

## CM launches distribution of Smart Health Cards in Kalahandi, Nuapada districts



Bhubaneswar, Nov 9: Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik on Monday launched the distribution of Smart Health Cards under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana in Kalahandi and Nuapada district.

As per the official information from the state government, as many as 14 lakh people in the Kalahandi

district and 1.73 lakh people in the Nuapada district will be benefited from the initiative.

Addressing the people in the Kalahandi district, Patnaik said, "Kalahandi has been making great strides in all areas today. It is the highest producer of cotton in the state and farmers' incomes have risen sharply this year due to

higher market prices for cotton." Along with the distribution of Smart Health Cards in the Kalahandi district, Patnaik also inaugurated the development projects worth Rs 860 crore in the district.

Meanwhile, the state Chief Minister also inaugurated development projects worth Rs 480 crore in the Nuapada district, apart from distributing Smart Health cards in the district.

As many as 3.5 crore people of 96 lakh households in the state would be benefitted from the Smart Health Cards. Under the initiative, beneficiaries from the state can avail of free medical treatment in 200 empanelled hospitals across the country.



ପବିତ୍ର ଦୀପାବଳି-୨୦୨୧ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ  
ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳଙ୍କ  
ବାର୍ତ୍ତା



DADLS-32

ଆଲୋକର ପର୍ବ ପବିତ୍ର ଦୀପାବଳିର ଶୁଭ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଇବା ସହିତ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର ସୁଖ, ଶାନ୍ତି ଓ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

‘କରୋନା’ ମହାମାରୀର ପ୍ରକୋପ ହ୍ରାସ ପାଇଥିଲେ ମଧ୍ୟ ସରିନାହିଁ । ଏଣୁ ଦୀର୍ଘପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଆଚରଣ ସହ ଉତ୍ସବ ପାଳନ କରିବାକୁ ମୁଁ ଅନୁରୋଧ କରୁଛି ।

*ଶଶେଶାଳାଲୀ*  
(ଗଣେଶୀ ଲାଲ)

OIPR- 15001/13/0059/2122




ପବିତ୍ର ଦୀପାବଳି - ୨୦୨୧ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ  
ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

DADLS-32

ଆଲୋକ ଓ ଆନନ୍ଦର ପର୍ବ ପବିତ୍ର ଦୀପାବଳିର ଶୁଭ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଇବା ସହିତ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର ସୁଖ ଓ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

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*କଳସଂପଦ*  
(ରଘୁନନ୍ଦନ ଦାସ)  
କଳସଂପଦ, ସୂଚନା ଓ ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

OIPR- 15001/13/0059/2122



ପୁଷ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ  
ଦୀପାବଳି ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା



DADLS-32

ଆଲୋକ ଓ ଆନନ୍ଦର ପର୍ବ ଦୀପାବଳି ଅବସରରେ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା । ବିକାଶର ଆଲୋକରେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ଜୀବନକୁ ଉଦ୍‌ଭାସିତ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଆସନ୍ତୁ ସମସ୍ତେ ସଂକଳ୍ପବଦ୍ଧ ହୋଇ କାମ କରିବା ଏବଂ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଗୌରବକୁ ନୂତନ ଶିଖରରେ ପହଞ୍ଚାଇବା ।

*ନିତାଇ ଅଟ୍ଟନାୟକ*  
(ନବୀନ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ)  
ପୁଷ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

OIPR- 15001/13/0059/2122

# Govt slashes excise duty on petrol by Rs 5, diesel by Rs 10

The Centre has also urged the state governments to take cue from its decision to cut excise duty and "commensurately reduce VAT on petrol and diesel to give relief to consumers".

The Centre on November 3, on the eve of Diwali, announced a reduction in the excise duty levied on petrol and diesel.

While the excise duty on per litre of petrol has been reduced by Rs 5, the same has been brought down on diesel by Rs 10. The new prices will come into effect from November 4.

The reduction in excise duty is higher on diesel due to its wide usage in the agriculture sector, suggested a statement issued by the Ministry of Finance.

"The reduction in excise duty on diesel will be double that of petrol. The Indian farmers have, through their



hard work, kept the economic growth momentum going even during the lockdown phase and the massive reduction in excise on diesel will come as a boost to the farmers during the upcoming Rabi season," it said.

Every one rupee reduction in excise duty on petrol or diesel leads to a hit of approximately Rs 14,000 crore to the exchequer. Hence, a Rs 5 cut in excise duty on petrol and Rs 10 on diesel would lead to a revenue loss of around Rs 2.10 lakh crore for the Centre.

The opposition parties had, over the past few months, demanded the Centre to bring down the excise duty in view of the escalating fuel prices.

Notably, excise duty on petrol was hiked from Rs 19.98 per litre to Rs 32.9 last year to recoup gain arising from international oil prices plunging to multi-year low as pandemic gulped demand. On diesel, the duty was hiked to Rs 31.80.

While international prices have since recovered to around \$85 and demand

returned, excise duty has remained at the same level. This has resulted in petrol price soaring above Rs 100-a-litre-mark in all major cities and diesel crossing that level in more than one-and-a-half dozen states.

The per litre rate of petrol has breached the Rs 110-mark in Delhi and Rs 115-mark in Mumbai, whereas, diesel is being sold at Rs 98.42 per litre in the national capital and Rs 106.62 in Mumbai.

The consumption of fuel has also accelerated in India over the past few months, since the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic receded.

According to the Centre, the excise duty reduction on fuel will not only relieve the consumers but is also expected to "spur the overall economic cycle".

"All sectors of the

economy - be it manufacturing, services or agriculture - are experiencing significant upward economic activity. To give a further fillip to the economy, the Government of India has decided to significantly reduce the excise duty on diesel and petrol," it said.

"The reduction in excise duty on petrol and diesel will also boost consumption and keep inflation low, thus helping the poor and middle classes. Today's decision is expected to further spur the overall economic cycle," the finance ministry added.

The Centre has also urged the state governments to take cue from its decision to cut excise duty and "commensurately reduce VAT on petrol and diesel to give relief to consumers".

"The states should add to this celebration by reducing VAT on fuel to give further

relief to consumers," Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri tweeted.

The government, in its statement, cited the surging international crude oil rates as the prime reason behind the massive hike in domestic fuel prices.

"In recent months, crude oil prices have witnessed a global upsurge. Consequently, domestic prices of petrol and diesel had increased in recent weeks exerting inflationary pressure. The world has also seen shortages and increased prices of all forms of energy. The Government of India has made efforts to ensure that there is no energy shortage in the country and that commodities such as petrol and diesel are available adequately to meet our requirements," it said.

## Rs 190 Cr Budget Of Puri Jagannath Temple For 2021-22 Approved



Briefing media persons on the outcome of the meeting, SJTA Chief Administrator Kishan Kumar said that there is a plan to generate revenue of around Rs 106 crore from earnings while the budgetary expenditure has been pegged at Rs 85 crore.

The Puri Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) on Nov 2 approved Rs 190 crore annual budget

for the 2021-22 fiscal.

The temple authorities informed that efforts will be undertaken to enhance the generation of income by leasing mining quarries owned by the Lord Jagannath. The temple managing committee chaired by Puri Gajapati Maharaj Dibya Singha Deb has approved the actual receipt and expenditures for 2020-21 and also cleared the

budget estimate for the 2021-22 fiscal.

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The temple administration has placed expenditure of Rs 12.72 crore for Ratha Jatra and Snana Purnima rituals of the Lord Jagannath while Rs 15 Crore as Palia Puraskar and Rs 21 crore on for various other developmental works have been earmarked.

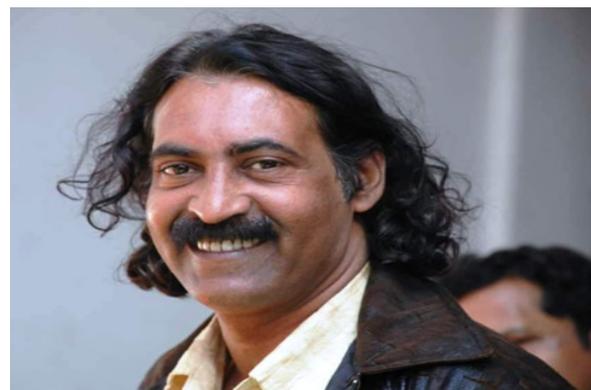
The authorities have planned to generate income of around Rs 37 crore as interest from

fixed deposits and Rs 6 crore from donations. Similarly, an income of around Rs 60 crore is expected to be generated from execution of land deeds and acquisitions.

The budgetary list also mentions about the Odisha government's assistance package of Rs 42 crore. The rest Rs 70 crore is expected to be deposited in the corpus fund. The temple administration has decided to raise the land issues emerging out in the pilgrim town.

Likewise, the temple management has also approved the advance payment of over Rs 93 lakhs to a firm for silver cladding of the doors of the temple of Lord Suryanarayan in front of the Mahalaxmi shrine in the Srimandir complex.

## Eminent Cartoonist Kishore Rath Passes Away



Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: Well-known cartoonist of Odisha, Kishore Rath breathed his last on Monday during treatment at the Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar. According to family sources, Rath (58) complained of severe chest pain last night following which he was rushed to the hospital.

Following an ECG test, the doctors declared him dead. Kishore Rath was very popular among the Odias and a household name in Odisha

for his pocket cartoon 'Katakhya Kishore' published in Odia daily 'Sambad'. He had carved a special place in people's hearts for presentation of his unique cartoons paired with rhyming verses.

CM Naveen Patnaik, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, BJP national vice president Baijayant Panda and several other noted personalities expressed condolences over the untimely demise of the cartoonist.

# COP pledges are a game of lobbies: India and the world decertify



**Prof. Shivaji Sarkar**  
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The climate meet COP 26 is galore of promises as desertification the world over increases. The meet is less on concrete terms to bring down the temperature but high on verbose.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has struck the right issue. He has taken time till 2070 so that India's development is not smothered by the reticence of the developed world. He says that the commitment to climate has a cost and the rich nations are not meeting out their pledge of providing \$ 100 billion a year to developing nations by 2020 as agreed at the climate conference in Copenhagen in 2009. The target has not yet been met.

Nations like Saudi Arabia, Japan, and Australia on the other

hand are asking the UN to play down the need to move rapidly from fossil fuels. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says that 32000 submissions have been made by governments, companies, and other interested parties to dilute the issues of fossil fuel.

They are arguing that that the world does not need to reduce the use of fossil fuels as quickly as the current draft of the report recommends. A West Asian country oil ministry has sought the removal of phrases like the need for urgent and accelerated mitigation actions at all scales. The issue of temperature reduction by 2 degrees widely talked about may remain on paper as they press for slower action

and cutting temperature limit reduced to 1.5 degrees.

Australia does not accept the conclusion that closing coal-fired thermal power plants are necessary, even though the COP26 objective is to end the use of coal that adds to the problem of the greenhouse effect. OPEC also asks the IPCC to delete lobby activism. It would protect rent extracting business models. Saudi Arabia wants deletion of the UN concluded that the focus of decarbonization efforts in the energy sector needs to move rapidly to zero-carbon sources and actively phasing out fossil fuels.

Many developing countries are not comfortable with zero-emission. Argentina, Norway, and OPEC also challenge the contention. Norway wants UN scientists to allow the possibility of capture and storage (CCS) as a potential tool for reducing emissions from fossil fuels. Even India had to resort to larger coal prospecting as its power system was reportedly coming to a critical stage and it had to keep the thermal power plants running.

The draft report accepts carbon could play a role in the future but says there are uncertainties about its feasibility. The CCS emerges as a vague term for continuing with fossil fuel.

In 2015, Paris Agreement stressed the

need for limiting temperature below 2 degrees to 1.5 degrees Celcius before 2100. India and China's commitment has increased hopes that zero-emission is possible by 2070 but that again does not remain a certainty.

The globe is warming up faster. Climate change is affecting rainfall patterns and a warmer atmosphere can lead to more rainfall in some areas and drought in many others. It is expected to increase global poverty as water in excess or shortage would play havoc with human development.

The global area of drylands is expected to expand as the climate warms. Various projections on emission scenarios indicate arid lands will increase by 11 to 23 percent compared to 30 years of 1961 to 1990. This means that drylands could be 50 to 56 percent of the earth's land surface, a 38 percent rise, by 2021. The arid regions will expand over the southwest of North America, north and south Africa, and Australia, the Mediterranean, and South America.

Now at Glasgow COP 26, Australia and 123 other countries signed an agreement to end deforestation by 2030. There have been many such declarations before. Such policies have to be adopted by different countries at the domestic level. If these are not implemented due to domestic political pressure such declarations would have little impact.

India never reneges on such commitment but various lobbies are on reckless constructions in the Himalayas and other sensitive zones leading to a serious crisis. About 97.85 million hectares (29.7 percent) of India's total geographical area (TGA) of 328.72 MHA underwent land degradation during 2018-19. In 2003-05, 94.53 MHA (28.76 percent of the TGA) underwent land degradation. The number increased to 96.40 MHA (29.32 percent of the TGA) in 2011-13.

About 83.69 MHA underwent desertification in 2018-19. This was greater than the 81.48 MHA in 2003-2005 and 82.64 mha in 2011-13 that were. India witnessed an increase in desertification in 28 of 31 states and Union territories between 2011-13 and 2018-19.

Forest covers are dwindling all over Asia and various Indian states too are amending their laws for increased "developmental activities" across. Tree felling and water erosion also are causing heavy erosion as construction activities are increasing. The Centre's commitment and the states' priorities often clash and the latter play havoc at the ground level.

A McGill paper has found that more airport constructions would have an environmental problem, increase warming, and other ecological problems. But since these have become symbols of fast development without

studies across, India and many other countries construct more airports. Each adds to environmental degeneration. Recently in UP and the hilly states, several airports are being constructed to "better" connectivity. Man's greed causes Kedarnath tragedy and repeated Himlayan landslides. there is more propaganda than demonstrative action.

The IPCC says that various climate models suggest that rainfall will be more intense for almost the entire world, potentially increasing the risks of soil erosion. Projections indicate that most of the world will see a 16 to 24 percent increase in heavy precipitation intensity by 2100.

Director of research, Grantham Institute at Imperial College, London, Joeri Rogelji, says that pledges at climate meets are not sufficient to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement and COP 26 still has an important task. For the temperature control, the pledges need to turn to action. But, he says, those pledges do not match the ambitions.

The International Energy Agency is unhappy with what the governments are trying to show. The governments need to have a clear and credible policy, it says. Ambitions count for little if they are not implemented successfully. Would COP remain as another paper?

## District's First Millet Shakti Kiosk Opens at Rajgangpur



Sundargarh, Nov 9: The first Millet Shakti Kiosk of Sundargarh District was opened at cement city Rajgangpur on October 30. The kiosk is operated under the banners of Odisha Millets Mission. The district will come up with 81 Millet Shakti Kiosks to popularise this superfood while ensuring livelihood for Mission Shakti Women.

The Millet Shakti kiosk at Rajgangpur is being managed by Dakua Self Help Group (SHG). Nutritious and tasty snacks made of Ragi and other millet varieties will be served

at the kiosk. The snacks include Idli, Vada, Pakodi, Puri, Gulab Jamun, Rasgola, Pancake (Peetha), Kheer, etc. Women Self Help Groups are being trained to prepare Ragi-based food items and manage these kiosks.

Students, Youngsters, daily wagers, and others used to depend on tiffin stalls for their daily snacks. The millet shakti kiosk has come up as a viable option for them. The kiosk will provide a mix of traditional and modern nutritious and delicious millet-based snacks.

"We were trained on

preparation and presentation of various Millets-based snacks and recipes. 13 members from our group have taken training for the same. So, we will now prepare different snacks from millets to sell at our kiosk. The earning from this kiosk will help sustain our livelihood. Though this is new for us, we are prepared to give it our best", said Smt Chitralkha Gouda, President Dakua SHG.

Rama Chandra Tush, Regional Coordinator, Odisha Millets Mission said, "The demand for millets-based food is rising. Millet Shakti Kiosks are being set with the support of the government to popularize these foods and raise awareness about the nutritional benefits of Millets. Such tiffin centers will be set up in various parts of the Sundargarh district. Plans are also in place to open a Millet Cafe in Rourkela."

Among others, District Coordinator Odisha Millets Mission Pranamesh Kar,

Jharkhand State Livelihood Project Officer Subhakanta Nayak, Block Agriculture Officer Hemant Kumar Jena, Assistant Block Agriculture Officer Asish Das, Regional Coordinator WASSAN Ramani Ranjan Nayak were present on the occasion.

11 blocks in Sundargarh are currently under Millets cultivation as part of Odisha Millets Mission, which is the highest in any district across Odisha. In FY 2021-22, over 16 thousand farmers have cultivated millet on 5,230 Hectares of land. The production target for the year is 24,600 Quintals.

Odisha Millets Mission aims to take the millets from farm to plate. The District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Sundargarh supports millets cultivation at 7 out of the 11 millets producing blocks in the district. DMF also extends support towards establishing the Millet Shakti kiosks in Sundargarh.

## Tankadhar Tripathy appointed Director of SECL

Sundargarh, Nov 9: Tankadhar Tripathy of Sundargarh has been appointed as Director on the Board of Directors of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), the largest coal producing company of the country.

Tripathy has been appointed director for a period of three years.

A P Panda, Chairman-cum-Managing Director of SECL said, Tripathy will play a pivotal role in providing

the strategic leadership to the policies of the company and his rich and varied experience will certainly benefit in achieving the goals and objectives of the company.

Tankadhar Tripathy is working as secretary of Odisha state unit of BJP.



## RSP Bags the ENCON Award

SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant has bagged the Energy Conservation Award in the Eastern region ENCON Award 2021. The competition was held in September by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). RSP was adjudged with 4.75 star

the plant which has led to huge cost savings. Some of the activities undertaken by the Department which helped in bagging the award were modification in BF gas grid along with Coke Ovens, Blast Furnace and Instrumentation



energy rating which is best ever for RSP and also best in SAIL.

In a function held at the office of ED (Works) on 5th November 2021 S R Suryawanshi, ED (Works) handed over the ENCON Award Certificate to Naresh Kumar, CGM (Utilities and Environment), K K Pandey, GM Incharge (EMD) and his team. Speaking on the occasion Suryawanshi commended the efforts of the Energy management Department in reducing Specific energy consumption pattern of

Departments. This has resulted in retrieval of additional BF gas of about 70 000 Nm<sup>3</sup>/hr into the network. The additional BF gas allocation to Captive Power Plant -I and Power Blowing Station has led to reduction in boiler coal consumption of around 100004 Tons in CPP-I in 2020-21 over previous year. This has enabled to reduce Specific Energy consumption to 6.19 Giga Cal/Ton of Crude Steel, which is best amongst SAIL plants.

## New Initiative for Meritorious Students of Mining Affected Areas

Sundargarh, Nov 9: Sundargarh District Administration has taken a new initiative to help the meritorious students of mining-affected areas to appear in national level entrance exams like IIT, JEE and NEET, etc. They have taken steps to provide free coaching facilities for the students to crack such national-level entrance exams. Students from the mining-affected areas will be provided free study materials, a well-equipped library, and a 24x7 internet facility at the coaching centers. For this purpose, the administration has established three coaching centers in the district at Rourkela, Sundargarh, and Rajgangpur.

The meritorious students of tribal, poor, underprivileged families residing in mining areas can now hope to fulfill their career dreams under the program. In the first batch of this specialized coaching of Under the initiative,



students of six mining-affected blocks are to be enrolled for free coaching. The six blocks are - Koida, Kutra, Rajgangpur, Kunarmunda, Lahunipada and Hemgir. The students of classes 10 and 12 appearing and past are eligible for enrollment under the program. They will be enrolled based on marks obtained in the schools. Four hundred students of these six blocks have been enrolled for the free coaching. These students will try to crack the

entrance exams like IIT, JEE, NEET, CLAT, etc.

This new initiative is supported district mineral foundation (DMF). DMF will provide free accommodation to the students at the designated three coaching centers, uniforms, and study materials free of cost. Modern classrooms along with library and internet facilities are the key features of the program.

To keep the eye on the students and ensure their

participation in the program biometric attendance system has been introduced in the coaching centers.

District Administration has earlier launched some other programs under a skill development program for students and youths. To enhance the employability of educated youths ' Sudaksh program has been made operational in the district. Many students and parents have welcomed the initiative.

## JSW project appraisal meeting held in Jspur, Dthinkia residents protest



JAGATSINGHPUR, Nov 11: The Jagatsinghpur district administration convened a meeting with villagers, local PRI members, civil officials to discuss the proposed integrated steel plant and jetties project by Jindal Utkal Steel Works [JSW] group on the same location as the earlier Posco project site in Erasama coast near Paradeep.

Jagatsinghpur collector Parul Patwari chaired the meeting accompanying water

resources, and I&PR minister Raghunandan Das, MP Dr. Rajashree Mallick, SP Akhileshvar Singh, JSW CEO Ranjan Nayak, official Bibhudendu Panda, ADMs Paradeep, and Jagatsinghpur attended.

Speaking on the occasion CEO Ranjan Nayak informed that several CSR works had been undertaken by the group in proposed project site villages in Dthinkia, Gadakujanga, and Naugaon Panchayat.

Moreover, participants spoke of the employment, rehabilitation, and impact of pollution on the local community. Replying to the participant's queries JSW clarified that jobs would be provided to the people who would be affected by the project, in addition, they should be suitably compensated as per state government R&R policy at force. Furthermore, company authority assured that the betel vein growers

and labor would be given compensation, a tripartite meeting would be held implementing the rehabilitation packages in project site villages.

But sources confirmed that the project antagonists from Dthinkia village were skipped attending the meeting despite few leaders having invited, they observed protests in villages opposing the JSW project in their areas on Wednesday. Environmentalist Praffulla Samantra, leftist leader Prashant Paikaray attended the protest meeting convened by Dthinkia Samiti member Debendra Swain.

Meanwhile, the project sympathizers from Gadakujanga, Nuagaon, and Govindpur have seemed concerned over the meeting and expressed unhappy that Collector has invited few selective people for the meeting, we demand the meeting should be held at village level as result ground realities would be tested with regards to project inception, said Dr. Tamil Pradhan a pro-industry leader from Nuagaon.

## Banks conduct a district-level credit outreach program in Jagatsinghpur



JAGATSINGHPUR, Nov 11: A district-level credit outreach program and loan Mela was organized by state-run commercial and private banks in district headquarters here Uco Bank designated as the lead bank of the Jagatsinghpur district coordinated the endeavor accompanying district administration, SHGs, businessmen, commercial establishments, and loan seeking borrowers.

Jagatsinghpur MLA and district planning committee chairman Prasanta Muduli inaugurated the program lauded Odisha government efforts patronizing SHGs for employment generations and self-reliant in economic sufficiency. As the district recorded production of agriculture produces, fish, and milk production, more financial assistance needs to be given by banks to farmers, fishery, and milk producers dependents, MLA suggested.

Uco bank zonal manager Lalatendu Behera speaking on the occasions reiterated the

Union government's finance ministry instructs state-run banks to step up lending and hold programs and loans Melas at the district level to lend desirable borrowers and SHGs. Acting the circumstance, we bankers organized the credit outreach program in Jagatsinghpur district, zonal manager Behera informed.

The time has ended when borrowers were moving banks for loans but now banks are reaching borrowers giving loans through credit outreach programs fulfilling credit requirements of small and medium scale borrowers and mainly loan seeking women folk, said ADM of Jagatsinghpur Satchidananda Sahoo.

As many as 11526 borrowers were given loans amounting to Rs 111 crores on agriculture, fishery, personal, consumer durable, vehicle, Mudra loans, home, and education sectors through credit outreach programs by several banks functioning in Jagatsinghpur district.

## Go Samvardhan Utsav celebrated

JAGATSINGHPUR, Nov 11: The district-level Go Samvradhana Utsav was celebrated at Alipingala six km away from here on Thursday. Jagatsinghpur MLA Prasanta Muduli inaugurated the celebration and spoke about his childhood association with cows in his village and termed dairy farming a profession that is commercially viable for employment generation.

Collector Parul Patawari, ZP president Priyadarshini Biswal, block chairperson Bijaya Laxmi Behera attended the event as guests. Speaking on the occasion, attending guests spelled out that the domestication of cows



happened in ancient times, it was useful to mankind in several ways as milk serves as a food supplement for the growing population mainly children.

. cow being treated as the second mother in society moreover cattle rearing for profit, the profession has

been prompted from ancient times for accruing pecuniary benefits. ZP president Biswal revealed.

Jagatsinghpur district earns name as top across the state for milk production past few years, speakers informed at the meeting. The attending

guests performed Go Puja in the presence of hundreds of cow lovers. Later Collector felicitated a few cow and calf growers successfully taming cows. A free medical camp for animals was organized after the end of the celebration.

# Govt restores MPLAD scheme, hikes ethanol price



The MPLADS funds were temporarily suspended in April 2020 in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

New Delhi, Nov 10: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday decided to restore the funding for Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) for the remainder of 2021-22. The government has also approved the hiked price of ethanol for blending in petrol besides approving reservation norms for jute packaging materials.

The MPLADS funds were temporarily suspended in April 2020 in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. Then Union Minister Prakash Javadekar had announced that the consolidated amount of MPLAD Funds for 2 years - Rs 7,900 crores - will go to

Consolidated Fund of India.

In a press briefing on Wednesday, Union Minister Anurag Thakur announced that the scheme has been restored and will continue till 2025-26. The funds will be released at the rate of Rs 2 crore per MP for the remainder of 2021-22 fiscal year, in one instalment. From 2022-23 to 2025-26, the funds will be released at a rate of Rs 5 crore per annum per MP in two instalments of Rs 2.5 crore each.

The MPLADS is a programme first launched during the Narasimha Rao-led government in 1993. It is aimed towards providing funds for developmental works recommended by individual MPs.

Price of ethanol hiked

As part of the government's target to achieve 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol by 2025, the Cabinet on Wednesday approved the hiked price of ethanol extracted from sugarcane by up to Rs 1.47 per litre, starting December 2021.

The increased focus on use of ethanol as a fuel will positively impacting the environment as well as the lives of farmers and reduces dependency on the crude oil imports.

The rate for ethanol from C-heavy molasses has been increased to Rs 46.66 per litre from Rs 45.69 per litre currently, and that of ethanol from B-heavy to Rs 59.08 per litre from Rs 57.61 per litre, the Information and Broadcasting minister said.

The Union Minister also announced that the price of ethanol extracted from sugarcane juice, sugar syrup has been increased from Rs 62.65 to Rs 63.45. He added that ethanol blending with petrol has touched 8 per cent in the 2020-21 marketing year (December-November) and is expected to reach 10 per cent in the next year.

Committed price support to Cotton Commission approved

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) also approved the committed price support of Rs 17,408.85 crore to the Cotton Commission of India for reimbursing losses incurred during 2014-15 to 2020-21 under MSP operations.

Apart from these decisions, Thakur also announced that the Cabinet has approved reservation norms for jute packaging materials for the year 2021-22. The norms for packaging in jute materials mandate that 100 per cent of the food grains and 20 per cent of sugar will be packed in diversified jute bags.

Moreover, the Cabinet approved the declaration of November 15, the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, as "Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas" and is planning to hold week-long celebrations till November 22.

## 24 Dead In Just 2 Days Consuming Spurious Liquor In Dry State Bihar

Patna, Nov 5: In a tragic incident, at least 24 people have died and several others fell ill after consuming suspected spurious liquor in Gopalganj and West Champaran districts of Bihar, where total prohibition is in place, in the last two days.

### West Champaran, Gopalganj hit

Eight persons died on Thursday after allegedly consuming hooch in Telhua village at Bettiah, the headquarters of West Champaran district. While the toll in another incident of consumption of suspected spurious liquor in Gopalganj climbed to 16 on the same day with six more deaths being confirmed by the district authorities.

The administrations of both districts have not confirmed the cause of the deaths so far.

Telhua tragedy is 3rd such incident in the last 10 days. The Telhua hooch tragedy is the third incident such incident in north Bihar in the last 10 days. Bihar Minister Janak Ram rushed to Gopalganj. He later told reporters, "I have visited the houses of persons who died allegedly because of consuming spurious liquor. It could be a conspiracy to defame the NDA

### Autopsy reports is awaited

The cause of their death cannot be confirmed as autopsy reports are still awaited. Three teams are probing the case." Some of the bodies have been cremated by their families, the local police said.

They said that four persons died on Thursday when they were undergoing treatment and another two on way to the hospital. Prima facie these deaths appear to have occurred due to the consumption of some poisonous substance and the police have registered a case.



### Victims and the accused

Four persons have been arrested in connection with the incident which took place between Tuesday and Wednesday, the police said. Over 20 persons, mostly belonging to scheduled castes, had allegedly consumed spurious liquor being sold by local traders in the area and have been identified by the police.

Villagers claimed that all the victims had consumed liquor at Chamartoli area of Telhua village on Wednesday evening. "After consuming liquor, the condition of eight of them deteriorated and they were taken to the nearby hospital where they died today".

From January till October 31 this year, around 70 people have died and many others lost their sight after consuming alleged spurious liquor in Nawada, West Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Siwan and Rohtas districts, officials said.

### Ban on alcohol in the state

The Nitish Kumar government had on April 5, 2016 banned the manufacture, trade, storage, transportation, sale and consumption of liquor in the state. The chief minister appealed to the people to cooperate in the mission as "liquor is bad for health and society". Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav alleged that the state government has failed to stop the sale and supply of spurious liquor in the dry state. "Police is disposing of the bodies of the dead without conducting the post-mortem of the dead. Is Nitish Kumar who is making tall claims on prohibition, not responsible for these deaths?" he added.

## Schools to be shut, govt offices to work from home: CM Arvind Kejriwal announces steps to check Delhi pollution

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday (November 13, 2021) called for an emergency meeting over the severe air quality situation in the national capital. Following the meeting the Delhi CM made some big announcements.

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal said, "for a week from Monday onwards, schools will be physically closed; to continue virtually so that children don't have to breathe polluted air." "Construction activities not to be allowed (between

November 14-17)," Delhi CM added. Govt offices to operate from home (WFH) at 100% capacity for a week. The Delhi government also said that the offices, both government and private, will operate on work from home structure as far as possible.

"Govt offices to operate from home (WFH) at 100% capacity for a week. Private offices to be issued an advisory to go for WFH option as much as possible," said Arvind Kejriwal.

These decisions were taken by the Delhi government in view of



prevailing weather situation. "With no wind movement predicted between November 14 and 17, the air quality is expected to turn worse," the Delhi CM said.

Delhi governments' action

plan comes after the Supreme Court today termed the air pollution situation in Delhi and nearby regions as 'emergency' and suggested clamping a lockdown in the Capital city.

# Manoj Das, Prashant Patnaik Among 11 From Odisha Receive Padma Awards From President

New delhi, Nov 8: President Ram Nath Kovind presented the prestigious Padma awards for 2020 to as many as 141 personalities, including eleven from Odisha at a ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi on Monday.

The Government of India had deferred the Padma awards ceremony in 2020 to a later date as a precautionary step on the account of the outbreak coronavirus pandemic in the country in March.

Govt Announces Nominations Open For Padma Awards

Eminent litterateur from Odisha, the late Manoj Das received the Padma Bhusan award (posthumously) for his contribution to literature. Das passed away while undergoing treatment at a nursing home in Puducherry on April 27, 2021. He was 87.

**The other recipients of the top honours from the State include- Mitrabhanu Gountia (Art), Manmohan Mohapatra (posthumous Art), Professor Digambar Behera (Medicine), Professor Radha Mohan (Agriculture), Sabarmatee (Agriculture), Utsab Charan Das (Art) and Batakrushna Sahoo (Animal Husbandry).**

Das had earlier received the Padma Shri in 2001 and the Sahitya Akademi Award Fellowship, the highest literary award in the country, in 2006.

Similarly, Odisha's Binapani Mohanty, Dr Damayanti Beshra and Dr

Prasanta Kumar Pattanaik received the Padma Shri award for their contributions towards literature and education.

The other recipients of the top honours from the State include-Mitrabhanu Gountia (Art), Manmohan Mohapatra



President Ramnath Kovind presents Padma Shri to Odisha's Dr Damayanti Beshra, Sabarmatee and Radhamohan

(posthumous Art), Professor Digambar Behera (Medicine), Professor Radha Mohan (Agriculture), Sabarmatee (Agriculture), Utsab Charan Das (Art) and Batakrushna Sahoo (Animal Husbandry).

Padma awards are India's

top civilian honours and are given in three categories-Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service), Padma Bhusan (distinguished service of higher order) and Padma Shri (distinguished service).

Among the 141 Padma

Awards in 2020, 7 received Padma Vibhushan while 16 were conferred with Padma Bhusan and 118 with Padma Shri awards. 34 awardees are women and 18 foreigners. 12 persons are awarded posthumously.

# Burglary Attempt Foiled By 2 Brave Women, Attacker Duo Held



Youth Dressed As Woman Attacks Mother, Daughter With Knife

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: The Commissionerate police on Thursday claimed to have solved the mystery behind the shocking attack on a woman and her daughter at their Shailashree Vihar residence in Bhubaneswar by a cross-dressed man on Tuesday, and the arrest of the prime accused and his friend.

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Bhubaneswar, Umashankar Dash said that Rupesh Panda had trespassed into the house, dressed like a woman, with an intention to commit burglary. However, when the mother and the daughter duo put up a resistance, he attacked the duo. Rupesh works for a

private new channel, while his friend and office colleague Sanjay Panda, who has also been arrested, had assisted him in the crime. Dash said the crime was borne out of the acute financial crisis Rupesh was facing. "He had borrowed over Rs 18 lakh and was reeling under financial constraints and stress," Dash

**During questioning, the police came across several inconsistencies in his narration of how he landed up at the house and why he had dressed himself in a dress while wearing a helmet. This is in the backdrop of the initial suspicion that Rupesh had plans to rob the house.**

said adding that Rupesh had roped Sanjay in the plan to burgle the house.

Rupesh was detained on Wednesday following his discharge from a hospital where he was admitted for the treatment of the injuries he had suffered during the scuffle at the house.

During questioning, the police came across several inconsistencies in his narration of how he landed up at the house and why he had dressed himself in a dress while wearing a helmet. This is in the backdrop of the initial suspicion that Rupesh had plans to rob the house, police said. However, Rupesh tried

to mislead the police by claiming that he was attacked by three unidentified miscreants who threatened to kill him if he did not obey their instructions. The bike-borne miscreants then took him to an isolated place, thrashed him inside a car before directing him to enter the house.

The police interrogators noticed gaping holes in Rupesh's claims and subjected him to intensive questioning during which he broke down and spilled the beans about his plans to rob the house of valuables in order to repay the debts. "Rupesh admitted to chalking out the entire plan to burgle the house along with

his friend and colleague Sanjay Panda," Dash said adding that the plan was conceived almost a month prior to the execution. As per plans, the duo had purchased knives, a toy gun, rope and other materials from different marketplaces for the crime.

Dash said the police have seized the blood-stained knife and the bike used to execute the crime.

Detailing the sequence of events, Dash said "Rupesh, dressed up as a woman with a helmet on his head, attacked a woman with the knife while she was cleaning the house (in Chandrasekharpur) and dragged her inside a room before latching the door from inside. The woman screamed and put up a fight. Meanwhile, her mother came downstairs and joined her in counter-attacking Rupesh."

While Rupesh suffered minor injuries in the scuffle and was taken to a hospital from where he was discharged on Wednesday, the mother-daughter duo are stable, Dash said while lauding their courage to stand up against the attacker.

# India must face the Chinese challenge squarely



**Sirish C. Mohanty**

After the rise of China as an economic superpower, it has been inviting global attention for years. But at the same time it has been intimidating, too. The world opinion has veered around the fact that the attitude of the Communist regime in China, particularly towards most of its neighbors, has been pivoted around aggression and intimidation from the very beginning. In 1962, the first victim of its brazen policy of aggression was its immediate neighbor India. During subsequent years and decades, Vietnam and many other countries in or bordering the South China Sea and the East China Sea have fallen victims to its aggressive attitude. Now after its rise as an economic superpower, it has been throwing around its weight without any regard for international law and rules. It has usurped the rights of its neighbors in the South China Sea and the Pacific Ocean and has been illegally hindering the free navigation rights of other nations too. This has only endangered the security of the world. The West has its concerns about the intimidating rise of China.

It is not communist ideology, which is based on revolution, but its attitude and policies which prompt China to adopt coercive and aggressive means against other countries to maintain and uphold its interests, in a case or two mostly based on mere perceptions. It has had no qualms even in befriending and turning Pakistan, the epicenter of terrorism, into an all-weather friend just to achieve its nefarious aims against India. To harm Indian interests, it went to the extent of even supporting terrorism emanating from Pakistan. It continuously vetoed UN resolutions to declare terrorists from Pakistan as international terrorists. Though at a much later stage, it had to bow before international pressure.

Freedom of spirit is an inalienable non-physical aspect of human beings. But China has failed even to uphold it. With the return of Hong Kong to China, it was hoped that China would uphold this aspect of human personality not only in Hong Kong but allow it to prevail elsewhere also in the country. But forcible civil liberty

curbs and other excesses in Hong Kong have even belied this hope. More serious and destabilizing is the matter about Taiwan. Taiwan has demonstrated that it cannot be part of the authoritarian and atheist regime of China. Despite armed threats and intimidation, Taiwan has vowed to defend its democratic values and freedom of the human spirit.

With its borders still not demarcated with India and its continued belligerent posture, India has to be wary about China and face the challenge posed by it squarely. Along with recalibrated economic development after the Coronavirus, India has to boost its self-reliance in every sphere. Apart from nourishing its democratic values, it has to strengthen self-confidence to meet the challenge. It should also widen its sphere of influence all over the world and broaden its trade interests. Moreover, apart from the geopolitical context of the challenge, India has to be prepared as usual to come up with the diplomatic challenges that may be thrust on it.

Business and political interests made the international community buy the Chinese narrative of "One-China Policy". China is falsely understood as a large monolithic country like the former Soviet Union, but in reality, China has forcibly angst and occupied its neighboring countries. India never had any borders with China until Tibet was invaded and occupied by China in 1949-1950. Tibet had been the buffer zone between India, Russia, and China in the Great Game. Initial Indian romance of Mao Zedong's Communist revolution crafted Hindi - Chini Bhai Bhai policy. India was one of the first to recognize Tibet as a part of China by signing the 1954 Panchsheel agreement. But China romance didn't last long as China invaded India from Arunachal giving India a humiliating defeat. To appease China, for 70 years India censored Tibet, India's largest neighboring country sharing the longest land borders.

But China has never fully acknowledged the sovereignty of India over Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh. China claims Arunachal Pradesh as its own and supports Pakistan's claim over Kashmir. So, why India alone should recognize the One China Policy when China isn't ready to reciprocate the same?

Besides Tibet, China maintains colonial occupation of East Turkestan, Southern Mongolia, and Manchuria. East Turkestan is an Islamic country of the Uyghur majority population. On the 1.8 million square km of land China has been

mining Oil, Natural gas, and gold. Suppressing religious and cultural identities in the country China has been running concentration camps with over a million people locked in them. Southern Mongolia has been under Chinese occupation since 1950 while the other part of Outer Mongolia remains free, independent, and democratic. The pasturelands of Mongolia that spread over 1.2 million square km have been plundered of Oil, natural gas, and uranium by China. Mongolians have been treated as second-class citizens. The new government, the Republic of China tried to invade Machu's former colonies like Mongolia and protectorates like Tibet but failed. This failure was marked in national memory and just after forming Mao's communist government China invaded and occupied its neighboring countries.

With many countries openly condemning China for COVID-19, the time is ripe for India to review its OCP and along with her allies to maximize the pressure on China and highlight the human rights violation on people living under Chinese occupation in world forums.

Hence, India should immediately act and pass the required Government Resolutions to "Uncensored Tibet" and "De-Recognise One China Policy" in letter and spirit. Mandate all elected leaders and people working in an official capacity to recognize Tibet, and thereby there will be no border with China.

## A Tribal Climate Warrior From Odisha's Sundargarh Aims To Bring The Indigenous Wisdom



**Climate warrior Archana Soreng from Odisha, a member of UN Secretary General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change**

New Delhi, Nov 11: According to the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), for better management of forests for climate mitigation, it is important to empower indigenous people and enhance local community collective actions. And this is what 26-year-old Archana Soreng from Odisha's Khadia tribe has been doing. Even as a teenager, she was raising awareness about climate change. Chosen as one of seven members of the UN Secretary General's

Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change, Ms. Soreng firmly believes that any climate action will be fruitful only when the indigenous people, who

*26-year-old Archana Soreng, a climate warrior from Odisha spreads the message of indigenous ways to tackle climate crisis at COP26*

live in close harmony with nature, are included in it. Ms. Soreng, who was inspired by

her late grandfather and late father, both tribal leaders in their village in Sundergarh district, to understand more about her tribe and gain the

wisdom of her ancestors, has dedicated her life towards documenting indigenous practices including

healthcare, environment preservation, forest protection, agriculture, and lifestyle. She has been working with tribal communities and forest dwellers and is also a part of an initiative called Adivasi Drishyam that creates videos on indigenous wisdom.

Indigenous communities across the globe are extremely vulnerable to climate change despite their sustainable lifestyle because they are completely dependent on the environment. This is why I use research and advocacy to mobilize people to bring (Page-9)

# Big messages to BJP from the 32 by poll results



Sirish C. Mohanty

seat, which was narrowly won by Pratibha Singh, the wife of late former chief minister Virbhadra Singh. The loss will rankle as this is the home state of BJP chief Nadda and there is apparent anti-incumbency against CM Jai Ram Thakur whose name was earlier speculated as someone who could be dropped by the BJP ahead of the polls. Thakur now has his work cut out as there is also said to be sympathy amongst the people for Singh's family after his death. The Congress also secured a 49% vote share in the by polls.

### 'Mama ji' stays afloat

In Madhya Pradesh though, Shivraj Singh Chouhan has put all



speculation to rest about his future with the BJP winning the Khandwa Lok Sabha seat and two out of the three assembly by-elections. Chouhan's name was also speculated as someone who could be replaced amid the CM-changing spree of the BJP in Uttarakhand, Karnataka and Gujarat. However, the veteran chief minister seems to have answered his critics by putting all his might into the campaign of these by polls

and winning three seats. The Kamal Nath-led Congress, however, does not seem to be out of the game in Madhya Pradesh as it bagged one seat and the vote share difference between the parties was just 2%. The 2023 election may be another high-voltage contest between Chouhan and Nath.

Himanta Biswa Sarma and Ashok Gehlot seem to have proved to their



respective parties that they were the correct choices as CMs. While the BJP alliance swept all five bypoll seats in Assam, the Congress won both by-election constituencies in Rajasthan and, in fact, pushed the floundering BJP in the state to the third spot on both the seats. The deeply divided BJP in Rajasthan was reduced to just 19% vote share in the elections, raising questions if the party has the leadership in place to challenge the Congress in 2023. In Assam, the Congress finds the shoe on the other foot as it was reduced to just 16% vote share in the bypolls, creating a buzz of implosion inside the party after the loss in the state. Sarma and Gehlot have clearly solidified their positions as CMs.

### Mamata in command

The unceasing demolition of the BJP continues in West



Bengal since the assembly election loss earlier this year. The opposition party lost all the four bypoll seats and, in fact, lost its deposits in three, securing just 14.5% votes in all while the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) bagged nearly 75% votes. This comes as a body blow to the BJP since the earlier bypoll losses a month ago including in Bhabanipur won by Mamata and an exodus of leaders from the party to the TMC. The BJP is even staring at a possible erosion of the gains made in the 2019 parliamentary elections when it won 18 out of the 42 Lok Sabha seats in the state, unless an urgent intervention is made by the top brass to rejuvenate the cadre here. With TMC's citadel secured, Mamata Banerjee is now looking at other national frontiers.

### Swim together or sink

The poll loss on both seats for the Rashtriya Janata



Dal (RJD) and Congress in Bihar shows the parties need

to stick together to take on the might of the ruling National Democratic Alliance. The Congress, which staked the future of the coalition with the RJD by insisting and contesting on two seats ultimately polled just 3% of the total votes, less than the new party of Chirag Paswan and about a percentage point more than NOTA. In the Tarapur seat, the winning margin for the ruling Janata Dal (United) over the RJD was 3,852 votes while the Congress secured 3,590 votes. The statement of RJD supremo Lalu Prasad that should these seats left for the Congress "to lose deposits" was proved correct. The loss, however, is expected to escalate the tensions with Lalu Prasad's family with his elder son on the warpath.

The BJP would also feel the sting of the loss of the Hangal assembly seat to the Congress in Karnataka, which is the stronghold of new chief minister Basavaraj Bommai. The CM has said the loss is being taken very seriously, though the BJP won the other bypoll seat. In Haryana, the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) was able to retain the Ellenabad seat and the Congress finished third here behind the BJP and lost its deposit despite its vocal support to the ongoing farmer movement. In Telangana, the BJP sees a silver lining in the Huzurabad seat win over the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi while the Shiv Sena

has reasons to feel enthused over winning its first Lok Sabha seat outside Maharashtra in Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

However, the by-polls in the past have not been proved to be the most accurate barometers of the public mood ahead of state or general elections. The high petrol and diesel prices, for example, do not seem to have hurt the BJP in Madhya Pradesh, which has the costliest fuel in the country presently, while the issue seems to have bruised the party in Himachal Pradesh. Parties, though, take quick lessons from by-polls, and the BJP is no exception to it. The excise duty on fuel was quickly slashed, and consequently, the states followed the suit. The center has also reduced the tax on edible oil, and the rising price was arrested instantly. BJP of late appears to have realised that with pocket-pinching prices, no narratives of "Ache din" or likes can ensure a win. In a democracy, cajole without comforts to the lives of people can't bring a win granted for all times to come, and the people start thinking of electing a 'Majboor Sarkar' rather than a 'Majboot Sarkar'. Despite of a billion covid vaccination mark of a majboot sarkar, can't be the crucial choice when it becomes blind to the billions languishing half-starved. So, the Modi-led BJP and its allies take it as a warning signal for the ensuing polls.



year away. The general political wisdom gives the ruling party an edge in by polls. But the Congress swept the three assembly seats as well as the Mandi Lok Sabha



Imo Editor Sirish C Mohanty Met Haryana Gov Bandaru Dattatreya On Lunch At Raj Bhaban Chandigarh On November 13 And Presented An Issue Of The Industry And Mines Observer

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### A Tribal Climate...

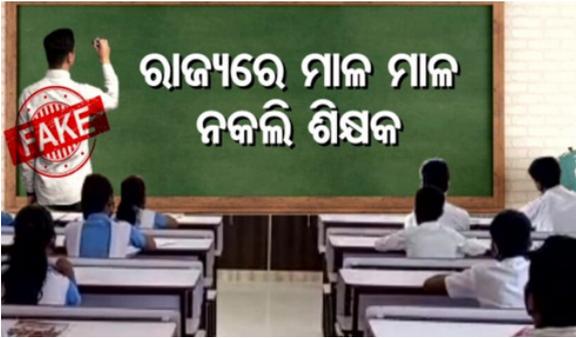
the indigenous perspective into climate action. As the negotiations at the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow in the United Kingdom continue, where several countries, including India, are in discussion to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius over pre-industrial times, Ms. Soreng calls for the inclusion of the indigenous communities as the drivers of climate actions for achieving the set targets. Ms. Soreng, who is at the COP26 for amplifying the voice of the indigenous people in the climate action discourse and leading the youth in the fight against climate change, said,

Indigenous Peoples should be leaders of climate actions and not victims of climate policies. The methods and tools used by the tribals in their daily lives, for green living, rainwater harvesting, organic farming, preserving biodiversity, if adopted at a larger scale by other people, will help in preserving the environment

and fighting climate change.

Tribal communities also contribute to providing an alternative in terms of solving that global plastic problem, she said. They collect leaves from the forest and stitch those together to make plates. They use grass, to make chairs, coconuts to make resistant ropes for beds, and twigs to brush their teeth. Since it is biodegradable, it can be an alternative to plastic, and that can be adopted by the people in the cities, Ms. Soreng added. She further said that tribal communities do not receive due credit for their contribution towards environmental protection and often face exploitation when their products are purchased by retailers as they receive very low compensation compared to the price at which their products are sold to customers. She said that as the world shift towards a more sustainable model, the inputs of tribal communities must be recognized and supported so that they can play a bigger role.

## Fake School Teachers Galore In Odisha, Govt Probe Ineffective



Hundreds of fraud teachers are playing with the future of the children by securing seats in schools in the State by submitting fake caste, residential, educational and all sorts of other certificates

Even though bogus teachers are dime a dozen in various schools across Odisha, very little has been done to weed them out as the State government ordered probes prove to be ineffective.

As per reports, hundreds of fraud teachers are playing with the future of the children by securing seats in schools in the State by submitting fake caste, residential, educational and all sorts of other certificates. But what has helped them the most is improper verification of their documents.

While this has seriously hit the education delivery system in the State, it has deprived actual degree holders of getting appointment as teachers.

A number of Public Interest Litigations (PIL) filed in the Orissa High Court in this regard has prompted the apex court to direct the government to take necessary measures and remove the fraudulent teachers.

The School and Mass

Education Department also pulled up its socks following the HC order, however, it seems a distant past, but the department has not been able to make any substantial progress in this direction.

Sources said the High Court has now rapped the State government and issued a directive to expedite the probe and take necessary action against the fake teachers.

The Directorate of Elementary Education has issued letters to as many as 23 District Education Officers (DEOs) including Khordha, Cuttack, Sambalpur and Bhadrak while directing them to accelerate the process of identifying the fake teachers in their respective districts. They have also been reprimanded for strong actions in case of delay in the process.

"We have been directed by the department to identify the fake teachers in our district on priority basis and some of them have also been identified. FIRs have also been lodged against them. I have asked the Block Education Officers (BEOs) to expedite the process of identification," said Kapilendra Mishra, DEO of Bhadrak.

Meanwhile the development has raised serious question marks over the transparency and

integrity of the department in the recruitment process.

"Initially there was not much clue about the appointment of fake teachers with the submission of fake certificates. But after getting some complaints in this regard, their educational qualification was verified from the universities and subsequently the real picture came to the light," said Krushna Mohan Singh, District Science Invigilator, Balasore.

The issue of mushrooming fraud teachers has always brewed resentment among the eligible candidates who are aspiring to take up careers in the education sector.

While educationists have pointed fingers at a nexus between fake teachers and hands in the government machinery, the government has assured strong action against fraudulent teachers and erring officials of the department.

"The fake teachers might have been in the service for long time. Their certificates were not verified properly. However, the State government has issued orders to all the DEOs and BEOs to expedite the process of identifying them. Strong action will be taken against such bogus teachers. The officers will also be punished in case of delay in the identification process," said School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash.

## Flight Safety Rules: Never say THESE words in a plane, you might get fined, jailed or blacklisted from the airline

Tens of thousands of people, every day, travel by flight to reach their desired destination. Travelling by flight not only saves time but also is a feasible option for many. However, did you know that if you utter certain words to a flight attendant or indulge in certain activities then you can get blacklisted from the airline?

According to the Flight Safety Rules, certain activities and words are considered quite serious in the flight. Even as a joke, if you utter some words to the flight staff, then you can get into trouble.

Doing so can lead to a fine of lakhs of rupees as well as a jail term of up to 3 years. You can also get blacklisted from the airlines.

### Drunken people cannot board a plane

According to a Daily Star report, one can have a drink (alcohol) on the flight after asking the flight attendant and the availability, however, one cannot board a flight after drinking before boarding. Airlines are serious about this rule and if you tell a flight attendant that 'I am drunk',



even as a joke, you can land in trouble. The reason behind this rule is that intoxicated passengers can become a threat to the safety of other passengers.

Cabin crew and flight attendants have the right to stop drunken passengers from boarding the plane. If after taking off the plane, they come to know that a passenger is unconscious, then they can land the passenger at the nearest airport and drop them off the plane. In addition to this, if a drunken passenger tries to argue or create a ruckus with the flight attendant or the cabin crew, they can also file a complaint against them. If found guilty, a fine of 8,000 pounds and imprisonment of up to 3 years can be imposed. Along with this, that passenger can be blacklisted from the airline and put on the list of unruly passengers.

## Dragon fruit, avocado could be an aam baat in India



NEW DELHI, Nov 1: The Centre has identified 10 globally popular exotic fruit crops of commercial importance including dragon fruit and avocado, and 10 indigenous ones with high nutritional properties to promote their cultivation in a big way in the country, which in 2020-21 reported record horticultural output of 331 million tonnes, 10.6 million tonnes (3.3%) higher than in the previous financial year.

"State horticulture departments have been given targets regarding area expansion for these crops for the year 2021-22. During the current year, 8,951 hectares for exotic fruits and 7,154 hectares for indigenous fruits will be brought under cultivation," agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar said on Friday. The 10 exotic fruits whose cultivation will be promoted include avocado, blueberry, dragon fruit, fig, kiwi, mangosteen, persimmon, passion fruit, rambutan and strawberry, whereas the indigenous ones which would get additional attention include aonla, jamun, tamarind, karonda, seabuckthorn, garcinia, hanuman phal (Soursop), bael, phalsa and jack fruit.

Addressing the national conference on 'International Year of Fruits and Vegetables', organised in collaboration with the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Tomar noted that the country through these moves would bring fruits and vegetables to the plate of the poorest of the poor, not as a special food but as a daily necessity. India is currently the second largest producer of horticulture crops, producing about 12% of the global fruit and vegetable production.

# EU and US end clash over steel and aluminum, take aim at China's 'dirty' steel

The United States and the European Union on Sunday ended a dispute over steel and aluminium tariffs and said they would work on a global arrangement to combat "dirty" production and overcapacity in the industry.

The future EU-US arrangement will be a challenge for China, which produces more than half of the world's steel and which the EU and US accuse of creating overcapacity that is threatening the survival of their own steel industries.

"The United States and the European Union have reached a major breakthrough that will address the existential threat of climate change while also protecting American jobs



President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen.

and American industry," US President Joe Biden told reporters in Rome in a joint event with European Commission head Ursula von der Leyen on the sidelines of the G20 summit.

Under the deal, Washington will allow EU

countries duty-free access for steel and aluminium exports to the United States in volumes comparable to those shipped before tariffs imposed by former President Donald Trump's administration in 2018.

In response, the EU

removed retaliatory tariffs on US products including whiskey, powerboats and Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

But rather than just a simple return to the status quo from 2018, the United States and the European Union plan to address the existential threat of climate change and production overcapacity in the steel industry, which is one of the biggest CO2 emitters in the world.

"Together, the United States and European Union will work to restrict access to their markets for dirty steel and limit access to countries that dump steel in our markets, contributing to worldwide over-supply," the

White House said in a factsheet without naming China directly.

Speaking to the press, Biden was more explicit, saying the arrangement with the EU would help "restrict access to our markets for dirty steel from countries like China".

The global deal is to be worked out over the next two years to promote "green" steel and aluminium production and will be open to other countries that want to join, including China, whose steel sector is responsible for 10-20% of the country's CO2 emissions.

"The arrangement is, of course, open to all like-minded

partners. Steel manufacturing is one of the highest carbon emission sources globally," von der Leyen said.

The US Commerce Department said Washington was consulting with Japan and Britain on issues related to steel and aluminium, with a focus on the impacts of overcapacity on the global steel and aluminium markets.

"The Global Arrangement will seek to ensure the long-term viability of our industries, encourage low-carbon intensity steel and aluminium production and trade, and restore market-oriented conditions," the EU Commission said in a statement.

## Festive cheer for jewellers as Dhanteras fetches bumper gold sales



Indians flocked to jewelry stores on Tuesday on the biggest gold-buying day of the year, with a bumper sales period for precious metals that culminates in the festival of Diwali expected for the first time since the pandemic began.

Dhanteras is traditionally seen as the most auspicious day in the Hindu calendar to buy gold, with many shops remaining open until midnight and jewelers offering discounts and gifts. Indians typically buy ornaments for marriage celebrations, and coins and bars for investment surge during a series of celebrations that culminates

with Diwali, or the Festival of Lights, which falls on Thursday.

Still, in the past two years sales have been subdued. While restrictions and fear of the corona virus amid a weak economy and high prices have taken a toll, jewelers are now seeing healthy growth in demand.

Tata Group's Titan Co. reported a 77% year-on-year jump in income in its jewelry division in the three months to Sept. 30, which is typically a lean demand period due to rains and lack of festivals. According to the company's chief executive of jewelry,

Ajoy Chawla, Indians are finally more comfortable with spending and wedding-led demand is high. "All segments are witnessing a very good demand upsurge, whether it be the lower-priced or higher-priced segments, gold jewelry or diamond-studded jewelry," Chawla said in an interview with Bloomberg Television. The jewelry sector is also benefiting because travel and other discretionary spending remain muted due to the pandemic, with gold attractive to many Indians who see it as a store of value, he said. Other jewelers are also enjoying a more prosperous festival season in 2021. MMTc-PAMP India Pvt., a venture between the state-run MMTc Ltd. and the Swiss-based PAMP SA, has seen growing demand for its products from the end of September, according to Managing Director Vikas Singh.

### 'Out of Stock'

"I am spending almost every other day speaking to Geneva saying 'send me more, send me more'," said Singh.

"Gold is out of stock. Silver is out of stock."

India's only London Bullion Market Association-certified precious metals refiner and mint has recently started diversifying its portfolio from selling bars mainly to bullion dealers to setting up physical stores for coins and bars for retail investors.

"Our consumer journey has been an absolute sellout," Singh said. "With the economic volatility, increasingly people have wanted to invest part of their portfolio in gold and silver."

Meanwhile, Bengaluru-based C. Krishniah Chetty Group of Jewellers has seen an increase of 65% in sales leading up to Dhanteras compared to pre-pandemic levels.

"We are actually unable to keep our inventory full due to more sales than production," Managing Director C. Vinod Hayagriv said. Production delays due to Covid protocols, testing, and hallmarking backlogs are also causing difficulties in keeping stock in line with demand, he said.

## Consortium of PSU banks agrees to infuse funds for completion of stalled Amrapali projects

New Delhi: In a relief to thousands of Amrapali homebuyers, the Supreme Court on Saturday was informed that a consortium of six public sector banks have agreed to infuse around Rs 1,000 crore in the stalled projects to ensure their speedy completion.

On the occasion of Diwali, 150 flats completed by the National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) in a stalled project of Amrapali were given to the homebuyers in a small ceremony organised with the help of court receiver.

A bench of Justices UU Lalit and Ajay Rastogi was informed court-appointed receiver senior advocate R Venkataramani that the consortium of six PSU banks, which include UCO bank, Bank of India and Bank of Baroda, among others have agreed in-principle to infuse funds to the tune of around Rs 1,000 crore and paperwork is likely to be completed by the month end.

The bench asked Venkataramani to ensure that the process is expedited and money starts coming in the first week of December,

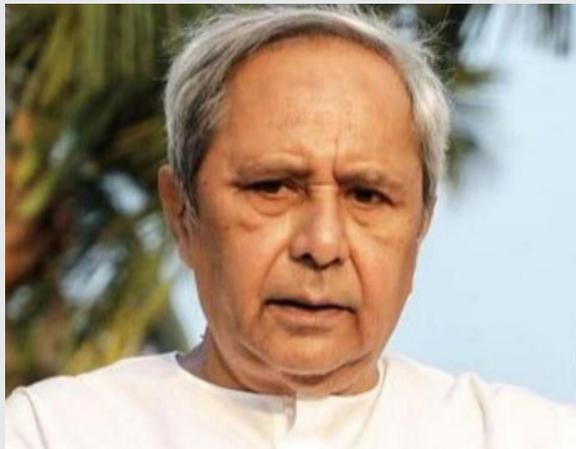
so that stalled work can be started expeditiously.

The court receiver further said that valuation work of five personal villas of former Amrapali directors, which have been attached on court orders, is complete and five parties have shown interest in buying them at a cost that is more than the valuation price.

The bench directed that all these villas shall be auctioned by public sector undertaking MSTC Ltd. which has been involved in auctioning of Amrapali properties earlier as well.

Advocate ML Lahoty, appearing for homebuyers, said that the court should deal with their application seeking recovery of money from the defaulters as per the 2019 judgement of the court. Meanwhile, the court also reserved its order on the application filed by NOIDA seeking recall of June 10, 2020 order by which the court has curtailed the interest charged by the authority from the year 2010 onwards from the builders, who have been allotted land by the authority.

# No Sacking Now, CM Naveen Patnaik's Endgame Play After Panchayat Polls!



**New Yardstick For Dismissal: People's verdict**

It seems the current crop of BJD strategists play politics by the chess rules. There is a saying in the chess game that "Nobody ever won a chess game by resigning". Since 2014, this has been the thumb rule for BJD.

Even as the Opposition in Odisha is making all nimble moves on the political chessboard to 'check' CM Naveen Patnaik over the Mamita murder case, history since 2016 is evident of how the Chief Minister had been timing his gambit.

It seems the current crop of BJD strategists play politics by the chess rules. There is a saying in the chess game that "Nobody ever won a chess game by resigning". Since 2014, this has been the thumb rule for BJD. The political scenario today has an uncanny resemblance with the 2016 state of affairs.

**Year 2016**  
The monsoon that year in Odisha politics was hit by a tempest called Dr Motilal Gouda. And in the centre of the tempest was the then law minister Arun Sahoo. Dr Gouda was arrested from Andhra Pradesh for his alleged omission and commission. Since he turned a fugitive, the then ADG Crime Branch BK Sharma had constituted a 4-member task force headed by senior police officer Arun Bothra to probe the wheeling and dealings.

Even, Gouda had once remarked that he became victim to the rivalry between ministers. And the political gossip then was - the ministers were Arun Sahoo, Atanu Sabyasachi and Pushpendra Singhdeo.

October 17: The SUM hospital inferno hit the State. 22 killed and 120 injured. Four

**As per political observers, CM Naveen Patnaik's new political dogma has taken 180-degree change - from public propriety to people's verdict**

days later, the then Health Minister Atanu Sabyasachi resigned, though the checking of fire safety in hospitals lies with Odisha Fire Department which was under the Home department.

In his resignation letter, Atanu's words were "I resign on moral grounds for the unfortunate incident."

While CM played the endgame here, he lingered a stalemate in the case of other ministers, who were in the line of Opposition fire. Here is the list of ministers whose resignations had been demanded by the opposition in 2016.

1. The then Agriculture Minister Pradeep Maharathy: Charge - Suicides by 135 farmers (as per data tabled in Odisha Assembly)

2. The Women and Child Development Minister Usha Devi: Charge was death of 19 tribal children in Nagada due to malnutrition.

3. The then Law Minister Arun Sahoo: The Charge was alleged links with

arrested Dr Motilala Gouda.

4. The Then Food and Civil Supplies Minister Sanjay Dasburma: The charge was a large scale mess in implementing National Food Security Act, where many BJD office bearers' names tumbled out in the NFSA beneficiary list.

But CM Naveen Patnaik, after securing Atanu Sabyasachi's resignation, preferred to sit tight in regard to the other ministers.

2017

The year saw Panchayat elections in the months of spring. BJD was hit by the saffron revolution. The ruling party lost many districts to BJP.

Post the saffron uprising, the heat wave was felt in the BJD camp when CM Naveen Patnaik in the gruelling month of May showed 10 ministers the door from the cabinet. Significantly, among the 10 dropped names, Arun Sahoo, Sanjay Dasburma, Pranab Prakash Das, Pradeep Panigrahi and Pushpendra

Singhdeo figured prominently.

The Big Takeaway  
Naveen waited for the poll outcome to take action against the powerful BJD prodigals, though they were later kicked up and assigned prominent party posts.

2021  
This year too saw three ministers embroiled in controversies with the Opposition jockeying for nothing less than their scalps. The ministers are:

1. Law Minister Pratap Jena: The Charge was an FIR on him in Mahanga double murder case as per the direction of a judicial court.

2. Agriculture and Higher Edu Minister Arun Sahoo: The charge was alleged links with a muscleman in Nayagarh, where police didn't take any action against the complaint filed by Pari's parent. Police activism showed in the case only after self-immolation bid by parents before Odisha Assembly.

3. Home Minister Dibya Shankar Mishra: The charge was alleged links with prime accused Gobinda Sahu in the murder of teacher Mamita Meher. Parents and opposition allege that police didn't take any action for 8-days on the missing complaint.

The uncanny resemblance with 2016 is, the Panchayat and urban local body polls will be held next year (2022).

The Bottom-line

As per political observers, CM Naveen Patnaik is not likely to take any action against the Ministers embroiled in controversies. He will wait for the electoral outcome and will play the endgame after that to show his mettle before the electorate.

"In circa 2001-2012, CM used to crack the whip on controversial ministers. But after 2014, and especially after the fallout with his earlier mentor late Pyari Mohan Mahapatra, Naveen has grown cautious and plays safely. He plays endgame only after poll rebuff," said a political observer.

Significantly, exactly this is what had been obliquely outlined by party spokesperson Pratap Keshari Deb in a press conference recently. He said, "CM Naveen will taken action when he gets convinced about any wrongdoings by any Minister."

As per political observers, CM Naveen Patnaik's new political dogma has taken 180-degree turn - from public propriety to people's verdict.

In the recent BJD press conference, Pratap Deb had dropped a hint. He said, "When the time will come, CM Patnaik will give the Agni Pariksha."

## Soon 'Goonda Bill' To Deal With Rowdies, Bring Down Organised Crime

Bhubaneswar, Nov 6: In a major move to control antisocial and organised criminal activities posing threat to the law and order situation in the State, the Odisha government will soon be introducing the 'Goonda And Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Bill, 2021' in the Assembly for approval.

As per reports, the State government has taken the initiative in a bid to control people causing disruption in law and order situation in the State.

The government aims to bring down the rising crimes in the State with the promulgation of the bill, commonly referred as 'Goonda Act'. The tentative bill is being drafted considering different proposals to get approval from the State cabinet

before it is tabled in the State Legislative Assembly.

In a letter to the Additional DG, Special Secretary to the government, Santosh Bala stated, "The Law Department scrutinized the draft memorandum for the cabinet and

**Further initiatives will be taken after the Crime Branch scrutinizes the drafted bill after the formulation by the Law Department.**

tentative bill and returned the file with some observations to be taken into consideration while finalising the legislative proposals."Further initiatives will be taken after the Crime Branch scrutinizes the drafted bill after the formulation by the Law Department.

"Everything depends on the legalities and comprehensive criminal law codes taken into consideration. Efforts should be given to impose the law strictly. There will be no benefit if the bill gets drafted with rules that will keep on enduring the case.

In case the habitual offenders get bail, then even there is no reason for introducing such a bill. The legal rules mentioned in the bill should be strict so that the antisocial gets punished and no innocent person suffers," said Bipin Bihari Mishra, Ex-DGP, Odisha.

## BJD demands LPG price slash: Gives Centre 10-day ultimatum

BHUBANESWAR, Nov 6: A day after the Centre reduced excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 5 and Rs 10, respectively, the youth and student wings of ruling BJD decided to put off their agitation over fuel price hike for 10 days.

Informing this, Biju Yuva Janata Dal president Byomkesh Ray said the party hopes that the Centre would slash prices of LPG gas as well during these 10 days.

"The Centre was left with no option but to cut the excise duty on petrol and diesel following mass protest by BJD. We have put off the agitation for next 10 days. But we will intensify our stir and take to the streets again, if the Centre does not pay heed to our demand of reduction in LPG prices," he cautioned. He further said, "After



the Centre, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has announced reduction in VAT of Rs 3 on petrol and diesel with effect from November 5. This is a welcoming step though it would result in a total loss of Rs 2,000 crore to the State exchequer. With the reduction, petrol and diesel prices in the State are likely to be one of the lowest in the country."

A day after the Central Government reduced excise duty on fuel, price of both petrol and diesel dipped in Odisha on Thursday. While petrol was sold at Rs 104.73 per litre in the capital city of Bhubaneswar, the rate was Rs 105.51 in Cuttack. Petrol price had crossed Rs 110-mark in all districts of the State, a couple of days ago.

## Designer Bibhu Mohapatra Showcases Odisha's Traditional Textiles At World Stage

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: Odisha-born fashion and costume designer Bibhu Mohapatra, who has many Hollywood and Bollywood biggies in his client list, has once again showcased traditional textiles and weaves from his home state at the global stage.

The New York-based designer made costumes for performers of Washington National Opera's concert "Come Home: A Celebration of Return" organised at Kennedy Center, USA. The concert that began on November 6 and will continue till November 14 is a tribute to late Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who was an opera buff and patron.

The gloves that the performers wore were a nod to one of the Supreme Court justice's signature style. "I want them



to be who they are as they're performing these pieces. I was given the freedom to make the clothes relatable and optimistic," he said. Mohapatra is known for his evening wear collections with sweeping grandeur, has designed 15 costumes for the female and male cast of the show using Bandha and Ikat fabrics. The dresses he designed for the female performers wouldn't look out of place on a runway. Shoulder details are a focus: Alexandria Shiner wore a bold red gown with a draped detail suspended from a high collar; a similar effect, created using a halter, appeared on Rehanna Thelwell's empire-waist gown. For Isabel Leonard, he made a black gown with red and white detailing and winglike sleeves. The designer received the request from Francesca Zambello, Washington National Opera's artistic director, when he was in India after a gap of over two years to attend the funeral of a relative, who died due to COVID-19 complications. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik appreciated efforts of Mohapatra towards promoting the state's fabric and said such initiatives will help make Odisha's traditional textile even more popular at the global stage.

Thanking the CM for all the praises, the designer said, "My gratitude to all the amazing artists from all the weaving communities of our state for this incredible legacy of Odisha textile."

## India preparing to produce over 5 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses in 2022: PM Modi

New Delhi, Nov 1: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday (October 30, 2021) attended the G-20 Summit session in Rome and during his address; he said that India is preparing to produce over 5 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses next year. PM Modi in his intervention at the session on 'Global Economy and Global Health' also flagged the issue of facilitating international travel and talked about the mechanism of mutual recognition of vaccine certification as a means of achieving this.

"India has always been serious about its global obligations. Today, on this G-20 platform, I want to tell you all that India is preparing to produce more than 5 billion vaccine doses for the world next year. This commitment of India will go a long way in preventing this infection. Therefore, it is necessary that Indian vaccines be recognized by WHO at the earliest," the



Prime Minister said.

During the first in-person G20 Summit since the outbreak of the pandemic in 2020, PM Modi said that to fight COVID-19, we all have put forward the vision of 'One Earth - One Health' and to deal with any such crisis in future, this vision can become a huge force in the world.

He also expressed satisfaction over the G20's decision to come up with a 15 per cent minimum corporate tax to make the global financial architecture more 'fair'.

The decision, notably, is aimed at ensuring that

companies pay a certain amount of tax in the countries they are located in.

"I myself suggested this in the G-20 meeting in 2014 and I would like to thank the G-20 for making concrete progress in this direction. An increasing international movement is necessary for economic recovery. For this, we have to ensure mutual recognition of vaccine certificates of different countries," PM Modi said.

He stated that India played the role of the 'pharmacy of the world' and delivered medicines to more than 150 countries.

"Along with this, we also

put our full strength in increasing vaccine research and manufacturing. In a short span of time, we have administered over one billion vaccine doses in India. By controlling the infection in one-sixth of the world's population, India has also contributed to making the world safer, and has also reduced the chances of further mutation of the virus," PM Modi added.

The Prime Minister also invited G-20 countries to make India a trusted partner in their economic recovery and supply chain diversification.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Modi is scheduled to attend the second session of the G20 Summit on climate change and the environment on Sunday. He is also expected to hold a bilateral meeting with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and the outgoing German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

## MVA Allies, Gandhi Kin Slam Kangana's 'Real Freedom' Comment

Mumbai: Maha Vikas Aghadi allies and a Gandhi kin on Friday slammed Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut for her 'real freedom' remark and demanded that the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Central government arrest her and take back all state honours/awards given to her.

Leaders of the Shiv Sena-Nationalist Congress Party-Congress lashed out at Ranaut — who was recently conferred the Padma Shri by President Ram Nath Kovind — "for her apparent ignorance of history and facts".

Great grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, Tushar A. Gandhi said that Kangana is "an agent of hate, intolerance and rabidity", so it is not surprising she feels that India got her 'real freedom' in 2014 (when the BJP government came to power).

"Hatred, bigotry, sham patri-

tism and oppression were liberated in India in 2014 and a very poisonous and vicious ideology gained dominance, personified by Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Tushar Gandhi said without mincing words.

Sena MP and Chief Spokesperson Sanjay Raut said, "Kangana has insulted the nation which is celebrating the 75th jubilee of Indian Independence this year and must apologise to the whole country".

"She says that India's freedom in 1947 was a 'bheekh' (dole). So does she mean that all the freedom fighters who have been honoured with the 'Tamra Patra' and other awards are beggars? She has defamed and maligned the whole country," Raut said.

NCP's National Spokesperson and Minorities Affairs Minis-



ter Nawab Malik said the actress may have been under the influence of narcotics when she made the comments — referring to Kangana's past 'confession' that she used to be a drug addict.

"It seems that Kangana Ranaut took a heavy dose of Malana Cream before she spoke.. She should be immediately arrested," Malik said sarcastically, hinting at the actress' home-state Himachal Pradesh where the drug

(Malana Cream) is produced. Condemning Kangana's comments, Congress General Secretary Sachin Sawant said: "This is the BJP's version of 'Jhansi Ki Rani' who dares to slander the freedom struggle and sacrifices of the martyrs by her 'Azaadi bheek me mili hai' statement now."

"It's a pity that such puppets are being nurtured by the BJP deliberately. These puppets are not the real culprits but their master is," Sawant said.

# Who Will Become Odisha's Next DGP?

Bhubaneswar, Nov 7: Though senior IPS officer BK Sharma fits the UPSC criteria bar, the State had instituted an inquiry over some alleged misappropriation charges. The final probe report is still awaited.

Amid the rage over Mamita murder, and when the State will be going to hold the grassroots elections - urban local bodies and Panchayats - in the year 2022, the countdown for the hot seat of the new Odisha DGP assumes significance.

Incumbent DGP Abhay's 2-year tenure will end on the last day of the year 2021. And in accordance with the new guideline of UPSC, the Odisha government had sent to the apex selection body a list of 14 senior IPS officers who have completed 30-years of service.

As per highly placed sources, the UPSC selection panel comprising of its Chairman, Union Home Secretary, incumbent Odisha Chief Secretary and DGP will meet in the third week of this month to finalise the names of the new top cop for Odisha. And by December first week, the State may get its new DGP.

## The Contenders

The following are the big guns of Odisha police, who will be on the tables of the UPSC selection committee for picking the next DGP in the State. The names were given as per their seniority.

1 IPS Pradeep Kapur - Currently, director of National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) and has been on central deputation



2 IPS Bijay Kumar Sharma - At present is the Director, Printing, Stationery and Publications. He was appointed as acting DGP, before the appointment of incumbent DGP

8 IPS Pranabindu Acharya: Is the Addl DGP, Railways and Coastal Security, Odisha.  
9 IPS Amrit Mohan Prasad: Currently is Director, CBI's

Sarang: The former Twin City police Commissioner who came in the line of fire of BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty for the initiative of forming all women SPOs. And is currently chairman of Odisha Police Housing

away from State since 2016. His chances of getting reverted back to the parent cadre (Odisha) seems unlikely.  
2 Though senior IPS officer BK Sharma fits the UPSC criteria bar, the State had instituted an inquiry over some alleged misappropriation charges. The final probe report is still awaited.

7 IPS Siddhartha Narvane The Toppers

As per the norms laid down by the country's Supreme Court in Prakash Singh judgement, the race for the top post will be between Manoj Chhabra and Santosh Upadhaya. Manoj Chhabra is senior to Santosh Upadhaya. He also had a stint in communally sensitive and Naxal hit districts as SPs.

A votary of police modernisation, during his stint at the Centre, was appointed as nodal officer in the 2007 UP elections and was awarded the Gold Disc of DG for his deft management. Had a very fruitful stint in the BSF and has the hands-on expertise of the combative ability against the ultras. Known in the police circles as an expert in "stress management", Chhabra was promoted to ADG rank in 2013.

Santosh Upadhaya in police corridors is known for his quote "Better to be a lion for a day than a sheep for all your life", had a stint in the State's anti-graft body Odisha Vigilance. The IPS officer is for segregating the investigation wing from the law and order wing. A votary of e-policing, Upadhaya was the ADG Crime Branch during the period of 2017-2019. And last year was promoted to DG Prison.

As per observers, it all depends on CM Naveen Patnaik. Because, of the three names suggested by UPSC, the State government has the discretion to pick one. And the discretion here is, with whom the CM's comfort level is high, and that will be the clincher.

**As per observers, the front runners are senior IPS officers Manoj Chhabra and Santosh Upadhaya. But it all depends on CM Naveen Patnaik. Because CM has the luxury to pick one from 3 names recommended by UPSC**

3 IPS Sunil Bansal: This 1987 batch IPS officer is currently holding the post of Special Director, Intelligence Bureau. The tenure of the post is up to his superannuation date of June 30, 2022. He has been on central deputation since 1994.

4 IPS Manoj Chhabra: Now is the Special Director General of Police, Special Armed Police, Odisha.

5 IPS Santosh Upadhaya: At present is the DG, Prisons and Directorate of Correctional Services

6 IPS Binayananda Jha: Holds the position of ADGP and Director, Investigation, OHRC.

7 IPS Arun Kumar Ray: Currently, Dy Chairman in Tea Board and has

Economic Offence Zone -II. He had a meritorious stint in Odisha Vigilance. And had outlined the lacunas the State anti-corruption watchdog face.

10 IPS B Radhika: Is currently the Dy DG Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). The former ADG of Odisha SAP has been on central deputation since 2018.

11 IPS Siddhartha Narvane: At present ADG, Human Rights Protection Cell in Odisha Police HQ.

12- IPS YB Khurania: The former Twin City police commissioner is currently IG BSF. On Central deputation since 2018.

13 IPS Sudhanshu

and Police Welfare Society.

14 IPS Arun Sarangi: Currently the director of Biju Patnaik State Police Academy.

The Front Runners As per the UPSC's selection procedure, the following are senior IPS who will be the front runners for the hot seat of Odisha DGP.

1 IPS Pradeep Kapur  
2 IPS Bijay Kumar Sharma

3 IPS Sunil Bansal  
4 IPS Manoj Chhabra  
Among the 14, they are the senior-most IPS officers in the State. However, there are lots of 'Ifs and Buts' in the top list.

1 Senior IPS officer Pradeep Kapur, who belongs to Chandigarh, has been

## Namaz Pushback to Kashmir Outrage, Islamism Must Curb Its Imperialist Instincts



Take for instance the webinar organised by JNU's Centre for Women's Studies. Titled, 'Gendered Resistance and Fresh Challenges in Post-2019 Kashmir', the webinar notice read, "This talk will draw and build upon the ethnography of gendered resistance to Indian occupation in Kashmir."

Known India-basher writer Zia, professor at the University of Northern Colorado, was invited to speak. The JNU administration belatedly got wind of the event and cancelled it.

The second instance is that of professor of political Islam Hilal Ahmed writing an article in The Print on why Hindus must defend Namaz, even when it takes over public spaces.

"Even unknown people, mostly Hindus, pay respect

to my Namaz. This was so heartening that I was able to offer Namaz in moving trains, on busy streets, in the corridors of hospitals, and even inside the functional Hindu temples," Ahmed writes.

The webinar on Kashmir sought to replay the trope that Islamism has successfully established over centuries: Any land where Muslims establish a majority becomes Dar-ul-Islam and a secular state must cease claim on it. But to Islamists, the reverse must not hold. 'Secularism' must be alive, covering up for Islam's excesses, till the land is Dar-ul-Harb, which is when Muslims are in a minority.

This proves right Hindutva fears that parts of Bengal like Murshidabad and Malda, or several districts of Assam like Barpeta, Dhubri, Darrang or Goalpara could

**A thousand-year-old legacy of bigotry and sense of entitlement is getting increasingly restless in today's India. The frustration is spilling over in academia, media, and social media.**

any day be called land under 'Indian occupation'.

Kashmir was the seat of the Shaivite Hindu tradition. It is named after sage Kashyap. Adi Shankaracharya visited the place.

The name of capital Srinagar is first found in the epic Rajatarangini by Kalhana. Ancient Kashmir has had a number of capitals but the most important was 'Srinagari' - Sri means the Sun and nagri means city - or the City of the Sun.

Kashmir has been umbilically connected to the Hindu and Indian civilisation. Demographic change and the tyrannies of history cannot suddenly make it a land under "Indian occupation".

Similarly, Ahmed's seemingly innocent prayer for Hindu tolerance of indiscriminate public space

takeover for Namaz reeks of entitlement and a mindset that destroyed more than 40,000 temples and supplanted many of them with mosques in the last 1,000 years of so.

Why should Hindus surrender even their sacred spaces and temples for Namaz? Will Muslims return the favour by allowing Aarti at mosques?

Are citizens from Gurugram to Uttarakhand wrong to protest against public spaces and roads being regularly taken over for Namaz?

Can you occupy roads in even Muslim nations like UAE for Namaz? The answer to all that is a resounding 'no'.

Islamism must curb its imperialist, usurping instincts. Today's India, or for that matter any civilised nation, will not oblige. 

## UNESCO has designated Srinagar as creative city

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated Srinagar as a part of UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN).

Srinagar, Nov 9: With this, the capital city of Jammu and Kashmir has entered the club of 295 creative cities network across the world. After Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Varanasi and Jaipur, Srinagar is the sixth Indian city to achieve this distinction.

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network is a project launched by UNESCO in 2004 to "promote cooperation among cities which recognized creativity as a strategic factor in their urban development". According to UNESCO, the cities designated as creative cities work together towards a common objective of "placing creativity and cultural



industries at the heart of their development plans at the local level and cooperating actively at the international level".

On Monday, UNESCO designated 49 cities as part of the creative cities network. With this, the total number of creative cities in the world has reached 295 across 90 countries.

UNESCO designates the creative cities in seven fields -- Craft, Folk Art, Media Arts, Film Design, Gastronomy, Literature and Music. The Srinagar city has been designated the creative city in the field of Crafts and Folk Arts -- only second city in India in this category after Jaipur. While Mumbai has been honoured in the film category, Chennai and Varanasi have been made part of UCCN for their music. Hyderabad is a UCCN city in the gastronomy category.

Every year, UNESCO seeks applications for various cities across the globe for putting them under its UCCN project. The applications in India are routed through the Ministry of Culture.

"This year four Indian cities -- Kolkata, Gwalior, Indore and Srinagar -- had applied to the Ministry of Culture. The Ministry, however, found the applications of Kolkata and Indore incomplete and only forwarded the ones from Srinagar and Gwalior," J-K's Director Handicrafts Mehmood Ahmad Shah said. "While the norm is to announce two cities from each country, only Srinagar city was designated as part of UCCN by UNESCO this year".

The Srinagar city had applied in 2018 also but the application was rejected then. Shah says the UCCN tag would not only give global recognition to the Srinagar city but also help it in international funding, tie-ups with craft universities and pitching craft as a product. 

## Lawyer Issues Notice to Sabyasachi for "Using Semi-naked Models for Mangalsutra Ad"

Ace designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee came under fire recently for his ad campaign selling Mangalsutra that featured a model wearing a bra. Twitter users objected to what they called 'nudity' in an ad that features Mangalsutra, a piece of jewellery worn by married women. Reacting to the campaign, Ashutosh J Dubey, who is a legal advisor to BJP-Maharashtra, issued a legal notice to Sabyasachi for "using semi-naked models for a Mangalsutra collection advertisement." He wrote: "I have issued a Legal notice to Sabyasachi Mukherjee Indian fashion designer regarding using "semi-naked models for a Mangalsutra collection advertisement as Mangalsutra is part of Holy Hindu Marriage. He outraged the holy Hindu Marriage (Mangalsutra)." In his notice, he stated that there is a scientific justification behind wearing a Mangalsutra. He wrote: "I say that in India majority of people associate Mangalsutra with a religious custom. There is also a sound scientific justification behind it. Hindu culture

emphasises on wearing a Mangalsutra made of pure gold and it is advised that the Mangalsutra should be hidden behind the inners and your promotional advertisement features heterosexual and same-sex couples posing for pictures wearing the Royal Bengal Mangalsutra..."

The post received mixed responses from users. While a few appreciated him for filing the notice, others felt that it was pointless. Here are some comments supporting the step:

However, a few did not understand the reason behind taking offence to Sabyasachi's ad campaign. The luxury label Sabyasachi's has recently launched an Intimate Fine Jewellery collection featuring 'The Royal Bengal Mangalsutra,' and shared images of the new line on its official Instagram handle. The ad campaign features a woman in denim and a bra wearing a Mangalsutra, which has been launched as part of the collection. 



# Sooryavanshi

Critic's Rating: 3.5/5

Director : Rohit Shetty

Cast : Akshay Kumar, Ajay Devgn, Ranveer Singh, Katrina Kaif, Javed Jaffrey, Jackie Shroff

Genre : Action, Drama

Runtime : 145 minutes

Action, drama and lots of entertainment!



In 1993, Mumbai suffered a series of twelve bombings that shook up the city and the country. This was one of the very first major terrorist attacks that put the focus of the world back on the India-Pakistan dispute. This is where Sooryavanshi begins. After losing his parents to one of the attacks, Veer Sooryavanshi played by a very fit, fine and charming Akshay Kumar joins the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS). He's a serious man with a stern face when he's on the job but has his personality quirks when he's with his family and friends. He's married to Riya (Katrina Kaif), a doctor who'd treated

him after he was shot at a few years ago. The couple however does not live together and the reason for this is told in a sudden flashback with a romantic number. Riya and Veer have a son named Aryan who once got shot in the shoulder as he was caught in crossfire between his father and the bad guys. This caused their marriage to break up and Riya decided to stay away from Veer since then.

To continue with the story, Lashkar head Omar Hafeez played by Jackie Shroff has planted six hundred kilograms of RDX in India. Forty of his men form a sleeper cell and live in India for over ten

years, led by Hafeez's son Riaaz (Abhimanyu Singh). This sleeper cell wakes up when Riaaz is captured by Sooryavanshi and starts to plan a bigger bombing than 1993. The film takes a rather slow and stretched turn to explain all of this and bring back the memory of the terrorist attacks the country has faced in the last three decades. There's a sudden shift in the second half with the entry of Simmba (Ranveer Singh). He makes you chuckle with every line he delivers. Simmba plays quite a pivotal role in the second half and he's the reason the bomb attacks are averted in time.



Then comes the final act. Riaaz captures Riya and holds her hostage along with the officers in the ATS



headquarters that he intends to blow up. A very serious scene turns into a laughter riot when Simmba talks to the terrorists about the repercussions their job will have on the economical, financial and social conditions of

universe, Bajirao Singham (Ajay Devgn). Another grand entry, another round of action-packed fight sequences, bullets fired and cars blown up. Singham saves the day.

Now we have the three cops working

lines. Sooryavanshi, Singham and Simmba combine to get rid of the terrorist menace and as a bonus, we also get to see a glimpse of what Singham 3 will be all about.

Director Rohit Shetty has made sure to add as much detailing and back-story to every character to keep you connected to the plot. There are moments where the film gets slightly preachy and there are other moments that make the audience emotional over religion, suffering and the partition. There is an elaborate scene where a mosque and a temple have to be evacuated and the head priest of the temple wants to carry the Ganesh idol with him. Unable to do so alone, he is joined by the head priest of the mosque. The song Hum Hindustani plays in the background as they carry the idol out.

Pakistan. This is a small prelude before he breaks the fourth wall to announce the arrival of the third cop in the

together. They first get rid of the last bomb and save Riya. Then comes a long fight sequence with some funny punch

THE INDUSTRY & MINES  
OBSERVER

Vol.-15  
Issue -14  
November 16

Editor : Sirish C Mohanty

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