

Odisha In 4th Stage Of Community Transmission



Sirish C. Mohanty

Bhubaneswar : As coronavirus cases continue to explode in Odisha with over 4000 positives every day, the current scenario indicates that the State is going through a peak, while experts believe the COVID curve might start plateauing in the next two months.

COVID Cases Likely To Plateau By Mid November: Experts

So far, the progression of the disease has been quite uneven if districts, corporations, cities, or zones are considered, which has made it difficult for epidemiologists to predict the future of this complex curve.

It is also being feared that Odisha has moved towards the fourth or the most critical phase of COVID transmission, i.e. the community spread, which may be detrimental to the entire population, especially the elderly and vulnerable.

Reports suggest that per day testing has substantially decreased if current daily figures are

compared to August-end testings.

On August 22, Odisha conducted a record 68,906 COVID-19 tests of which 2993 were tested positive. Three days later, the officials conducted 63,209 tests out of which results of 3371 samples came out positive. On August 27th, 3384 of the 68090 samples tested were found positive, but the numbers declined thereafter despite a high positivity rate.

The numbers came down in 'peak September'. In the last 3 days, the healthcare officials have tested a little over 1.47 lakh samples of which 12,156 have been tested positive for Covid-

19.

Looking at the current trend of 4000-plus daily positives, senior health experts are anticipating that this peak would continue till mid-October and then decline around November 17.

If only, people abide by the advisories/guidelines in a proper manner, the State is likely to witness a plateau by November 17, the experts have predicted.

"Next two months will be most critical because we are going through the 4th or extreme phase of COVID transmission. Cases will start declining from the second week of October," said Dr. Niraj



Mishra.

As far as the situation in twin cities is concerned, Bhubaneswar has registered 17,620 cases so far while Cuttack's cumulative caseload stands at 8720. Cases in these areas will fall in some days, as was the case in Berhampur, the expert added.

Recently, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan informed that COVID testing in India has touched 1 million tests per day which translates to 720 tests per million population daily. Odisha, too, needs to ramp up testing as it is seeing a higher positivity over the last few days.

OMBADC funds diverted in violation of SC norms

Keonjhar : There is strong resentment among the people of Keonjhar on the reported diversion of funds of OMBADC breaching the guidelines of the Supreme Court. The State Government however takes a plea of having taken a loan of Rs 18,000 crore from the Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC). Now, only a meager amount of Rs 94 crore is left with it. It indicates-the

government doesn't have the road map to utilize the funds intended to address the burning issues in a time-bound manner. Hence the idea of diverting the idle money to address more urgent issues elsewhere crops up!

The OMBADC which is said to be a gift of the Supreme Court to the mining-affected people, which was created on December 31, 2014, by the State Government with the objective of local



development and tribal welfare for ensuing inclusive growth and environmental upgradation of the mineral-bearing districts of Odisha. Accordingly, after the corporation was constituted, it was natural for the people of Keonjhar to hope that there would be improved infrastructure in the district facilitating livelihood enhancement, boosting the human development index, and reduction (Page-14)

A suit in court seeks ownership of Krishna Janmabhoomi land



Alleging that the Masjid Trust Idgah, with the help of some Muslims, put superstructure and encroached upon the land of KatraKeshav Dev belonging to Shree Krishna Janmasthan Trust and the deity and added that "it is there without any authority".

New Delhi, September 27: A suit has been filed in a

Mathura court, on behalf of Hindu deity Lord ShrikrishnaVirajman, seeking ownership of the entire 13.37 acres of Krishna Janmabhoomi land and removal of ShahiIdgah Masjid, which is situated adjacent to the Krishna temple complex in the city. A civil suit filed by Ram LallaVirajman in 1989 led to the ownership of the

disputed Ayodhya land in 2019.

The plaintiff, described as BhagwanSriKrishnaVirjman at KatraKeshav Dev Khewat, Mauja Mathura Bazaar City, has moved the civil suit through RanjanaAgnihotri and six other devotees of Lord Shri Krishna. Lawyers Hari Shankar Jain and Vishnu Jain have filed the petition.

The respondents of the suit are UP Sunni Central Waqf Board and Committee of Management Trust of Shahi Masjid Idgah.

The suit reads: "He is minor. He is a juristic person. He can sue and be sued through shebait and in his absence through his next friend. It can own, acquire, and possess the property. It has every right to protect its property and to recover its lost property through shebait and in absence of shebait through next friend by availing an appropriate remedy in Court of law."

Alleging that the Masjid Trust Idgah, with the help of some Muslims, put superstructure and encroached upon the land of KatraKeshav Dev belonging to Shree Krishna Janmasthan Trust and the deity and added

that "it is there without any authority".

"The committee of Management of Trust Masjid Idgah entered into an illegal compromise on October 12, 1968, with the Society Shree Krishna JanamasthanSevaSangh and both have played fraud upon the court, the plaintiff Deities and devotees to capture and grab the property in question," reads the suit. "Hindu Law prevalent in India from thousands of years, it is well recognized that the property once vested in the deity shall continue to be the deities property and property vested in the deity is never destroyed or lost and it can be regained and re-established whenever it is freed, found or recovered from the clutches of invaders,

ultras or hoodlums," it further states.

According to the petition, Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, who ruled over India from July 31, 1658, to March 3, 1707 AD, "had issued orders for the demolition of a large number of Hindu religious places and temples." "This was including the temple standing at the birthplace of Lord Shree Krishna at KatraKeshav Dev, Mathura in the year 1669-70 (Sixteen Sixty Nine- Seventy) AD. The army of Aurangzeb partly succeeded to demolish Keshav Dev Temple and construction was forcibly raised showing the might of power and said construction was named as Idgah Mosque," the petition reads. 

Households in India continue to bank on Chinese imports

An analysis of imports of Chinese items shows that a complete boycott of Chinese everyday goods is easier said than done.

New Delhi, September 21: The rise in tensions between the armies of India and China along the eastern Ladakh border in recent months has led to calls for a complete boycott of Chinese goods in India. There has also been an increase in calls for using India-made products to reduce the dependence on Chinese imports. To increase pressure on China to resolve the border impasse peacefully, the Indian government has banned 224 Chinese mobile apps in the last three months, including popular


ones like Tik-Tok, UC Browser, and WeChat. An analysis of imports of Chinese items shows that a complete boycott of Chinese everyday goods is easier said than done. Data from the commerce ministry shows imports from China have only fallen by 14.5 % in the past two years to \$65.26 billion in 2019-20 after reaching a high of \$76.8 billion in 2017-18. Even after such a reduction in imports, a majority of daily household items are still largely brought in from China. Over 50% of items like

footwear, knitted fabrics, and furniture products, among others, are imported from China. A further breakup of yearly import data shows that electrical machinery and equipment is the largest category of products imported from China, comprising around 30% of Chinese imports in 2019-20. While calls for a reduction in Chinese imports in the last few years has caused their imports to fall in the last two years, certain items like lithium-ion that is used in batteries in mobile phones and other portable electronic



devices have seen an increase of over 100% in imports in the last two years. The import data also shows that India purchases over 80 % of its lithium-ion requirements from China. Given the increasing

use of mobile devices and portable equipment in Indian households in the aftermath of the Covid-19 crisis, the imports of such products from China are going to increase unless Indian manufacturers

find an alternative source. The data indicates that the call for a complete ban on Chinese imports would cause a disruption of supplies and an increase in their cost in the local market. 

Much ado 'Landmark' laws, solve nothing of farmer's problems



Shivaji Sarkar

A stormy Sunday chaos in Rajya Sabha (RS) has changed it all. The farm bills are crucial not only for the farmers but for the economy and social well being of the country. A "smooth sailing" with voice vote even as the house was in pandemonium make people wonder about the hurry.

The protests of the farmers and the opposition maybe because of their ignorance or a better understanding of the ground situation, tell a bit too much. Rajya Sabha deputy chairman Harivansh Singh could have given time to the opposition to debate or even refer it to the standing committee for the wearisome situation to cool down.

It's a "watershed moment in the history of Indian agriculture", Prime

Minister Narendra Modi has said. The opposition says it is "historic for wrong reasons". Such moments need more care to convince the beneficiaries.

The opposition acted on its nerves in the pandemonium and certain unprecedented scenes were created. Eight MPs were suspended. It was avoidable. The uproar is there all through the country not only in Punjab, Haryana but even in Telangana and other states.

The RS deputy chairman should have been aware of the countrywide concern, which may have been misplaced or not. The opposition has gone further deciding to move no-confidence resolution seeking the removal of the deputy chairman.

The chair is a preserver of house norms and

democratic propriety. He could have avoided the haste to push through.

The bulldozing of the two bills - Agricultural Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Simplification) Bill and Farmers

(Empowerment and Protection) Price Assurance Bill amid pandemonium and rushing through the next day with the Essential Commodities Act raises concerns that may not be real but that is the responsibility of the movers to remove.

The concerns that rock the nation are that the APMC mandis are being dismantled, MSPs would gradually be done away with, and corporate is taking over the Indian farm market. None of it may be true but still, the nation wonders about the method either of the house chair or others. It may have or not served a political purpose but has raised many more queries.

Difficult solutions need patience. Many have raised a query about the situation in Bihar. It is certainly not an issue in Bihar elections.

It dismantled the APMC mandis in 2004. Even Punjab traders are going there to buy food grains at low prices, carry it back and sell it to FCI at MSP and still have profit. The buzz is that Bihar farmers get 20 to 30 percent less than MSP.

In the last season as per data presented in Parliament, 1.24 crore paddy farmers and 44 lakh wheat farmers get

the MSP. The PM-Kisan scheme records 8.12 crore farmer families having up to 2 acres of land. The actual numbers are higher. It means 94 percent of farmers sell their produce at non-MSP rates. The concern of the government that only a fraction of the farmers gets MSP is not misplaced. It is; however, true that MSP acts as floor price even for deals below it.

The slogan of 'one India one market' has not succeeded there. The house should have discussed it. It is for parleys and bedrock of democratic principles, more so the Upper House. Avoiding it has raised unseemly allegations creating the impression that the nation cares not much for its people and maybe working under pressure.

The argument that the first bill would liberate the farmers from the unjust situation that they are locked in also may not be correct. The new bills may be well-intended but ground realities of multiple markets do not exist to give farmers the benefit of better price the bill promises.

The APMC mandis do not promote competition. Presently, there is 2477 principal regulated APMC markets and 4843 APMC sub-market yards. The APMC functions under state governments. In 2003, during NDA-I, the central ministry of agriculture prepared the model APMC Act and for over

a decade, since 2009, UPA-II, has been pursuing the states to change their laws to provide for direct sale of farm produce to contract sponsors; setting up special markets for "specified agricultural commodities"; permit persons, farmers, and consumers to establish new markets and provide for direct sale by farmers to consumers.

The ministry in a document stated that if persuasion with the states fail, it may be necessary to see what the center can do. The new bill echoes it as the ministry propagated to increase "competitiveness" and impliedly a better price. At various stages, it was opposed and the arguments that the opposition is now presenting were presented before. The UPA government did not pursue it finding the provisions contentious and uncertain.

The new law allows the sale of products outside the APMC purview. In reality, the number of markets will not grow. Anyone, however, can procure from farmers without the need for a license and payment of mandi fees and taxes to states. Most traders are likely to abandon the official mandis and set up informal markets outside mandi gates. Gradually the mandis might be abandoned. It means the bidding process to establish the highest price for produce might also

vanish.

This would make MSP redundant and the fears that farmers would be exploited by a cartel of businesses may stalk them.

The misgivings among farmers emanate from it as also that the new bill does not mention that a deal would be deemed proper if the price paid is at MSP or higher than it. Since multiple mandis do not exist where the buyers may have to compete, the farmers would continue to lack bargaining power. In the new situation too the middle man is likely to thrive.

The second bill will make farmers go for contract farming with trade firms, wholesalers, big retailers, and exporters including large corporate. Though it can supposedly protect farmers from price vagaries as many of them can have a contract even before sowing but gradually might make them dependent and exploited as the free man would vanish with its MSP.

The EC Act was not a deterrent. It has become ineffective and it is good to decriminalize trading and unnecessary harassment.

Let the nation rethink, discuss, and create more competitive markets and come out with concrete solutions. Farmers have been tossed around and despite good intentions, the new laws do not seem to solve their problems.

RSP Team Wins Chairman's Trophy for Young Managers Of SAIL



Rourkela: A team of three executives from Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has won the prestigious Chairman's Trophy for Young Managers (CTYM) conducted by SAIL for 2019-20. The members of the winning team are Avinash Patnaik, senior manager, Plate Mill; Ricky Agarwal, manager, MSS, and S Sreenath, manager, Steel Melting Shop-I. The


competition was organized on a web platform. The team from Durgapur Steel Plant has become the Runners Up in the competition. Seven teams from different SAIL units participated in the finals of the prestigious competition held on 19th September. The CTYM competition is conducted by SAIL every year to develop a culture of

learning, innovation, and creativity in the organization. It also helps in encouraging managerial excellence among young managers by motivating self-development through reading and applying the management concepts in an empirical environment. Congratulating the team, Dipak Chattaraj, CEO, RSP said the RSP is proud of their achievements. 

RSP Exports Over 34K Tonne Of Plates In 3 Months

Rourkela: The Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has exported over 34000 tonnes of plates to Asian and European countries in July, August, and September. Another 1000 tonne of plates is ready for export in the current month. The plates in mild and high tensile grades have been made in the New Plate Mill of RSP. A major chunk of the orders was for CE marked plates.

It may be mentioned that the 4.3 meters wide New Plate Mill of the RSP has got approval of DNV-GL (Det Norske Veritas-Bermanischer Lloyd) business assurance to produce CE Mark Plates for the European market and has been exporting its products to different countries. The state-of-art Mill produces a wide range of plates with close tolerances to meet


stringent international standards that find applications in Boiler and Pressure Vessels, earth moving equipment, wagon building, railway projects, bridges, and highways, nuclear power plants, and urban infrastructure projects. The steel plant has also bagged another order for exporting 10,000 tonnes of plates to the European market. 

RSP Organises interaction sessions with Industry Associations

Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has been organizing a series of interactive sessions with Industry Associations to promote the Special Incentive Scheme "IspaatiIlakonkaVikas: SAIL KeSath", for boosting consumption of steel by local industries. It is worth mentioning here that Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Oil and Natural Gas and Minister of Steel, has launched the "Purvodaya" program to create an ideal framework for achieving socio-economic development in the Purvodaya states. Accordingly,


SAIL has launched "IspaatiIlakonkaVikas: SAIL KeSath", an initiative that aims at making affordable steel available to the MSMEs located in the same districts as its Integrated Steel Plants, while incentivizing them in price based and non-price based terms. In one webinar organized recently, D K Mohapatra, ED (MM), RSP interacted with the representatives of 11 MSMEs of the Sundargarh district to make them aware of the provisions of the scheme. Anil Arora, SRM, CMO, HarishPande, BM (BSO), G K Das,

CGM (MM), R K Dani, CGM (Marketing), Srikant Panda, GM (Marketing), and other Senior Officers of RSP and CMO attended the webinar. Notably, 14 such interaction sessions have been organized by RSP to date in which members of various Industry Associations of Sundargarh district have participated. The district administration is extending the necessary support in organizing the sessions. It is worth mentioning here that, RSP is encouraging local entrepreneurs to set up downstream industries/ support & services in

the locality. If necessary, technical and training support is being extended. HoDs of different product shops of RSP are also directly interacting with potential customers to increase steel consumption in the local area. By implementing the scheme successfully, SAIL, RSP aims at boosting industrial and commercial activities in the area, fostering entrepreneurship, nurturing and developing local industries, developing ancillaries for steel plants, and also to act as a catalyst for employment generation. 

NITR Professor Selected For BRICS Young Scientist Conclave

Rourkela: Dr. AnupNandy, faculty of computer science and engineering, NIT Rourkela has been selected to present his research paper in the prestigious 5th BRICS Young Scientist Conclave 2020 scheduled to be held at Chelyabinsk, Russia from September 21-25.

Dr. Nandy is among six Indian scientists selected to present his research at the virtual BRICS conclave on the thematic area of Artificial Intelligence. His research paper focuses on the role of Artificial Intelligence in healthcare applications. He is currently working as Assistant Professor (Grade I) in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at NIT Rourkela. His research interest includes Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Robotics. The conclave to be held on virtual mode due to the COVID-19 pandemic is organized by the National Research University South Ural State University, Russia with the support of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation and the Secretariat of the Russian BRICS STI Cooperation Council. The key goals of the BRICS YSF are the development of cooperation among the young scientists from the BRICS countries and the creation of new young R&D groups. It is one of the most effective platforms for expanding the network of international contacts among young scientists and exchanging experience and best practices. "It was a challenging task to compete and be a part of this conclave. This would provide an opportunity to create a network with young scientists of BRICS countries," said Dr.Nandy. 



J'spur plasma donors felicitated

JAGATSINGHPUR : The post recovered Coronavirus affected patients who had donated plasma later for COVID treatment were felicitated by Jagatsinghpur

The volunteer plasma donors had taken to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack where they had given up plasmas, the administration had



collector S K Mohapatra. As many as 12 persons had donated plasma after they cured suffering Corona disease in district, their plasmas had utilized for giving treatment to serious Corona affected patients.

incurred their transportation, accommodation and ancillary medical expenditures, Collector informed. A certificate and flower bouquet was given to each plasma donor.

World tourism day celebrated in J'spur

JAGATSINGHPUR : The World tourism day was celebrated at district headquarters here adhering COVID 19 guidelines, district collector S K Mohapatra speaking at the observance spelled out the theme and purpose of the world tourism day celebration and its potentiality in Jagatsinghpur district.

World tourism day is usually commemorated each year on 27 September, the purpose is to foster awareness among the community of tourism's social, cultural, political, and economic sectors. This year edition of world tourism day bearing a theme of 'Tourism and Rural Development'. If tourism will develop in rural areas it will encourage employment and be an instrumental



creating job. Amid the COVID Pandemic this year, thousands of people have lost jobs tourism can drive economic recovery and generate work in the rural sector, Collector expressed confidence.

Tourism stands on five key elements as Access, accommodation, attractions, activities, and

amenities if these essentials are delivered tourists will choose to travel, for implementing these five basics we are focusing to develop our tourist spots as Maa Sarala temple, Gorekhnath shrine, Siali seashore, and Para dip, said ADM Jagatsinghpur Satchidananda Sahoo. Commemorating the

observance tourism department was displayed billboards narrating tourist spots in Jagatsinghpur district in several locations. Among other sub-collector Dharmendra Mallick, DIPRO Kaminiranjan Patnaik, OSD SasankaSekharLenka, and KabitaMurmu were present.

People ignore COVID 19 guidelines, Coronavirus spreading fast in Jagatsinghpur

JAGATSINGHPUR : Even though COVID 19 pandemic has haunted everyone, but people still stay careless following guidelines. The occurrence of preventive COVID 19 strategic violations are rampant in both urban-rural pockets across Jagatsinghpur district, while civil administration and police have failed to curb the menace or launch prompt surveillance drive to check abuse of Coronavirus norms. Reports said that even as COVID 19 guidelines emphasize maintaining social distancing, wearing a mask, avoiding congregation, and adhering strict rules conducting marriage and

funeral functions, but usually seen that rural denizens are blatantly flouting these set of guidelines.

The COVID cases have significantly spreading while the government allowed quarantine and isolation of asymptomatic COVID patients at home and the abrupt closure of Temporary Medical Camp [TMC] and Panchayat quarantine centers in the district has added caseloads. The total number of cases stands at 5053 of which 1551 are active cases and 5495 have recovered, eight deaths have recorded as on 27 September, apart from testing conducted last three days number of cases increasing above

150 daily, Corona hotspots have been spotted as ParadipKujanga and Jagatsinghpur rural and urban areas where above 700 COVID 19 cases have been registered, more numbers of active cases are surfacing daily. Even though lockdowns and unlocks have been relaxed, public premises have been opened people have been allowed to move adhering COVID guidelines, but it is usually seen that many people are still ignorant not following the virus guidelines and ignoring government advisories. The COVID norms are blatantly violated in rural areas, people are not maintaining social distancing. Sources

informed that recently a birthday celebration had arranged by a cop in a police residential colony in Punanga village four km away from here, participants were above hundreds, cops family members, colony families and men in uniforms and staff from several police stations. By and large, the COVID test reports supplied by the district I&PR department revealed that twelve Sepoys and one lance Naik of 8th battalion, 12 policemen from reserve police, three constables of district police had been tested COVID positive following attending the celebration.

Moreover, in a funeral function held recently in Kulamundilo village

under isolation. This correspondent spoke to a senior revenue department official, who had visited this funeral event he either confirmed or denied attending the occasion later clarified that undergoing home isolation unable to clarify any query. Ostensible the two incidents speak out how COVID guidelines are being dishonored in urban and rural areas of Jagatsinghpur district, instances are glaring that such types of violations are happening daily across the district in different locations and region, sans inaction against the violators.

Sabai Grass cultivators cry as the sale hit due to the pandemic

Baripada :There seems to be no end to the sufferings of Sabai cultivators in Mayurbhanj district, who preferred cultivation of Sabai as a more profitable one than paddy. But, due to the pandemic, the sale of the grass has gone down. The district has so far witnessed the production of Sabai grass, one of the profitable farm activities. The pandemic has evaporated all hopes of the poor cultivators. The Sabai grass has been enjoying a great demand as it is used for making rope for various purposes and fits for various handicrafts. The cultivators of Guhaldihi, Barjur, Tungaduha, and Masinakathi village within Betnoti police limits in Mayurbhanj district who have switched over to the Sabai grass cultivation for



generations. Over four hundred people live in these villages, out of which 60 percent of them preferred to cultivate Sabai. Similar to the processing of paddy harvesting, the Sabai cultivators have to cut the grass and dry on the sun before selling in the local market. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, there is no market for the grass. The district administration had restricted the opening of weekly markets due to the

pandemic is said to be the reason for the shrinking of the demand.

A Sabai cultivator Kandan Murmu (60) of Masinakathi village said—selling of sal leaves as additional income support for the family, has also been hit. The cultivation of Sabai was their profitable farming. The recent lockdown and weekend shutdown affects the sale of dry Sabai in the local markets. Saraswati

Mohanta (32) wife of a Sabai cultivator Harish Mohanta said her family was spending a happy life on the income of her husband. But the financial crisis started when the markets were closed due to the recent lockdown. No traders from the outside venture to come to procure in the situation.

"Annually, we use to earn Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 28,000 by selling the dry Sabai. Apart from that, my


husband had earned Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 20,000 from the Sabai trading business. For the good income, we had procured valuable assets for the house besides fulfilling the daily requirement of the family. But since the months of the pandemic situation, the income from the business has gradually gone down and it has become difficult to meet both ends.

Harihar Marandi and Jagar Marandi said the villagers of Masinakathi, Guhaldihi, Barjur, and Tungaduha too are suffering from the same situation.

They said that a bundle of dry Sabai used to be sold for Rs. 55 to Rs. 60, now it has come down to a mere price of only Rs. 35 to Rs. 40. Before the lockdown, there were good numbers of traders from West Bengal and other places, but now

none of them turn up for the procurement of Sabai. Rajani Mohanta (23) said it is difficult to earn Rs. 5000 per month from the business. With this low income, it's difficult for her to feed her five family members while a minimum of Rs. 7000 to Rs. 8,000 is needed for a month.

The Sabai cultivators express their view that if any cooperative society or district level government organization will procure the dry Sabai with a minimum price, the cultivators will get at least a fair living.

When contacted, Deputy CEO of ORMAS Biman Mal said the ORMAS has procured only Sabai crafts from the Self Help Groups (SHGs), and there is no provision to procure dry Sabai from the cultivators. 

Extensive laterite stone mining destroys forest in Mayurbhanj

Baripada :-The rampant illegal laterite stone mining by mafias has been one of the major threats for the wildlife habitat in the Mayurbhanj district. The menace has reportedly been carried out for the last 17 years at Bakala village in Ektali Panchayat within the Dudhiani range under the Karanjia forest division that is also near to Similipal National Park.


Locals complain; when the State Government and the Centre taking several initiatives like the plantation program and Van Mahotsav spending huge funds for the growth of the forest, the illegal stone mining goes on flourishing destroying the forest. They blame the forest department of the Karanjia Division, police and revenue department of the district administration who

are agitating the destruction of the vast forest in the Dudhiani range area. They too say that if the forest protection authorities, revenue, and police department encourage the mafias for illegal mining, who can save it?

As per the report, plot no 2647 of 47 decimals of a forest land closed to Bakala village is made of a big gorge for the mining. The mining also poses a grave threat to wild and domestic animals which often fall into the craters which are not filled up by the mafia after stones are extracted from the site. Local Mohanta and tribal communities had been raising the issue with Ganeshram Singh Khunta the Jashipur MLA, Jashipur tehsildar Ratanlal Munda, IIC of Jashipur Ranjan Kumar Sethi, and Sarpanch Salge Majhi to

immediately check the illegal practice but no action has been taken by them. The MLA however reprimanded the police and tehsildar about the lapse, but, strangely they in due course did not respond even to his phone calls.

It is widely discussed that the local police receive Rs. 10,000, Tehsildar takes Rs. 30,000, and Rs. 15,000 for forest officials per month from the mafias for the illegal practice.

"The mafias involved in illegal mining often threatened us when we raised the issue before the officials and opposed the practice. When contacted, Karanjia DFO Gajanan Lade, he said that he was ignorant about the matter, yet he assured that if the land will come under forest land, he will take necessary steps to check the illegal practice. 

Baripada police station faces a shortage of manpower and infrastructure facilities

Baripada :-Lack of infrastructures and inadequate staff in Baripada town police station of Mayurbhanj district restricts the cops to perform during the pandemic. The cops often fail to provide security, address crime-related issues, and traffic management due to the shortage of manpower.

The police station runs by an Inspector, 3 Sub-Inspectors, 3 Assistant Sub-Inspectors against the sanctioned strength of 9 ASI, 2 head constables, and 12 constables. The vacancy of the six Assistant Sub-Inspectors is yet to be filled up. Cyber Police Station, Traffic Police Station, and Mohila Police Stations have become a necessity to police over a population of 1.5 lakh in the Baripada town area. The existing personnel has to work overtime without leaves in the period of critical pandemic days.

Apart from these, the only Police Control van is running without resting when the police station required at least 4 numbers of Police Control Vans. The existing police station building was built decades ago is now dilapidating.


A separate control room with modern amenities has become the need of the hour, and a modern control room with the facilities of GPs and PCR van with the installation of long-distance CCTV cameras capable to capture visual need to be installed at important places of the town soon.

The people of the locality have been demanding an outpost at Debendrapur because of the university, Law College, ITI, and other educational institutions, and training centers are running there, but the demand is yet to be fulfilled.

The students of North Orissa University raised their voice

before the higher authority of police and district administration including drawing the attention to the Chief Minister and DGP of the State. Despite the shortage of staff the police station has to manage the cases of cybercrime, women harassment related cases, and traffic and Motor Vehicle related cases.

Inspector In-Charge of the police station Birendra Senapati admits that the absences of Traffic, Mahila, and cyber police stations and separate control rooms and manpower the cops face hardship to manage all the problems.

Mayurbhanj SP Parmar Smit Parshottamdas said there are four bike PCR along with one PCR van and one Camera PCR van are deployed in Baripada town police station. Existing manpower in the police station serve their duty perfectly, he further claimed. 

Questions Raised Over Mismatch In Odisha Covid-19 Death Numbers



Bhubaneswar, September 24: With COVID-19 cases & fatalities scaling new peaks in Odisha, questions are being raised over the State government's management of the pandemic and mismatch

in death numbers.

While it is alleged that the COVID-19 death toll is much higher than the data provided by the State government, the supervisor of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC),

Gopal Chandra Das has also said that over 30 bodies are being cremated at the Satya Nagar crematorium daily.

"Around 30-40 dead bodies are getting cremated here daily," said Das. The BMC

supervisor's claim has raised serious questions relating to the actual number of deaths and the data provided by the State Health and Family Welfare Department.

As per govt data, the highest daily death toll reported so far is 16 on September 24. So how 30-40 COVID19 bodies are being cremated every day?

Moreover, Das claimed that over 1,100 bodies have so far been cremated in the crematorium. However, as per the State Health Department, 752 coronavirus patients have succumbed to the disease so far along with 53 deaths due to diseases other than COVID-19.

Responding to the claims, BMC commissioner Prem Chandra Chaudhary said, "I can't say the exact figure without checking the crematorium data. Apart from the normal cremation of bodies at the crematorium, bodies of some deceased from other districts are also getting cremated here because of COVID-19 restrictions. That's why the numbers seem higher."

Meanwhile, opposition parties have alleged that the Odisha government is hiding the facts from people and even warned of massive protests.

Congress leader Manas Choudhury said, "Whenever you visit the crematorium, you will

find cremations underway. The government is not proving the facts and even suppressing the voices questioning mismatch."

"Odisha government has completely failed in COVID-19 management and to hide its failure, it is providing false data regularly," alleged BJP leader, Lekhashree Samantsinghar.

Responding to the allegations, ruling-BJD leader, Prashant Jagdev said that the government is not hiding COVID data and such allegations during these times only reflect foolishness and lack experience on the part of some people.

Congress & BJD Oppose Farm Bills In Rajya Sabha; BJP Calls Opposition 'Frustrated'

Bhubaneswar : When Rajya Sabha Sunday passed the Farmers' and Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 and Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, a massive uproar were seen due to unruly protest by Opposition MPs.

Surprisingly, even the BJD opposed the Farm Bills citing that there is inadequate protection to small and marginal farmers as well as the sharecroppers. Speaking on the two Farmers' Bills, BJD MP Amar Patnaik reportedly highlighted the inadequacy to protect interests of small & marginal farmers & sharecroppers and urged the government to refer the bills to the Select Committee of the House. "These two bills which the

government says will change the ecosystem of agricultural marketing, I would say they are largely good on the intent but probably ignores the implementation aspects," he said. This apart, the MP questioned if the bill is heading towards MSP dilution adding that remunerative prices for farmers cannot be solely guaranteed by the market. BJD MP Prasanna Acharya said, "BJD has always welcomed decisions taken in the interests of farmers. But because the bills lacked some clarity, we demanded that the proposed legislation be referred to the House panel for scrutiny. BJD doesn't believe in creating a ruckus, and whatever happened is unfortunate."

The Congress called it a 'Black Day in Democracy'. OPCC Chief Niranjan Patnaik alleged, "The Agriculture Bills are another

step by the BJP government to benefit corporates at the expense of farmers. These Bills will end MSP for farmers."

Targeting the Centre, Congress MP Saptagiri Ulaka said, "Modi Sarkar is only for corporates - Adani/Ambani, first they came for J&K then Muslims, now farmers, next laborers. What happened today in Rajya Sabha is a Black Day in Democracy - Division of votes is our right."

The Bharatiya Janata Party however maintained that the bills are aimed at the empowerment of farmers and the betterment of agriculture. "I am surprised to see the BJD opposing the bills, maybe this is because of the CBI raids on BJD leaders' residences. The Bills will enable the farmers to sell their crops wherever they want through e-marketing. It doesn't matter if BJD extends support or opposes



it because BJP will continue to work for the interests of people," said BJP MP Suresh Pujari.

Hailing the passage of the bills, BJP national president JP Nadda cleared all the questions raised by the Opposition parties and said, "Now, the farmer will be his boss! He can make his own decisions! The new legislation empowers farmers and gives alternative marketing channels including the e-marketing platform. Farmers can get better

remunerative prices. Farm-related problems can now be resolved at his doorstep."

As far as MSP dilution is concerned, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said procurement of crops will continue at MSP and there should be no doubt about it. "MSP was offered to farmers before, is in force now and will remain in force in future and government procurement will continue. These legislations will play a crucial role in fulfilling PM

Modi's vision to double farmers' incomes and better their lives." Taking a jibe at the Congress and other opposition parties, Nadda said, "Congress party never undertook any reforms for the empowerment of farmers. It neither had the time nor the will to help farmers. Misleading the farmers and the poor is the age-old habit of the Congress party. Farmers are aware of their duplicity and will not be swayed by its fake propaganda."

Clash of Pillars



Sirish C. Mohanty



The four pillars of democracy are Judiciary, Executive, Legislature, and Media. This fourth pillar of democracy ensures that all people living in far-off areas of the country are aware of what's happening in the rest of their country. The media ensures transparency in the working of all the above three systems. These are the four pillars of democracy and if any of these pillars is not working properly then somewhere democracy is still not fully functional.

The powers of each of these pillars vary from country to country. In India, no single pillar is made too strong. In the American constitution, the judiciary is made powerful whereas, in the UK, the legislature dominates the judiciary.

Media is the most powerful entity on earth. It makes us aware of various social, political, and economical activities around us. It is like a mirror that shows us the bare truth and the harsh realities of life.

Over the years, the media has become more active. It is media that reminds the government of its unfulfilled promises, educates masses in rural areas through television, radio, and internet, and exposes the loopholes in the system. It is the most powerful tool to fight against socio-political evils and injustice in our society while bringing empowerment to the masses and facilitating development.

In this age of technology, we are bombarded with

information. The perfect blend of technology and media has left no stone unturned in unearthing corruption and politics in our society. Media has the strength and ability to change both social and government attitudes towards various key problems. All journalists have the responsibility to report unbiased, accurate information as they receive from reliable sources.

Media is a hope that as the fourth pillar of the state, it will act as a pillar of democracy for as long as the present political, economic, and social structures are moving in the right direction. There is no doubt that without this key pillar, democracy cannot function properly and will be at risk. The job of the executive was

to ensure proper implementation of the laws passed by the legislature and also govern. However, with the executive now looking more like an extension of the dysfunctional legislature than a separate wing, the edifice is crumbling.

The famed steel frame - as Sardar Patel called the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) - is now more structure that is falling apart.

Bureaucrats, who were supposed to uphold the rule of the law and keep the politicians in check, have now joined hands with them, refusing to stand up to the questionable demands of their political masters.

The police have gone rogue on several occasions, and the so-called independent investigating agencies like the CBI and ED are happy being hand-maidens of whichever party is in power. The lure of post-retirement jobs often drives the in-the-job decisions of our bureaucrats. Independent institutions like the Election Commission, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), and Central Information

Commission seem to have become extensions of the government, or should one say the party in power.

Any deviation of the pillars in performing creates the possibilities of a clash. Nowadays, the clash between the executives and the Media becomes a regular phenomenon in Odisha where the elected government becomes increasingly bureaucrats dependant. The Keonjhar mining areas of Joda and Barbil excels with such dirty clashes where the role of the elected representatives has shrunk only to ceremonial. The bureaucrats and the police become the real master of functioning of governance.

The unprecedented pandemic has added wings to the unholy alliance to suppress the legitimate demands of the people as and when raised. Due to the sheer negligence of the administration, the roads of Joda and Barbil town become dilapidated for years. Repeated appeals by the civil societies of the town were not heard. Finally, as a last resort, the senior citizens of the Joda

town slapped a notice to go for Dharna from June 1 in front of the Municipality office if roads of the town are not repaired.

A Dharna by the senior citizens who have nothing to do with the politics created curiosity among the people and the media. On the designated day of June 1, many media representatives of the town went there to cover the unusual scene. The police and the administration tried their best to deceive the seniors including a demo of lathi-wielding cops and assured them to take up the road repair within a fortnight.

Surprisingly, instead of taking a cue from the lapses, police in the meantime instituted a case superimposing various sections that are far away from the reality, against the seniors, and the scribes who dared to cover overlooking the police warning. Consequently, the newsmen of Joda have knocked at the State human rights commission against the police IIC for his arbitrary misuse of power against the fourth pillar.

Noted economist Isher Judge Ahluwalia, who broke many glass ceilings, dies at 74

- A graduate from Presidency College and Delhi School of Economics, Ahluwalia did her Ph.D. from MIT
- Ahluwalia has served as Chair of the Board of the International Food Policy Research Institute and the Chair of the High-Powered Committee on Urban Infrastructure Services

Isher Judge Ahluwalia, 74, arguably India's most famous female economist, who was till recently serving as the chairperson of the Delhi based think-tank ICRIER died on Saturday. She was suffering from brain cancer.

Ahluwalia is survived by her husband Montek Singh Ahluwalia, former deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, and their two sons. Ahluwalia recently published her memoir

"Breaking Through", a testament of a career that broke many glass ceilings. After starting her career at the International Monetary Fund, Ahluwalia returned to India where she authored two landmark books: Stagnation since the Mid-Sixties and Productivity and Growth in Indian Manufacturing. She was a professor at the Centre for Policy Research, and then director, and later

chairperson, of ICRIER. Over the last decade and a half, she has built ICRIER into a leading global think tank.

Yamini Aiyar who is currently heading CPR tweeted: She was the first female scholar at CPR in the 1980s and paved the path for generations of us. Proud to be leading an institution that was once her home.

Ahluwalia has served as Chair of the Board of the International Food Policy

Research Institute and the Chair of the High-Powered Committee on Urban Infrastructure Services set up by the Government of India in 2008. In the later part of her life, she has written extensively on challenges relating to sustainable urbanization with a special focus on the delivery of clean drinking water and solid waste management. She is a graduate of Presidency College and Delhi School of Economics and received her Ph.D. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Ahluwalia is also a recipient of the Padma Bhushan.

Former finance minister P Chidambaram tweeted: "Deeply saddened and



shaken by the passing away of Dr. Isher Ahluwalia, a close friend for nearly 25 years. She was a distinguished economist whose life, work, and contribution to economics are beautifully captured in her recently published autobiography, a must-read for every student of economics."

Former union minister and Congress leader Jairam

Ramesh said: "Isher Ahluwalia who just passed away, was one of India's distinguished economists, an MIT Ph.D., and author of an influential book 'Industrial Growth in India'. She built up ICRIER, a fine economic think tank. She had her own distinctive identity apart from being Montek's wife."

5 New Sub-4M SUVs Launching soon In Sub-Rs 10 Lakh Segment



This is the reason for the emergence of new SUV segments in the country, and while you had to shell out a fortune to purchase an SUV in India a few years ago, times have changed and SUVs have become much more affordable now.

Manufacturers continue to work on introducing more affordable mass-market SUVs since the popularity of the said space only seems to grow by the day. Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs) are the talk of the town and have climbed to the top of the sales charts in the last few years, with their popularity growing rapidly. This is the reason for the emergence of new SUV segments in the country, and while you had to shell out a fortune to purchase an SUV in India a few years ago, times have changed and SUVs have become much more affordable now. With that being said, you can choose from a range of SUVs in the Indian market even if you're on a tight budget, and many more offerings are set to join the list soon.

Here is a list of five upcoming SUVs under Rs 9 lakh (ex-showroom), take a look:

1. **Tata HBX/Hornbill**- Tata revealed a new micro-SUV concept at the 2020 Auto Expo in February this year called the 'HBX'. Upon launch, the HBX will go on to become the most affordable SUV in Tata's line-up and will be pitted against the KUV100 NXT and Maruti Suzuki Ignis. In terms of design, the HBX is based on Tata's Impact 2.0 theme, and

will largely be similar to the concept showcased at the Expo. Powering the car will be the same 1.2-liter three-cylinder NA petrol (86 PS/113 Nm) engine as the Altroz, and transmission options will likely include a 5-speed MT as well as an optional auto gearbox.

2. **Nissan Magnite**- Nissan recently revealed the first images of its upcoming Magnite concept, and we believe that its edgy design will surely be one of its main highlights. Other highlights will likely include an 8-inch touchscreen, connected-car tech, 360-degree camera, cruise control, and a sunroof as well. Nissan has been

struggling to keep up with the demands of the Indian market, and the company's future relies on the Magnite. Hence, Nissan is expected to price the sub-4m SUV very aggressively, undercutting all other subcompact SUVs in the Indian market. The car is expected to be launched in January 2021.

3. **Toyota Urban**

Cruiser- The global product sharing agreement between Toyota and Suzuki led to the introduction of the Maruti Suzuki Baleno, and now, Toyota will be borrowing Maruti's Vitara Brezza to launch the second product under the partnership, i.e. the Urban Cruiser. Rendering Apart from a

CMF-A+ modular platform as the Magnite, and will share a host of features, as well as powertrains with the Nissan SUV. Rendering The Kiger/HBC is expected to borrow the Tribes's 1.0-litre three-cylinder petrol engine rated at 72 PS/96 Nm, while a turbocharged version of the same engine will likely be offered on the higher-end trims, producing around 100 PS of max power.

5. **New-gen Ford EcoSport**- The EcoSport was the first sub-4m SUV in the Indian market when it was launched back in 2013. However, in 7 years of its existence, the SUV has only been updated once. Nonetheless, Ford fans will be delighted to know that the American carmaker is expected to debut the new-gen Ford EcoSport globally by late 2021. The new-gen EcoSport will be powered by a 1.2-litre mStallion turbocharged petrol engine sourced from Mahindra, producing around 130 PS of maximum power. This is the same engine that will also be offered with the Mahindra XUV300. In terms of design, the Ford EcoSport will likely feature a more SUV-ish look as compared to the crossover styling of the current model.

TMCs Closed In Odisha, Sarpanchs Stage Protest Demanding Payment Of Dues

Bhadrak, September 20: Days after the nation-wide lockdown was lifted, Odisha government put the Sarpanchs and village-level authorities at the forefront to manage the migrant influx and ensure that every single migrant upon arrival undergoes a mandatory quarantine at the Temporary Medical Camps (TMC) set up close to their respective villages. The village heads were not only assigned with the responsibility to identify and put the migrants in quarantine, but they also looked after their accommodation, food, treatment, and other basic needs, as directed by CM Naveen.

However, several Sarpanchs in Bhadrak district has now staged a dharna demanding payment of pending dues. They have alleged that



they are yet to receive the amount they have spent in managing TMCs despite having submitted bills to the block authorities. Sarpanchs Stage Protest Demanding Payment Of Dues

The Sarpanchs also submitted a memorandum to the District Collector in this regard, sources said. Sarpanch of Ranajit Panchayat, Manoj Nayak said "The government

made us spend so much money but we still haven't received the amount that we have spent. Some have shelled out Rs 5 lakhs, some have spent Rs 10 lakhs. Now a total of Rs 1,07,00,000 is pending. We have been requesting for the last two months to give us our money but nobody listened to us."

Sadasiva Das, Sarpanch of Naami Panchayat said "Whatever money has

been spent for management of TMC, should be given to us as early as possible. Those people who were hired to do the necessary tasks and those who stayed at the center have also not been paid."

Responding to the matter, Bhandaripokhari BDO acknowledged that their demand is genuine and he has also apprised the Collector requesting to look after the issue so that

the dues are cleared at the earliest.

"Now that the TMCs have closed, expenses borne by them for food and other essentials should be paid back to them. We have reported the government about this matter. As we haven't received money from the government, we are not able to pay them back yet. We are trying to resolve this issue and I have intimated them about it," said the BDO, Bijay Sahu.

The State government recently decided to shut the COVID Care Centres (CCCs), TMCs, and COVID Care Homes (CCHs) due to nil occupancy.

"The occupancy in TMCs and CCHs is virtually nil. Hence, these facilities should be immediately closed down. In the case of CCCs, the occupancy has dramatically fallen and

in many of them, there are no patients. Hence, CCCs should also be closed down wherever there are no patients and in other places where the occupancy is less it should be scaled down and the requisite manpower is remobilized to their original positions and in case of CCHs, the health personnel can be redeployed in the districts where their services can be better utilized," a government notice mentioned.

As per reports, the Odisha government had set up 17,647 TMCs with 8,26,079 beds and 178 COVID Care Centers with 21,059 beds, intending to quarantine the migrants and provide proper medical facilities to the asymptomatics to reduce the rush at the dedicated COVID hospitals.

People In Maoist Hotbed Malkangiri Get Much-Awaited Emergency Services



Malkangiri, September 28: The recent headway in the remote 'SwabhimanAnchal' concerning infrastructure, healthcare services, telecom, and livelihood seems to have given a ray of hope to the people about a possible holistic and peaceful

development of the area. The progress seen here over the last few days suggests so.

As per reports, the district administration has started specialist health services at Public Health Centre (PHC) Janbai, PHC Jodambo, and SDH Chittrakonda to address the poor maternal

and child health parameters of SwabhimanAnchal.

Malkangiri ADM and CDMO inaugurated the Maternal and Child health specialist services last Friday at PHC Janbai to improve the health parameters.

The services will be

available every Friday at PHC Janbai, every Sunday at PHC Jodambo, and on Tuesdays at SDH Chittrakonda, the District Collector said.

Odisha DGP Abhay informed that these health and wellness centers have been manned, with the posting of four doctors. He also stated about other developmental activities underway at a fast pace in the area.

DIG Police, South Western Range, Koraput also highlighted the focused approach of the State government, apart from appreciating the contributions of Odisha

Police and BSF for creating a facilitative and secure environment in this area that is considered a Maoist hotbed in the State.

Telecom connectivity is a continuous demand of the people in SwabhimanAnchal was also fulfilled recently when people got access to mobile network connectivity. A trial run of the mobile network was also completed successfully in Pipalapadar, Hantalguda, and Jantapai villages.

Ever since Gurupriya Bridge has opened, the SwabhimanAnchal has witnessed transformation

with the subsequent setting up of Jodambo police station and series of BSF COBs thus bringing normalcy in this area for delivery of various govt services including healthcare, said Malkangiri SP.

Further, the SP noted that the creation of a safe and secure environment is playing an important role in enabling the construction of roads, setting up of mobile networks, provisioning of PDS, drinking water, housing, education, healthcare, and other government services.

'A protective shield': PM Modi backs farm bills

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday took on critics of his government's farm-liberalization plan, a day after the Lower House passed two of the three farm bills, accusing detractors of spreading "misinformation and lies", while reassuring farmers the reforms were in their best interests.

Modi called the reforms a "protective shield" around farmers, which would bring "more options and opportunities". His comments, made in a video address dedicating a railway bridge in Bihar and also on microblogging site

Twitter, came after Lok Sabha passed by a majority vote the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, and The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020. On Tuesday, the Lower House passed third legislation, the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill 2020.

Modi addressed concerns about prices and the country's procurement system, under which the government buys farm produce at federally-fixed minimum support prices (MSP) from farmers. There's disinformation that the government would withdraw benefits of support prices, he said. The Prime Minister said the country's procurement system will continue to

PM's rebuttal on farm bills

ON MARKETS

CRITICS: Creating two market spaces, markets run by agricultural produce market committees as well as new free trading markets, is disastrous

WHAT PM SAID: Farmers will sell where they want and they'll sell where there are better profit margins

ON MSPs

CRITICS: The reforms will weaken the support price (MSP) mechanism and the procurement system

WHAT PM SAID: The govt will continue giving appropriate prices to farmers through the MSP mechanism

ON MIDDLEMEN

CRITICS: In interlocked markets, farmers depend on middlemen for loans; reforms ignore these realities

WHAT PM SAID: Middlemen stand between farmers and consumers, take big chunk of farmers' incomes. The reforms will keep them out of the process

ON BARGAINING POWER

CRITICS: The unequal bargaining power will leave farmers vulnerable to exploitation

WHAT PM SAID: Those misleading farmers don't know how aware farmers are in the country

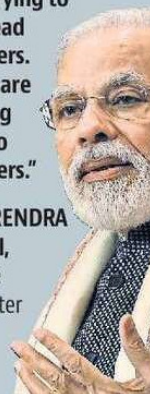
ON VULNERABLE FARMERS

CRITICS: Reforms will hurt the vulnerable farmers

WHAT PM SAID: People who say this had promised the same reforms, but those were never implemented

"These legislations have rid our farmers of many shackles and brought them freedom... People who ruled this country for decades and were in power... such people are trying to mislead farmers. They are telling lies to farmers."

-NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister



run as usual.

"People who ruled this country for decades and were in power... such people are trying to mislead farmers. They are telling lies to farmers," Modi said.

"Disinformation is also being spread that wheat and rice, etc, will not be procured by the government from farmers. This is an absolute lie, completely wrong and an attempt to cheat farmers," the Prime Minister said.

Modi said the government is committed to giving farmers "appropriate prices" through the support-price mechanism. "I want to give farmers a message. Don't fall for lies."

The main opposition Congress and a clutch of smaller parties are opposed to the reforms. A key opposition to the bills on Thursday came from the Bharatiya Janata

Party's (BJP) ally, the Shiromani Akali Dal, whose minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal resigned from the Union Cabinet, exposing a crucial rift between the two parties over efforts to unshackle the farm sector.

India's agricultural trade still requires licensed traders who must operate out of notified markets allotted to them. The bills aim to sidestep this system, called agricultural produce market committees (APMC), free up market restrictions, enable farmers and agribusinesses to engage more confidently under a new contract farming law, and help to create modern supply chains. Critics argue the new system will lack adequate oversight in its current form.

The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020,

allows buyers of farm produce to trade outside the mandi system or wholesale markets run by states under APMCs, which have become cartelized over time.

"The reforms will give new freedom to farmers. They will bring more options and opportunities for farmers to sell their produce," Modi said.

Congratulating farmers of the country over the passage of these bills in the Lower House, Modi said the reforms would "protect farmers" from "middlemen". "Middlemen stand between farmers and their customers; these middlemen take a big chunk of a farmers' income. These reforms have come as a protective shield for farmers."

APMC laws require farmers to only sell to licensed middlemen in notified markets, usually

in the same area where the farmers reside, rather than in open markets, which economists say scuttles price discovery, hurting farm profits.

The bill enables farmers and buyers of their products to trade outside these markets without any taxes and will therefore open up APMCs to competitions.

"The agriculture sector will benefit from modern technology and our farmers will also be empowered," the Prime Minister said.

Modi made a veiled but sharp attack on the Congress for opposing the reforms. "These people who would make big promises to farmers during election time, would do it in writing, and in their manifestoes, forget these promises after elections," he said.

"Now when the BJP-NDA (the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party-National Democratic Alliance) government is implementing those promises, which others have mentioned in their manifestoes, these people are wantonly spreading misinformation."

The Congress's 2019 manifesto promised to liberalize agricultural markets.

Modi said "people" who were opposing the reforms had promised them in their party's election manifestoes. "The same APMC Act over which they are doing politics and opposing changes to provisions of agriculture

marketing...these people mentioned these changes in their manifestoes, but have now come down to spreading lies."

Major farmer organizations, such as the Bharatiya Kisan Union and the umbrella All-India All-India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee, a front for nearly 200 farmers' groups, have opposed the bills.

Modi said people trying to "mislead" farmers didn't know how "aware" farmers of the country were. "They are watching; they know who is standing with middlemen."

Producers of items such as clothing, utensils, and shoes, etc, have the freedom to sell where they want, Modi said, adding: "Only farmers were deprived of this freedom. Now they will have the freedom to sell wherever they want in the world."

Referring to Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar, who was present on the occasion, Modi said Kumar knew the problems of farmers. "That is why he had reformed agriculture to remove the APMC law when he first came to power."

Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the government itself was spreading lies. "Tell me which farmer is happy? Look at the state of farmers in states like Bihar which have junked the APMC system and compare them with farmers of Punjab and see the difference."

UN must change to keep going: PM Modi

'If we don't change, drive needed for it will weaken'; PM seeks UN reforms, wants bigger decision-making role for India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday addressed the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and said that "reform in the responses, in the processes, and the very character of the UN is the need of the hour", especially in the context of the coronavirus pandemic.

He also made a strong pitch for India to be given a more decisive role in the decision-making processes of the global body, given that the country makes up for over 18 percent of the world's population. He also listed out India's achievements as a member of the international community and highlighted the welfare schemes introduced by the Centre.

Posing a question on the UN's relevance and role in the challenges faced by mankind presently, Modi said that while the organization can claim several "stellar achievements", there is a need for "serious introspection" on the work done by it.

"With the changing times, if we don't change, then the drive needed to bring change will also get weakened," the prime minister said.

"One could say that we have successfully avoided a third World War. But we cannot deny that there have been several wars and many more civil wars. Several terrorist attacks shook the world and rivers of blood have continued to flow by. Hundreds and thousands of children, who would have otherwise enriched this world with their presence, have left us prematurely," Modi added.

Notably, the prime minister didn't make any references to Pakistan and India's concern about cross-border terrorism in his speech. On Friday, Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan had raked up the Kashmir issue at the forum, which got a sharp retort.

However, Modi, in his speech on Saturday, chose to focus on the world's and India's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has caused one million casualties and disrupted lives around the world for the last six months.

Questioning the UN's role in mitigating the effects of the pandemic, Modi said, "Where is the United Nations in this joint fight against the pandemic? Where is its effective response?"



Detailing India's contribution to the global fight against the pandemic, Modi said that the country's pharmaceutical industry sent "essential medicines" to more than 150 countries. He also stated, "As the largest vaccine producing country of the world, I want to give one more assurance to the global community today. India's vaccine production and delivery capacity will be used to help all humanity in fighting this crisis."

"India will also help all the countries in enhancing their cold chain and storage capacities for the delivery of the vaccines," Modi the prime minister said.

'How long will India be kept out of decision-making?' asks Modi Reaffirming India's "faith and respect" in the United Nations, Modi said that the

country has been "waiting for a long time" for a "logical conclusion" to the process of reforms in the UN.

"Today, people of India are concerned whether this reform-process will ever reach its logical conclusion. For how long will India be kept out of the decision-making structures of the United Nations?" he questioned.

He added that India, with the largest democracy in the world, has been a "leading global economy for centuries" and also "endured hundreds of years of foreign rule".

Modi said, "When we were strong, we were never a threat to the world, when we were weak, we never become a burden on the world."

"How long would a country have to wait particularly when the transformational changes happening in that

country affect a large part of the world?"

The prime minister also drew parallels between the founding principles of the UN and India's "fundamental philosophy".

"Within the halls of the United Nations, one has often heard the words 'Vasudheva Kutumbakam', meaning 'the world is one family'. In the United Nations too, India has always given priority to the welfare of the whole world," he said.

Asserting that Indians are aspiring for the country to play an "expanded role" in the global body's efforts, Modi said, "India is the country, which sent its brave soldiers to about 50 peacekeeping missions the world over to keep the peace. India is that country, which in the course of maintaining peace, has lost the maximum number of its brave soldiers."

Modi lauds 'Neighbourhood First', 'Act East' policies

Hailing the Centre's neighborhood-centric policies, Modi said that "any gesture of friendship by India towards one country is not directed against any third country." "From India's Neighbourhood First Policy to our Act East Policy, as well as the idea of Security and Growth for All in the Region,

or our views towards the Indo Pacific region, we have always worked for the interests of humankind and not driven by our self-interests," Modi said.

India will contribute 'rich developmental experience' as member of UNSC, says Modi In his speech, Modi also noted that from January 2021, India will join the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as a non-permanent member and expressed "gratitude to all fellow members states who have bestowed this trust upon India".

Speaking about India's agenda as a member of the UNSC, he said, "India will always speak in support of peace, security, and prosperity. India will not hesitate in raising its voice against the enemies of humanity, the human race, and human values - these include terrorism, smuggling of illegal weapons, drugs, and money-laundering."

Towards the end of his speech, Modi spoke in detail about the welfare schemes introduced domestically by his government. He added that the "Reform-Perform-Transform mantra has made great efforts to bring about transformation in the lives of millions of its citizens."

Financial assistance to NGO disposing of COVID 19 deceased in J'spur

JAGATSINGHPUR : The SamajBikash Mission [SBM] an NGO from the Raghunathpur area has been volunteered disposing COVID 19 deceased persons, was felicitated and granted financial assistance as per government guidelines by district

administration.

District collector S K Mohapatra bestowed an appreciation letter and cash award Rs 45,000 to SBM secretary Sarit Kumar Mohapatra and praised the efforts of the organization. The NGO has disposed of 6 bodies of COVID 19

deceased in Jagatsinghpur district while 7 deaths reported to date, will continue to assume the responsibility of disposal of the dead body of the COVID 19 suspect and confirmed cases in coming days, collector

Mohapatra hopes.

As per government guidelines an amount Rs. 7,500 would be given to the organization or individual group per deceased towards expenditure for disposal of the dead body of COVID 19 suspect or

confirmed cases by adopting strict procedures and precautions.

While disposing of the body at the crematorium the family members are allowed to perform last rites according to their religion without touching the body,

maintaining a safe distance, standard hygienic precautions, using masks, and gloves.

The SBM Secretary Sarit Kumar Mohapatra said that our organization aims to provide help and support to needy people during their crisis

The altitude begins to take a toll in Ladakh

New Delhi : The Indian Army has observed Chinese medical teams evacuate a few soldiers of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) on stretchers from heights in the Finger Area on the northern bank of Pangong Tso to a nearby field hospital, officials familiar with the developments said on Friday, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

Some Chinese troops have been evacuated from the Finger 4 heights to a field medical facility ahead of Finger 6 during the last two to three days due to health complications linked to high altitude, the officials said, with the development turning the spotlight on the challenges of high-altitude warfare. The Finger Area, a set of eight cliffs jutting out of the Sirijap range overlooking the Pangonglake, is among the friction points in the eastern Ladakh theatre, where both armies have deployed almost 100,000 soldiers and weaponry in their forward and depth areas. Indian soldiers are barely a few hundred meters from Chinese troops who are holding positions on the Finger 4 ridgeline. As a harsh winter draws closer in eastern Ladakh, where Indian and Chinese soldiers are holding towering heights and already exposed to sub-zero temperatures, both armies will face the challenge of ensuring that casualties are related to high-altitude illnesses are kept at their lowest, the officials said. "Extreme weather at those heights of 16,000 to 17,000 feet is bound to create



health complications for soldiers --- both Indian and Chinese. And the harsh winter is yet to set in. The conditions will only get worse in the coming weeks and months," said one of the officials cited above. Indian soldiers occupying positions in the eastern Ladakh sector

logistics support, including medical facilities, to its soldiers deployed in forwarding areas -- more than 50,000 Indian troops are likely to remain stationed in the theatre through the winter months to deal any provocation by the Chinese forces. "It will be best for

illnesses that soldiers can develop at those heights. Around 1,000 soldiers have died guarding Siachen since the army took control of the inhospitable glacier in April 1984, almost twice the number of lives lost in the Kargil war. Almost a fifth of the casualties was linked

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have undergone the necessary acclimatization to be deployed at high altitudes and adequate forward medical facilities are available to cater for any emergency, said a second official. "Indian soldiers have held positions at even higher heights on the Siachen glacier. But high-altitude warfare comes with its unique challenges," the official said. Prepared for the long haul in the Ladakh theatre, India has made arrangements to provide

soldiers to lie low at those heights and avoid any unnecessary maneuvers or activities that could trigger severe health complications. Troops from both sides will face the same set of challenges as far as weather goes," said Lt General BK Chopra (retd), a former director-general of armed forces medical services. Chopra said high-altitude cerebral edema (Haco) and high-altitude pulmonary edema (HAPO) are among the serious

to enemy fire before the November 2003 ceasefire between India and Pakistan kicked in. The remaining deaths were because of nature's fury, accidents, and medical reasons. Advancements made in high-altitude medicine, better gear, best possible training, in-house innovations, and following proper drills have helped the Indian Army keep the casualty rates low in high-altitude areas, experts previously told.

9 Al Qaeda Terrorists Arrested In Kerala, Bengal Raids: Probe Agency NIA

While six terrorists were arrested from Bengal, three terrorists were arrested from Kerala in the early morning raids, it added.

New Delhi : Nine Al Qaeda terrorists were arrested this morning as multiple raids were carried out in Kerala and Bengal, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) said. The raids were

arrested from Bengal, three terrorists were arrested from Kerala in the early morning raids, it added.

"Large quantity of incriminating materials including digital devices,



conducted in West Bengal's Murshidabad and Kerala's Ernakulam.

"NIA had learned about an inter-state module of Al-Qaeda operatives at various locations in India, including West-Bengal and Kerala. The group was planning to undertake terrorist attacks at vital installations in India to kill innocent people and strike terror," an official statement by the probe agency read.

While six terrorists were

documents, jihadi literature, sharp weapons, country-made firearms, a locally fabricated body armor, articles and literature used for making home-made explosive devices have been seized from their possession," the NIA said, adding that "these individuals were radicalized by Pakistan-based Al-Qaeda terrorists on social media and were motivated to undertake attacks at multiple places," including Delhi-NCR.

J'spur cops bust sex racket, rescue a woman

JAGATSINGHPUR : Jagatsinghpur police busted an alleged prostitution racket operating from a hotel and rescued a woman including picked up a driver from the spot. Police raided the hotel located in Jogadhari on the outskirts of Jagatsinghpur town following a tip-off found that a woman in a compromising position while her clients were managed to flee before police arrival. We discovered a few wine bottles, unused condoms, and few objectionable articles in the room and brought the victim woman to the police station on Wednesday night late. Meanwhile, a car was seized allegedly used for transporting women from out of the district and its driver was detained at the police station for interrogation. Police have collected persons involved in this immoral business and a search drive has launched nabbing them, moreover, after performing legal formalities the victim woman has handed over to her guardian, informed Jagatsinghpur police station IIC Rajanikant Mishra.

Delhi journalist arrested under OSA, police say had classified defense papers



Rajeev Sharma runs a YouTube channel called 'Rajeev Kishkindha', which has 11,900 subscribers. On the day of his arrest, he uploaded two videos.

New Delhi, September 19: The Delhi Police Special Cell has arrested a city-based strategic affairs analyst and author under the Official Secrets Act (OSA) alleging that he had been found in possession of defense-related classified papers.

Rajeev Sharma, who has previously worked with United News of India, The Tribune, and Sakaal Times, and most recently wrote a piece for the Chinese newspaper Global Times, was arrested on September 14.

DCP (Special Cell) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said, "He is a resident of Pitampura, and was arrested by the southwestern range of Special Cell of the Delhi Police. He was produced before the magistrate the next day, following which he was taken into police custody for six days. He was found to have some defense-related classified documents. Investigation of the case is in progress."

Sharma runs a YouTube channel called 'Rajeev Kishkindha', which has 11,900 subscribers. On the day of his arrest, he uploaded two videos. One of them is an eight-minute video titled 'China may still do mischief #IndiaChinaFaceOff', in which he says, "Despite an agreement... reached between the foreign

ministers of India and China, the road to peace is still heavily mined. There is still no guarantee that everything will play out as per the script reached between the two foreign ministers in Moscow."

The other video is of four minutes, in Hindi, on the state of the media, which he tweeted with the caption, "The state of Indian media today is pathetic. It was supposed to be a watchdog. Instead, it has become a lapdog of the government." Late on Friday night, Sharma's Twitter account, which has over 5,300 followers, showed the following message: "Caution: This account is temporarily restricted. You're seeing this warning because there has been some unusual activity from this account."

On September 7, Sharma wrote a piece for Global Times, titled 'A rapprochement road map for Beijing and New Delhi benefits both countries', in which he said, "The steady deterioration of bilateral relations since the night of May 5, when the latest standoff began, has practically evaporated all the diplomatic gains of the past

years in one stroke. The current crisis is the biggest threat to normal ties between the two sides since 1962. It's a lose-lose situation for both. Their common objective must be to build a better and peaceful future for their peoples and not a military buildup against one another." As per Sharma's LinkedIn account, he has written many books. In May 2014, he wrote a piece for Firstpost titled 'Why ex-IB chief Ajit Doval is the best NSA India could ever get', in which he mentioned his "thousands of interactions with Doval". In the piece, he wrote, "Doval's appointment should send jitters to Pakistan, particularly the likes of Dawood Ibrahim, Hafiz Saeed, and Sayeed Salahuddin."

Sharma was one of the people who said last year that they had been alerted about their phones being targeted for surveillance through the Israeli spyware Pegasus.

"I got a WhatsApp message at 9.36 pm on October 29, saying my phone may have been at risk. The first call I got was from the Canada-based NGO 15-20 days ago... I was advised to charge my phone," Sharma had told at the time.

A mysterious white balloon fell in a remote village in the Gudvela block of Bolangir district

Bolangir, September 29: (Sudhir Mishra) Much to the surprise of SaanDangargaon, a village located 60km away from here in remote Gudvela block, a balloon fell from the sky in the paddy field on Saturday morning which created curiosity and panic among people

The balloon had a circuit and battery. However, as people gathered, somebody took away the battery

Tusura police seized the balloon and looking into the incident.

The points which created curiosity and remain unanswered were 1) Who and why would float a balloon and for what purpose. As it had a circuit and battery, it appears that its movement might have been controlled by remote somebody. But for what purpose? To study the atmospheric pressure/ changes and others?

From where it was sent and it was going to? Interestingly, over the area, there is an air passage route and every night one can see airplane moving in the sky. More curious point is that this area is located in the junction of three districts namely, Bolangir, Boudh, and Kalahandi.



From Page-1

OMBADC funds ...

of income disparity. Moreover, the Supreme Court-appointed Justice Anang Kumar Patnaik as the Oversight Authority to see whether the robust fund of the OMBADC is being properly utilized or not. Former IAF Wing Commander Kiran Sahu who is also the president of Keonjhar Civil Society Forum said that the people of Keonjhar district which had contributed the largest amount to the OMBADC had been deceived the most by the OMBADC board at the State level under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary of the State. Sahu said as per the guidelines of the SC, State Government must open one OMBADC cell at the district level but there is no OMBADC cell in Keonjhar although a similar cell is working in the neighboring Mayurbhanj district. Secondly, the people of Keonjhar are leading a miserable life for non-implementation of many major vital projects. There is no railway link between Joda and Barbil and no flyovers at the mining town of Barbil and Joda. There is no facility for training of heavy vehicle operators to meet the needs of an increasing number of latest models of heavy vehicles. The haphazard-construction of NH- 520 adds to the existing traffic problem that goes unheeded. The forum has been tired of writing letters to the appropriate authorities seeking redressal of the problems faces by the mining-affected people of the district. In another twist to the tale, the PCC president Niranjan Patnaik told that the BJD and BJP have joined hands mutually only to meet their political ends not the needs of the mining-affected people and the Congress would raise the issues at different forums to enable the district to get a legitimate share of development. However, the writings on the wall suggest that the people are tired of listening to tall promises; only actions of development are the need in their menu.

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Farm laws to bring more freedom and better prices



Opposition parties and some farmers' organizations have protested against three new agricultural reform laws. These provide much-needed reforms that will help farmers get a better price by cutting out middlemen and improving marketing efficiencies. The protests arise from false accusations that the new laws mean the abolition of minimum support prices (MSP) and procurement by central and state governments.

The new laws give farmers the freedom to sell their products anywhere in India. Ask yourselves, would you rather be free to earn a salary or sell goods

or services anywhere in India, or only in places designated by state governments, only after paying middlemen a commission, and only after paying a tax to state governments (akin to the mandi tax paid by farmers)? That would be condemned as an outrage. Farmers must be as free as non-farmers to buy and sell anywhere in India.

Farming is not an attractive occupation. Surveys show 42% of farmers want to move out of it. Between 1970-71 and 2015-16, the number of farms more than doubled from 71 million to 145 million while the average farm size more than halved from 2.28 hectares

to 1.08. Nobody can earn a decent income from such tiny farms. The main solution lies in moving people out of agriculture into manufacturing and services.

Opposition parties claim the freedom to sell will mean the end of government procurement at MSPs. That is a plain falsehood.

The government will continue procuring some (though not all) produce at MSPs. How else will the government get the grain for ration shops? Alas, we live in an era of fake news. Since one hectare of cereals will not yield a decent income, small farmers are shifting to animal husbandry,

vegetables, and fruit. This yields more income from less land. But vegetables and fruit are perishable and cannot be procured and distributed by slow-moving government agencies. The best way forward is for groups of farmers to strike contracts with agro-processors. Contract farming will create scale economies for farmers and ensure a minimum price.

Leftists say farmers will lose and only corporations will gain. How so? Any farmer can opt into or out of contract farming. Over two decades, ITC has set up e-couplers, procurement centers with electronic information enabling farmers to track prices at mandis and foreign markets, satisfying themselves they are getting a fair price. E-couplers help up to four million farmers growing soybeans, coffee, wheat, rice, pulses, and shrimp in 35,000 villages across 10 states. This helps farmers who participate voluntarily. Yet ITC's profits are so modest that rivals have not rushed to copy it. The same will be true of contract farming.

Besides, contract farming will encourage group

farming by small farmers to reap scale economies. The buying corporations will have a high incentive to provide farmers with the best new technologies and farm practices, something government extension services have failed miserably to do.

The Essential Commodities Act was enacted decades ago to stop hoarding. States could decree stock limits for traders and prevent them from moving goods across states. In practice, it hit farmers too. They were not protected if the prices of potatoes or onions fell but were prevented from reaping high profits when prices rose. It also meant little investment in agri-warehouses that are essential for farming in other countries. Which trader will invest in large warehouses if the government suddenly imposes stock limits that make him a criminal? The amendment of this Act will help farmers benefit when prices rise.

Some politicians think government procurement of all farm produce at a high price is the solution. However, global experience

shows that if the government-guaranteed price is above international levels, this will induce a glut for which there is neither domestic nor foreign demand. The European Union used to have high farm support prices that created mountains of unsold meat and butter and lakes of milk, which were ultimately sold at a huge loss to the Soviet Union. Now the EU has shifted mainly to direct income support for farmers.

India is shifting in a similar direction with Telangana's RythuBandhu scheme (Rs 10,000/acre) and Modi's PM- Kisan scheme (Rs. 6,000 per acre). Best is Odisha's KALIYA, providing cash transfers (Rs 10,000/acre) not just to landowners but also tenants and sharecroppers; Rs 12,500 to landless households to start poultry, goat-rearing, and fisheries; Rs 25,000 over five years for small and marginal farmers to buy inputs; and insurance benefits.

In sum, farmers need the freedom to sell, move out of agriculture, and cash support rather than high prices in the interim. That's the way to go.

IOCL holds an interactive meeting with local Sarpanch's

Paradip : An interactive meeting organized at Paradip Refinery with the participation of Sarpanches of 11 neighboring Gram Panchayats adjoining to IOCL. A.K. Bhagawati, CGM (HR) warmly had

greeted the Sarpanches with word of appreciation for their support and contribution which helped Paradip Refinery in safely executing the Shutdown job. During the shutdown activities, the Sarpanches had extended support in

accommodating 800 plus local contract workers in the Temporary Medical Centres (TMC) placed in different panchayats. This arrangement devised under the guidance of District Administration had helped in successfully

handling the workers and curbing the spread of COVID infection. With support from Paradip Refinery food, sanitation, transport, and other facilities, the Sarpanches efficiently managed the TMCs ensuring that the

contract workers attend duty from these centers with a comfortable stay. In the meeting, a brief presentation had presented explaining safety, pollution control measures systems installed in the refinery.

Paradip Refinery has undertaken different projects under CSR & CER initiatives for the collective growth and well being of the society. The representatives had apprised about the progress of these projects.

Dolly Kitty Aur Woh Chamakte Sitare



scene near the end of the screen where right-wing goons tear apart a sculpture representing the female genitalia. That, in sum, explains how even today the patriarchy is scared to bring about female sexuality out in the open. In another scene, when Amit accuses Dolly of infidelity, she retorts that he's someone who has been using an app to indulge in sex chats with strangers daily. And ironically, Amit's ire is aroused when he learns that Kitty is working for the same chat service. The film is a journey of self-discovery for both the leads. Dolly finds out that she isn't frigid. She's just been carrying the enormous guilt of not being a virgin before marriage. Her affair makes her free of it. And heartbreak teaches Kitty that love and sex are two different things. She too awakes from the nightmare of self-pity and denial and becomes a more confident self who now sees no shame in her profession and even proposes that a similar service should be started for women as well.

The film also bats for the safety of women. In a fleeting scene, we see a bus-conductor cajoling Kitty to come on board, and in another scene, uncouth passengers in an SUV harass her. Dolly, who works in a

Avg. Users' Rating	3.4/5
CAST:	Konkona Sen Sharma, Bhumi Pednekar, Vikrant Massey, Amol Parashar, Kalp Shah, Aamir Bashir, Kubra Sait, Karan Kundra, Hearty Singh
DIRECTION:	AlankritaShrivastava
GENRE:	Drama, Comedy
DURATION:	2 hours 10 minutes
All about Eve	

small office, makes tea for her domineering boss every day. And one day, she makes it just for herself and sips it contentedly, putting him in place with the gesture. Dolly recognizes her younger son is different. She initially reacts by beating him but later understands that like her, he's also been discovering himself and vows to support him in his journey. Apart from these obvious concerns, the film also takes potshots at the middle-class obsession of buying a bigger flat, having air-conditioned homes, or working in a 'respectable' job.

The climax is somewhat rushed. And some scenes do have excess melodrama. But overall the screenplay brings to you a big bite of reality. Director AlankritaShrivastava has been wise in her choice of

actors. Both Bhumi and Konkona make you feel you're watching Kitty and Dolly and not two actors essaying their roles. They share an easy camaraderie and give off the feel of cousins who have been close since childhood. Though they bicker and fight, they're there for each other when the time comes. Kudos to both on a job is well done. It was nice to see Neelima Azim on screen after so much time. She sparkles in her two-minute scene. The rest of the supporting cast have done their bits nicely as well. Alankrita, who was made famous by the dark comedy Lipstick Under My Burkha, adds another feather in her cap with the present film. Watch it for the issues it raises, as also for some refined acting displayed by the entire cast.

Dolly (Konkona Sen Sharma) is seemingly happily married to Amit (Aamir Bashir). They live in Noida and plan to move to a swankier home soon. Her cousin Kitty (Bhumi Pednekar) comes to live with them from Bihar but thanks to Amit's lecherous ways, moves out soon in a shady PG and starts working in a company which specializes in 'friendship' chats. She finds

a bohemian spirit (Kubra Sait) as her flatmate and opens up somewhat about life. She's disgusted by the work she has to do but soon finds solace in one customer Pradeep (Vikrant Massey) whom she meets up for a liaison. Dolly, who considers herself frigid and whose marriage is on the rocks because of that, hooks up with a delivery boy (Amol

Parashar) and discovers her sexuality. She tries to patch up with her mother (Neelima Azim) who had run off with a lover, leaving her kid behind but the rapprochement doesn't go as planned. Meanwhile, her younger son is going through an identity crisis of sorts... It's a layered satire on the hypocrisy surrounding female sexuality. There's a

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