

## Xi Jinping has risked his future with LAC incursions

**The Chinese President has risked his future with the failed high-profile incursions of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) into more areas of the LAC.**



Sirish C. Mohanty

Washington : China's failure to push around the Indian troops in the Line of Actual Control (LAC) means that the ability of Chinese President Xi Jinping to intimidate anyone has reduced. The analysts say that Xi is the "architect" of these aggressive moves into India and the Chinese troops have unexpectedly flopped.

The failures of the Chinese Army at the LAC will have consequences and will give Xi an excuse to pick up the pace of replacing adversaries in the armed

forces with loyal elements. However, these failures motivate Xi, who as chairman of the Chinese Communist Party's Central Military Commission, is the leader of the PLA, to renew his bid to launch another offensive against Indian positions.

In early May, Chinese troops advanced south of the LAC in three separate areas in Ladakh. With the boundary poorly demarcated, Chinese forces have trespassed into Indian positions for years, especially after Xi was appointed the party's general secretary in 2012. In June, China and India were engaged in a violent face-off in Galwan Valley. Chinese troops killed 20 Indian soldiers in a premeditated move and the clash was the first deadly confrontation between the two countries in 45 years. While the Chinese side is thought to have suffered 43 casualties in the Galwan

face-off, the number could exceed 60, according to Paskal.

Late last month, for the first time in a half-century, India launched an offensive against China, taking back strategic points the Chinese recently grabbed. The offensive took the Chinese forces aback and they retreated.

China's subsequent efforts to counter India has proved ineffective. For now, Indian troops, in the southernmost of the three areas of Ladakh, are under its control, which was once in Chinese hands.

India is not allowing the invaders to improve. Both sides have just accused the other of violating decades-old rules of engagement by firing warning shots. It appears, however, the Chinese are the ones closer to the truth: India's troops are displaying newfound boldness.

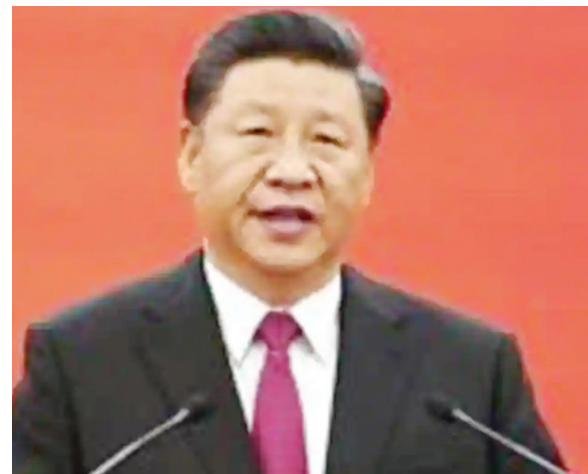
The game has changed.

You can say the Indians are more aggressive or more aggressively defensive, but they are bolder and better.

According to Jayadeva Ranade, a former senior Indian intelligence official and now head of the New Delhi-based Centre for China Analysis and Strategy, Xi who has now faced a setback, now needs a "victory" and could force further conflict in Ladakh.

Richard Fisher of the Virginia-based International Assessment and Strategy Center told Newsweek that the Chinese, in that conflict, could roll out "joint mechanized warfare for which they have been preparing for 30 years."

With the rapid buildup of Indian forces and their high-state of readiness, Xi is not assured of the success he needs, especially as India has brought its mechanized



vehicles to Ladakh, according to Ranade.

"PLA leaders begin to see little choice but to undertake offensive military actions to avoid becoming a victim of Xi's internal terror," Fisher says. "What we are learning in 2020 is that Xi wants victories, and as the PLA is judged to have reached requisite levels of strength by rearming and reorganization, Xi is increasingly willing to use the military," Fisher adds. Xi has shown that he is

good at the political mobilization of the army and can spend a huge amount on military equipment. He has also perfected the art of intimidating other countries. However, the Chinese President has yet to show his military in a fight and is worth a damn. "Unfortunately, it looks like China's leader, who had looked invincible, now has something to prove. As a result, he appears determined to make his point by (Page-14)

## Govt to infuse Rs 20k crore into state-run banks



New Delhi, September 15: State-run banks are poised to get Rs 20,000 crore through recapitalization bonds this financial year, at a time the coronavirus crisis threatens to bump up bad loans across the banking system.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday tabled the first batch of supplementary demand for grants in the Parliament,

reflecting additional expenses sought by various ministries beyond the budget allocations. It also indicates the spending appetite of the government.

"For meeting the expenditure towards recapitalization of public sector banks (PSBs) through the issue of government securities-Rs20,000 crore," the

**Experts said the recapitalization of state-owned banks is critical for economic growth**

supplementary demand for grants document read. Capital infusion through the issue of government bonds will not impact fiscal deficit in the current financial year, as there is no

cash outgo. While the 2020-21 budget did not make any allocation for bank recapitalization, the previous budget had promised (Page-14)

## India may become the worst COVID-affected country by October with over 70 lakh cases:



The team of researchers from BITS Pilani, Hyderabad, has been engaged in forecasting the spread of COVID-19 in India using advanced statistical learning techniques. Hyderabad, September 11: India may witness over seven million COVID-19 cases by the first week of October, surpassing the US and emerging as the country with the highest number of infections, a team of researchers from BITS Pilani, Hyderabad said on Friday. The Union Health Ministry data on Friday said the number of coronavirus cases in India breached the 45 lakh mark while, data released by a national public health institute in the US said the number of infections in the North American country crossed six million as of 8 September. The team has been engaged in forecasting the COVID-19 pandemic in India using advanced statistical learning techniques, lead researcher Dr. TSL Radhika of the Department of Applied Mathematics, BITS Pilani, Hyderabad Campus said. The team has recently communicated its findings to the 'International Journal of Infectious Diseases' published by the well-known publisher Elsevier.

"Our results obtained using a model based on statistical learning techniques applied to the existing data, indicate

that India is likely to become the top COVID-19 country in the world, surpassing the United States by about the first week of October, which is in about a month. The total number of cases is also likely to cross the 70-lakh mark by this time. The figure however is contingent on the number of tests being carried out," Dr. Radhika said in an email communication to PTI.

The researchers are now working on refining their model based on advanced machine learning techniques to make predictions for the longer term, the researcher added.

## Do RT-PCR to catch false negatives after rapid antigen test: Centre

Symptomatic negative cases are those where the patient has symptoms of COVID but tests negative. Since rapid antigen tests are known to have a high degree of false negatives, the ICMR had mandated that symptomatic negative cases must get a retest through RT-PCR.

New Delhi, September 11: Reiterating that all symptomatic negative cases of rapid antigen tests (RAT) must mandatorily take an RT-PCR retest for COVID, the Centre on Thursday directed all states to set up two teams each, at the level of the district and the state, to monitor and ensure that no potentially positive case is missed out.

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Government sources, part of the team monitoring the pandemic, said the decision came after they found that a "few big states" are now reporting a significantly high percentage of symptomatic negatives not being retested through RT-PCR, thereby spreading the infection among the general population.

"When we did data

analytics, which is done daily and weekly, we found in a few states only 30-35 percent of symptomatic negatives were undergoing RT-PCR test. Which means, roughly 70 percent of symptomatic negatives were still spreading the infection," the source said.

not being retested through RT-PCR. "Proportion of rapid antigen to RT-PCR has nothing to do with retesting. Retesting is the question of the state's efficiency or incompetence. Our focus is only to retest the symptomatic negatives," sources said.

must be covered immediately so that their potential to spread the infection is curbed," a source said.

In its advisory to states, the Centre has reiterated ICMR's guidelines that two specific categories of persons must get a retest through RT-PCR: all



Sources said while trends differ across states, nationally, of the total tests, 65 percent are RT-PCR and the remaining RAT. However, sources underlined that there is no correlation between states conducting a high number of RATs and those reporting a higher percentage of asymptomatic negatives not being retested through RT-PCR tests.

For instance, sources pointed out, Bihar, which is currently conducting 80 percent RATs and 20 percent RT-PCR tests, was not found to be reporting a higher percentage of symptomatic negatives

To track this closely, states have been directed to set up a monitoring mechanism in every district. "Although this has happened in very few states, we have written to all the states saying they should have a designated individual at the district level or a district-level team which should be doing daily monitoring of the symptomatic negatives in the district. Similarly, they should have a team at the state level, which should collect this data and conduct a review daily. They should analyze what is the universe to be subjected to RT-PCR retest, and then they

symptomatic negative cases of RAT; and asymptomatic negative cases of RAT that develop symptoms within 2 to 3 days of being tested negative.

ICMR guidelines mandate compulsory retesting of symptomatic negatives in the backdrop of RAT's sensitivity ranging from 50 percent to 85 percent, depending on the viral load of the patient. So, to rule out false negatives, where the patient may spread the infection, the ICMR has mandated that if any person develops symptoms days after he tests negative after RAT, that person should get an RT-PCR test.



# Slowbalisation bites India

## more cash, jobs, must for revival



**Shivaji Sarkar**

It is slowbalisation across the globe. The world has applied a brake on the economy due to an unprecedented civilizational lockdown. India termed as the engine of global growth has taken a big hit and it may take quite a few years to regain the strength.

All economies in intense relationships having lost over 30 percent of their GDP are now getting more local and regional. Never before the civilization has panicked before an epidemic as it has unwisely done now. Let there be a probe whether it is a conspiracy to kill the Indian economy or not.

The supposed disease is not lethal, in the Indian context, but the panicky closure of all activities, travel, and business has contracted, a better word perhaps is ruined, the

economy. Rightfully former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan says that India's GDP contraction must alarm everyone.

Rajan is correct because India the global growth leader, had started slowing down since August 2019 amid the Sino-US trade war, thaw in the EU economy, and fall in world demand.

Even with some resumption of activities its fall in GDP by minus 23.9 percent in June quarter so far may have an average contraction of 14.8 percent (Goldman Sachs) or 11.8 percent (India Ratings) or 10.5 percent (Fitch Ratings) for 2020-21.

Most of these estimates indicate a looming deterioration in asset quality in the financial sector. The agencies are expecting positive growth, not before 2022.

Fitch says India records the sharpest GDP contractions but expects a rebound.

The finance ministry sees 'V' shape recovery. There are talks of many other shapes, including a 'K' shape. The K is reflective of the stock market performance, mostly moody - sharp decline to occasional hike to sharply different pathways - in short erratic. This has links to the mutual funds, many insurance companies, provident funds, including the government's NPF and EPF.

The world stock markets are in tizzy except for tech giants like Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, Facebook, and Google who have added \$ 1 trillion to their market capitalization. Cornerstone Macro says 100 of the 500 on Standard & Poor's index, are trading at more than 50 percent below their peak. The Indian situation is similar as we find that Reliance has added \$ 10 million. Some other tech companies have done well. But most others in mid and small segments particularly airlines, real estate, hotels, restaurants are not in demand.

Through 2019, initial public offerings (IPO) dried up as volatility grips the market. Till August 2019 only 11 companies launched IPOs raising Rs 10,049 crore compared to 24 public issues raising Rs 20,559 crore in 2018.

There is an 'X' factor too

being discussed since August 2019 amid the then global growth slowing affecting the Indian economy. It is a twin balance sheet problem of high non-performing assets and credit stress in companies.

The job creation growth fell alarmingly since 2018-19, according to a CARE Rating study of 960 large companies, in farming, crude oil, telecom, iron and steel, mining, and hospitality. In the large firms, the job growth was 4.2 percent (5.78 million) against 6.2 percent in 2017-18.

The center for Monitoring Indian Economy estimated in 2018, 11 million people lost their jobs, 9.1 million in rural and 1.8 million in urban areas.

The slowdown has been building up for global and domestic reasons. The country had gone through many unavoidable shocks. With GST and political tilt, the economy is more centralized than federal. Somehow allowing space to state is replaced by a command mechanism possibly with a belief that it would lead to better controls and performance. This is against the basic cultural ethos of this country.

The GST strengthened the command structure as states became dependent on the center for getting back what they could have earned or collected on their own. It has led the states to penury for no fault of theirs. How they would

have earned revenue in lockdown is not known but certainly, state treasuries would not have been empty.

In the new scenario, the states, including by non-BJP parties, have to borrow Rs 97,000 crore from a special window of RBI though the total shortfall is estimated at Rs 2.35 lakh crore. This would allow them to get a part of the GST cess levied on liquor, cigarettes, aerated water, automobiles, and other items.

This would help them pay salaries to the staff and may meet some administrative expenses. It would not be enough to pay for development-oriented projects. The states would have to cut capital expenditure (CAPEX) by Rs 3.4 lakh crore. The borrowings would increase states' deficits. Revenue expenses would also increase leading to sharper contraction.

A rating agency ICRA calculated that the actual deficit for states would be Rs 2.9 lakh crore, Rs 57,000 crore more than estimated, in 2021. The center's shareable taxes at Rs 13.4 lakh crore for the current financial year, ICRA says, is 30 percent lower than the budgeted amount of Rs 19.1 lakh crore.

Indian economy will be in the cycle of losing growth momentum witnessed in six quarters before September 2019, when growth fell to 4.5 percent as per the Central Statistical Office (CSO), the lowest since March

2013. The IMF 2019 forecast Indian economy could end up doing worse. Subsequent developments proved it.

The present developments reveal that 68 percent of companies to see hurdle in recovery. This is as per a survey by the Federation of Chambers and Commerce and Industry (Ficci). The remedy suggested is simple - additional cash transfers to the migrant worker, poor, and farmers and a temporary halt in GST collection. The companies also want financial liquidity, managing costs, manpower availability, and supply chain issue solutions.

Though unlock has a positive impact if the liquidity and transactions in cash do not improve, the hiring and expansions may not happen.

With mini trade deal with the US unlikely until the US presidential elections and the world remaining in a thaw, the Indian job scenario, and growth to remain difficult. Engineers, pilots, journalists, laborers all have lost jobs. The IT, automobile, manufacturing, mines, transport, and other sectors are hit hard. The CMIE estimates 18.9 million (about 2 crores) jobs are lost during April-July 2020, including 5 million in July.

It calls for a full-scale overhaul of economic policies. It is a national crisis. All political parties, stakeholders, and policymakers must sit to evolve the new path to come out of slowbalisation.



# Rourkela Become New Vigilance Division



Anew Rourkela Vigilance Division unit has been set up at Rourkela. The new division has been carved out of the Sambalpur division. The new office of the Rourkela Vigilance division was inaugurated on September 7. It will operate from the existing Vigilance office at R o u r k e l a . Harekrushna Behera has been appointed as the first Superintendent of Police of the new Rourkela Vigilance Division. Mr. Behera has been working at the

Rourkela office for the last 20 years. Before it, the Sundargarh district had two Vigilance units under the jurisdiction of the Sambalpur Division. These two units were Rourkela and Sundargarh and a DSP was in charge of these two units. After the opening of the new Vigilance Division at Rourkela, Sundargarh, Rourkela, Jharsuguda district, and Deogarh district have come under Rourkela Vigilance Division. Balangir, Sonpur, Bargarh, and Sambalpur

will remain under Sambalpur Vigilance Division. Trial of the cases belonging to Jharsuguda, Deogarh Sundargarh, and Rourkela will be done in Sundargarh Vigilance Court. People of this region have expressed their happiness as they have been relieved from traveling to Sambalpur, 180 km away from here to lodge any complaint with the office. The officials would also be relieved from frequently visiting Sambalpur for official work. 🇮🇳

## Let's make excellence a habit," exhorts RSP CEO

SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has created several records in the field of production as well as despatch in August 2020. The Steel Plant made 333840 Tonnes of Hot Metal from two Blast Furnaces which is its best-ever monthly production from 2 furnaces. Out of this, Blast Furnace-1 made 89459 Tonnes of Hot Metal thereby creating a new record in highest production for any month since inception. New Plate Mill rolled 7958 no of slabs and produced 22591 no of plates, which are its all-time best monthly performance since inception. Captive Power Plant-3 clocked 41.6 Mega Watt daily average power generation which is its all-time-best for any month. At 54183 Tonnes the monthly road despatch of prime material was also an all-time high. Besides, New Plate Mill set a fresh record by despatching 91138 Tonnes of plates during the month. Best-August performances were also achieved in total Sinter (572756 Tonnes), total Crude Steel (320759 Tonnes), average pushing from Coke Ovens Battery-6 (91.7), total HR Coils (158231 Tonnes),

Plates from New Plate Mill (80953 Tonnes), and total Saleable Steel (302432 Tonnes). While addressing the senior officers of the Plant in a virtual meeting on 1st September 2020, Dipak Chattaraj, CEO profusely praised all the production departments as well as supporting units for the splendid performance. "I am proud of my colleagues of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant for registering splendid performance in all major areas of production and despatch while battling against COVID-19. It's a culmination of the records we have set in recent times. There is no time for complacency, let's make excellence a habit," he said. Six RSP Employees Get Instant Recognition award A special award program was organized at Coal Chemicals Department under the Instant Recognition Scheme of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant on 26th August. Mr. I. Rajan, CGM (CO & CC) was the Chief Guest on the occasion and presented the award to Mr. S. Behera, D G M ( O p e r a t i o n ) , Mr. M. K. Panigrahi, Sr. Manager (Operation),

Mr. P. C. Barik, Sr. Operative (Operation), Mr. S. K. Patra, Sr. Operative (O p e r a t i o n ) , Mr. R. N. Nanda, Master Technician (Mech.) and Mr. K. C. Ojha, Sr. Operative (Operation). Present on the occasion were Mr. K. K. Patra, GM (Mechanical), Mr. S. K. Ghosh, GM (Operation), and the awardees. The program was coordinated by Mr. Piyush Jain, AGM (Operation). The event was organized adhering to norms about COVID 19 directives. It may be noted that Coal Chemical Department is dispatching crude coal tar, Road tar, and other by-products that fetch revenue for RSP. During the lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the department has dispatched 12615.93 tons of Crude coal tar and 198.56 tons dehydrated tar that fetched significant revenue for the PLANT. The team of award winners had dispatched the items smoothly with the help of the Marketing and Finance Department. Besides, the team has maintained the quality of material dispatched and has received positive feedback from the customer. 🇮🇳

## RSP CEO felicitates Sanjita Mohapatra

Dipak Chattaraj, CEO, SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) felicitated Ms. Sanjita Mohapatra, the former RSP executive who has bagged All India 10th rank in the very prestigious UPSC examinations- 2019. The felicitation program was organized on 7th September 2020 at 'Manthan', the Conference Hall at CEO Office adhering to the COVID-19 norms. Speaking on the occasion the CEO on behalf of the Rourkela Steel Plant collective congratulated Ms. Sanjita for her splendid achievement. "You have brought laurels not only for the Steel City but also for the State of Odisha. Your success is a reflection of your hard work, commitment, and dedication," said the



CEO. Reminiscing her stint in RSP, Sanjita said, "Apart from giving me the valuable experience of working in a huge industrial set up, Rourkela Steel Plant has also inculcated in me the priceless values of honesty, integrity, and discipline. These virtues have helped me come this far, and I am confident that in future too, these would guide me in

all my endeavors." The CEO also wished Ms. Sanjita all success in her life. It is worth mentioning here that Sanjita Mohapatra had joined RSP in the year 2013 after completing her BTech and worked for 5 years in the New Plate Mill which was at that time in a formative stage, she had left the organization in 2018, to explore newer avenues. 🇮🇳



## Basant Biswal 17th death anniversary was observed



JAGATSINGHPUR. The 17th death anniversary of late Congress veteran Basant Biswal was observed in Sarada Mandap here, Smruti committee president Rabindra Nath Mohanty chaired this remembrance meeting. Speaking on the occasion as chief guest Con-

gress leader Panchanan Kaunongo reiterated late Biswal's living times activities in party circle and administrative dynamism delivering good governance. Former municipality chairman Biplab Choudhury described Biswal as working all-round developments of Jagatsinghpur

district. Among others, Ex MLA Lalatendu Mohapatra, DCC president Natabar Barik, few congress leaders were speaking. Earlier two minutes silence was observed following the sad demise of late president Pranab Mukharji, Ex MLA's Bishnu Charan Das and Ravindra Bhoi.

## Vegetable vending zone inaugurated at Jspur headquarters

JAGATSINGHPUR : A vegetable vending Zone at district headquarters here was inaugurated by chairman Regulated Market Committee [RMC] cum sub-collector Dharmendra Mallick on Monday, Chakadola producer group of Biridi, a vegetable growers association accompanying RMC launched

this vegetable sales counter providing fresh and good vegetables to local people amid soaring prices of vegetables in recent times. The project aims to give a good price to vegetable growers and supplying good quality vegetables local people, said sub-collector Mr. Mallick during the inaugural

occasion, meanwhile plans are on launch-ing few more vegetable vending zones in town and block headquarters through the vegetable growers association, sub-collector added. Among others Project director DRDA, RMC secretary, Deputy CEO O R M A S Satyasundar S Paital were present.

## Drugs office staff caught taking bribe in J'spur

JAGATSINGHPUR. The vigilance sleuths from Cuttack caught raid handed a data entry operator working in the drugs inspector office here and recovered cash amounting Rs 10,000 from his possession being paid by a medicine shop owner. The alleged bribe taker identified as Tapan Kumar Sethy had asked complainant medicine shop owner Suvendu Swain from Badalahanga village paying Rs 10,000 for processing his file with regards to obtaining a drug license. Acting on Sethy's claim Suvendu carried the amount and handed over to him at the office of the drug where vigilance sleuths captured

him raid handed while taking money. A case has been registered against Sethy in SP vigilance office Cuttack and further investigation is on. Meanwhile, a source informed that the office of the drug here functioning sans staff, one drug inspector a woman who comes from Cuttack irregularly, Sethy performs as the only employee of the office, as a consequence he had been handling entire office works in absence of drugs inspector. Usually, complaints were rife that Sethy had been exploiting medicine shop owners for their drugs office works and demanding money regularly.

## Tirtol ex MLA Rabi Bhoi passes away

JAGATSINGHPUR. The Tirtol assembly constituency former legislator Rabindra Bhoi passed away in a private hospital in Cuttack, the 54 years aged Ex MLA was suffering from a kidney ailment admitted to the hospital for treatment a few days ago. THE deceased MLA's body was brought to his native village Balia Gopinathpur under the Biridi block and last rites were performed in the village crematorium. State water resource and I&PR minister Raghunandan Das, MP Dr. Rajashree Mallick, few BJD leaders, and villagers were converged at Balia village for the last glimpse of late Bhoi and paid condolences and floral tributes. Bhoi had elected to state assembly from Tirtol constituency in the year 2009-14, an obscure Dalit leader from Biridi following the blessing of late BJD stalwart late Bishnu Das, due to his differences and political compulsion with Das he had denied a ticket in the 2014 elections as result put Bhoi into political isolation later he had activated political journey in 2019 elections after making a political concili-



ation with late Das. Sadly to reveal that Bhoi was aspirant for BJD ticket for the off coming Tirtol by-polls to be held in November 2020 and lobbying hard in the BJD circle. Notably to say Bhoi's wife had died in the year 2013 and has only a teenaged daughter reading in a private school.

# The parent sold the cow to buy a smartphone for his daughter to attend for online classes

Baripada : Though parents have accountability and make the ability to tolerate all odds comes in their lives for enhancing the future of their children, one daily laborer in the tribal-dominated Mayurbhanj district here has sold a cow to buy a smartphone for his daughter for her online classes. He is Ganeshwar Jena (48) of Dutikadeipur village of Khaladi Gram Panchayat within Udala police station, a daily laborer. Ganeshwar is the sole breadwinner of his family. When the schools, colleges, business establishments, communication, and all sources of income for the people remained stopped during the lockdown for the pandemic, his daughter

Koushalya, a student of Class-IX in Jaulia Adarsha Vidyalaya was practicing her lesson at home. For the pandemic and COVID-19 guidelines, the students were required to go for online teachings. Hence, Kausalya was on a fix without a smartphone. Koushalya does well in the examination and was getting worried about how to appear in the online class as her parent had not any smartphone. Ganeshwar the father the girl says other students of the school were attending online classes by using their parents' mobile phone, but, my daughter does not have that luxury. For my meager income, my daughter did not insist on me buying a smartphone. But to see



her passion for study and used to ask her classmate about the teaching of different subjects online. It was difficult for me to tolerate the problem of my daughter. Then I decided

to buy a smartphone which would be helpful for her online classes. Having no option to arrange a huge sum of Rs.8000 to Rs.9000, I had decided to sell a cow. Later I did it for a

smartphone for my daughter". He sold the cow for Rs.6,500 and the rest of Rs.2000 had arranged from his relative and bought a smartphone for his daughter. Manjulata's

mother Koushalya said that as her daughter's classmates were attending online classes, she had suggested to her husband to sell a cow as no other option was left.

## Illegal crusher units flourish in the Bangiriposi area in Mayurbhanj district

Rampant set up of illegal crusher units and illegal quarrying and blasting in the foothills of the Similipal biosphere reserve and its peripheries are major threats for the habitat for wildlife. The forest officials here have to face tough tasks to either stop or shift of crusher units as the units are being controlled by the politicians and mafias. Some of the crusher unit's owners have been running crusher units and do blasting at stone quarry although these are illegal. However, they manage getting the official permission by local

tehsildar and Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC). The wildlife lovers and environmentalists have said that the illegal crusher units and quarries are flourishing in forest areas in Mayurbhanj district under the nose of district administration. Due to the nexus of stone mafias and local administration as well as politicians, the illegal practices continues for years. The regular practice of blasting becomes a threat to wildlife habitats and forest dwellers also. For the lifting of stone, they can blast vast areas at the foot and top of the mountains.

Consequently, big pond-like deep craters are developed in the forests. The wildlife lovers have urged to stop the practice that hinders the free movement of animals of the habitat. The wildlife lovers further charged that why does the local administration grants permission to set up crusher units in the place of elephant corridors and spoiling natural surroundings for the animals. Environmentalist, Sanjukta Basa, and Vanoo Mitra Acharya said that the survival of forest is in a fix owing to dual face and the dual decision of the district administration.

In 2012, they had drawn the attention of the State government to stop blasting and quarrying and set up of crusher units in forest areas in Bangiriposi. Based on the complaint an inquiry was conducted by the officials but no action is taken. We have questioned administration about their silence, the reply is that the units are running on revenue areas, not in the forest. But the fact is far from truth. The crusher units have no NOC. A child died of blasting. Most part of the forest in Bangiriposi police limits encroached by the crusher

mafias. Interestingly, that some foresters and forest guards deployed in the Bangiriposi range area are now engage their tractors for the illegal transporting of metal, timbers, soil, and sand. They have given much time for the management of their business instead of doing their duty for the protection of the forest", complains Sanjukta Basa. Moreover, the owner of the crusher units who assured the local people to build their house as their thatched house were damaged due to the stone blasting, such facility has not provided

them yet which was a major commitment of crusher units' owners, the villagers alleged. A high-rank forest officer restricting his name said that neither the tehsil nor the owner of the crusher units has given at least a letter to Baripada Divisional Office for the function of crusher units. Due to police pressure, the forest department is seating with hand and gloves. Satyaban Nayak the tehsildar of Bangiriposi had denied the complaint that an illegal crusher unit is running in his tehsil jurisdiction.



## Complete the Lower Suktel project, demands Singh Deo

Bolangir : The work orientation in the Lower Suktel project is lacking cooperation and local officials are facing a problem.

Local politicians create obstacles at different levels rather than educating people and helping them for the early completion of the project. This was observed by former Member of Parliament from Bolangir

Sri Kalikesh Narayan Singhdeo. Members of Budi Anchal Agrami Sangh led by Sri Upendra Sahu met former Member Of Parliament

Sri Kalikesh Narayan Singhdeo and appraised their plight and urged him to take steps to solve their problems.

Work on the lower Suktel irrigation project has been stopped for the last one year.

In 2018, As a Member of Parliament, I had taken a review of this project and many points were discussed and decisions were taken. However, thanks to lack of work orientation, the problem of local officials and obstacles created by local politicians at different levels, rather than guiding the people, for early completion of the project, work has been stopped in this project, says Sri Singhdeo.

I request all to strive for the early completion of the lower Suktel irrigation project. Once the project is completed, it would provide benefits of irrigation to farmers of Bolangir and Sonepur district, recharge the groundwater level of Bolangir town and meet the water supply needs of Bolangir people, says Singhdeo.

For early completion of the

project, former Member of Parliament Sri Kalikesh Singhdeo has written a letter to CM Naveen Patnaik urging him



to intervene in the lower Suktel project work which has stopped since last one year.

I would take up this issue of people affected by the lower Suktel project area, confusion in certain issues and points, with higher Officials and with the CM Naveen Patnaik, Singhdeo says further.

## Include Tusura Airstrip in the UDAAN scheme; Kalikesh Singh deo

Bolangir : Former member of Parliament from Bolangir Sri Kalikesh Narayan Singhdeo has urged the Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to

include Tusura in the UDAAN scheme and start the expansion process for the runway to better serve people of Western Odisha. In a letter, on 5th September 2019, to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik,

Sri Singhdeo pointed out that Tusura Airstrip was chosen by the Government Aviation Training Institute (GATI) as a second base for the flying School training as per their agreement with the Government of Odisha. GATI had given their acceptance to operate a base for the

flying school on condition that up-gradation was undertaken as per the requirement of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation DGCA guidelines points out the letter.

An estimate of Rs 10,64,46,561 was submitted in July 2018 for various works to be undertaken, and rupees 6,53,63,952 was sanctioned in the first phase for expansion of the runway and other works.

However, around Rs 3,50,00,000 remains pending for which the flying school is unable to operate. Hence, I request you to kindly expedite the same so that people of western Odisha can have an opportunity to become trained pilots, requests former MP Kalikesh Singhdeo

The Tusura runway has been expanded to a min-width of 30m and length of 1285m with 45m dumbell facilities and an apron for parking of planes. The total length of the facility boundary wall is 1375m with government land on both ends to extend the same to over 1500m easily. This would allow larger planes to land at a mere fraction of the cost and make the sector viable. Hence, I would request you to kindly include Tusura in the UDAAN scheme and start the expansion process for the runway to better serve people of Western Odisha, says the letter of Kalikesh Singhdeo to Naveen Patnaik.

## Discussion on Vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat

Roourkela, September 13: "Let's develop, support and promote indigenous suppliers to fulfill the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat," said, Mr. Dipak Chattaraj, CEO, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) while addressing in the Confluence-The Knowledge series held on the topic 'Atmanirbhar Bharat: An overview and approach- Prospects for RSP.' The objective of the session was to gear up RSP for meeting the goals with regards to making India self-reliant in every aspect. The program was attended by more than 100 executives including senior executives including P. K Dash, ED(Works), Raj Vir Singh, ED(P&A), D K Mohapatra, ED (MM), Pankaj Kumar, ED(Projects), Dr. B.K.Hota (Director-M&HS) and Praveen Nigam, CGM (F&A). In his address, CEO Chattaraj said that the clarion call of the Prime Minister for making of an Atmanirbhar Bharat has strengthened the determination of the Plant collective to make high-quality indigenous steel to meet the Nation's requirement and thereby contribute in nation-building. An interaction session held on the occasion witnessed senior officers and planning executives from various departments discussing their procurement patterns and procedures with the Chief Executive Officer.

## Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy visits Rourkela

Chief secretary Asit Tripathy accompanied by additional chief secretary, Health and Family Welfare Pradipta Kumar Mohapatra visited Rourkela on 8th September to have a look at the facilities here to tackle the pandemic corona and review the overall situation of the Sundargarh district. They visited the Hi-Tech hospital, Jaiprakash hospital, and Shanti Memorial hospital in the city and took stock of the treatment facilities there. Later, he held a review meeting on the COVID management by the district administration. Following the meeting, Tripathy in a video release said, "As of now, the Sundargarh dis-



trict administration has managed the COVID-19 situation in a disciplined and organized manner. Two ICUs are presently operating at Rourkela and another will be set up soon." He further said 20 PG doctors have already been deputed to the city.

Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) has been directed to start the 'Jan Sampark' campaign involving the people's representatives and community organizations for an intensive house to house awareness and preventive activities, he added. Sundargarh Collector

Nikhil Pawan Kalyan; Director, DMET Dr. CBK Mohanty; ADM Aboli Sunil Narwne; Rourkela Municipal Commissioner Divya Jyoti Parida; Chief District Medical Officer Dr. S. K. Mishra along with senior officers participated in the review meeting.



# It's a mixed bag for Naveen Patnaik's two decades of rule



Sirish C. Mohanty



Once dismissed as a novice when he arrived in Odisha in 1997 after the death of his father and former chief minister Biju Patnaik, the Doon School-educated Naveen Patnaik has proved to be nothing less than a phenomenon in Indian politics as he enters successive terms of chief ministership. So far, only three Indian politicians have a record better than Naveen-Manik Sarkar of Tripura, Pawan Kumar Chamling of Sikkim, and Jyoti Basu of West Bengal. Sarkar of CPI (M)-ruled Tripura for exactly 20 years between March 1998 and March 2018 when he lost power to the BJP. Basu left the office of CM of Bengal in 2000 after ruling the eastern state for 23 continuous years

while Chamling lost the assembly polls in August 2019 after helming the Himalayan state for little more than 24 years. In Odisha, as its longest-serving chief minister, the enigmatic Naveen remains the least understood politician as he rarely gives a clue about what is playing in his mind. In the last two decades, he has changed the face of the state, but the adjudicators are still out on his successes and failures. When he took charge of the cyclone-battered Odisha in March 2000, the state's finances were in tatters due to the profligacy of the previous regimes. By the end of 2001-02, the state had become a revenue deficit to the extent of

6.06% of its Gross State Domestic Product. After adhering to strict fiscal management, Odisha's revenue deficit and fiscal deficit improved with the state becoming revenue surplus by 2009-10. In the last two decades, Odisha's economy has grown 13 times as its GSDP reached Rs 5.34 lakh crore in 2019-20 from Rs 46,756 crore in 2000-01. Poverty reduction/food security is another milestone of Naveen's achievements. Though Odisha claimed to have clocked an average annual growth rate of about 4.5% between 2000-01 and 2016-17 in agriculture against a national average of 3.1%, the growth has been volatile. The state receives an

average rainfall of more than 140cm, above the national average of 110cm. However, rainfall is quite erratic and unevenly distributed and in the absence of adequate irrigation coverage, the average yield in 2015-16 was 1738 kg per hectare against the all-India average of 2056 kg per hectare. A little over 43% of its cultivable land is covered by irrigation while the all-India average is 51.9%. Lack of adequate irrigation frequently results in crop failures and famine-like situations. Despite the rise in Odisha's productivity in major crops like paddy, groundnut, gram, and lentils, it is still below those of some of the best states in India. It still imports a large part of the potato, eggs, pulses, and meat from neighboring states. Potato Mission, launched a few years ago to make the state self-sufficient has been a non-starter. Despite Patnaik's avowed aversion for corruption, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in its 2017 report showed Odisha registering the second-highest number of cases of corruption

in government offices in the country after Maharashtra. Up to 2010, most disproportionate assets cases against government officials were not more than a few lakhs. But for the last seven to eight years such assets tend to run in crores. Corruption in government offices of Odisha is rising at an alarming rate. Despite the rise in industrialization and mining over the last two decades and clocking GDP growth over 8%, rising unemployment has taken the sheen off the high growth as thousands of educated youths continue to leave the state for jobs. As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey done by the National Statistical Organisation between January and March 2019, Odisha had the highest unemployment rate of 32% among the youth in the 15-29 age group. In the last two decades, the state saw two of the biggest scams- mining scam and chit fund scam. The two scams brought out Patnaik's government's systemic inability in stopping the plunder of its precious natural

resources and loot of people's savings. Similarly, about a million people in rural and urban Odisha lost about Rs 5000 crore as the 50-odd chit fund companies they had invested their life's savings wound up leaving them high and dry. Many of the chit fund companies enjoyed the patronage of ruling party MLAs and MPs. Women have been the principal supporters of the Naveen Patnaik government over the last two decades, yet when it comes to their safety, Odisha lags behind other states. Since 2014, Odisha is consistently topping the list in case of "disrobing of women" leaving the states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar far behind. As per NCRB, the conviction rate of crime against women in Odisha was a measly 6.2% against a national average of 18.7% in 2016. Naveen doesn't trust his political mates. Consequently, in the last decade, the bureaucrats have taken over the driving seat pushing the politicians to the backseat of his governance that gradually eclipses his successes.

## Two Teachers From Odisha Bag CBSE Award

Bhubaneswar : Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank conferred CBSE Teachers Award to 38 Teachers and Principals of CBSE affiliated schools including two Odia teachers during an online ceremony in New Delhi on Wednesday. The two teachers from Odisha Dhananjay Pan, principal of Delhi Public School, Paradip Refinery Township, Jagatsinghpur, and Swapna Rani Panigrahi, social science teacher DAV Public School, Nuagoan, Berhampur. They were presented with a merit certificate, a shawl, and a cash amount of Rs 50,000 each. Dhananjay has over 35

years of experience in teaching, management, and administrative school activities. His philosophy teaching is based on an inclusive environment based on four aspects of growth- physical, mental, emotional, and social. Under his vast experience and able mentorship, various innovative practices have been adopted like experiential learning, the transaction of the curriculum by focusing on the thematic units by synergizing interdisciplinary expertise like the subject thread activity and adopted child concept. Similarly, Swapna Rani is an inspiring teacher who has been facilitating her students with novel ideas and innovative



pedagogies. Her philosophy teachings rest on four Fs- Fun, Firm Feedback, and formative assessment. Her innovative practices foster project-based learning. She has meaningfully incorporated SDGs in her teaching to promote sustainable thoughts. Under the

Bharat Scouts and Guides program, her 350 students are State awardee guides and 16 are President awardees. The CBSE awards were presented for the year 2019-20 in honor of the teachers and principals for their valuable contribution towards improving school

education, innovation, and dedication. Minister Nishank congratulated the CBSE awardees for their excellent service, dutifulness, and extraordinary contribution in the field of education. "In the New Education Policy 2020, teachers have

been placed right at the center of the education system. It has been mentioned in the policy that all the schools must have an adequate number of teachers and such an environment shall be provided so that work culture in the schools is enhanced," Nishank said.



# Auto sales bounce back in August on low base effect, pent-up demand

Dispatches at India's top two carmakers, Maruti Suzuki India and Hyundai Motor India, zipped past not only the pre-COVID phase but also the months preceding the pandemic. Subrata Ray, senior group vice-president at ICRA, said the sales are being driven by rural demand as well as inventory restocking at dealerships ahead of the festive season.

Mumbai, September 2: Signalling sharp recovery, automobile sales for most companies in India rose at a brisk pace in August over the same month last year, shows the data released by a clutch of companies on Tuesday.

Despatches at India's top two carmakers - Maruti Suzuki India (MSIL) and Hyundai Motor India (HMIL) - zipped past not only the pre-COVID phase but also the months preceding the pandemic, indicating long-built pent-up demand. The inventory restocking ahead of the festive season also drove despatches. Car companies in India count despatch to dealers as sales.

MSIL's domestic sales saw a year-on-year (YoY) jump of 20 percent in August, the car market

leader said on Tuesday. During the month, the local arm of the Japanese carmaker despatched 116,704 units over 97,061 units a year ago. HMIL, the second-largest in the pecking order, too, saw despatches go up significantly. The maker of Creta and i20 models sold 45,809 units, up 20 percent YoY, the company said. This is the highest volume reported by the Korean carmaker since January 2019, when it sold 45,803 units in the domestic market. Even as sales are showing an uptick, carmakers are not celebrating yet. "We would like to carry on with cautious optimism since uncertainty still surrounds the pandemic," said Tarun Garg, director-sales, marketing, and service at HMIL.

He attributed the good show in August to a relatively low base of last year, when the company sold only 38,205 units. He also credited it to the newly launched models, including the Aura, Tucson, Grand i10 Nios - all of which have been received well.

Subrata Ray, senior group vice-president at ICRA, said the sales are being driven by rural demand as well as inven-



tory restocking at dealerships ahead of the festive season.

"The discount levels have reduced substantially, especially in the sub-Rs 10 lakh price bracket, indicating healthy demand and momentum and improved demand/inquiries from first-time buyers. The low-base effect of August 2019 - when volume declined 32 percent YoY - also optically supports the overall YoY growth rate. We expect sequential im-

provement in volume to continue in September as well," said Ray.

For MSIL, the increase - the sharpest in almost a year - came on the back of last year's low base and brisk demand for models in its mini and compact segment. Albeit on a low base, sales in these segments advanced at a fast clip of 94.7 percent and 13.4 percent, respectively. The company has been a beneficiary of the growing

preference for personal transportation amid the pandemic.

Mahindra & Mahindra's (M&M) passenger vehicle (PV) segment - that includes UVs and passenger cars - was a saving grace and helped offset some decline in the overall auto sales. It saw despatches grow 1 percent YoY to 13,651 units.

UV major M&M, too, benefited from the month-on-month recovery in demand and im-

provement in supply chain-related glitches. Snapping a declining streak, the company saw a moderate increase in its PV sales. It grew by a percent to 13,651 units over 13,507 units a year ago.

"We have been able to meet the uplift in demand by managing supply-chain challenges and going forward," said VeejayNakra, chief executive officer, automotive division, M&M. 



# Odisha Launches Welfare Scheme For Sanitation Workers



Bhubaneswar : Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday launched Garima, a first-of-its-kind statewide scheme for the safety and dignity of core sanitation workers.

This scheme puts in place several initiatives to en-

sure a life of dignity and safety for all formal and informal sanitation workers engaged in core sanitation services in urban areas of the state.

Garima will be implemented by the Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) Department

through 114 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of Odisha. An initial corpus fund of Rs 50 crore will be made available to extend financial support for the implementation of the scheme. "Despite the nation making several strides in various sectors competing

with the best in the world, these underprivileged people were made to render this invaluable service to the society for generations, deprived of safety, dignity and decent livelihood, apart from suffering social stigma and exclusion," said the Chief Minister.

"Our conscience can never be calmed if we don't take steps to correct this injustice. My government has therefore decided to launch a scheme to ensure safety and dignity of core sanitation workers," he added.

H&UD Minister Pratap Jena said the scheme is a first-of-its-kind by any state in the country to provide a comprehensive package institutionalizing and regulating the core


sanitation services, providing service level benefits, social security, and financial benefits to core sanitation workers and their families.

Approximately, 20,000 core sanitation workers and their families with about one lakh population will be benefited by the scheme, Jena said. As stipulated in the scheme, the working hours of sanitation workers will be limited to 6 hours per day, and they, along with their family members, will also be covered under a health insurance scheme with periodic health check-ups.

The corpus fund will also ensure ex-gratia payment to compensate the sanitation workers in case of

partial and permanent disability due to accidents and injury.

Additionally, Employees Provident Fund, retirement benefits, and post-service benefits such as family pension are also listed under the provisions of the scheme.

Department secretary G. MathiVathanan said, "Odisha government has always believed in inclusivity and the launch of this scheme reiterates the idea of inclusive governance and development. Creating frameworks and policies that protect sanitation workers is critical to India's journey towards a sanitation ecosystem (which operates informally on caste basis) that is inclusive and sustainable." 

## Another Odisha Minister Tests Positive For COVID-19




Bhubaneswar : Odisha's Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain today tested positive for COVID-19. The Minister informed the same through a social media post.

Swain took to Twitter and said, "I have been tested positive for #Covid-19. Although I don't have any symptoms I am at home isolation as advised by my doctor. I have requested all my staff and each one who came in contact to get them tested as soon as pos-

sible."

Swain became the sixth Odisha Minister to be infected by the virus.

The State Women and Child Development Minister Tukuni Sahu also today confirmed that she has tested positive for COVID-19. Earlier, Tourism Minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi, Labour Minister Sushant Singh, Higher Education Minister Arun Sahoo, and Textiles and Handlooms Minister Padmini Dian had also been infected with the virus. 

## Odisha Universities Act Amended, Cabinet Enhances Tenure & Upper Age Limit Of Vice-Chancellors

Bhubaneswar : In a major development, the State Cabinet has approved the promulgation of 'The Odisha Universities (Amendment) Ordinance 2020' to amend the Odisha Universities Act, 1989 and repeal the Ravenshaw University Act, 2005. The idea behind such a move is reportedly to bring all Universities under one Act - Odisha Universities Act, 1989. The important amendments of OUA, 1989 approved by the Cabinet are as follows: The concept of Senate shall be done away with, and the Syndicate will function as the highest authority of a university henceforth. The Constitution of the Syndicate will be restructured to make it more functional and professional.

The tenure of Vice-Chancellors shall be enhanced from 3 years to 4 years so that they can make some long-term contributions to the varsity.

The upper age limit to hold the post of Vice-Chancellor, which is currently 65 years, shall be enhanced to 67 years. This apart, no Vice-Chancellor shall be re-appointed as VC of the same university for the second time.

As per reports, an academician will now be a member of the search committee for the selection of VCs.

Now that the State Government does not have a say in the 3-member Search Committee, constituted by the Chancellor for selection of Vice-Chancellors, an eminent academician nominated by the State Govern-




ment shall be made a member of the Search Committee in place of the nominee of the Syndicate of the University concerned, the Cabinet approved.

There should be an end to the concepts of 'Registered Teachers' and 'Registered Graduates' as they have become obsolete.

Recruitment of teachers in the Universities shall be done centrally by the Odisha Public Service Commission to avoid collective wastage of time and resources.

On the other hand, the recruitment of non-teaching employees in the Universities shall be done centrally by the State Selection Board to avoid collective wastage of time and resources.

The Cabinet also noted that the provision of laying annual audit reports of all Universities in the Odisha Legislative Assembly should be abolished. Instead, the annual audit reports shall be made available on the University website for at least 3 years for information of all concerned. 



# Mukesh Ambani's \$2 chutzpah unlocks another fortune for Reliance

**In four years, the Indian billionaire has amassed roughly 400 million customers for his mobile data business**

Mukesh Ambani has joined the league of the world's richest with the help of a simple formula: assembling admirers for \$2 businesses. First, he got Facebook Inc. and Google to back his fledgling digital ambitions, and now he may be trying to entice Amazon.com Inc. into his retail venture, already India's largest.

In four years, the Indian billionaire has amassed roughly 400 million customers for his mobile data business. What does Ambani eke out from each of them? Less than \$2 a month. The chump change didn't deter Facebook and Google's parent, Alphabet Inc. Together with marquee private equity investors and sovereign wealth funds, Silicon Valley tech titans made a beeline recently to invest in Ambani's Jio Platforms Ltd., valuing it at about \$65 billion.

That \$20 billion fund-raising spree has already met the refining and petrochemicals czar's goal of making his flagship Reliance Industries Ltd. net-debt-free, giving it enviable financial strength just as the coronavirus pandemic is taking a toll on most other balance sheets. The tycoon wants a repeat performance for another \$2

business in his stable: retail. He has offered a 40% stake in Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd. to Amazon, Bloomberg News reported Thursday. It's unclear if Jeff Bezos will bite. But others have. Menlo Park, California-based Silver Lake Partners, which bought a stake in Jio, has written a \$1 billion check for 1.75%. Another Jio investor, KKR & Co., is also probably coming on board. To see how the excitement is rising once again over a princely \$2, consider Reliance's 30 million square feet of retail space. Each square foot, analysts expect, will garner \$2 a day by 2022. On an operating margin of 7%, that translates to \$1.5 billion in earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization. All Ambani had to do was to convince Silver Lake that this Ebitda is worth 38 times today. And with that, he unlocked the gates to a \$57 billion enterprise.

If the Facebook deal for Jio is any guide, Amazon as a strategic partner might get its 40% for a small discount to what Silver Lake paid, though the reported \$20 billion price tag is still formidable. Excluding his \$38 billion divorce settlement, Bezos hasn't done a trans-

action as large as this. There's another wrinkle. Amazon India, in which he has already committed billions of dollars, competes with Reliance Retail's physical stores - as well as with Ambani's version of "phygital" retail.

But on his own, Bezos must fight with one hand tied behind his back. Foreign-owned e-commerce sites, such as his or Walmart Inc.'s Flipkart, must operate as pure marketplaces for third-party sellers. The law against owning inventory has become stricter, with discounts triggering allegations of favoring connected parties. India's competition commission received a fresh such complaint from a group of Amazon vendors recently. Being an Indian company, no such restrictions apply to Reliance's grocery stores, supermarkets, or JioMart, Ambani's vision of virtually connecting 30 million neighborhood shops with his telecom customers.

Although still untested, the latter is his edge. The bulk of the 20-fold growth that India's online grocery sales might witness over the next five years may go to the Jio-Facebook partnership, Goldman Sachs Group Inc. estimates. The advantage for



Ambani could also carry over to higher-margin items, the same way as Costco Wholesale Corp.'s popular \$4.99 rotisserie chicken helps the American retailer sell a little more of everything from apparel to flat-screen TVs.

Covid-19 has been a shot in the arm for Reliance, despite retail Ebitda of only \$145 million in the June quarter, a 47% drop from last year. The carnage from a nationwide lockdown allowed it to swoop on debt-strapped rival Future Group's retail, wholesale, logistics, and warehousing units, acquiring the lot for just \$3.4 bil-

lion. More importantly, the prospect of getting stuck with sub-5% growth in the post-pandemic economy is making Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government reliant on an increasingly small number of domestic groups to pull India out of its tight spot.

Unlike China, India's billion-plus consumer market has been open to U.S. tech firms. But when Ambani requested Modi last year to end "data colonization" by global corporations, it became clear that a shift was coming. Any remaining doubts have been removed by the post-COVID surge

of economic nationalism. Where does that leave Silicon Valley and Wall Street? With U.S.-China relations deteriorating - most recently over the erosion of Hong Kong's autonomy - both need an alternative. In a billion-plus consumer market, even a \$2 business holds the promise of future riches, and Reliance is demonstrating that it has more than one such opportunity. To get into bed with Facebook, Google, and possibly even Amazon at the same time takes some chutzpah, though. Chalk it up to Ambani's dominance of the market.

## State Education Minister Applauds NITR

National Institute of Technology, Rourkela (NITR) has ranked 32nd position in the latest NIRF's India rankings. Among the Engineering colleges, NITR has been placed in the 16th position. NITR's improved ranking has earned kudos from Sanjay Dhotre, Minister of State for Education, Communications, and Electronics, and IT. In his congratulatory message to Prof. Animesh Biswas (Director NITR) he wrote - "It is an acknowledgment of high academic standards set by the institution under your able

leadership". The Minister also congratulated each one who has worked tirelessly to achieve this feat. Praising the role of academic institutions in nation-building and bringing out the best in every student by being responsible for their overall develop-

ment. He further urged the NIT to use their expertise to improve the academic standard of their neighborhood institutions also. Apart from this, they should actively help them in delivering their services more effectively or to help the local community to ad-

dress other problems like environmental degradation, water security, energy security, etc. Reacting on the letter Prof. Animesh Biswas (Director, NITR) expressed happiness for the encouraging and kind words and recognizing the institutes' contribution to

setting the highest standards in pursuing academic excellence. While giving credit to the team efforts for the achievement Mr. Biswas assured that NITR would continuously work hard to achieve higher academic excellence and in all other spheres.



# Brahmin priests in Bengal to get Rs 1,000 monthly allowance



Kolkata : With an eye on next year's Assembly elections, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday announced a Rs 1,000 monthly allowance and free housing for 8,000 "poor Sanatan Brahmin priests".

The Trinamool Congress chief also announced the formation of a Dalit Sahitya Academy, which will be headed by writer Manoranjan Byapari, and reconstituted the existing Hindi Academy. "Sanatan Hindu Dharma representatives demanded special allow-

ance. They had earlier requested land from the government to build a Hindu pilgrimage site. We gave them land at Kolaghat for this. We also realized that many Brahmins are working as priests for many years, but they are very poor. To help them financially, the government decided to give them Rs 1,000 and provide them houses under the Bangla Abas Yojna scheme. They have already submitted the names of 8,000 poor Brahmins. They will get their allowance before Puja." Many of the priests eli-

gible for this allowance have regular day jobs and are not attached to temples. Many of them conduct pujas at the homes of customers while doing regular day jobs.

Responding to any criticism that this move might attract, Banerjee added, "Do not misconstrue the meaning of this announcement. We already used to give allowance to imams and mu-ezzins. We are now giving allowance to purohits [Hindu priests]. If poor Christian padres come and demand an allowance, we will consider

that also."

Meanwhile, announcing a 14-member committee that will set up the Dalit Sahitya Academy, the Chief Minister said, "We had already started a Santhal Academy. We already gave recognition to Santhali, Rajbanshi, and other marginal languages. We have announced the formation of a Matua Development Board. The members of the development board are yet to be decided."

Congratulating people on the occasion of Hindi Diwas, the Chief Minister said the Hindi Academy established in 2011 would be reconstituted, with the editor and former Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Gupta as its chairperson. IPS officer MK Singh will be the co-chairperson of the 25-member body.

"We respect all languages. We have decided to form a new Hindi Academy. We have also decided to set up a Dalit Sahitya Acad-

emy. Dalits' languages influence the Bengali language," Banerjee said.


The BJP enjoys strong support in Dalit and tribal communities, and in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections received massive backing from the Namasudra Dalit community, most of whom migrated to the state from present-day Bangladesh.

The Opposition party also enjoys the support of a significant chunk of the Hindi-speaking population in the state. While Kolkata and Howrah have a fairly large Hindi-speaking population, at least eight of the state's 23 districts share borders with the Hindi-speaking states of Bihar and Jharkhand.

The TMC chief also said that manuscripts conserved in the Bishnupur museum would be digitized. "Bishnupur has a huge historical background of classical music and Sanskrit literature. They have manu-

scripts on palm leaves and cotton. Digitization will help researchers study those manuscripts."

In response to the Chief Minister's announcements, BJP leader Rahul Sinha said, "When Mamata Banerjee realized that her party will lose the coming Assembly elections, the government is talking about Brahmins, Hindi-Sanskrit and Dalit literature. Why did they not speak about these earlier? The people of West Bengal know that after the elections Mamata will forget these things."

CPI(M) leader Sujan Chakraborty also lashed out at the government, saying "At this time, the state government should have done something for the helpless youth or the poor people. Instead of doing so, the state government is doing dirty religious politics. This is a very dangerous trend and unfortunate also." 

## History Will Judge Your Silence: Kangana Targets Sonia

Kangana Ranaut had accused the Shiv Sena of compromising its ideology and transforming into "Sonia Sena".38

New Delhi : Actor Kangana Ranaut, in her fight against Maharashtra's ruling Shiv Sena, today targeted Sonia Gandhi, whose Congress party is part of the Sena-led coalition government. "History will judge your silence and indifference," she told the Congress president, calling the demolition at her office on Wednesday an act of "harassment" by the state government. "Dear respected honorable

Congress president Sonia Gandhi Ji, being a woman aren't you anguished by the treatment I am given by your government in Maharashtra? Can you not request your government to uphold the principles of the constitution given to us by Dr. Ambedkar (BR Ambedkar)," Kangana Ranaut said in tweets. "You have grown up in the west and lived here in India. You may be aware of the struggles of women. History will judge your si-

lence and indifference when your government is harassing women and ensuring a total mockery of law and order. I hope you will intervene," said the 33-year-old actor. She also took another swipe at the Shiv Sena, invoking its founder Bal Thackeray. "Great BalaSahebThakeray one of my most favorite icons, his biggest fear was someday Shiv Sena will do Gutbandhan and become a congress. I want to know what is his conscious feel-


ing today looking at the condition of his party? (sic)" - she tweeted.

Yesterday, she had accused the Shiv Sena of compromising its ideology and transforming into "Sonia Sena".

"The ideology on which Shri BalaSaheb Thackeray had built Shiv Sena, today they have sold that ideology for power and have become Sonia Sena from Shiv Sena. Don't call the goons who broke my house in my absence a



civic body. Don't insult the constitution in this manner," she tweeted. On Wednesday, Mumbai's civic body BMC started demolishing what it called

illegal alterations to her office in Pali Hills before the Bombay High Court ordered it to stop, calling the move, with just 24-hour notice, "deplorable" 



# CM Hemant Soren reviews Jamshedpur being declared Industrial Town

Ranchi, Sept 11: Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren today reviewed the issue of Jamshedpur being declared as an Industrial Area. He directed the Urban Development and Housing Department secretary to initiate talks with Tata Steel officials regarding legal procedures in the matter.

The Urban Development and Housing Department Secretary Vinay Kumar Chaubey explained to the Chief Minister through a presentation that the process to convert Jamshedpur into an Industrial Area had been initiated since 2005 and he also provided an updated progress status on the issue. The Chief Minister's attention was also drawn to the letter of January 30,

2017, in which the Deputy Commissioner of East Singhbhum had proposed that 10,889.32 acres of land be marked as Industrial Township while 4,496.46 acres be allotted under and as Jamshedpur Municipal Corporation against which vide a departmental letter # 767 dated December 19, 2017, was sent to the Managing Director, Tata Steel asking him to take the consensus of the Board of Directors of the Company. The departmental secretary stated in the review meeting that as per provisions of the Jharkhand Municipality Act of 2011, Sec 13 (3), there was a proposal to announce Jamshedpur Industrial Area as a Municipality as a result of which and as per


Jharkhand Municipality Act of 2012, all provisions will be applicable. Accordingly, a proposal for converting Jamshedpur Notified Area Committee to Municipality was prepared and was approved by the departmental ministry and the Legal Department had initiated the proceedings. The Secretary further stated that the proposal was again put up in the Finance department and in the process of initiation the department mentioned as per the Jharkhand Municipality Act of 2011 there was no mention of Notified Area Committee and in the matter of collecting taxes by the Notified Area Committee objection had been raised and the matter is pending in the Jharkhand High



Court.

Tata Steel had approached the government in undivided Bihar in 1998 for Jamshedpur's industrial township status. In 2006, it filed a special leave petition before the Supreme Court, challenging Jharkhand government's notification and publication in its

official gazette in 2005 of its intention to form a municipal corporation for Jamshedpur. The Supreme Court had directed the status quo on the issue. Among those present, in the Chief Minister's review, the meeting was Chief Secretary Sukhdev Singh, the Chief Minister's Principal Secretary Rajiv

Arun Ekka, Urban development and building Department Secretary Vinay Kumar Chaubey, Revenue Department Secretary KK Sone, Kolhan Commissioner Manish Ranjan, East Singhbhum Deputy Commissioner Suraj Kumar, and other officials. 

## Attack on retired Navy man: Rajnath Singh reaches out



Mumbai : Home Minister Rajnath Singh Saturday reached out to retired Navy man Madan Sharma a day after he was attacked by a group of Shiv Sena workers over a cartoon depicting Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, and Congress president Sonia Gandhi, even as Sena MP and party's chief spokesperson Sanjay Raut

said the cartoon was "defamatory" and criticized the Opposition for turning it into a political issue. On Friday, Kandivali East-resident Madan Sharma (65), who had served as a chief petty officer in the Navy, was attacked by a group of Shiv Sena workers, headed by Kamlesh Kadam - the shakhapramukh of the party's Kandivali unit in Mumbai.


"Spoke to a retired naval officer, Shri Madan Sharma who was attacked by hooligans in Mumbai and enquired about his health. Such attacks on ex-servicemen are completely unacceptable and deplorable. I wish Madanji a speedy recovery," Singh tweeted after speaking to Sharma on Saturday. Soon after the Home Minister's tweet, Raut issued

a statement saying Maharashtra is governed by the law and the legal action has been taken against the attackers.

"Maharashtra is governed by the law. No matter who takes the law into their own hands, it will not be tolerated. This is the policy of Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray... Though the cartoon circulated by that officer on the chief minister was defamatory, the attack on him was an outrageous and spontaneous reaction by the Shiv Sainiks. Still, the attackers were immediately arrested and the legal action was taken. Unfortunately, the Opposition is making a political issue of the incident. Both sides need to observe patience," Raut said in the statement.

The six men, including Kadam, who were arrested for the assault on Sharma were released on bail early

on Saturday, following which BJP workers staged a protest outside the Additional Commissioner of Police's office. They were demanded that the six men be also booked under IPC sections 452 (trespassing) and 326 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means). A section on trespassing was added late on Saturday. Santa Nagar police, which is investigating the case, said along with sections of assault and rioting, the men have been booked for trespassing as they had illegally entered the building premises to assault Sharma. However, all the sections are bailable, Senior Inspector Raju Kasbe, Santa Nagar police station said. Earlier in the day, BJP workers, led by Leader of Opposition in state Council Pravin Darekar, Mumbai party chief

MangalPrabhatLodha and senior MLA AtulBhatkalkar held demonstrations. "The Shiv Sena has reverted to its old tactics of intimidating people. Maharashtra is governed by 'goonda raj'... we will expose their real face," Darekar said. Sharma's daughter Sheela, who also took part in the protest, said, "I am disappointed with the police action. It was a very serious attack. But the culprits got away (bail) easily." State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh and Joint Commissioner of Police (law and order) VishwasNangrePatil, meanwhile, spoke to BJP leaders over the phone and assured to take action against the culprits. Patil said the bail was granted to the accused as per rules. 



# Bahrain recognizes Israel



Like the UAE agreement, Friday's Bahrain-Israel deal will normalize diplomatic, commercial, security, and other relations between the two countries.

Washington, September 11: Bahrain has become the latest Arab nation to agree to normalize ties with Israel as part of a broader diplomatic push by President Donald Trump and his administration to fully integrate the Jewish state into the Middle East.

Trump announced the agreement on Friday, following a three-way phone call he had with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. The three leaders also issued a brief six-paragraph joint statement, attesting to the deal.

"Another HISTORIC break-

through today!" Trump tweeted.

The announcement on the 19th anniversary of September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks came less than a week before Trump hosts a White House ceremony to mark the establishment of full relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates. Bahrain's foreign minister will attend the event.

It represents another diplomatic win for Trump less than two months before the presidential election and an opportunity to shore up support among pro-Israel evangelical Christians. Just last week, Trump announced agreements in principle for Kosovo to recognize Israel and for Serbia to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

"This is a historic breakthrough

to further peace in the Middle East," Trump, Netanyahu, and King Hamad said in the statement. "Opening direct dialogue and ties between these two dynamic societies and advanced economies will continue the positive transformation of the Middle East and increase stability, security, and prosperity in the region."

Like the UAE agreement, Friday's Bahrain-Israel deal will normalize diplomatic, commercial, security, and other relations between the two countries.

Bahrain, along with Saudi Arabia, had already dropped a prohibition on Israeli flights using its airspace. Saudi acquiescence to the agreements has been considered key to the deals.

Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner noted

that the agreement is second Israel has reached with an Arab country in 30 days after having made peace with only two Arab nations-Egypt and Jordan-in 72 years of its independence.

"This is very fast," Kushner told The Associated Press. "The region is responding very favorably to the UAE deal and hopefully it's a sign that even more will come."

The agreement will likely be seen as a further setback to the Palestinians who tried unsuccessfully to have the Arab League condemn normalization with Israel until they have secured an independent state. That was one of the few cards still held by Palestinians in negotiations as peace talks remain stalled.

The joint statement made passing mention of the Palestinians, saying the parties will continue efforts "to achieve a just, comprehensive, and enduring resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to enable the Palestinian people to realize their full potential." The agreement makes Bahrain the fourth Arab country, after Egypt, Jordan and the UAE, to have full diplomatic ties with Israel. Other Arab nations believed to be on the cusp of fully recognizing Israel include Oman and Sudan. While tacitly blessing the deals Saudi Arabia, the regional power player, is not expected to move

as quickly. Like the UAE, Bahrain has never fought a war against Israel and doesn't share a border with it. But Bahrain, like most of the Arab world, long rejected diplomatic ties with Israel in the absence of a peace deal establishing a Palestinian state on lands captured by Israel in 1967.

The agreement could give a boost to Netanyahu, who was indicted on corruption charges last year. Deals with Gulf Arab states "are the direct result of the policy that I have led for two decades, namely peace for peace, peace through strength," Netanyahu has said.

The Israeli-UAE deal required Israel to halt its contentious plan to annex occupied West Bank land sought by the Palestinians. Telephone calls soon began working between the nations as they continue to discuss other deals, including direct flights.

While the UAE's population remains small and the federation has no tradition of standing up to the country's autocracy, Bahrain represents a far-different country. Just off the coast of Saudi Arabia, the island of Bahrain is among the world's smallest countries, only about 760 square kilometers.

Bahrain's location in the Persian Gulf long has made it a trading stop and a naval de-

fensive position. The island is home to the US Navy's 5th Fleet and a recently built British naval base.

Bahrain is acutely aware of threats posed by Iran, an anxiety that comes from Bahrain's majority Shiite population, despite being ruled since 1783 by the Sunni Al-Khalifa family. Iran under Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi had pushed to take over the island after the British left, though Bahrainis in 1970 overwhelmingly supported becoming an independent nation and the UN Security Council unanimously backed that.

Since Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, Bahrain's rulers have blamed Iran for arming militants on the island. Iran denies the accusations, though weapons experts suggest explosives found there bear similarities to others linked to Iran. Israel and Iran view each other as top regional enemies. Outside of those tensions, Bahrain's Shiite majority has accused the government of treating them like second-class citizens. The Shiites joined pro-democracy activists in demanding more political freedoms in 2011, as Arab Spring protests swept across the wider Middle East. Saudi and Emirati troops ultimately helped violently put down the demonstrations. 

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### Govt to infuse ...

Rs70,000 crore to 'boost credit for a strong impetus to the economy'. During 2017-18 and 2018-19, there were budgetary provisions as well as recapitalization bonds.

Experts said the recapitalization of state-owned banks is critical for economic growth. "Given the impact of the pandemic on the economy, it is essential for the banks to provide credit support to get the economy back on a growth trajectory. If banks are saddled with non-performing assets, new credit inflows will be difficult. To make the banks lend more, the government wants to infuse capital, which may have eroded due to higher pandemic provisions," said Kuntal Sur, a partner at PwC.

The central bank had also called for capital infusion into banks. The Reserve Bank also said that bad loans are expected to rise to a 20-year high to 12.5% of total advances by March 2021, and had warned that if the economic conditions worsen further, this may soar to 14.7% under the very severely stressed scenario.

### Xi Jinping...

launching another attempt to break India apart," Chang says adding that other countries will take cognizance that the Chinese military is deficient.

Best Wishes from ::

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# Cabinet Approves 'Mission Karmayogi' For Major Bureaucratic Reforms

New Delhi : The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved 'Mission Karmayogi', dubbed as the biggest bureaucratic reform initiative, aimed at capacity building of government employees to make them more "creative, proactive, professional and technology-enabled".

The core guiding principles of the competency-driven program will be to support a transition from rules-based to roles based HR management to prepare the Indian civil servant for the future, according to a government statement. "This is the biggest human resource development program in the government," Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said during a press briefing after the cabinet meeting.

To cover around 46 lakh, central employees, a sum of Rs 510.86 crore will be spent over five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 under Mission Karmayogi or the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB), according to the statement.

A council, comprising select union ministers, chief ministers, eminent public HR practitioners among others, and headed by the prime minister, will serve as the apex body for providing strategic direction, while a Capacity Building Commission is also proposed to be set up.

The program will help in overcoming existing impediments like lack of lifelong & continuous learning environment, the evolution of silos at the department level preventing shared understanding of India's development aspirations, and diverse and fragmented training landscape among others. "Today the Union Cabinet under Prime Minister Narendra Modi decided to bring this very big, post-recruitment reform, where an opportunity will be given to officers and employees to improve their performance," Javadekar said.

Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh, who was also present at the briefing, said the scheme will help end subjective evaluation, and ensure scientifically-devised, objective, and real-time assessment of employees.

Mission Karmayogi is an endeavor "to reincarnate a government servant into an ideal karma yogi to serve the nation by enabling him to be creative, to be constructive, to be proactive and technically empowered", Singh told reporters.

The endeavor is also to end the culture of working in silos and to overcome the multiplicity of training curriculum, which we have because of the institutions spread all over the country, with the introduction of a common



platform for the uniform realization of the nation's vision and our shared aspiration and our shared future goals," he said.

This way, Singh said, it will provide a mechanism for continuous capacity building, a constant updating of the talent pool, and also provide an equal opportunity of professional as well as personal growth and a stream of self-training for value addition at all levels. It is a competency-driven Human Resource (HR) management policy, aimed at assigning the right person to the right role and align the work allocation of civil servants by matching their competencies to the requirements of the post, the statement said.

Mission Karmayogi aims to prepare the Indian civil servant for the future by making him more creative, constructive, imaginative, innovative, proactive, professional,

progressive, energetic, enabling, transparent, and technology-enabled, said the statement issued by the Personnel Ministry.

It will build future-ready civil service with the right attitude, skills, and knowledge, aligned to the vision of new India, according to a presentation given during the media briefing by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) Secretary C Chandramouli.

A Public Human Resources Council comprising of select Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, eminent public HR practitioners, thinkers, global thought leaders, and public service functionaries under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister will serve as the apex body for providing strategic direction to the task of civil services reform and its capacity building, it said.

It is also proposed to set up the Capacity Building Commission with a view to ensuring a uniform approach in managing and regulating the capacity building ecosystem on a collaborative and co-sharing basis, the statement said.

The Commission will also come out with an Annual State of Civil Service Report', it said.

There will also a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for owning and operating the digital assets and technological platform for online training and a coordination unit headed by the Cabinet Secretary for the program, the statement said.

NPCSCB has been carefully designed to lay the foundations for capacity building for civil servants so that they remain entrenched in Indian culture and sensibilities and remain connected with their roots, while they learn

from the best institutions and practices across the world, it said.

The expenditure is partly funded by multilateral assistance to the tune of USD 50 million, the statement said.

An integrated government online training platform - iGOTKarmayogi - will be set up for the Mission.

I got-Karmayogi platform brings the scale and state-of-the-art infrastructure to augment the capacities of over two crore officials in India, it said. Besides capacity building, service matters like confirmation after probation period, deployment, work assignment and notification of vacancies, etc. would eventually be integrated with the proposed competency framework, the statement said.



# Chaitanya Tamhane's The Disciple wins big at Venice Film Festival

**Chaitanya Tamhane's The Disciple looks at the world of classical musicians on the fringes of success. It had its premiere at Biennale last week.**



The last Indian film to be awarded the FIPRESCI Award at the annual film gala was Mathilukal, directed by Adoor Gopalakrishnan in 1990.

Producer Vivek Gomber said, "It's an incredible honor to be the first Indian film after thirty years to win this prestigious award at Venice. FIPRESCI's faith in our work has been a great source of encouragement over the years."

The Marathi-language

film is the first Indian movie in 20 years to be chosen for the main competition of a European film festival (Cannes, Venice, Berlin) after Mira Nair's Monsoon Wedding in Venice in 2001. The Disciple is about Sharad Nerulkar (Aditya Modak), an Indian classical vocalist trying to achieve purity in his work as he has been raised on the stories of his father and guru about the masters of the past.

It is Tamhane's follow-up

to his debut feature Court which was screened in the Orizzonti (Horizons) category at Venice in 2016. Four-time Oscar-winning filmmaker Alfonso Cuarón is serving as executive producer on The Disciple. The 77th Venice Film Festival, which concludes on Saturday with the announcement of main awards' winners, is the first major international film event to take place physically since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic.

Chaitanya Tamhane's The Disciple has bagged the prestigious FIPRESCI award at the 2020 Venice Film Festival.

The film, which looks at the world of classical musicians on the fringes of success, had its premiere at the Biennale last week, receiving glowing reviews.

The award, presented by The International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI), aims to promote and develop film culture as well as safeguard professional interests.

The organization, which was formed in Brussels,

Belgium in 1930, has professional film critics and film journalists from around the world as its members.

"I want to thank the FIPRESCI and its jury members from the bottom of my heart for their continued support for our work. This is a very special honor for us given that the jury for this award comprises film critics and journalists from around the world.

"We are all quite thrilled and excited with this fantastic start to the journey of The Disciple," Tamhane said in a statement.



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