX but additional allocation from the "discretionary" portion of the US. He said "the precise destination of the judgments we make, about where those go, is a combination of where there are specific urgent situations where partner countries are facing crises and so some examples of that include a portion of those doses will go to India".

Odisha CM cancels Plus II board examinations in view of COVID-19 situation

Bhubaneswar, Jun 4: Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday announced the cancellation of this year's Plus II board examination conducted by the Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) in view of the COVID-19 situation. Stating that the life of students is more important than examinations, the Chief Minister said all stakeholders will have to face a lot of problems if they are conducted amidst the second wave of the pandemic. The Chief Minister directed the CHSE to formulate well-defined objective criteria to evaluate the students



after thorough consultations with experts. He said that if any student is not satisfied with such evaluation, he can appear in examinations to be conducted which will be announced by the

CHSE after taking the situation into consideration. He said that the decision to cancel the examinations was taken keeping in view the larger interest of the students. "First comes

life, other things come thereafter," he said, adding that society and civilisation will move forward if life is protected. He also praised the students and their efforts and patience

during such a challenging time. The announcement to cancel the examination was made by the Chief Minister a day after minister of state for school and mass education Sameer Dash had a meeting with top officials to discuss all aspects of the issue. Earlier this week, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) had cancelled the Class XII board exams. Several states including Gujarat, Karnataka and Maharashtra had also cancelled Class XII board examinations.

WATCO Gears Up To Strengthen Safe Sanitation Service Under Garima Scheme

Bhubaneswar, Jun 4: Water Corporation of Odisha (WATCO) has successfully conducted a series of trainings for core sanitation workers and sanitation service providers under 'Garima' scheme in Bhubaneswar, Puri and Cuttack in a phased manner. The programs were designed to train the participants on the use of various PPEs & Safety Devices that are required for cleaning & maintenance of sewer lines and septic tanks. With an aim to ensure the safety and dignity of core sanitation workers, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the



scheme 'Garima' on 11th September 2020 benefitting around 20,000 sanitation workers and their families. "Being first of its kind in the country, Scheme 'Garima' plans to provide a comprehensive package of service level benefits, social security and financial benefits to core sanitation

workers and their families, thereby institutionalising and regulating the delivery of sanitation services," WATCO stated. WATCO, being responsible for drinking water supply and sewerage related services in Bhubaneswar, Puri, Cuttack, Jatni, Khurda and Berhampur has

been determined as the nodal agency for implementation of scheme 'Garima' in its existing divisions. "We will complete the trainings for all registered core sanitation workers and sanitation service providers in Bhubaneswar, Puri and Cuttack soon and will extend to other cities to improve their skills on hassle free and safe sanitary cleaning," said Er Pradipta Kumar Swain, Managing Director, WATCO. The trainings, conducted under strict adherence to COVID protocols, were delivered by experts from the field, who deal with manufac-

turing and supply of equipments that are designed to protect the workers from all kinds of hazards encountered during Confined Space Entry. The trainings included live demonstrations on the use of each. The demonstration of these crucial equipments gave an assurance of safety to the workers and an understanding on the benefits of using them while conducting hazardous activities. The training programs were also used as a platform to sensitize the participants about the key features & benefits of GARIMA Scheme.

Fresh Low Pressure Over BoB Likely Around June 11; Monsoon To Reach Odisha On Time

Bhubaneswar, Jun 4: A possible low pressure over Bay of Bengal may result in onset of southwest monsoon in Odisha on time. According to Regional Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar, a low pressure area is likely to form over North Bay of Bengal and neighbourhood around June 11. Under its influence, southwest monsoon is likely to advance into most parts of Odisha. The southwest monsoon has already reached Kerala on June 3. With possible low pressure area over the Bay of Bengal by June 11, the seasonal wind is expected to reach Odisha by its usual time around June 10-12 this year, the IMD stated. Meanwhile, the MeT has pre-

dicted thunderstorm for several parts of Odisha till June 9, 2021. Here's Weather forecast and warning for districts of Odisha for next five days:
Day 1 (valid from 1.30 PM of June 4 upto 8.30 AM of June 5): Forecast: Light to moderate rain or thundershower very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nawarangpur, Nuapada, Bargarh, J h a r s u g u d a , Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Deogarh and at one or two places over the rest districts of Odisha. Yellow warning: Thunderstorm with lightning very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Nawarangpur, Nuapada, Bargarh, J h a r s u g u d a , Sundargarh, Keonjhar,



Mayurbhanj, Deogarh, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Balasore.
Day 2 (valid from 8.30 AM of June 5 upto 8.30 AM of June 6): Forecast: Light to moderate rain or thundershower very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Odisha.
Day 3 (valid from 8.30 AM of June 6 upto 8.30 AM of June 7): Forecast: Light to moderate rain or thundershower very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Odisha.
Day 4 (valid from 8.30

AM of June 7 upto 8.30 AM of June 8): Forecast: Light to moderate rain or thundershower very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nuapada, Bolangir, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Sundargarh, Deogarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore and at one or two places over the rest districts of Odisha. Yellow warning: Thunderstorm with lightning very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Nuapada, Bolangir, Jharsuguda,

Bargarh, Sambalpur, Sundargarh, Deogarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore.
Day 5 (valid from 8.30 AM of June 8 upto 8.30 AM of June 9): Forecast: Light to moderate rain or thundershower very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of South Odisha and at one or two places over the districts of North Odisha. Yellow warning: Thunderstorm with lightning very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Sonepur, Boudh, Nuapada, Balangir, Kalahandi, K a n d h a m a l , N a w a r a n g p u r , Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Angul, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore.

Registration For COVID Vaccination On CoWIN Now Available In Odia

Bhubaneswar, Jun 4: The registration for COVID vaccination on the Central Government's CoWIN portal is now available in Odia language too. Apart from English, the beneficiaries can schedule and reschedule their appointment for COVID vaccine doses on CoWIN site in 10 regional languages including Odia. A tweet by Aarogya Setu, Central Government's digital service used for contact tracing, syndromic mapping and self-assessment for COVID-19, revealed it yesterday.

Kerala CM Supports Odisha For Centralised Procurement Of Covid Vaccines

Bhubaneswar, Jun 4: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has extended his support in the efforts of Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for centralised procurement of Covid-19 vaccines and their distribution among States. "I am grateful for the efforts taken by your goodself. We are in complete agreement that the Centre should procure preventive vaccine against Covid and the administration of vaccination can be left to be managed effectively by the States," said Vijayan in a letter to Patnaik. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had on June 2 appealed to all Chief Ministers to urge the Government of India for centralised pro-

curement of Covid-19 vaccines and distributing those among States. "Under the above circumstances, the best option available is for the Government of India to centrally procure the vaccines and distribute it among the States so that our citizens are vaccinated at the earliest," Patnaik had added. While informing that Odisha Government has written to the Union Government in this regard, the Chief Minister suggested that all the State Governments should come to a consensus on the issue for early resolution of the problem. He asked the States to act fast before any third wave comes and creates further havoc.

CBSE To Include Coding And Data Science From Class 6



New Delhi, Jun 4: CBSE class 6th to 8th students will now study data science curriculum and coding as well. Both these subjects have been included in the syllabus from class 6th to 8th. The purpose of inclusion of these courses is to develop the stu-

dents technically. Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank tweeted that he had promised to include data science and coding subjects in schools under the new education policy. It has been completed by CBSE in association with

Microsoft. According to various media reports, according to CBSE President Manoj Ahuja, both these subjects will be very helpful for teachers and students to move forward in technology. It has been developed in collaboration with Microsoft.

Boost for Navy as MoD clears Rs 43,000 crore project to build six submarines

New Delhi, Jun 4: Defence Minister To Commission Submarine INS Khanderi On September 28 - The Indian Navy plans to acquire 24 new submarines, including six nuclear attack submarines, to bolster its underwater fighting capability. Giving a fillip to the Navy, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) Friday cleared a mega project to domestically build six conventional submarines equipped with state-of-the-art technology at a cost of around Rs 43,000 crore. The Ministry also approved proposals relating to the acquisition of vari-

ous equipment for modernisation and operational needs of the armed forces amounting to Rs 6,000 crore. The decisions were taken at a meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The DAC is the Defence Ministry's highest decision-making body on procurement. The Indian Navy plans to acquire 24 new submarines, including six nuclear attack submarines, to bolster its underwater fighting capability. It currently has 15 conventional submarines and two nuclear submarines.

BJP MLA Suspended For Speaking Against Nitish Kumar

Patna, Jun 4: The party has taken a big action for making rhetoric against Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. MLC Tunna Pandey has been suspended by the party. MLC Tunna Pandey had directly opened a front against CM Nitish Kumar. He had said that Nitish Kumar may be the Chief Minister, but he cannot be our leader. JDU leaders were mobilized against MLC Tunna Pandey and were demanding strict action against him. JDU's Siwan district president had also demanded his expulsion from the BJP. Tunna Pandey has attacked CM Nitish Kumar say-



ing that he is the chief minister of the situation and Tejashwi Yadav's party was defeated on the strength of power. On this statement of Tunna Pandey, the Bharatiya Janata Party served him a notice and also sought an answer. Tunna Pandey is a member of the Legislative Council from the local body quota, whose election is to be

held this year. It is being told that Pandey is trying to join the RJD by leaving the BJP before the elections, that is why he is continuously giving statements against Nitish Kumar. Tunna Pandey's brother is an MLA from RJD. Bachcha Pandey has won the election on RJD ticket from Barharia by defeating JDU candidate.

Pfizer Vaccine To Be Given To Children Aged 12-15 In UK And USA

New Delhi, Jun 4: In countries around the world, there is concern about the impact of new corona strains on children. In view of this, efforts are also going on for the vaccination of children at an early age. In this sequence, Britain's Medicine Regulatory Body has given permission to the American pharma company Pfizer Vaccine for use in children aged 12-15 years. The country's regulatory authority has

described the vaccine as completely safe for this age group. The authority said - We have successfully tested this vaccine in children between the ages of 12 and 15. This vaccine has been found to be completely safe and effective for this age group. There is no danger of any kind in it. However, now it is up to the expert committee of vaccines in the country whether they will give exemption for vaccination in this age group or not.



Trial done on 2000 children, special attention was given to side effects 2000 children were included in the clinical trial of the vaccine. Professor Sir Munir Peermohammed, chair-

man of the Commission on Human Medicine, said - We were taking special care while conducting trials in children. Especially the side effects. Earlier in the US too, the Pfizer

vaccine has been allowed to be administered to children up to 12 years of age. Will go Based on a trial conducted in May on more than 2,000 US volunteers, the Food and Drug Administration said the Pfizer vaccine is safe and provides strong protection for adolescents aged 12 to 15 years. Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech recently asked for permission to vaccinate children in the European Union.

DCGI allows Serum Institute to manufacture Sputnik V vaccine in India

New Delhi, Jun 4: The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), Dr VG Somani, on Friday granted the Serum Institute of India (SII) to manufacture the Russian-made Sputnik V vaccine against the coronavirus disease (Covid-19), days after the Pune-based vaccine manufacturer had applied for the same. "The DCGI has granted permission to the Serum Institute to manufacture the Sputnik Covid-19 vaccine in India for examination, test, and analysis at its licensed Hadapsar facility with certain conditions," news agency PTI reported, citing official sources. India granted emergency use authorisation to Sputnik V on April 13. A test license, according to the Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation

(CDSCO) website, is granted for the import of small quantities of drugs for purposes of examination, testing, or analysis. This license, unless suspended or revoked, will be enforced for a period of three years from the date of its issuance on June 4. The Pune-based SII has collaborated with Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology, Moscow, in Russia for developing Sputnik V at its licensed Hadapsar facility. The SII has already told the government that it will be able to manufacture and supply 10 crore Covishield doses in June, while it is also manufacturing the Novavax vaccine, the regulatory clearance for which is awaited from the United States.

India opposes 'vaccine passport', Harsh Varshan says idea 'discriminatory'



New Delhi, Jun 4: Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan on Friday conveyed India's strong opposition to the idea of vaccine passport at a G7 plus ministerial session. Dr Vardhan said that it is still immature to implement such a move - in which countries may allow only vaccinated travellers - as the vaccination coverage of developing countries is less than the developed countries. "At this stage of the pandemic, it is pertinent to also discuss India's concern over the idea of a vaccine passport. Considering the fact of the lower levels of vac-

ination of the population in developing countries in contrast to the developed countries and given the still-unaddressed issues related to equitable and affordable access, supply and distribution of safe and effective vaccines, India would propose that the implementation of a vaccine passport will be hugely discriminatory and disadvantageous to the developing countries. India would suggest that the same should be implemented duly taking into consideration emerging evidence of the efficacy of vaccines and under the over-arching coordi-

nation by WHO duly attending to the anomaly of access and affordability as it exists today," the health minister said. The minister tweeted that with India being invited as a guest nation for this year's G7, he had the privilege to address the health ministers meeting via video conference. "Expressed India's concern & strong opposition to 'Vaccine Passport' at this juncture of the #pandemic. With vaccine coverage as a % of population in developing countries still low compared to developed countries, such an initiative could prove to be highly discriminatory," the minister tweeted. The Group of Seven is an intergovernmental organisation comprising Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Centre 'studying' Bandopadyay reply, action in due course

New Delhi, Jun 4: The Ministry of Home Affairs is "studying" former West Bengal Chief Secretary Alapan Bandopadhyay's reply to a show-cause notice and will decide on the action to be taken in due course, sources said Friday. Bandopadhyay's reply to the show-cause notice—issued by the Centre for reporting 15 minutes late to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's May 28 cyclone review meeting—was received by the Home Ministry on Thursday evening. Bandyopadhyay

has written to the Centre that he was scheduled to visit cyclone-affected areas and was following Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's orders. The new West Bengal Chief Secretary, Hari Krishna Dwivedi, has also written to the Centre, explaining why Bandyopadhyay reached 15 minutes late and left immediately. "The ministry is studying the reply. If needed, a legal opinion will also be sought. Accordingly, action will be initiated in due course," an MHA official said.

PM Modi to inaugurate 3 ethanol stations in Pune as a pilot project Today



New Delhi, Jun 4: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch three E100 ethanol dispensing stations in Pune under a pilot project on the occasion of World Environment Day on Saturday. The government will also release the E-20 notification that will allow oil companies to sell

20% ethanol blended petrol from April 2023. The BIS specifications for higher ethanol blends E12 and E15 will also be released. These efforts will lead to setting up of more ethanol distillation plants and increase consumption of ethanol in the ethanol producing states and the

adjoining regions before the year 2025, said a government release. A report on ethanol blending in India 2020-2025 will be released by the Prime Minister on the World Environment Day on June 5, the theme for which is 'promotion of biofuels for better environment'. PM Narendra Modi will join the event through video conferencing at 11 am. At the event he will also interact with farmers for their first-hand experience as enablers under the Ethanol Blended Petrol and Compressed BioGas Programmes.

Gujarat CM inaugurates 8 bus station buildings

Gandhinagar, Jun 4: Chief Minister Vijay Rupani on Friday virtually dedicated new buildings of eight bus stations and one bus depot of Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation (GSRTC). In the same virtual programme from Gandhinagar, the CM also laid foundation stone of five workshops of GSRTC. The



nine taluka places where new bus stations and one bus depot were virtually inaugurated by CM Rupani include

Dehgam in Gandhinagar district, Sanand in Ahmedabad, Limdi in Dahod, Santrapur in Panchmahals, Palanpur in Banaskantha, Piplav in Anand, Waghodia in Vadodara, Demai in Aravalli and Bhavnagar. The total expenses incurred on the eight bus stations and one bus depot is around Rs 28.20 crore.

Signs of normalcy in J&K, onus on Pak: Army chief MM Naravane

Srinagar, Jun 4: As India and Pakistan approach 100 days of adherence to the ceasefire along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, Army chief General MM Naravane said Thursday that the situation in J&K points to a return to normalcy on all parameters, and the onus of ensuring that the ceasefire holds lies squarely with Pakistan. He said "after a long time, we have reached a situation where peace and tranquillity prevails". Speaking to reporters in Srinagar at the end of a two-day review of security in the Valley, General Naravane said: "I have been briefed by all commanders on ground on the situation, both on the



LC and in the hinterland. All the parameters that we judge normalcy by have seen great improvement. There have been very few terrorist-initiated incidents, hardly any cases of stone-pelting, no cases of IEDs in the recent past. All these are indicators of a return

to a sense of normalcy... these are all indicators that the awaam (the people) also want the same." Reiterating that India will hold the ceasefire along the LoC as long as Pakistan does, he said: "The onus of making sure that the ceasefire holds is

squarely on Pakistan. We are willing to observe ceasefire as long as they do so. While ceasefire is on, other activities that they are indulging in, that is the terror infrastructure there on the other side of the LC, that continues. Therefore, there can be

no slackening, as far as we are concerned, in our level of preparedness or alertness." There were 591 ceasefire violations during January and February this year before the announcement by the two countries. Speaking on the possibility of troop reduction in the Valley as the situation improves, General Naravane said deployments are viewed periodically and if the situation permits, "then definitely we do take recourse to pulling out some troops from active deployment to the rear areas. So they also get time for rest and relief... but they will not be pulled out altogether".

Conspiracy to loot the temple of Brahmeshwar, Complaints in the Devotional Department

(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, Jun 6 : A 9th-century temple is being looted by the Brahmeshwar temple. If it is stopped, the temple property will be looted. Members of the temple's management committee and the people of Patna, Brahmeshwar, have lodged a complaint with the Chief Minister, Chief Secretary, Law Minister, Law Secretary, 5 Secretaries, Devotee Commissioner and Devotee Assistant Commissioner. According to the complaint, the

Devotional Commission has now proposed the formation of a temple management committee. While there is a rule to form a committee with the opinion of the people, the Devotional Department, under pressure from some politicians, has issued a notice to form a new committee. The proposal to form the new committee includes the removal of Trust Board member and MLA Anant Narayan Jena and President former corporator Malay Kumar Mohapatra, as



well as social activist Rajesh Kumar Sahu and lawyer Rashmi Ranjan Mohanty. However, those nominated in the new committee include Batakrisna Patnaik, a land dealer for the Brahmeshwar

temple, and Pushpa Das, a fake certificate holder. The land of Batakrisna Brahmeshwar temple has been forged and sold land in the name of Brahmeshwar Dev, plots no. Similarly, the family of the concerned

woman Pushpa Das is illegally occupying the land of Thahakur. It is a rule that no member of the Sevayat family should be on the temple trust, so the Devotional Department has suggested that the Pushpa of the family be included in the trust board. It is alleged that the ambassador provided the information to Hussein. Malay Kumar Mohapatra, president and former corporator of the temple management trust, Satish Patnaik and hundreds of locals have demanded strict action against it.

Ratha Yatra is to begin on 12th day of July this year

(A.O. Bureau)
Puri, Jun 4: Today Chief Administrator Dr Krishan Kumar, SJTA chaired annual meeting that is held to coordinate repair & maintenance work inside the temple. This meeting was attended by senior officials of ASI, SJTA Puri & PWD Odisha. Mr. Janhwij Sharma, Additional DG, ASI & Dr. Ramji Nigam, Director Science Conservation, ASI represented Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Renowned external experts were also present



in the meeting like Dr. A. P. Gupta, Ex Professor & HOD, IIT Kharagpur & Chairman of Technical Core Committee; Mr D P Mishra, Mr. Bindheswar Patra and Dr B K Ratha. Annual repair & restoration works will be taken up inside Garbhagruha and other parts of the temple. Strict adher-

ence to COVID protocol is to be ensured. A Micro Work Plan will be jointly developed by ASI & Works Department in this regard. Further, it was decided to make a five-year action plan for comprehensive conservation works of various Parshva Temples & other parts of temple complex.

Sand Artist Manas Kumar Sahoo's sand art on Puri Beach on the occasion of "World Environment Day"



(A.O. Bureau)
Puri, Jun 4: International Sand Artist Mr. Manas Kumar Sahoo has created a sand art with a focus on 'Eco-system Restoration' this year. He por-

trays the planting of trees in his Sand Art and how the earthy mother is so full of greenery and the environment is so beautiful. It took Mr. Manas about six hours to build

this sand art. The sand art is 20 feet wide and about 15 tons of sand has been consumed to sculpt it. In it, he conveys the message of "World Environment Day".

Odisha Govt Launches Website To Refund Depositors Defrauded In Chit Fund Scam

(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, Jun 4: To refund depositors defrauded by different chit fund companies, Odisha Government today unveiled a website to invite online claim applications from the victims. People, who have been duped of their deposited money in the ponzi scam, can apply for refund through the website: opid.odisha.gov.in. Documents related to personal information and the deposits will

be required during the registration. "Investors or depositors who have been the victims of fraud are requested to submit the application to get refund of their money after proper verification," said Government sources. In first phase, the Government has invited depositors of Hi-tech Estates and Promoters Pvt Ltd and Rajdhani Systems and Estates Pvt Ltd for the submission of the claim applications.

District and Town Congress Committee Submit Memorandum to Collector Khordha

(A.O. Bureau)
Khordha, Jun 4: Khordha District and Town Congress Committee submitted a memorandum to the Collector Khordha in virtual mode address to President of India and Chief Minister of Odisha that the central and state government of Odisha has failed to vaccinate all the citizens of our country and also mentioned in the memorandum that a number of small and medium size business have closed down permanently since the pandemic. Government should provide financial assistance of rupees ten thousands to the small business man and street vendors. In this occasions Khordha District Congress Committee President and MLA, Jatni Suresh Kumar Routray,

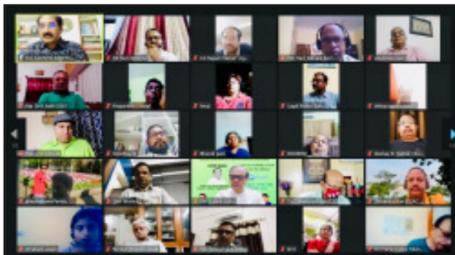


Khordha town Congress President Ranjit Mohapatra, PCC, member Sisir Kumar Parida, PCC, Spokespersons Amit Mohanty, Students Congress President Soumya Ranjan Patnaik, Jitendra Kumar Champati, Plaban Pattnaik, Siladitya Pattnaik, Pradosh Harichandan, Ashok Kumar Mangaraj, Sunil Kumar Routray and others are remain present and follows all the guidelines of Covid-19 protocols.

Bhubaneswar's Rotary Club Eco Celebrates World Bicycle Day

Bhubaneswar, Jun 4: Cycling is the cheapest method to keep oneself healthy, wealthy and Pollution free, opined Distinguished dignitaries. Participating in the virtual Celebration of World Bicycle Day hosted by Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar Eco, Experts impress upon to take on cycling as a living style instead of a mere sports. Founded in the month of April this year this theme based club having protection of Environment as its main agenda had taken up Bicycle Day celebration as the first major organisational venture. The programme was witnessed by thousands of viewers across the Globe through Social networking sites. At the outset of online

meeting, the participants observed brief silence in the memory of Renowned educationist Rotarian Dr. Bijay Kumar Sahoo. Delivering the Welcome address the Governor of Rotary District Number 3262 Saumya Ranjan Mishra, wanted that utmost priority to be given on the promotion, propagation and popularisation of cycling in order to achieve Economic advancement, health betterment and Environment protection. Delivering his speech through video Conferencing State's Sports and Youth Services Minister Tusharkanti Behera drew the attention towards Government's motto of "sports for Youth and youth for future." Shri Behera urged upon the



young masses in both rural and urban areas to make cycle as their first love for daily transport. Addressing the livestreaming session as the keynote Speaker, the Transport Commissioner of Government of Odisha Sanjeeb Panda elaborated on the prospects and facets of Cycling not only as a competitive Sports but as a medium of lifestyle. Specifying the manifold utilities of cycling Internationally acclaimed cyclist

Minati Mohapatra appealed to the younger generations to develop love and passion for Bicycle. Director of Ambedkar Foundation Dr. Debendra Majhi stressed on the need to change the social mindset of the people and arouse respect towards cyclists. Cycle enthusiast Naba Kishore Parida expressed serious concern over the unsafe cycling on National and state highways. Founder

of Konark Cyclothon Sudhir Dash gave a clarion call for going carbon free establishments and institutions. Cycling expert Dharendra Kar from U.S.A. underlined that Cycling is the best therapy for the healing of heart, Soul and body. Speaking on the occasion Chairman of World Odisha Society Kishore Dwibedi has advised to include cycling in the daily routine of human life. Addressing the Web gathering Guest of Honour and Chairman of Mo College initiative of Government of Odisha Akash Das Nayak emphasised that the Cycling must be given highest priority to ensure the evolution of a pollution free cosmos.

Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet Make's Maiden visit to Dhamara Port Odisha

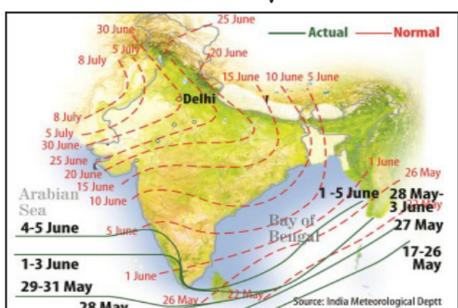


(A.O. Bureau)
Khordha, Jul 4: The Indian Naval Ships INS Ranvijay (Flagship) and INS Kavaratti from Eastern Fleet were on a maiden visit to Dhamara Port from 03 June to

04 June-2021 as part of Eastern fleet deployment. Rear Adm Tarun Sobti the flag officer commanding Eastern fleet and Naval Officer -in-charge, Odisha interacted Mr. Sudip Dasgupta, Offici-

ating CEO, Dhamara Port during the visit and discussed various aspects related to maritime security on the Eastern Seaboard and subsequently visited the port and the LNG terminal.

South-west Monsoon May Advance Into South Odisha On June 8



(A.O. Bureau)
Bhubaneswar, Jun 4: As the monsoon current had advanced up to Andhra Pradesh and the south-west monsoon had covered some areas of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, it was expected to move into

parts of south Odisha by June 8 or 9, the Centre of Environment and Climate (CEC), Siksha 'O' Anusandhan, said on Friday. The monsoon current was likely to get further strengthened over the next two to three days leading

to the formation of a low pressure area (LOPAR) over north-west Bay of Bengal on June 10-11 along the West Bengal-Odisha coast which would facilitate the advancement of the south-west monsoon into entire Odisha, it said. The system is likely to concentrate into a depression causing rains from the night of June 10 and the intensity of rainfall would increase from the evening of June 11 in the coastal belt of the state. Thereafter, heavy to very heavy rainfall would be experienced in northern and western Odisha up to June 14, it said.

Villagers Protests The Decision of Issue Temporary Permit to a Private Construction Company

(A.O. Bureau)
Khordha, Jun 4: Villagers protests the decision of Revenue department to issue temporary permit to Maa Baghei Construction Company. The Ghodadila mining of laterite stone situated Mouza-Parichhala, Khata no-373, Plot no-1512, 1514 and 1520 under Begunia Tahasil of Khordha District. Begunia Tahasil Administration decided to issue Ghodadila mining laterite stone



temporary permit in favour of Maa Baghei Construction Company without any tender or prior approval of gram sabha. For the result of which erosion, sinkholes, loss of biodiversity or the contamination of

soil ground water and surface water by the chemical emitted from mining process. It result in economic losses. This includes the presence of posttution in the area. It has a negative impacts on the environ-



ment and the ecology. It increases loss of life. The villagers demand that the Begunia Tahasil Administration stop to issue the temporary permit to Maa Baghei Construction Company and call for tender with the prior

approval of gram sabha and submitted the memorandum to the RDC, Central Zone, Cuttack, Collector and Sub-Collector, Khordha and Tahasildar Begunia to take appropriate action.

EDITORIAL

What's the point?

Yoga guru Ramdev recently stirred a hornets' nest. He said that allopathic medicine had failed to contain Coronavirus and that doctors were no good against the virus as many of them fell prey to it themselves. This did not augur well with the people practising modern medicine. The Government itself has banked upon modern medicine to fight Coronavirus. The Baba's comment indeed embarrasses the Government as it also shatters the morale of the doctors in the frontline of the battle against COVID. Now, the Indian Medical Association (IMA), the premier body of doctors, has taken strong exception to Ramdev's comments. It has said that he has caused "irreparable damage" to India's efforts to contain COVID. The IMA said that the yoga guru had created confusion about the national COVID protocol and vaccination programme. The association said it will continue to pursue action against Ramdev. The IMA also supported the "black day" protest against the yoga guru. The premier doctors' body also called for sedition charges against Ramdev and his prosecution under the Disaster Management Act. It is indeed true that Baba Ramdev's comments do not help the fight against COVID. Apart from being a yoga guru, he is also the marketing manager and the brand ambassador of Patanjali products. He has a vested interest in debunking modern medicine as he came up with uncertified Coronil, his concoction to cure Corona. Ahead of the protest, the foot-in-mouth guru retracted his statement. He said that he respected allopathy and doctors practising modern medicine. He also called for an "integrated approach" with the use of ayurvedic and allopathic treatment. His other jibes notwithstanding, to be fair to him, there is a substance in his call for an "integrated approach". It's true, many people treated themselves with ayurvedic medicines. To date, there is no cure for Corona; it has been a hit-and try approach. The Government could step in. Remember the Ministry of AYUSH, established in 2014? Promoting immunity-boosting practices of ayurveda could help. But, just like the Baba, there is a large, powerful and commercial lobby for allopathic medicines. Many people could have survived, had they got ayurvedic treatment at home and did not have to run to the hospitals in the second wave. Hope better sense prevails an integrated approach is adopted by the Government. The Government would have to take a lead.

Stay together

The Union Government is embroiled in an avoidable controversy at a time when all focus should be on vaccinating the citizenry of the country. Though much of its own making, the current imbroglio has left the Centre fending off not just an assertive judiciary, but indeed a determined pushback from the States as well. If the former brings the judiciary to contend with the executive, the latter is an intra-executive affair. The judiciary-executive confrontation was something expected ever since Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the Supreme Court what the Government thought of the judiciary's questioning of the vaccination policy, that the judicial intervention was "over-zealous" and bereft of "expert advice or administrative experience" that leaves the executive with "little room to explore innovative solutions". The response took time coming, but was powerful when it finally did, saying the courts cannot be "silent spectators when constitutional rights of citizens are infringed by executive policies". For the first time in recent times, we have a recipe for a contretemps as two pillars of democracy square it off over the gamut of COVID-19 vaccine policies — availability, choice, age groups, price, procurement, transportation, distribution and time frame. It is not the issue whether the Supreme Court is right or the Union Government. It certainly is not a contest of wills or a clash of egos even if interested parties would try to picture it so. It simply is a matter of trust, rather the lack of it between the two institutions over an issue of equal concern to both. The Supreme Court is vexed with hearing about pandemic spread and deaths and lack of vaccine and long queues of people and the haggling between the Centre and the States over distribution and pricing. The Centre has defended its policies without even once stopping to wonder how can it continue to procure vaccines and determine pricing. That the line is having to be washed in public does not help either the cause of the people or the involved parties. The Centre, on the other hand, is facing, for the first time, what is called a "pushback" from the States which feel they are pushed into a corner by the vaccine policies. States like Maharashtra, West Bengal and Kerala, run by non-BJP Governments, have been at the forefront of the critics group. States like Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, run by the BJP Governments, have been countering the criticism on behalf of the Centre. What tilted the balance is Odisha, the state with an NDA-friendly Government, its chief minister clearly insisting on centralised procurement of vaccines by the Centre. This is the first occasion when an unusually 'silent' State has raised its voice over the pandemic management policies. Whether other 'silent' States will join the chorus is not the matter; that every State is finally beginning to realise the impossible situation it finds itself in.

Apolitical soldiers tire of bombast

The 'nation-is-the-strongest-when-it-is-united', as said by US President Joe Biden, holds true for all nations. The thought matters! There are frequently interchanged political expressions like the Right-wing, nationalistic or conservative, to suggest a certain typology in democracies, globally. Amongst the "Uniformed"/veteran communities, empirical data does suggest a historical bias towards these socially conservative ideology, hence the traditional traction towards Republicans in the US or the Conservative Party in the UK. In the 2016 US presidential elections, the Vets gave Donald Trump a 60%-34% advantage over Hillary Clinton and, in 2012, John McCain held a 54%-44% advantage over Barack Obama. But the tumultuous Trump era (2016-2020) of ostensibly "muscular" politics had an unprecedentedly reverse impact on the Veteran sentiment — the more inclusive, measured, and reasonable tone of Joe Biden, swayed the Vets favourably. Misplaced swagger of calling some fallen Veterans "suckers and losers", denigrating Gold Star families (eg Khizr Khan's), recklessly interfering in the Military affairs (eg misconduct of SEAL Edward Gallagher), shunning professional advice (eg Defense Secretary James Mattis on Syria) or trying to usurp the hallowed imagery of the Soldier under a partisan flag (eg General Mark Milley's apology following an inadvertent photocop) was ultimately too much for the patriotic Veterans to support a divisively polarising agenda, that can play havoc with the proudly united and apolitical ways of the "Uniform". Biden's consistent line that



Bhopinder Singh

the "nation-is-the-strongest-when-it-is-united" gained deep traction from the Veterans who exemplify the regional, ethnic, and religious diversities. Even though Biden has had a mixed record on Veteran affairs, his humility and inherent decency with words like, "We must do more than rattle our sabers and demand allegiance to our vision simply because we believe we are right" was unusually resonating, pacifist and conciliatory — it still cut ice with the Veterans, who had tired of Trump's thundering and inflammatory bravado. A valuable lesson that civilian politicians often forget is that for a soldier, his/her national and constitutional values come before partisan loyalties. A quintessential "soldier's moment" came in late Veteran-Senator John McCain's campaign (Republican) when one woman in the audience said that she didn't trust Obama because "he's an Arab", was immediately corrected by John McCain's

immortal words, "No ma'am. He's a decent family man, a citizen that I just happen to have disagreements with on fundamental issues!" The Veteran-Senator never hesitated to call a spade a spade, even if it happened to his own party man like Donald Trump, whom he slammed, "The appearance of toughness or a reality show facsimile of toughness seems to matter more than any of our values." At McCain's funeral, his rival from the Democratic Party, Barack Obama, reciprocated the dignity that can perhaps accrue only to combatants: "When John spoke of virtues like service and valour, they weren't just words to him, it was a truth that he had lived and for which he was prepared to die." Obama movingly spoke about a soldier's constitutionality, "he did understand that some principle transcend politics. More recently in France, the Army Chief of Staff had to intervene and publicly dissuade

soldiers from signing an extreme Right-wing letter on "religious extremism", as personal convictions on political-societal passions could trigger divisive talks, within the "barracks". The Chief urged his soldiers to demonstrate, "unsurpassable virtues, cohesion and esprit-de-corps", in an unmistakable ode to remain apolitical, despite political provocations from far-right politicians like Marie Le Pen, who have electoral agendas. As the Biden Administration settles down and faces tough decisions on Military matters like pulling back troops from Afghanistan or checkmating China — irrespective of their sanguinity, judiciousness or efficacy, at least the misplaced attempts to politicise and appropriate the imagery of the soldier, is gone. Two back-to-back presidential events pertaining to the Military reflected the now-normalised optics of decorum, grace and dignity that typifies the institution. Later, at the Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington to honour the fallen soldiers, Biden sagely reiterated, "Democracy. That's the soul of America. And I believe it's a soul worth fighting for. And so do you, a soul worth dying for" — Biden added a personal touch to the poignant ceremony when he remembered his son Beau, an Iraq War Veteran who passed away in 2015, "To those who mourn a loved one today, Jill and I have some idea how you are feeling". Perhaps the best unwitting reaction to unnecessary theatrics and bombast came from Col Ralph Puckett who asked innocently, "Why all the fuss", when asked to go to the White House — that perhaps captures the essence of honesty, simplicity and nobility that makes the apolitical soldier, a very special citizen and patriot.

Save and Nurture the Environment

Odisha is endowed with rich natural resources which have made the state more vulnerable, since three-fourth of its population depends on climate sensitive natural resources based livelihood such as agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The nature, scale and magnitude of the climate change impacts are relatively high given that the state's agriculture is largely rain-fed and is periodically exposed to climate induced extreme events. For more than a decade, the state has been experiencing contrasting extreme weather conditions; from heat-waves to cyclones; from droughts to floods. In last few years, calamities have claimed some thousand lives. Recently "Yash" made two districts water logged for several days destroying hundred acres of crops. Considering the concern, the state has formulated Climate Change Action Plan 2010-15 in a holistic manner to address the issues of mitigation and adaptation. It focused on 11 critical sectors, viz., Energy, Mining, Industry, Forestry, Water, Agriculture, Coasts & Disasters, Urban, Health, Transport and Fisheries & Animal Resources. These sectors are having linkages to climate change, and thus, can go a long way in reducing the vulnerability. World Bank had agreed to provide non-lending technical assistance to Odisha for implementation of its action plan particularly for some demonstration and institutional arrangement projects in 2013. The demonstration projects include installation of solar PV panel in the boats plying in Chilika Lake, battery operated auto-rickshaws in Bhubaneswar, low cost sewage treatment system and maximum use of fly ash. Similarly, institutional arrangement projects plan to strengthen capabilities of State Pollution Control Board, Climate Change Cell, and green energy consumption, etc. Since December 2013, the state has been emphasizing on the massive plantation and increasing canopy density of degraded forests to mitigate a large load of carbon on environment. The state has already taken up solar project initiatives and the use of energy saving devices, for example, OREDA and OMFED have been working to promote improved Chullah and bio-gas plants for energy saving. The state is in the process of providing incentives to private households for having roof top solar projects and rain water harvesting system. Emphasis has also been given to promote regulated irrigation measures in the areas under major and medium irrigation projects. The progress report of the climate change action plan of government of Odisha, which was



released in July 2015, mentions that the budget allocation for climate change related activities as a percentage of total budget allocation has increased from Rs. 1,700.17 crore (3.3 per cent) in 2012-13, to Rs. 2,184.35 crore (3.6 per cent) in 2013-14 and Rs. 3,207.26 crore (4 per cent) in 2014-15. During 2010-15, the climate change adaptive measures taken

Er. Bidyadhar Panda
B.Tech. Civil., M.Tech. Env.,
Mob. 9439128050

up in the state include disaster preparedness, construction of flood and cyclone shelters, and improvement in agricultural productivity including cultivation of climate resilient crop varieties, increasing perennial fruit plantation and adoption of integrated farming systems. Similarly, mitigation measures undertaken include adoption of super critical technology in power generation, higher solar power generation, efficient energy use in reduction initiative, efficient energy use in urban water supply, energy efficient building, development of inland waterways, and transportation of bulk material through rail network. Now entire world is praising Odisha in handling the disaster cyclonic situation with zero casualty. In spite of the achievements of government tailored policies and actions of climate change, the state has not yet attained a milestone in this direction. Still the state economy is facing the vagaries of climate change-reduced length of winter, increased length of summer, intolerable heat-waves, erratic rain pattern, floods, droughts, cyclones, sea level rise and like. All these have taken tolls in the form of reduced agricultural produce and industrial efficiency, increased food insecurity, reduced carbon sink capacity of forests, increased coastal hazards, reduced fish production, increased health related issues, and reduction in out-

bound tourism. Let us promise to make our environment good on June 05, World Environment Day and brain storm how to survive in this earth for long. There are so many research have been made till day but most importantly if we concentrate on few aspects then our environment may back to its old shape i.e.

(i)Efficiency in Energy Consumption and Conservation: By bringing efficiency in energy consumption and conservation through the use of public transport system, use of bio-fuels, use of nuclear power, use of renewable sources of energy, increasing efficiency of thermal power plant, and solar radiation management, the state can reduce the adverse effects of climate change.

(ii)Water Resource Management: By using water-efficient technologies, recycling of waste water, adopting the use of ocean water, improving efficiency of irrigation systems, rain water harvesting, proper industrial waste disposal, improved drainage systems, conservation of wetlands, and development of desalination technologies, the state can mitigate the vagaries of climate change.

(iii)Coastal Protection: In Odisha, it is highly desirable that the coastal regions should be protected from the vagaries of climate change through adaptation, research, rehabilitation, awareness, timely forecasting, evacuation and warning systems.

(iv)Green Economy: By conserving wildlife and biodiversity, increasing afforestation and reforestation, and by adopting sustainable agriculture through new varieties of crops, thermal resistant crops, and alternative cropping patterns, we can be able to reduce the threats of climate change.

(v)Industrial Efficiency:

By reducing industrial emission of GHGs through adoption of low-carbon technologies, adopting proper means of waste disposal, and by bringing efficiency in industrial energy use, we can also attain sustainable growth and development. In addition to above most important aspects there few others also need to be addressed properly.

(vi)Public Awareness: Our problems are man-made; therefore they may be solved by man. Thus, the most important part of the climate change adaptation and mitigation is creating public awareness. If people are not aware of the issues and challenges of climate change, then they will not accept the adaptation and mitigation strategies. This would also help maintaining good human health conditions. The awareness of the benefits of immunisation, sanitation, disease surveillance, etc. can go a long-way in mitigating the plight of the affected people. Public awareness on small size of human population is an effective means of dealing with the vulnerabilities of climate change as more people means more deforestation and production of more GHGs leading to more global warming. Last but not the least is that public awareness is required to convince people about the long-term benefits of sustainable and eco-friendly life style.

(vii)Self-Help Groups: Women's Self-Help Groups can play an important role in a large number of measures targeted at drought/flood mitigation. They could be involved in small scale industries, running public distribution shops, Aanganwadis and day care centres, and overseeing water distribution and utilization in their community.

(viii)Alternative Employment Opportunities for Farmers: Employment opportunities outside the agricultural sector such as engaging in construction activities, poultry farming, etc. can reduce the impacts of extreme weather events on farmers.

(ix) Improved Land-use and Natural Resource Management Policies and Institutions: Crop insurance, subsidies, and pricing policies related to water and energy could help in coping with the disasters. Rational pricing of surface and groundwater, for example, can arrest its excessive and injudicious use. Policies and incentives should be evolved that would encourage farmers to sequester carbon in the soil and thus, improve soil health, water use and energy more efficiently. If we are not serious about our mother earth and environment now then where will we go? Will it be feasible for all to shift Moon or Mars! Can we imagine mankind without good and supporting Environment? So, this June 05, is the day on which we may analyse our approach and thought to lead a disease free peaceful life we need to save and nurture the environment.

Social organization holds Corona Awareness & Sanitization Campaign at Kujang



(A.O. Bureau) Paradip, Jun 4: In view of increasing COVID-19 infection in Kujang of Jagatsinghpur district, a joint awareness campaign and sanitisation drive has been launched in Kujang area by the 'Friends For Ever' and 'Sradha' voluntary organizations on Friday. In the process, Kujang market, various government offices, com-

munity health centers, etc were been sanitised and mask and sanitizer also been distributed among the public. The program was attended by Amiya Kumar Panda, BDO, Kujang, Pritiparnna Mishra, Tahsildar, Puja Lenka, Addl. Tahsildar, Paro Tudu, IIC, Kujang PS, Bijoy Kumar Panda, Officer, CHC, Kujang, Friends For Ever mem-

bers Siv Kumar Sahu, Nrusingh Pradhan, Damodar Swain, Pranay Parija, Bhabani Das, Salil Behera, Hiranya Nayak, Satyasankar Mishra, Kailash Mohapatra and others were coordinated the event. Similarly, volunteers led by Jyoti Ranjan Barik, Head of Shradha Institution and Environmentalist, contributed to the sanitation program.

Mega Jiban Bindu held at Digapahandi By Niranjan Reddy

(A.O. Bureau) Digapahandi, Jun 4: Ganjam District Biju youth Janata Dal and Odisha Mo Paribar have organized a voluntary blood donation camp in K. Samantarapur village of Kushpada panchayat under Digapahandi constituency. M.Niranjan Reddy is always addicted to doing something new for taking opportunity by youths. "If the youth are to take action today, the progress of the state and the country must be possible, Mr Reddy said. With such a unique plan, Niranjan Reddy and Ganjam District Youth Janata Dal president Laxman Choudhury organized a mega blood donation camp Jeevan Bindhu on behalf of Odisha Mo Paribar. The whole world is in

a state of panic amid the horrors of the corona epidemic, with the view that the people of Ganjam district will not be anemic in the future. The mega blood donation camp was organized on the premises of M.Samantarapur Primary School and 153 units of blood were collected voluntarily. A large number of youth workers from Hinjili, Chhatrapur, K u k u d a k h a n d i, K a b i s u r y a n a g a r, B e r h a m p u r, Khalikotta, Aska, Gopalpur, Polosara constituencies under Ganjam district were present and voluntarily donated blood according to covid guidelines. Odisha Assembly Speaker and local MLA Dr Surya Narayan Patra inaugurated the program through video



conferencing while local Tahsildar Aditya Kumar Swain, Digapahandi PS IIC Basant Kumar Sethi, Ganjam district youth biju Janata Dal president Laxman Choudhury, Digapahandi Dipahandi vice-chairman representative M.Niranjan Reddy, Odisha Mo Paribar Jeevan Bindu District Coordinator Subash

Maharana, senior leader Jagannath Sabhat, State Student Secretary Ramhari Maharana, Student BJD President Prashant Panda, Youth Leader Rajneesh Mishra, youth leader cum social activities Surendra Maharana, eminent young party worker Mr. Amit Das(Denny), Pramid Pradhan, Student

Secretary Sunil Gaud, Youth Biju Janata Dal Media Coordinator Ganesh Sahu, Kuspada Sarpanch S.Gandhi Dora, Youth Leader Valaji Reddy, Youth Leader Santosh Dora, Nayab-Sarpanch Devhari Dora, Including with large number of party youth activists, coordinating the programme.

Closing ceremony of covid awareness Chariot observed by the UJA Malkangiri A young man was found hanged from a dates tree

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Jun 4: A month-long awareness program through the Corona awareness Chariot, was closed today, from May 4, 2021 to June 4 2021, last year on behalf of the Ujala Journalists' Association with the help of the Malkangiri District Administration and the Police Administration, with the help of the Merchant Association. The corona awareness chariot was run by the district administration. For a month, the Malkangiri District Sadar Sub-Divisional Municipal Council, Balimela Notified Area

Council, seven block Sadar sub-divisions, various markets in the district and 360 Revenue and hamlet villages in the district rolled chariots to aware people about the Corona disease. In particular, the Andhra Pradesh-Chhattisgarh border, remote internal area where poor tribes lives has been awarded by the awareness chariot and UJA team, while the poor and poor have been provided with 12,000 Mask, dry food and sanitiser by the union. Today, on the occasion of the one-month anniversary, the chariot closing celebrations were held at



the Hanuman Temple premises. The function was attended by Chief District Medical Officer Prafulla Kumar Nand, sub collector Rameshwar Pradhan, IIC. Ramprasad Nag, District Differential Empowerment Officer Radharani

Dalei, Registrar Officer Pramod Kumar Behera joined the function and lauded the program and said that the long month-long awareness effort has definitely affected the union. Prashanti Lata Bisoyie and 10 Members of the maa ghar were

greeted with a bouquet of flowers and Towels to the corona warrior. The function was presided over by District President Duryadhan Patra, secretary Satyanarayana Das, Treasurer Srinivasa Patra, Joint Secretary Sanu Anugu, Kishore Patik, Bideshi Gowda, Khirod Behera, Abinash Behera, Ashok Mishra, Satyanarayana Panda, Dibakar Bhagwan, Rahul Galri, Vikram Swain, Chandan Kumar Panda, A. Debashis Patra, Sudhyashu Mohanty, Shiv Prasad Das and more than 30 media representatives were present.

(A.O. Bureau) Kukudakhandi, Jun 4: Sadar police today recovered the hanging body of a young man from a dried date's tree in Nimkhandi Bedabandha Hooda under Nimkhandi Beat Post under Sadar police station. According to sources, the youngest son of T. Venkat Rao of Govind Bihar's first line near Lochapada Mera Sahi under Sadar police station. Rakesh Rao, 22, is survived by his elder brother T. Rajesh Rao, 24, was staying at his house. But for some reason, the two brothers had been arguing for the past few days. Later, his elder brother Rajesh tried to contact his younger brother Rakesh, but he did not answer the call. Upon learning of the incident, Nimkhandi beat post officer Jyoti Ranjan Behera reached the spot, recovered the body of the youth and sent it to Berhampur MKCG Medical for autopsy, while elder



brother Rajesh informed the Sadar police station about the incident. A case of manslaughter has been registered under Sadar Thana Case No. 25/21 and the investigation is ongoing. It is unknown at this time what he will do after leaving the post. The body of the dead youth was found to have

touched both of his knees and his entire body instead of hanging in the air. So that case is under trail after the detail's FIR and so on complain the legal investigation process should be forwarded and very quickly the final recall should produced by police said Sadar IIC Mahendra Sahu.

Turtle smuggling was going on in MPV -65 forests and 150 turtles were seized by Forest Deptt.



(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Jun 4: The Malkangiri district Kalimela forest department has achieved great success by rescuing 150 stolen turtles. According to the information received, the MPV -65 of Tugal Panchayat under Kalimela block: - It has been going on in the forest of MPV-65 villages for a long time. A four-member team from the Kalimela Forest Department raided the forest yesterday, according to a source close to the vehicle, but the smugglers immediately spotted the Kalimela Forest Department vehicle and fled the scene, leaving 150 turtle suspects behind. The Kalimela Forest Department team also seized two motorcycle [(i) Hero

Honda Splendor Plus OR-30-0207 and [(ii) Hero Glamour AP-15-5241]]. The Kalimela Forest Department said the smuggled turtle traders and some other traders in the neighboring state were also involved. The Kalimela Forest Department has registered a case No. OR-38 dated 03/06/2021 and is investigating the incident. The raid was attended by members of the Kalimela Forest Department's Town Forest Guard, including Forester Swayamprabha Pradhan, Telarai Bit Forest Guard Ram Chandra Majha, Shuddhakhunta Bit Forest Guard Amlan Kumar Nayak, Parastaff Rudra Hantal and Jayant Kumar Nayak were involved in the raid.

Corona warriors are honoured by Maa gruha members

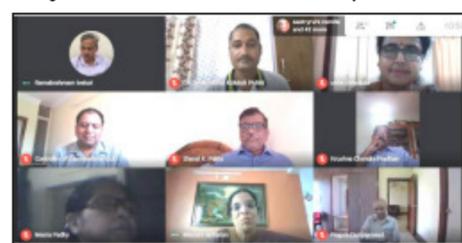
(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Jun 4: Members of the Malkangiri District Ujala Journalists' Association, led by president Duryodhan Patra, have been carrying out Corona awareness campaigns for the past one month and going from rural village to village through the Covid 19 awareness chariot. The UJA Malkangiri has been

helping and cooperating by District administration, Malkangiri Traders union. In this closing ceremony Chief District Medical Officer Dr Prafulla Kumar Nanda, Subcollector Mr Rameshwar Pradhan, Police Officer Ram Prasad Nag, Malkangiri District Congress President Govind Patra and members of the UJA Sangh were present.

Second part of Workshop on 'Relative Grading: Moderation of Marks' by Central University of Odisha

(A.O. Bureau) Koraput, Jun 4: The second part of online workshop on 'Relative Grading: Moderation of Marks' was organized by Central University of Odisha for the faculty members held on 03rd June 2021. The workshop was conducted by Prof. Meena Hariharan, Eminent Professor in Centre for Health Psychology, University of Hyderabad acted as the Chief Resource person along with Dr. Meera Padhy and Dr. C. V. Usha, her colleagues. Vice-Chancellor of the University Prof. I. Ramabrahmam con-

veyed his best wishes for successful conduct of the workshop and hoped that the faculty of the University will be trained in the essence of Moderation which is an essential part of ensuring integrity in assessing students' performance. Prof. Sharat Kumar Palita, Director of Internal Quality Assurance Cell and Dean, School of Biodiversity and Conservation of Natural Resources of CUO delivered the opening remarks and mentioned that workshop on relative grading and moderation of marks is mean for right assessment pro-



cess/ evaluation process of exam. papers and its outcome will benefit our teaching community for providing justice to students and it is step towards ensuring quality in higher education through equity and accountability. The first part of the workshop was held on 28 May 2021. Prof. Hariharan provided hands on experience on

Moderation of Marks based on the data and feedback received from the faculty members of Central University of Odisha. She emphasized on the practical aspects of structuring of question papers and discussed how important it is to delineate the objectives well before examinations and marking. Dr. Meera Padhi talked

about the three sections of moderation that are planning, meeting and reviewing. She also threw light on the importance of the consistency of judgments. Dr. Usha while talking about the practical aspects of moderating marks, suggested having marks consistency within the assessment and across the assessors among the examiners to find out discrepancies while doing moderation. All the resource persons interacted with the participants and clarified their doubts with the help of real data with regard to moderation of marks.

'Stay in touch with your doctor'



New Delhi, Jun 4: It has been more than a year now since we were introduced to the COVID-19 virus, and since then, we have come a long way in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of the virus and infected persons. Presently, even though the infections seem to have lowered down, we are still in the pandemic stage. It might be another month before we can shift into a relatively comfortable endemic stage of the disease. During the first wave, we had established guidelines and the cases were easier to handle because of access to resources and relatively low rates of infection. However, the sudden spike in cases has posed multiple difficulties for patients and doctors alike. People are visibly panicked and

afraid. They need to steer clear of all misinformation and consult their doctors on every new information they come across before believing it. The new COVID-19 strain is different not in the treatment it requires but in how it shows itself and creeps up on the patients. Patients whose symptoms initially look like a case of mild infection go on to develop serious complications on the fifth-seventh day of disease. The symptoms range from sore throat, cough, fever, vomiting, and pain-abdomen to atypical symptoms like simple muscle pain and body ache, indigestion, and reddening of eyes. Persistent fever and cough in the second week of illness, shortness of breath, fall in oxygen saturation (<94%) are all indicators of the patient requiring the

need of supervised care in a health facility to avoid the development of any complications. It is, thus, important for people to stay in touch with doctors regularly and report any discomfort instead of opting for self-treatment and home remedies. Most patients who get tested and contact us in the early stages of infection, when the symptoms are just beginning to show, pass through the disease rather comfortably with fewer complications. The problem arises where the patients refuse to get tested and continue to believe it isn't COVID-19 but seasonal cold. They then approach doctors after the complications have arisen. In this meantime, not only do such patients harm their health but pass the infection onto others.

Yami Gautam ties the knot with Uri: The Surgical Strike director Aditya Dhar

New Delhi, Jun 4: Bollywood actor Yami Gautam has tied the knot with director Aditya Dhar. The couple made the announcement by sharing a photo from their wedding ceremony. Going by the photos shared on Instagram, Yami and Aditya's wedding ceremony was a simple affair with only close family members in attendance. While Yami opted for a red saree for her wedding, Aditya sported an ivory sherwani for the occa-

sion. Along with the photo, they wrote, "In your light, I learn to love- Rumi. With the blessings of our family, we have tied the knot in an intimate wedding ceremony today. Being very private people, we celebrated this joyous occasion with our immediate family. As we embark on the journey of love and friendship, we seek all your blessings and good wishes. Love, Yami and Aditya." As soon as Yami broke the news of her wedding, several colleagues con-

gratulated the actor. Vikrant Massey commented on her post, "Bahut bahut bahut badhaaiyaan Yami ji and Bhai sahab. ?? Incredible. God bless you both!!!! Dher saara pyaar!!! ??." "Congratulations yami ???" wrote Bhumi Pednekar. Yami Gautam and Aditya Dhar worked together on the 2019 film Uri: The Surgical Strike, directed by the latter. Aditya also won a National Award for the movie and is now looking forward to his



next film The Immortal Ashwatthama. Yami Gautam is awaiting the release of A Thursday, where she plays a playschool teacher who

takes 16 children as hostages. Apart from A Thursday, Yami also has Missing, an Anirudh Roy Chowdhary film and Dasvi in her kitty.

Kirti Kulhari's Shaadishtan takes on the society's regressive beliefs

Mumbai, Jun 4: Disney+ Hotstar released the trailer of its latest original film — Shaadishtan. The Raj Singh Chaudhary directorial has Kirti Kulhari playing the role of a singer. Her band of non-conformist musicians take a road trip with a conservative couple and their teenage daughter. The journey would lead to a clash of ideology and beliefs, leading to dramatic denouement. The trailer also gives a glimpse of how young girls are still married off in the country without their consent. The teenage girl, not able to fight



her parents, tells the musician she wishes she had enough courage to end her life. Kirti's character Sasha, while talking to the girl's mother, shares how women like her fight everyday so that these housewives

don't have to fight in their world. The backstory of each band members will also be highlighted through the course of the journey. The ensemble cast also includes actors like Medha Shankar,

Nivedita Bhattacharya and real-life musicians Shpenenn Khymnar, Apurv Dogra and Ajay Jayanthi, while Kay Kay Menon makes a special appearance. Bankrolled by Famous Studios and Opticus INC, Shaadishtan will start streaming from June 11 on Disney+ Hotstar Multiplex. On associating with the film Kirti Kulhari in a statement shared how she could instantly relate to her character Sasha. "An unapologetic, strong and confident young woman who lives life on her own terms, strives to shatter stereotypes, and isn't

worried about being judged by anyone," she said describing her character. She said Shaadishtan is not only an entertaining movie but also holds a mirror to the society and the conditioning it imposes on people and how people live by it as if it's their truth. Director Raj Singh Chaudhary stated, "Shaadishtan is a really special movie to me as it is inspired by a story in my own life. The movie is well crafted in a way that the audiences can find their bits of entertainment while understanding an important social issue.

Anubhav Sinha calls 'campaign against' Kartik Aaryan 'very unfair': 'I respect his quiet'

New Delhi, Jun 4: After Kartik Aaryan's departure from Karan Johar's Dostana 2, there have been rumours about the actor exiting a few other projects. Amid the hearsay, filmmaker Anubhav Sinha took to Twitter and applauded Kartik for maintaining a dignified silence and called the "campaign against" the actor "very bloody unfair." Sinha's tweet read, "And by the way... when Producers drop



Actors or vice versa they don't talk about it. It happens all the time. This campaign against Kartik

Aaryan seems concerted to me and very bloody unfair. I respect his quiet." After Kartik exited Dostana 2 due to "professional circumstances", it was rumoured that he was dropped from SRK's production Freddie. There were rumours that the actor had also been dropped from Aanand L Rai's upcoming film and replaced with Ayushmann Khurrana. Though Rai's production

company called the rumours "baseless." The spokesperson for Colour Yellow said in a statement, "These are baseless rumours. We've met Kartik for a different film and we are still talking. We have taken another film altogether to Ayushmann and this is a complete mix up." Kartik Aaryan is looking forward to the release of Ram Madhvani's Dhamaka and Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2.

Shweta Tiwari's daughter Palak returns to Instagram with gorgeous photos

New Delhi, Jun 4: Actor Shweta Tiwari's daughter Palak Tiwari made a comeback on Instagram on Friday, with a set of new photoshoot pictures. Palak had previously deleted or deactivated her verified account recently, in the light of her mother's public spat with estranged husband Abhinav Kohli. Palak posted several clicks flaunting her sultry side. In her caption, she wrote, "Whooooops she's back!!! AND Worked with the most amazinggggg team ever." Dressed in peach, Palak looks drop-dead gorgeous, proving that she is Bollywood ready. Palak is set to make her acting debut with supernatural thriller Rosie: The Saffron Chapter that went on floors in December 2020 in Pune. The teaser of the film, which released in April this year, hinted at a haunting tale of lost love and its unexpected return. Touted to be a horror-thriller, Rosie: The Saffron Chapter is based on the real-life story of the sudden disappearance of an employee at a BPO company in Gurugram named Rosie. The teaser of



the film, which released in April this year, hinted at a haunting tale of lost love and its unexpected return. Touted to be a horror-thriller, Rosie: The Saffron Chapter is based on the real-life story of the sudden disappearance of an employee at a BPO company in Gurugram named Rosie. The cast of the film was shooting its last schedule un-

til recently. Palak's mother, TV star Shweta Tiwari is currently away in Cape Town, participating in Khatron Ke Khiladi 11. The public fight between her mother and step-dad began soon after Shweta left for the shooting of the show, when Abhinav accused Shweta of leaving their son Reyansh alone at a Mumbai hotel to participate in KKK 11.

Shanaya shares throwback pic with Khushi, feels they are 'more like' devils

New Delhi, Jun 4: Taking to Instagram, Shanaya dropped a mirror selfie in which she is seen making a fish face, while Khushi is focussed on applying lipstick. While Shanaya is seen wearing jeans paired with a brown crop top and white jacket, Khushi is dressed in striped pants and a knotted shirt over a crop top. Shanaya wore her hair loose and Khushi opted for braids. The post was captioned, "get ready with us #throwback". Reacting to the post, Khushi dropped a bunch of angel emojis, suggesting that they are angelic. However, Shanaya seemed to disagree and replied, "more like (devil emoji)," followed by a laughing emoji. Shanaya's mother Maheep

Kapoor wrote, "cuties" to which she replied with a few heart emojis. Fans also poured love in the comments section. One wrote, "I love you my princess khushi maam." Another said, "Looking so beautiful." A third commented, "Stunning." Last week, Khushi had shared pictures with her half-sister Anshula Kapoor and Shanaya from when the duo had visited her in New York. Khushi didn't caption her post but added an apple emoji. Khushi and Shanaya wore the same outfits in her previous post too. Shanaya is all set to make her debut in Bollywood with a film produced by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions. Earlier in March, she had announced the details of her debut on Instagram.

She shared a video and wrote, "Woke up today with the most grateful heart! Here's to a great journey ahead with the DC talent family. Excited to kickstart my first film (Ahhh!) this July by Dharma Movies, can't wait for you all to see what we're up to! Stay tuned." Shanaya has a long list of projects lined up. She is currently working on Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl, a Netflix movie. It starred her cousin Janhvi Kapoor in the lead role. Shanaya has also appeared in the Netflix series Fabulous Lives Of Bollywood Wives.



Milkha Singh stable in ICU, gets call from PM



Chandigarh, Jun 4: Legendary Indian sprinter Milkha Singh is "better and more stable" as he battles COVID-19 in the ICU of the PGIMER hospital here and also received a phone call from Prime Minister Narendra Modi enquiring about his health on Friday. In a statement, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) said that Milkha is better than Thursday when he was brought to the hospital with dipping levels of oxygen. "On the basis of his medical parameters today, his condition has been observed better and more stable than yesterday," PGIMER's official spokesperson, Prof Ashok Kumar, said. Kumar said that

Milkha is being closely monitored by a team of three doctors at PGIMER. Earlier in the day, Milkha's son Jeev too said that his father was stable and thanked the PM for calling his father. "Many thanks to P r i m e Minister@narendramodi for taking time out of his busy schedule and call dad to find out about his health," Jeev said in a tweet. Modi on Friday spoke to Milkha and expressed hope that the iconic former athlete will be back soon to "bless and inspire athletes, who will be participating in the Tokyo Olympics" Milkha was discharged from a private hospital in Mohali on Sunday last where he received treatment for the infection. He, however, con-

tinued to be on oxygen support at home also. Milkha's 82-year-old wife Nirmal Kaur, who had also contracted COVID-19 days after her husband got the infected, continues to be in the ICU of the Fortis hospital. The Fortis hospital had earlier said that the couple were being treated for COVID pneumonia. Jeev had reached Chandigarh from Dubai on May 22. His elder sister, Mona Milkha Singh, who is a physician in the United States, has also reached here. Milkha is suspected to have contracted the infection from a house help. The legendary athlete is a four-time Asian Games gold-medallist and 1958 Commonwealth Games champion but his greatest performance remains the fourth-place finish in the 400m final of the 1960 Rome Olympics. His timing at the Italian capital was a national record for 38 years till Paramjeet Singh broke it in 1998. He also represented India in the 1956 and 1964 Olympics and was bestowed the Padma Shri in 1959.

I'm better off as player than leader: Rashid Khan on declining Afghanistan T20 captaincy

Abu Dhabi, Jun 3: Star Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan has declined captaining the T20 side fearing it might affect his performance as a player which he feels is more crucial to the team. Afghanistan have been changing captains frequently and earlier this week named Hashmatullah Shahidi as their Test and ODI skipper. However, the Afghanistan Cricket Board is yet to name the T20 captain. "I am very much clear in my mind that I am better off as a player. I am good in the

role as vice-captain and help the captain whenever I am needed. It's better for me that I stay away from this position," Rashid told 'ESPNews'. "I want to do well for the team as a player and my performance is a bit more crucial for the team rather than me thinking about different things being a captain." With the T20 World Cup around the corner, Rashid feels he is better off focussing on what he does best. "Also, it takes time, and right now the most important



thing is the World Cup which is quite near and I feel it is too much for me to have. "I am afraid it might affect my performance for the team which is a key so I am

very happy as a player and whatever the decision board and selection committee make I am fully behind it and will appreciate it. "If you have a year or two,

you manage yourself and understand things only then it's easier to deal with the role. "I was the captain once and they [board] know my mindset and which is why they kept the spot empty looking for someone else while I stay as a vice-captain," said one of the best spinners in limited overs cricket. Rashid, who plays for Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League, is set to turn out for Lahore Qalandars in the Pakistan Super League.

Olympics-bound Indian wrestler fails dope test

New Delhi, Jun 4: Indian wrestling finds itself in the middle of another doping saga ahead of the Olympics after one Tokyo-bound grappler tested positive for a banned substance. The United World Wrestling (UWW) has provisionally suspended the wrestler for an alleged anti-doping rule violation with effect from Thursday, it is learnt. Eight Indian wrestlers, four men and four women, have qualified for the Tokyo Olympics, which begin on July 23.



However, the participation of the wrestler is now uncertain and the country risks losing one quota following the failed dope test. The identity of the wrestler has been withheld because of a pending 'B' sample test. The

Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) said they were unaware of the incident while the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) did not comment. Wrestling is one of India's biggest medal sports and has secured

podium places in three back-to-back Olympics (2008, 2012 and 2016). At the same time, it is also one of the sports with maximum doping cases. As per NADA's 2019-2020 records, wrestling was the sport with the third-highest anti-doping rule violators after athletics and weightlifting. It had accounted for 12 rule violations during that period. This is for the second consecutive Olympics that an Indian wrestler has failed a dope test

just before the Olympics. Ahead of the Rio Games five years ago, Narsingh Yadav failed a drug test that became one of the biggest scandals in Indian sport. Yadav, who had been selected after a long-drawn court battle with two-time Olympic medalist Sushil Kumar, accused his rivals of spiking his food. While he was let off by NADA, Yadav was not allowed to compete at the Rio Olympics after the World Anti-Doping Agency appealed the decision.

No change in schedule if a player tests positive at Olympics: FIH French Open party over for Barty

New Delhi, Jun 4: Hockey matches at the Tokyo Olympics will not be postponed or rescheduled if one or more players from a team test positive for Covid-19, a top executive of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) said. Thierry Weil, the FIH chief executive, asserted that whoever gets infected during the Olympics will have to go into quarantine and all close contacts will be tested as per the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) playbooks. However, he added that the IOC is 'still consulting' federations about the protocols for team sports. Earlier this year, the IOC released two versions of its 'playbooks' which out-

line Covid-19 countermeasures for the Olympics. The final version is expected to be released later this month, which organisers say will provide greater clarity. Nonetheless, there is uncertainty among players and coaches since the playbooks do not shed light on the rules for team sports. "Whoever tests positive will have to go into quarantine. They will then test the people in close contact..." Weil said. "It's not completely finalised yet. The IOC is still consulting with different team sports... this question is important for team sports. Will the entire team not play? But if one player tests positive, it's not like the game will be postponed. That's not pos-



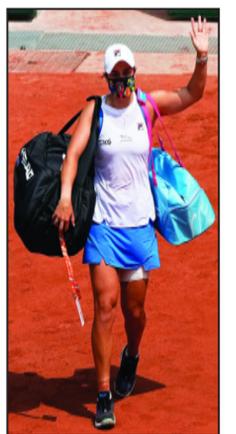
sible (when) you have such a tight programme. They (IOC) are working heavily. I believe we will know within the next few weeks." With Thursday marking the 50-day countdown to the Games, Weil said he was 'optimistic' that they will begin as scheduled on July 23 despite the growing calls, within Japan, for postponement or cancellation. The IOC is adamant to press ahead with the

Olympics since a major part of their revenue is generated by the marquee event. A part of that income is then distributed to the various international sports federations. The pandemic has put even more stress on the sport's finances - the FIH made a loss of USD 700,000 in 2019 according to insidethegames.biz - and Weil stated that the money received from the IOC is 'a big part

of our income.' "On the financial side, we get contributions from the Games. All international federations get it. If you look into our financial reports, that's clearly a big part of our income. That's an important part," he said. He added that as much as the financial side, the Olympics is also a platform for the sport to be 'seen by the entire world'. "Clearly that it is the best window for our sport to be seen by the entire world. Even more (viewership is expected) this time - I do believe there would be more TV viewers than before given people will not travel to the Games. For us, it's an important platform to promote hockey," he said.

Paris, Jun 3: Women's world No 1 retires from her second round match with hip injury. Top seed Ashleigh Barty said it was "heartbreaking" to retire injured midway through the second set of her French Open second-round match against Poland's Magda Linette on Thursday. The Australian, who won the title on her last visit to Roland Garros in 2019, left the court for medical treatment after losing the first set 6-1. She had struggled with a hip problem during her first-round win over Bernarda Pera on Tuesday and called it quits at 2-2 in the second set on Court Philippe Chatrier on Thursday. Barty also retired injured from the Italian Open during her quarter-final against Coco Gauff last month. "It's

heartbreaking," admitted the 25-year-old, who said she suffered the 'new' injury in practice last weekend. "We have had such a brilliant clay-court season, and to kind of get a little bit unlucky with timing more than anything - to have something kind of acute happen over the weekend and just kind of run out of time against the clock is disappointing. "It won't take away the brilliant three months that we have had, as much as it hurts right now." It is Barty's earliest exit from a Grand Slam tournament since a second-round loss at Roland Garros in 2018. She missed the majority of last season, including her French Open title defence, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but had been in strong form in 2021. Barty has won



three titles this year, including on clay in Stuttgart, and lost to Aryna Sabalenka in the Madrid Open final. "We have had an exceptional last two, two-and-a-half, three months, a little bit of a setback, and what happened today and this week here in Paris won't take away from that," she said.

Injured England defender Alexander-Arnold out of Euros

London, Jun 3: England defender Trent Alexander-Arnold was ruled out of the European Championship with a left thigh injury sustained during a warmup match. The Liverpool right back hobbled off just before the end of a 1-0 win over Austria on Wednesday. The English Football Association said a scan showed that Alexander-Arnold would be unable to play in the tournament. England manager Gareth Southgate will not replace him in the 26-man squad until after



Sunday's final warmup game against Romania. Alexander-Arnold was one of four right backs selected by Southgate in the squad. England opens its Euro 2020 campaign on June 13 against Croatia.

10-man India lose 0-1 to Qatar in World Cup qualifying round match

New Delhi, Jun 3: A 10-man India defended creditably well as they suffered a 0-1 defeat to Asian champions Qatar in their World Cup qualifying round match in Doha on Thursday. Abdel Aziz scored in the 33rd minute in a match completely dominated by the Qataris. The two sides had played out a goal-less draw in their first leg match here in September 2019. Highlights: Group toppers Qatar, who are yet to lose a match, had waves of attacks with their eight to nine play-



ers in the Indian half for most of the time. Goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu had to pull off a series of saves to keep the margin of loss small. India,

however, played with 10 men from the 17th minute onwards after defender Rahul Bheke was red carded after a second booking. He had earlier received a

yellow card in the ninth minute. India did have two good moves in the match from counter attacks with Manvir Singh in the thick of things on both occa-

sions. India captain Sunil Chhetri, who returned to the team after recovering from COVID-19 infection, was replaced by Udanta Singh at the resumption of second half. A winless India remained in fourth spot in Group E with three points from six matches. Igor Stimac's men are two points behind Afghanistan (third with five points) who played out a 1-1 draw against Bangladesh earlier in the day. India play Bangladesh on June 7 in their next match.

No Changes In Repo Rate By RBI

(A.O. Bureau) New Delhi, Jun 4: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das today announced the decisions on key rates from the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the central bank. Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das has not made any change in the monetary policy this time. Due to rising inflation, the Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank has decided not to make any change in the policy rate. RBI's Monetary Policy Committee has decided that till the impact of Corona does not end, only the accommodative approach will be maintained. That is, to deal with the economic challenges due to the Corona epidemic and to continue the recovery, liquidity remains in the system, so the RBI has decided not to make any changes in the rates. No change in reverse repo rate, Marginal



Standing Facility (MSF) and bank rates will remain at 4.25 per cent as before. There has also been no change in the reverse repo rate. The MPC has kept the repo rate at 4 per cent and the reverse repo rate at 3.35 per cent. The three-day meeting of RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) began on June 2. This decision on the policy has been taken at a time when the second wave of coronavirus infection is clearly having a bad effect on the country's economy.

Two labour brokers were arrested by kalimela police

(A.O. Bureau) Malkangiri, Jun 4: Police in Malkangiri district's Kalimela police station on Tuesday arrested 15 people for allegedly transporting workers. On the 3rd, the family of the worker paid so much in the name of the broker! Police investigated the incident and arrested a broker named Debraj Patra

on March 2 and took him to court. Two other brokers have since escaped but yesterday Police have arrested Ajit Mandal, a laborer broker from Vējāngibada village, and Chintu Krishna Dora, a villager from Sileru in Andhra Pradesh, and took them to court today. It is learned that the three brokers hired eight

workers from Vējāngibada village to work in Andhra Pradesh less than six months ago. The brokers did not give a definite answer as the family members asked them to talk to them, and finally Khagapati Dhakad, one of the workers' families, lodged a complaint with the Kalimela police station.

Vedanta Rolls Out Vedanta Cares Green Cover Initiative To Commemorate World Environment Day

- ◆ Company employees, partners pledge to plant 10 lakh trees across business locations
- ◆ Plantation initiative aimed at celebrating dear ones who have recovered from Covid
- ◆ Vedanta leveraging new technologies to safeguard environment, communities
- ◆ Company guided by the philosophy of 'Zero Harm, Zero Waste, Zero Discharge'

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Jun 4: Vedanta, one of the world's leading Oil & Gas and Metals company, will launch a mega green cover initiative to commemorate World Environment Day on Saturday. As part of the Vedanta Cares Green Cover initiative, which will be virtually inaugurated by Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal, the company's employees and business partners will be able to register on its microsite - the Vedanta Cares Plantation portal - to plant a sapling to celebrate their dear ones who have recovered from Covid-19. More than 10 lakh trees will be planted through the Vedanta Cares Green Cover initiative, which will be rolled out across the company's business locations. The plantation drive is an expression of gratitude for the count-

less gifts we receive from Mother Earth. The company had planted around 1.2 lakh trees in 2020-21. Vedanta Group CEO and Chief Safety Officer Sunil Duggal said: "Vedanta Cares Green Cover initiative is a significant step towards our larger goal of 'Zero Harm, Zero Waste and Zero Discharge' across all its operations. In the days ahead, Vedanta will continue to drive inclusive growth, focus on responsible mining and develop robust ESG risk mitigation plans. We have adopted carbon reduction goals in line with Government of India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and are fully committed to building an Atmanirbhar Bharat in an environmentally responsible manner." Vedanta has been at the forefront of sustainable practices and is leverag-



ing new technologies to safeguard the environment and communities. Guided by the philosophy of 'Zero Harm, Zero Waste, Zero Discharge', Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) practices are at the heart of Vedanta's operations which are focused on delivering sustainable and responsible growth thereby creating value for all stakeholders. Vedanta is committed to substantially decarbonize its operations by 2050, after voluntarily pledging to move towards carbon-neutrality earlier this year. Vedanta has re-constituted the 'Carbon Forum' - the company's apex body on climate strategy - to help steer the group to-

wards a less carbon-intensive way of operating. Vedanta is also focused on effective water management and has saved 7.5 million cubic metres of water over the past three years. The company plans to substantially reduce waste generation with a total waste recycling at 94%. Each facility plans to incorporate Biodiversity Management Plans (BMPs) into development processes to address and monitor biodiversity impacts. Fly ash management will be a strong focus for the company as they initiate a detailed assessment of the environmental risks. Vedanta is aligned with the recommendations made by the Task

Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) and is collaborating with the TCFD to develop good practices and standards for transparency. The company has released its maiden TCFD report this year, which is the first by an Indian mining and metals company. The company is being recognised globally for their sustainability initiatives. The company's Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) ranking in the metals and mining sector globally has risen to #12 this year, as against #21 in 2019. Hindustan Zinc, and Vedanta have topped the DJSI rankings in the Asia Pacific region this year.

ECoR Initiatives To Prevent Environmental Pollution



(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Jun 4: East Coast Railway has taken different initiatives towards containing environmental Pollution. Starting from Cleanliness Drives to establish different pollution control activities, Indian Railways as a whole and East Coast Railway in particular have taken different measures to control the pollution and ensure a pollution free environment. Indian Railways is working in mission mode to become the largest Green

Railways in the world and is moving towards becoming a "net zero carbon emitter" before 2030. Railways is guided by a holistic vision of being an environment friendly, efficient, cost effective, punctual and a modern carrier of passengers as well as the freight in order to serve the growing needs of New India. IR is looking at helping the environment from its biggest to the smallest steps ranging from massive electrification, day to day water & paper

conservation to saving animals from being injured on Railway tracks. The following measures showcase how IR has adopted Environment Conservation in its daily work. Apart from provision of bio-toilets in trains, provision of Plastic Bottle Crushing Machines at important Stations, regular cleanliness drives in Trains & Station premises; East Coast Railway is now gearing up to further improve its system for ecosystem restoration.

The Initiatives taken by East Coast Railway are as follows - Pollution Control measures at Railway Sidings, Automatic Coach Washing Plants, Effluent Treatment Plants, Pole hanging twin dustbins, Sewerage & Water Treatment Plants, Rain Water Harvesting Pits, Solid Waste Management Measures, Plastic Bottle Crushing Machine, Compost Plant, Sanitary Pad Incinerators, Solar Plant, Greenery development & Green initiatives,

Waste to Energy Plant etc. This is the 1st-of-its-kind in Indian Railways and 3rd in India. East Coast Railway takes lead in scrap disposal to safeguard environment. East Coast Railway is committed to serve the people with the highest quality standards and hygiene protecting the overall surrounding environment. On the occasion of World environment day June 5, ECoR reiterates its commitment for pollution free transportation.



Youth Gets New Lease Of Life At Sum Covid Hospital

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Jun 4: The atmosphere of gloom caused by the Covid-19 pandemic has been impacting life everywhere, but aided by good treatment, many patients are battling the disease valiantly to ensure a new lease of life for themselves. Twenty-year-old Pratiksh Kadambalu of Muniguda in Rayagada district, a Plus Three student, was rushed to the SUM Covid Hospital for treatment in a serious condition on April 30 after testing positive for the infection. He was taken to the ICU and as his condition deteriorated, he was put on the ventilator. Subsequently, a tracheostomy was



done on him to deliver oxygen to the lungs. The concerted efforts of the doctors, nurses and para-medical workers helped Pratiksh recover and he was shifted to the ward. He tested negative for Covid-19 after about a month and was discharged from the hospital. Relatives of Pratiksh said they were satisfied with the treat-

ment provided to Pratiksh and the hospital help desk remained in continuous touch with the family. Even they were able to interact with the youth through video calls. "We are grateful to the doctors and nurses for the way they took care of Pratiksh providing him a new lease of life," Sudhir Sahu, a relative said.

NTPC Darlipali: Masks, Sanitizers and Ration kits handed over to MLA Sundargarh

(A.O. Bureau) Sundargarh, Jun 4: In its effort to support families against covid-19 second wave, NTPC Darlipali handed over 2000 masks, 1000 sanitizers and ration kits containing essential commodities were handed over to Smt. Kusum Tete, MLA (Sundargarh) on 1.06.2021. NTPC Darlipali is committed to support the government and families in the fight



against covid-19 pandemic. Right from the first wave of pandemic, Project Darlipali has been consistently supporting the initiatives from distribution of essential ration, covid prevention kits and in several other ways. In the meantime, NTPC Darlipali is also ensuring continuous sanitization of nearby villages to prevent the spread of covid-19 pandemic.

Digitally celebration of World Environment Day

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Jun 4: On June 5th every year, we celebrated World Environment Day for raising public awareness and taking action to protect our environment. This year Regional Science Centre, Bhubaneswar is also upholding issues through public awareness to reimagine, recreate and restore our ecosystem. Digital celebration will be in full swing on tomorrow. The program will begin with very interesting talk on Skink lizard and how these small reptiles are also significant contributor of our ecosystem. It will be delivered by Dr Anirudha Dutta Roy, NISER, Bhubaneswar who also rediscovered a lizard species after 135 years in eastern ghat while doing his doctoral degree from Indian Institute of Science. In second session

at 03:30 pm Odisha's finest and path breaker film director who chose cinematography to show issues like climate, environment share his thought and how he sees the burning issue. His much talked film on climate change, "Kalira Atita" was in Oscar race 2021 and got national award. He was also awarded Padma Shri in 2016. His first feature film, "I Am Kalam" became an iconic film winning 34 international awards along with a national award. Surely it will be very interesting to hear Nila Madhab Panda while celebrating special day where we pledge to take action. The keynote address for the session will be delivered by Shri Manoj Kumar Mishra, a stalwart bureaucrat and Secretary of Dept of Science and Technology and Dept. of Electronics & IT, Govt of India.