

## Hi-Pot on Dum Chillum



Sirish C. Mohanty

**Cultivation of cannabis is illegal, but consuming Bhang or Ganja made from it isn't. Time for India to recast its drug laws, make them practical.**

its National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) 2018-2023. The study concluded that cannabis and its derivatives had an estimated 2.90 crore consumers across India in the 18 to 75 years age group and another 20 lakh users in the 10 to 17

years age bracket. The previous such survey, conducted in 2001, had estimated cannabis users in India at 87 lakh. (Page-15)



In 2018, a national survey was carried out to determine the 'extent and pattern of substance use' across India. This survey provided data on drug and substance abuse. The findings of the nationwide study served as the key to the Union ministry of social justice and empowerment for drafting



“ପବିତ୍ର ବିଜୟା ଦଶମୀ – ୨୦୨୦”

ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳଙ୍କ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

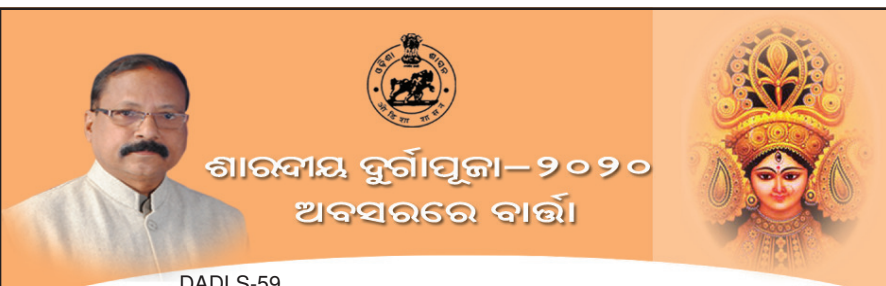
DADLS-59

ବିଜୟା ଦଶମୀ ହେଉଛି ଅସତ୍ୟ ଉପରେ ସତ୍ୟର, ଅନ୍ୟାୟ ଉପରେ ନ୍ୟାୟର ଏବଂ ଅଶାନ୍ତି ଉପରେ ଶାନ୍ତିର ବିଜୟର ପ୍ରତୀକ । ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ନିଜ ଜୀବନରେ ତଥା ସମାଜରେ ସତ୍ୟ, ନ୍ୟାୟ ଏବଂ ଶାନ୍ତିର ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା ଦିଗରେ ନିଷ୍ଠାପୂର୍ବକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରନ୍ତୁ ବୋଲି ମୁଁ ଆହ୍ୱାନ କରୁଛି ।

‘କରୋନା’ ମହାମାରୀ ବିରୋଧରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଲଢ଼େଇରେ ସାମିଲ ହୋଇ ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ସରକାରୀ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶ ଓ ପରାମର୍ଶ ପାଳନ ପୂର୍ବକ ଧୈର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଓ ସାହସର ସହ ମୁକାବିଲା ନିମନ୍ତେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର ସହଯୋଗ କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

ଶଶେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମିଶ୍ର  
(ଗଣେଶୀ ଲାଲ)

OIPR- 15001/13/0095/2021



ଶାରଦୀୟ ଦୁର୍ଗାପୂଜା-୨୦୨୦  
ଅବସରରେ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

DADLS-59

ପବିତ୍ର ଶାରଦୀୟ ଦୁର୍ଗାପୂଜା ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀ ସମସ୍ତ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ।

ସମ୍ପ୍ରତି କରୋନା ମହାମାରୀର ମୁକାବିଲା ପାଇଁ ଜାରି ହୋଇଥିବା କଟକଣା ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଚଳିତ ବର୍ଷର ଶାରଦୀୟ ଉତ୍ସବ ଓ ଜଗଜନନୀ ମା' ଦୁର୍ଗାଙ୍କର ପୂଜାର୍ଚ୍ଚନାର ଆୟୋଜନ କରାଯାଉଛି । ଏହି ପରିପ୍ରେକ୍ଷାରେ ମା' ଦୁର୍ଗାଙ୍କର ଧରାବତରଣକୁ ଆପଣମାନେ କରୋନା କଟକଣା ମାନି ପାଳନ କରିବାକୁ ମୁଁ ଅନୁରୋଧ କରୁଛି ।

ସଂସାରରୁ କରୋନା ଭୂତାଶୁର ବିନାଶ ହୋଇ ସ୍ୱାଭାବିକ ଓ ପୂର୍ବବର୍ତ୍ତ ଚଳଚଞ୍ଚଳ ଜୀବନଯାପନ ଫେରାଇ ଆଣିବା ପାଇଁ ଦୁର୍ଗତିନାଶିନୀ, ଶକ୍ତି ପ୍ରଦାୟିନୀ ମା' ଦୁର୍ଗା ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ଶକ୍ତି ପ୍ରଦାନ କରନ୍ତୁ, ସହାୟ ହୁଅନ୍ତୁ, ଏହାହିଁ ମୋର କାମନା ।

(ରଘୁନନ୍ଦନ ଦାସ)

ସୂଚନା ଓ ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ, ଜଳସଂପଦ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

OIPR- 15001/13/0095/2021



ମାନ୍ୟବର ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ  
ପୂଜା ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ

DADLS-59

ମାତୃଶକ୍ତିର ଆରାଧନା ଆମ ସଂସ୍କୃତିର ଅନ୍ୟ ବିଭବ । ଆଶ୍ୱିନରେ ମା'ଙ୍କର ଧରାବତରଣ ଚାରିଆଡ଼େ ଏକ ଆନନ୍ଦମୟ ପରିବେଶ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିଛି । ପବିତ୍ର ଦଶହରା ଅବସରରେ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କୁ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି ।

ଚଳିତ ବର୍ଷ କରୋନା ମହାମାରୀ ସାରା ବିଶ୍ୱରେ ଏକ ଅସ୍ୱାଭାବିକ ପରିସ୍ଥିତି ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିଛି । ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ନିଜିତ ଉଦ୍ୟମରେ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ସଂକ୍ରମଣ ନିମ୍ନଗାମୀ ହେଉଥିଲେ ମଧ୍ୟ ପାର୍ବଣ ଋତୁରେ ଆମକୁ ସଂପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ସାବଧାନତା ଅବଲମ୍ବନ କରିବାକୁ ହେବ ।

ତେଣୁ ଚଳିତ ବର୍ଷ ନିରାଡ଼ମ୍ବର ଭାବରେ ମା'ଙ୍କ ପୂଜା କରିବା ସହିତ ଭିତ ନ କରିବା, ଠିକ୍ ଭାବରେ ମାଷ ପିନ୍ଧିବା, ହାତ ଧୋଇବା ଏବଂ ସାମାଜିକ ଦୂରତା ରକ୍ଷା କରିବା ଆଦି ନିୟମାବଳୀକୁ କଟାକଟି ଭାବରେ ପାଳନ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ମୁଁ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କୁ ଅନୁରୋଧ କରୁଛି ।

ସଂପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ସାବଧାନତା ସହିତ ନିରାଡ଼ମ୍ବର ପୂଜା ହିଁ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ମଙ୍ଗଳମୟ ହେବ ।

ନବୀନ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ  
(ନବୀନ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ)

ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

OIPR- 15001/13/0095/2021



# Lockdown may be over, but virus still around : PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday warned the people against letting their guard down in the fight against Covid-19 in the festive season, saying the lockdown might have ended but the virus was still around. Addressing the nation, PM Modi also said the government was preparing to make Covid-19 vaccines accessible to all Indians as soon as it was available.

"In this festive season, markets are bright again but we must keep in mind that lockdown may have ended but the virus is still there. With the efforts of every Indian over the last 7-8 months, India is in a stable situation we must not let it deteriorate. Of late we have seen videos that show many people have stopped taking precautions; this is not right," PM Modi said. In his nearly 13-minute



speech, PM Modi also touched upon the Covid-19 situation in the country, saying the fatality rate of India was much lower than countries like the US, Brazil, Spain, and Britain. "The fatality rate in India is 83 out of every 10 Lakh population in India, whereas it is more than 600 in countries like the US, Brazil, Spain, Britain," he said.

He also said the recovery

rate in the country was good while stressing that this was not the time to be careless or to believe that Covid-19 had ended.

"5,500 people out of every 10 lakh population in India are infected, whereas in countries like the US and Brazil this figure is around 25,000. We will soon cross the 10-crore test mark. Increased testing has been a big strength in our fight against Covid-19," the

prime minister said.

The number of new coronavirus infections in India dropped below 50,000 for the first time in nearly three months, taking the Covid-19 caseload to 75,97,063. A total of 46,790 fresh infections were reported, while the death toll climbed to 1,15,197 with 587 fatalities. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease has crossed 67

lakh, pushing the national recovery rate to 88.63 percent, the Union Health Ministry said.

On the vaccine front, PM Modi said, "All countries are working on a war-footing for making Covid-19 vaccine. The government is making all efforts to ensure that vaccine, whenever it is launched, reaches every Indian."

According to the government, three vaccines are in advanced stages of development in India, of which two are in Phase II and one is in Phase III. The government had previously estimated that it is likely to receive and utilize 400-500 million doses of Covid vaccine and that as many as 25 crore individuals could be vaccinated by July 2021.

Last week, PM Modi said to ensure speedy access

to the Covid-19 vaccine, the delivery system could learn from the successful conduct of elections and disaster management. Chairing a meeting to review the Covid-19 pandemic and preparedness of vaccine delivery, PM Modi is also learned to have underlined the use of a strong IT backbone for vaccine administration.

"The Prime Minister stressed that every step in the logistics, delivery, and administration should be put in place rigorously. It must include advanced planning of cold storage chains, distribution network, monitoring mechanism, advance assessment, and preparation of ancillary equipment required, such as vials, syringes," a government statement said.

## SHG Members construct a road

**Bolangir :** It is a common sight to find rural women forming Self-help groups (SHG) and taking various income-generating activities to improve their livelihood and expanding their business further. However, Women SHG members taking of road construction are less heard /seen. Women members of MaaRanaghanta SHG and other SHG groups



members of village Kuhimunda is a small and obscure village in Uparjhar gram panchayat of the Deogaong block located 20km away from here, constructed a road by spending the profits they earned from

pisciculture last year. . Before this road, we used to go on the side of the paddy field (locally called KhetAdi) which was narrow. We called a meeting of our SHG members and deliberated upon and decided to

construct a road says Rukumani Pradhan of Ranaghanta SHG of Kuimhimunda village.

We decided to spend the income generated from Pisciculture by SHG members on our village road and we contributed Shramadan (Physical labor) and constructed the road last year. As a result of it we are now able to go out by vehicle, says Kanak Sahu of Kuhimunda village. However, the hurdles remain. One of the

shortest routes which connect upto the upparjhar road, private land is a problem that points out a lady. We urge the district administration to look into the problem and sort out, appeal Women SHG members.

Kuhimunda is a small village in Uparjhar gram panchayat of Deogaon block is without a road. Earlier a lot of developmental works like the supply of electricity, renovation of the pond,

and pisciculture were taken up there. It is satisfying to note that village women constructed a portion of the road. In a special meeting of Zilla Parshad, the problem of village Kuhimunda was mentioned. Efforts are on to provide the road to that village either through PMGSY or Mukhyamantri Sadak Yojana, informs Former Chairman of Deogaon Block Sri Laxman Meher to this correspondent.

# Education nobody's baby

**Collapsing private education may cost Rs 1.75 lakh crore a year**



**Shivaji Sarkar**

India's private school education is collapsing. Thousands of schools have closed down, many others are gasping and it may cost the nation over Rs 1.75 lakh crore a year. The lockdown has harmed the education sector immensely. Private education conjures up an image of spunky public schools with their high fee structure. These also are in crisis. Worse are the virtual budget schools, charging a fee of Rs 1,000 or less penetrating the rural, small-town, or low-income areas of metros, according to the State of the Sector Report on Private Schools by Central Square Foundation (CSF). There are about 15 lakh schools, with 26 crore students, according to World Education News and Reviews (WENR). In

the recently released Household Consumption on Education in India Report, the aggregate household expenses are on private schools, about Rs 1.75 lakh crore, almost equal to the e-commerce sector.

Though almost all are under stress due to lockdown the worst sufferers are virtual informal schools with government recognition or not but serving the hinterlands of the country. It has improved school enrolment especially in rural areas, where the number of students attending private schools has increased from 4 percent in 1993 to 26.6 percent in 2017-18.

The CSF report says the struggle is intense for the survival of private education. In normal circumstances, it is not

easy for private schools to attract students and during covid19 times it has worsened as parents refuse to pay fees. Weak and digital footprint has made online unaffordable.

So most such schools have either closed down or facing closure as they are neither able to pay their teachers nor afford infrastructure costs. Some had planned expansion in early March and taken loans. Many have gone into severe debt and even after closures are in distress. Most of these are entrepreneurial ventures by innovative individuals. In Fatehpur, UP, a shopkeeper's son started a school at Re 1-a-day pay concept. Since the students are not coming to school, entrepreneurs like him have little option but to close down the operations.

The impact on society is severe. These employ mostly jobless youth at low salaries or payment on a daily wage basis or as in Chennai on an hourly-payment system. But each school sustains at least 100 persons on average. The youth prefer to opt for such jobs for sustenance as well as the prestige they enjoy in the neighborhood.

In villages or semi-urban areas such schools have become the choice for parents, as they are perceived to be better than government schools, may not be in pedagogy but overall care that a child is given.

Teachers trained or not, since from the neighborhood, are considered defensible. This is making education more mass-based as the official system has many limitations and despite some recent efforts suffers from delivery problems. Recruitment of teachers itself is flawed as the disclosures from VYAPAM in Madhya Pradesh or recent disclosures by the UP government has shown. The UP government also found that the district officials interfere in Basic Shiksha schools and issued orders for severing these from the district administration. The orders stated that no district official should intervene in any such schools.

But online education has come up largely as a cropper in all such schools. The pandemic has given a sudden rise to the need of having a digital infrastructure and due to their low budgets, the unaided private schools claim that they are neither able to match up with elite schools nor with the state-run schools for which the content is aired through televisions, radio, and other government-run platforms.

Parents do not consider it to be an education. They do not pay the schools because their wards are not going there. Apart they find online - mostly mobile phones - teaching expensive for the high internet costs. Another problem they face is that

each child should have a smartphone, which they cannot afford.

Many children too do not find online interesting as it interrupts too often and teachers find themselves limited for lack of eye contact. Students mostly put off video because of the poor network across the country as also to reduce unaffordable data use. Digital, which the telecom companies are trying to promote for a revenue model, is collapsing the education system. At kindergarten and primary level, it is burdening the parents, mostly mothers, as they have to remain present continuously during online classes that in many cases have become the norm in metro cities. The parents complain that children do not consider "laptop teaching" like education and pester them to allow them to go to schools. Another aspect that has not been taken into account that home education has become cumbersome, more expensive, and uninteresting as in many families a child at home is a resource for family work or business. The pandemic panic is mostly being taken as a holiday and the society is complaining of apathy of the schools.

The students and their parents find being physically at school more affordable and at least fruitful because apart from the books they learn etiquette, interaction with peer groups, use of

the library, and social behavior, even if they quarrel or fight there.

So the society despite the low incomes does not mind paying for education and that is heavy. As per the MoSPI report, Indians are paying 12 times the money for pre-primary education at a private school. The number decreases to about three times at the higher secondary level. The majority, 70.8 percent of students pay less than Rs 1000 monthly fee, while 45.5 percent pay less than Rs 500. The monthly median fee in an elementary unaided school is Rs 958 in urban areas and Rs 500 in rural India. Schools complain that at least one-third of the parents default in paying that also.

The New Education Policy has also ignored the basic aspect of survival of private education, elementary to higher. The idea that greedy capitalists use it to shore up their bottom line is impractical. They have to survive on low fees and also pamper the policemen, government officials, panchayat pradhans, and sundry others. Many in the business even in the national capital are keen on exiting.

The shutdown of private schools can adversely impact 'education for all' and multiply unemployment. With apathy, low government allocation and high handedness education is becoming nobody's baby.



# Matrujyoti Scheme for Pregnant women Launched In Sundargarh



Rourkela : Sundargarh: To ensure antenatal care and improve the health care of mother and child, the district administration on Sunday launched the 'Matrujyoti' program. Speaking at the launch of the scheme at the collectorate here, district collector Nikhil PavanKalyan said, "In

Sundargarh, the maternal and infant mortality rate is lower than the state rate. We aim to further strengthen mother and child health programs under the 'Matrujyoti' initiative." The logo of 'Matrujyoti', which will be used as an umbrella program for various women and child

development interventions, was unveiled and the quarterly newsletter 'Ama Sundargarh' released on the occasion. The District Mineral Foundation, DMF Sundargarh, and Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC) have

provided funds for the 'Matrujyoti'. The MLAs of the district, Zilla Parishad chairperson, SP, PD DRDA, and CDMO were present at the ceremony. The district administration also signed an MoU with Humara Bachpan Trust to implement a life skills program for adolescent girls and women. The program is supported by the NTPC CSR fund. Similarly, a job-oriented residential training program on hotel management for migrants and local youth of mining-affected areas was launched. The candidates will be offered diploma and degree courses on the subject at the State Institute of Hotel Management, Balangir.

## 57th Plant Level Advisory Committee Meeting of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant held

Rourkela : The 57th Plant Level Advisory Committee Meeting of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) was held in virtual mode on 15th October 2020. Ms. Soma Mondal, Director (Commercial), SAIL, Satyabrata Sahu, Principal Secretary, MSME, Govt of Odisha, Dipak Chattaraj, CEO, RSP, UN Das, Additional Secretary, MSME, Govt of Odisha, Reghu G, Director of Industries, Govt of Odisha, S K Jena, Director, Export Promotion & Marketing, Govt of Odisha, S K Mohanty, GM, Regional Industries Centre, many other senior officers of RSP and Govt of Odisha, Office bearers of Rourkela Chamber of Commerce and Industry, DSSIA (District Small Scale Industries Association), OYEA (Orissa Young Entrepreneurs Association) and OASME (Orissa Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises) attended the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, Satyabrata Sahu praised the impressive contribution made by RSP in the growth and prosperity of the state of Odisha. Emphasizing on the philosophy of 'Vocal for Local' Mr. Sahu advised RSP to make every possible effort to promote the local MSMEs and ensure that they have ease in doing business. Advising the MSMEs to adhere to the requirements of RSP in terms of quality, timeliness, and volume, he said that both Govt of India, as well as Govt of Odisha, share the common goal of seeing the MSME sector prosper.

In his address, CEO Dipak Chattaraj reiterated the commitment of RSP to contribute its best in realizing the dream of the Prime Minister of an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat.' He also detailed the incentivizing scheme launched by SAIL, RSP in line with the 'Purvodaya in Steel Sector' initiative launched by the Union Minister of PNG & Steel Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan to accelerate the development of the region through promoting integrated steel hubs. Reghu G, Director, Industries, welcomed the gathering at the outset. D. K. Mohapatra, ED (MM) of RSP presented the introductory remarks. Ms. Anindita Mahapatra, DGM (MM-PIVD) of RSP made a detailed presentation on the various aspects of the business between RSP and MSME units.

## Rourkela's Tallest NIT Golden Jubilee Building Inaugurated



Rourkela : Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' inaugurated the golden jubilee building of NIT Rourkela in a virtual ceremony on 19th October. The building has been constructed to commemorate 50 years of the institute. Calling NITR as a "premier

institution" and the new building as a "symbol of prestige" Pokhriyal said NITR has been producing the best brains for the country. He stressed that such institutions would play a very important role in the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020.

## Sabji Coolers' for Sundargarh Farmers

Sundargarh, October 28: 'Sabji Cooler' or 'Zero Cooling Chamber', provided by the district administration under Odisha Livelihoods Mission (OLM), has come as a boon for the vegetable farmers of Sundargarh district. Built with indigenous know-how these coolers do not require any power source to function and can keep around 100 kg of vegetables fresh for 7 days. Sabji Cooler is a metal chamber developed by Mumbai-based Rukart Technologies which uses over 1,600 plastic balls to enable cooling. 'Desh Premi', a local producers group takes care of the installation and maintenance. The farmer only needs to construct a brick and cement chamber to house the cooler. This small chamber acts as cold storage. The project is funded by the District Periphery Development Fund.

## RSP wins the coveted RAN-NITI Award



Rourkela : The three-member team of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) comprising Prakash Chandra Sahoo, Bikrant Kumar Patel both Managers of Finance and Accounts Department, and Biswajit Jena, Manager, Instrumentation has brought laurels to the Steel Plant by winning the prestigious Director (Personnel)'s Cup - RAN-NITI - 2019-20. It is noteworthy that RSP has

won first place for the first time since the competition was launched in the year 2012. All 95 teams from different SAIL Units had participated in the competition, out of whom 14 teams competed in the finals. The event was conducted online taking into consideration the pandemic situation. The competition was organized by Corporate Office in association with the All

India Management Association (AIMA). It may be noted that the main objective of the competition is to encourage the SAIL executives to work in cross-functional teams and understand the importance of teamwork, strategy formulation, its execution, and the financial implications of their decisions on the company's business profitability.



# Collector accentuates strict adherence of model code and conducts during the by-poll



About 15253 people have been identified as special categories voters in Tirtol assembly segment included as PWD 9796, a person with age above 80 years old 5117 and Covid positive 340, from the 3681 persons have opted using postal ballot for the poll. Apart from voters only those, government officials, individuals with permission from the ECI will be allowed to enter polling booths, political parties must not campaign for votes within a distance of 100 meters of the polling booth on the day of the election. No MP, MLA, and minister should combine their official visit with election campaigning and party works, collector warned while briefing model code and conduct.

Apart from elaborate arrangements have been made for electrification and supply of drinking water in each polling booths have given priority, collector assured.

JAGATSINGHPUR, Oct 18: The by-poll for the Tirtol assembly constituency scheduled to be held on 3 November, model code and conduct have been enforced with immediate effect, consequently, contesting candidates, political parties, media, election stakeholders, and polling parties have been instructed to follow the ECI guidelines with letter and spirit, said district collector cum election officer Saroj Kumar Mishra. Collector Mishra reveals

that filing of nominations, scrutiny, and withdrawal of candidature process has been completed. 9 candidates from several political parties and independents remained in the fray the polls scheduled to be held on November 3 and results would be declared on November 10. Under model code of conduct, while political parties can only criticize the other candidates based on policies and programs and their work records, they are not allowed to use caste,

religion, and communal remarks to lure voters, carrying or burning effigies of the opponent candidates are disallowed. Political leaders cannot bribe or intimidate voters and most importantly they cannot criticize them based on unverified reports, the collector said. On polling day all party supporters who are working for their parties in the polling booth must wear a badge with party name and symbol as well as obey mandated Covid 19 rules wearing a mask

and maintaining social distancing strictly, collector revealed. It is mandatory for the contesting candidates and political parties to inform the local police about their rallies and public meetings, to be organized under Covid 19 guidelines comprising 100 attendances in administration selected venues in different blocks. 16 meeting grounds have been selected in different locations in poll-bound Tirtol areas where the public meeting would be

organized. Informing Covid safe election collector Mishra informed that all contesting candidates and political parties have been given Covid 19 guidelines for adherence, polling parties would be given gloves, face mask and shield as well as Personal Protective [PP] kits during pre and post-poll arrangements, all polling booths would be properly sanitized before go to polling, Covid 19 affected voters would cast votes later on before one-hour ending of polling.

## Corona-treating Physician succumbed to illness

JAGATSINGHPUR : Dr Deba Prasad Satapathy a renowned physician working in Santaldihi under Purulia district in West Bengal succumbed to his illness on October 16, he was 72 years old. Dr Satapathy on October 14 felt breathing syndrome and reported suffering acute respiratory problems as a consequence of coming to Bhubaneswar by ambulance for better treatment, but sadly he breathed on the way, later his body was cremated in Sahid Nagar crematorium after



conducting legal formalities. Dr Satapathy originally hailing from Rambhadeipur village under Jagatsinghpur block, after

completing medical graduation from VSS medical college, Sambalpur he had joined Coal India Ltd until he attained superannuation one decade ago, then he started his professional practice and medical service in Purulia district in West Bengal became a popular physician in the locality. Recently he had been engaged in Covid 19 works got popular in public quarter handling Corona affected patients unmistakably.

JAGATSINGHPUR : A police sub-inspector [SI] Bibekananda Sahoo working in Naugaon police station was placed under suspension by the superintendent of police Prakash R. The alleged cop reportedly found gross misconduct and dereliction of duty while working in Naugaon police station. The suspended SI was attached to the disciplinary control of Reserve Inspector office, Jagatsinghpur police headquarters until further order, an SP office press



release informed. On the other hand, sources said that a video was viral on social media exhibiting the alleged SI Bibekananda Sahoo was sipping wine in police

station accompanying few people link with liquor trade, SP conducted a confidential probe on the viral video, ensured the fact, and suspended the cop.



# Passion to make art of personalities on trees to spread the messages of protection of forest and environment

Baripada : Samarendra Behera a 26-year-old son of Maheswar Behera of Agada village under Betnoti police limits in Mayurbhanj district has a passion for curves arts of eminent personalities of the Country on the trees to spread messages among the people over the protection of forest and environment. By profession, he is an art lecturer serving in a private college in the Kendrapara district. Due to the closure of the educational institution for Covid-19, he has curved art of eminent personalities like

Utkalamani Gopabandhu Das and Dr. ABJ Abdul Kalam the former President of India in on the trees in their birthday besides curving portrayals of cine stars Sonu Sood, Sabyasachi Mishra, late cine star Rishi Kapoor and other cine stars on carton boards and images of cine stars and culture base images on bamboo cups and pan stands which have magnetized people. "Every person has a personal choice and hobby. I have a passion to make a difference from others in society. The curved arts of important



people, wildlife, forest, environment, culture, and religious-based things is my passion. I have decided to prefer it only to spread messages to aware". He says that when he is now at home due to the closure of educational institutions for Covid-19, he decided to expose his skill and curved the art on trees. He has decided to curve art of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on a tree dedicated to his birthday on 31 October. Another small size sculpture of Mahatma Gandhi was made on soap during his birthday held on 2 October.

# Flood-affected people cry for Government housing schemes in Balasore

Balasore : The Centre and State Government beat drums over the implementation of flagship schemes for the economically challenged to be provided house as a basic requirement for human survival. The flood-affected people in Bishnupur Panchayat have been deprived of such a facility for a long. They have to spend sub-standard life as their grievance is not fulfilled due to apathy of the politicians and local administration, alleged the villagers of Rashalpur and Nayabali. One Basanti Bodehi (35) is one of the flood-affected people of Rashalpur village who is yet to get a house under Government housing schemes. She with her husband Dhananjay (40) along with his two children is



spending days under a dilapidated thatched house. Her house is situated 200-meter away from the Subarnarekha river bed. They can see stars in the sky at night

and sunlight in the day as the roof of the house has been damaged in recent rain and the thatched house may collapse any movement as the recent flood of river Subarnarekha

has wrecked it. Basanti said her husband is a daily wagger and the entire family depends on his income. For eight months due to a pandemic situation, the income of her husband is not sustainable due to poor demand for daily labor. Though she was waiting to get a house either by Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana or Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana nothing could be availed for long due to apathy of Ward Member, Sarpanch, and local administration. She said for 15 years of her marriage, her husband used to meet Ward Member, Sarpanch, and Block Development Officer pleading for a house. But, until now all she got was only assurances. "I spent Rs.2000 to Rs.3000 every year before the rainy season to repair the roof of

the house. Due to the pandemic this year, I cannot repair the house. The house may collapse any movement as the recent flood has wrecked the house. Basanti complains that the houses under the scheme are given to such people who have politically involved and support the BJD ruling government. Bleakness Ranjan Bodhei (40) also a flood victim of the same village said he has not built a concrete house and is spending his family for years in a risky-to-live house. Despite all his efforts, he is still waiting for a house under the scheme. Another similar example is Bangra Dalei a 55-year-old citizen of Nayabali village in the same Panchayat in Baliapal block expressed his discontentment that his village Ward Member Sunil

Kumar Jena has been assuring to sent his application for a house to BDO for the last two years, but his application is yet to reach block office. He said that during floods he use to shift his family to a school building. Bishnupur Sarpanch Swaraswati Das said that the applications of the people in Nayabali and Rashalpur for the house were given to BDO in a phased manner. Timely they will get, she said that due to pandemic time the selection process and other administrative work remain slow. Yet they will be allowed house under Government schemes. Additional District Magistrate Sambit Kumar Nayak said due to by-election no inquiry will be made in the time. Yet, he will inform the Collector and DRDA about this issue.



# Old lady binds the audience with her voice of Odissi classical genres



Kendrapada, October 28- (Rajesh Behera) She has hogged the limelight for her energetic singing of classical Odia bhajan, verse, and traditional

Odissi genres, despite being at the twilight of her age and going strong. Her classical singing has become viral and she won accolades from all quarters

on social media. Meet the nonagenarian old lean and thin old widow, Koilimoharana, the widow of Batakrushna Moharana, a resident of Atharabatia

village under Pattamundai block. Due to old age, she cannot see and hear properly. But, she is still going strong with her singing.

Her singing of all the traditional Odissi genres of Chaupadi, Chhanda, Champu, Chautisa, Gita Gobinda, Bhajana, Janana, Pallabi is no less than a professional singing. She can bind the audience with her lively performance of singing the traditional Odia genres by playing the harmonium.

According to Koili Moharana, she had a weakness in singing from her childhood. When she was a girl, she learned singing from a

blind person, Guru Ram Sutar, of her village in Balipala under Mahakalapada. Later, she used to sing Odissibhajan, Champu, chaupadi, chhanda in her locality during village function. She fell in love with Batakrushna Moharana, who was a good singer and in a profession a carpenter. Later, they got married. "My husband was an admirer of Bhajan Samrat Late Bhikari Bal. Even my husband had made a harmonium and provided to late Bhikari Bal as he had a good relationship with late Bhikari Bal. Even, Bhajan Samrat Bhikari

Bal also praised my singing when he came to our house", said Koili Moharana.

But, as she failed to get time by remaining busy in nourishing her four sons, she had left singing. When she became old and failed to work, her interest once again develops in singing. Meanwhile, she used to sing the old classical Odissi genres before her grandchildren. Her grandchildren used to learn the dying art of Odissi genres of Chaupadi, Chhanda, Champu, Chautisa, Gita Gobinda, Bhajana, Janana, Pallabi.

## Villagers work for conservation and protection of Mangrove forest

Kendrapara : While all busy in denuding the mangrove forest to make the land into dollar spinning business by setting up prawn gheries and also to convert the forest land into homestead land by disturbing the ecological balance and fragile ecosystem, here is an exception, where one can find the villagers have engaged themselves in protecting the mangrove forest in their area at a perennially Bengali dominated coastal village of Kandarapatia in Mahakalapada block. The villagers, including the womenfolk, have engaged themselves in protecting the mangrove forest that plays an important role in protecting the areas from a catastrophe like Cyclone, tsunami, maintaining ecological

balance, and controlling environmental pollution. Mangroves are the Earth's natural filtering system, capable of absorbing pollutants, carbon dioxide and store carbon in their sediments, thereby reducing the impacts of global warming. A population of nearly 500 of 56 families has been staying at Kandarapatia village under the Jamboo Gram panchayat of Mahakalapada block. All the families came from Digha, Kanthi, and Medinapore areas of West Bengal and settled here in forest land since the 1960s. Like others, they were also destroying the fragile ecosystem by cutting mangrove forests for their daily uses till 1996. But, everything was changed, after the M. S. Swaminathan foundation came to the

village in 1997 and educated them about the significant role of mangrove vegetation in coastal pockets during the catastrophe and provided mangrove saplings to make the area greenery with mangrove cover, said Samal Majumdar, the village Head of Kandarapatia village. "Whether it was 1999 Super cyclone or Hudhud or Phailin or Fani or Amphan when the nearby villages faced the onslaught of Nature, but our village was saved from Nature's fury as the standing mangroves trees acted as a bio-shield. Later, the villagers came to know about the adverse impact of denuding of mangrove, which becomes more prone to catastrophe and Nature Fury by inviting tidal



surge to the human habitation. The farmers are losing their livelihood as saline water has been ingressing into their agriculture land at regular intervals and making the land infertile. Similarly, toxic substances have been discharged. As a result, the MS Swaminathan Foundation came to their

rescue and helped them to plant mangrove vegetation and to protect the mangroves by taking conservation measures. Being educated about the positive quality of Mangrove species near the coast, all the villagers organized a meeting and decided to conserve mangroves. A Forest protection committee, consisting of 11 villages,

was formed in 1999. Even, the women of the village also promised before the village presiding deity - Maa Budhi - to lend their helping hands with the male persons for guarding the mangrove plants and not to destroy the mangrove vegetations in their areas, added Arati Majumdar, a lady, who has engaged herself in mangrove forest protection work.



# Civil society must play a role in governance



Sirish C. Mohanty

A successful democracy does not necessarily involve successful governance. The fight against poverty is far from over. We must rediscover the virtue of self-scrutiny, and we need to prevent wastage of our precious resources. In light of these observations, we need to scrutinize whether the Indian democratic experiment of the last seven decades has been ideal and successful. Ours is an electoral democracy like others across the globe. Some are successful, others are a failure. We need to evolve electoral democracy into a participatory democracy where the voice of civil society, including the media, is heard and respected. State power according to the constitutional and legal scheme is shared at present by elected political

institutions and the unelected such as the bureaucracy, police, judiciary, Attorney General, Comptroller and Auditor General, Election commission, etc. There is no place for civil society in the decision-making process of elected and unelected institutions. Participatory Democracy envisages legal recognition for civil society in the law-making process. It does not mean civil society members are conferred with voting rights. It only means that their voice is heard and respected in shaping the bill. It applies, particularly, to important legislations such as Lokpal and LokAyukta laws that are meant to fight corruption. It would be equally true in respect to the stillborn Accountability law and the

defective Right to Information Act of 2005. If labor laws are to be passed or amended, workers, labor unions and management need to be involved in debates and discussions in committees making recommendations for law-making. Civil society's representation is the need of the hour in the various committees, commissions, and Boards and Tribunals (public authorities) that take decisions while implementing laws. This would include bodies that make recommendations for grant of a license or commutation of prison sentences, etc. Civil society needs to be represented in the annual assessment of public officers. Similarly, it should be represented in the Cabinet's appointments committee

which approves postings of officers above the rank of Joint Secretary and public sector undertakings, and in the NitiAayog which is responsible for huge discretionary grants to states, to reduce discrimination. Civil society must also be part of the decision-making process in appointments to the higher Judiciary. Inclusiveness in the decision-making process is important. In judicial administration, troubled in recent times by allegations of lack of democracy in managing the roster in the Apex Court and in the matter of granting stay orders indefinitely by High Courts, there is a need for civil society oversight. Civil society also needs to be involved in the social audit of public works under execution both for the time limit and standard of work. We also need to eliminate certain negative features of democratic politics to make the exercise successful. Party fund collection needs to be limited to members of the party. If 10 percent of the population is affiliated with a party, a small donation from each member will ensure the

sufficiency of funds. Donations from capitalists, crony capitalists, and mafia dons must stop. Party functionaries need to be defined as public servants falling under section 21 of the Indian Penal Code for accountability in managing the fund. "Election" to party positions needs to be the norm and not an exception. Chief Ministers of States should not be appointed using the sealed cover method devised by party high commands. Dynastic politics must end. Crime-tainted individuals should not be sent to Parliament and State Assemblies. Bribing voters, rigging polls, and defections must stop. Only pre-poll alliances must be allowed. Post-poll alliances should never be allowed as it cuckolds the voters. To make governance more meaningful, we need a law on Accountability. It exists in neighboring Pakistan. Accountability would cover wrongful omissions, commissions, and crimes of public officials and Ministers. It is at the heart of good governance. Any government that checks

professional and organized crime, Maoists, terrorists, tax-evaders, and corruption can be considered good. The experience of the common man when he approaches a police or revenue official or a Court of Law is the benchmark for good governance. Political parties that shelter goons to intimidate, threaten, or cause physical harm to independent thinkers, authors, journalists, and civil society activists are a threat to a functional democracy. Many a time, police will be a silent spectator or active participant in this nefarious game. Police possess the "soft power" of filing FIR or ignoring to file one, of pursuing honest investigations or going slow. The police also possess the "hard power" of using force including firearms that snuff out the lives and liberties of citizens. Unelected institutions like the Police, Bureaucracy, Judiciary, and Army have a large role to play in ensuring the rights and liberties of citizens. The elected polity is not the sole repository of State power.

## Editors Guild expresses concern and dismay on actions against OTV

Bhubaneswar, October 17: The Editors Guild of India on Friday expressed dismay and concern over the action taken by the Odisha government against the Odisha Television Limited (OTV) and its senior journalist Ramesh Rath. Conveying displeasure over the vindictive manner in which the government and its agencies have acted against the media, the non-partisan association of editorial leaders in India said, "Such acts undermine the independent functioning of media organizations." In a letter, the EGI said, "... On the same day in the

Keonjhar district of Odisha, the state police picked up a senior journalist, Ramesh Rath, employed with a regional news channel, OTV, on charges of having circulated an obscene video last year. OTV has stated that the journalist has been targeted for having done a series of reports exposing the Biju Janata Dal government in Odisha, although the state police have denied the allegations, saying that no arrest has yet been made." "The Guild believes that such actions threaten as well as undermine the independent functioning of the media

organizations. These should be withdrawn forthwith," the letter read. Notably, Rath was picked by police on October 15 near his residence, a day after OTV telecast an expose on Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's claims of an aerial survey of the flood-hit areas of the State, which was based on RTI revelations. Rath was entangled with an old viral video case of 2019 reported from Keonjhar and forcibly picked up from near his residence. His two mobile phones were also seized. Despite full cooperation from OTV and Rath into



the investigation of the case, the scribe was lifted and later released at 10

pm on the same day after writing an undertaking. Rath has been asked to

appear before the Keonjhar police on October 21.



# 5 Cars That Failed Miserably In India In The Last 5 Years

India is one of the largest automobile industries in the world, however, the market is still very tricky, which is one of the reasons many international manufacturers fail to survive here. Experimenting by entering an unexplored segment in the Indian market does not always go right, and it has spared no manufacturer currently operating in the country. Even while most of the carmakers now have a full understanding of what the Indian buyer wants, new products always have a probability of being a hit or a miss. However, there are also some instances of manufacturers entering a well-established space, and yet still failing to make a statement because of an incompetent product. We have compiled a list of five such cars that failed miserably in the Indian market in the last 5 years, take look -

1. Renault Captur: The Renault Captur was launched in the Indian market in 2017, at a time when the compact SUV segment was scarce and was solely dominated by the Hyundai Creta. At a time when the shift towards SUVs was on the rise, buyers wanted a bold and muscular looking SUV that did not burn a hole in their pocket. The Captur had everything to take on the Hyundai Creta, but it certainly lacked the muscular SUV looks that the latter offered. The edgy crossover design certainly did not please

the Indian market, and Renault ended up discontinuing the Captur in 2020 due to embarrassing sales numbers.

2. Tata Tiago/Tigor JTP: Tata Motors entered into a 50:50 JV with JayemAutomotives Pvt Ltd in March 2017 to develop special performance vehicles based on the existing Tata cars, and later, launched the hot hatch Tiago JTP and its sedan sibling, the Tigor JTP. As compared to the regular Tiago and Tigor's 1.2-litre NA petrol engine (86 PS/113 Nm), the Tigor JTP and Tiago JTP were plonked with BS4 Nexon's 1.2-litre turbocharged petrol engine that was tuned to put out 114 PS of maximum power, along with 150 Nm of peak torque. With a premium of just around Rs 1 lakh over their regular counterparts, the Tiago JTP and Tigor JTP were expected to rock the market. However, both of the cars failed to attract buyers, who were attracted to bigger yet similarly priced premium hatchbacks. Earlier this year, Tata Motors ended the JV with JayemAutomotives by buying the latter's stake in JT Special Vehicles (JTSV) and discontinuing the two performance-oriented cars.

3. Maruti Suzuki Baleno RS: The Maruti Suzuki Baleno RS could not be given a miss when we're talking about affordable performance-oriented cars. Given the Baleno's



**India is one of the largest automobile industries in the world, however, the market is still very tricky, which is one of the reasons many international manufacturers fail to survive here. Experimenting by entering an unexplored segment in the Indian market does not always go right, and it has spared no manufacturer currently operating in the country.**

popularity, Maruti Suzuki thought that it was the perfect time to launch the Polo GT and Tata Tiago JTP rivaling Baleno RS - a performance-oriented version of the premium hatch. Over the regular Baleno, the RS version featured aesthetic changes to make it look sportier including a redesigned front and rear bumpers, smoked headlamps, and blacked alloy wheels. It got a 1.0-liter Boosterjet turbo

petrol engine producing 102 PS power and 150 Nm torque, mated to a 5-speed MT. However, owing to limited success, the Baleno RS was let go in January this year.

4. Volkswagen Ameo: Volkswagen introduced the Ameo to bridge the gap between the Polo and the Vento in its portfolio, and the car served as the German automaker's most affordable sedan in the country. However, the Ameo was never able to

keep it up with its competitors like the Maruti Suzuki Dzire, Honda Amaze, Tata Tigor, and Hyundai Aura/Xcent, and the low sales volumes resulted in Volkswagen taking the sedan off the shelves.

5. Honda BR-V: Honda decided of introducing a unique, affordable 7-seat car with a different approach altogether, and ended up launching the BR-V in India in 2016. The BR-V was a 7-seater but

featured crossover styling - something that, at that time, no other manufacturer was offering at the price point of under Rs 15 lakh. The crossover MPV came equipped with the same 1.5-liter diesel and petrol powertrains as the Honda City, however, the car did not perform well in the Indian market. Hence, Honda ended up discontinuing the BR-V from the country once the BS6 emission norms came into effect.



# Nagarjuna Besha: Sculptors Begin Preparations For Rare Incarnation

Puri : With just a month before the once-in-a-generation occasion of the Nagarjuna Besha of Lord Jagannath, sculptors and artisans have initiated preparations for the rare attire rituals. Nagarjuna Besha of the Lords was last held in 1994. As per tradition, it is celebrated when the Panchuka (last five days of Kartika month) is observed as six days. This year, due to an extra month after Ashwin (Adhik Maas), the special besha of the Holy Trinity will be held on November 27, the extra day (sixth day of Panchuka). The deities will be dressed like warriors with golden attire of several weapons including arrows, bows, Hala (plough), Chakra (wheel), and Musala

(mace).

Beshasilpis, the artisans in charge of designing the special costumes of the Lords will begin crafting the attire from Monday. Various types of raw materials like Santara Patta, thermocol have already been procured for the designing exercise.

The artisan community is quite excited to see this extraordinary occasion unfold before their eyes. Many of them who will take part in the process for the first time in their life have expressed their delight.

"I am really happy to be witnessing this rarest of the rare besha of Mahaprabhu. I don't know much work because I had never taken part in this ritual before so I will fully cooperate with the senior artisans and sculptors who



have the experience," said a carpenter Basant Rana. As per mythology, historians say the besha is celebrated commemorate the killing of Sahashrarjuna by Parsuram, the warrior incarnation of Lord Vishnu. With the winter season about to make its onset and Covid pandemic restrictions still in place, devotees and culture experts are wary that the occasion will be a low key

affair without any expected congregation of lakhs of devotees from all around the world.

However, many are hopeful that the government will make necessary arrangements so that people across the globe will not miss the rare besha of the Lords.

Madhav Pujapanda, member of the Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee said "If Covid-19 restrictions

continue to remain in place, the administration will go ahead with its plan to organize the besha without any devotees. As people may not be allowed to enter the shrine, the Patitapabana, representative deity of the Lord Jagannath situated in the Singha Dwara will be adorned with the special attire so that devotees can witness the besha outside."

Jagannath culture expert Naresh Chandra Das said that if the government can adopt alternative measures like allowing less number of devotees into the temple at a time to ensure Covid guidelines remain intact, I think people will not have to miss this chance of their lifetime. Meanwhile, with the Kartika Brata set to begin from Monday, the

Puri Jagannath Temple administration has finalized all ritual timings of the shrine. Due to the pandemic protocols, the pilgrim town is exhibiting a deserted look this year as there is a ban on the congregation of devotees and also entry into the temple.

Habishyalis who throng the temple in lakhs every year to mark this holy period of abstinence from worldly affairs are a dejected lot due to the restrictions over the virus infection scare.

"I would suggest government relaxes some norms to allow habishyalis place to observe their rituals around the temple if not their entry into the shrine," said Madhav Mohapatra.

## Puri Swargadwar Sanitised; Admin Lifts Cremation Restrictions

Puri : The fire personnel today sanitized the Swargadwar after the district administration lifted the restrictions imposed on the conduct of cremations at the holy ground.

The fire personnel carried out sanitization at the crematorium ground to make it COVID-19 free.



Now the people from other districts in the State can come to Puri to conduct the last rites at the crematorium abiding by all Covid-19 restrictions.

There will be a ban on the congregation of more than 20 persons during funerals which will be strictly followed along with mandatory use of masks and social distancing norms, added Puri Collector, Balwant Singh.

## A Temple Where Ravan Is Worshipped On Dusshera

Kanpur : Even as the rest of India prepares to burn effigies of Ravan as a symbolic victory of good over evil, devotees are quietly lining up outside a nondescript temple in Kanpur.

This temple that opens its door for devotees only for one day in a year - Dussehra - is dedicated to the Lankan king Ravan. Devotees come from far and wide to worship Ravan on the day he was slain by Lord Ram.

This 150-year-old temple is located in the Shivala area and devotees light oil lamps as they offer prayers. The deity is decorated and 'aarti' is



performed.

"Ravan is worshipped as an embodiment of 'Shakti' (power) and 'Gyan' (knowledge). Ravan was a staunch devotee of Lord Shiva and is known for his knowledge and power.

"The temple here is a part of a Shiva temple complex and Ravan is worshipped as a guard of Lord Shiva. People believe that Ravan was also born on Dusshera - the day he was slain," says Pandit K.K. Tiwari,

the temple priest.

Devotees at the temple claim that when Ravan was dying, Lord Ram had asked his younger brother Laxman to take blessings from the king because his knowledge was unparalleled.



## Ambani succession is a chance to divide and rule



Mukesh Ambani can divide the \$200-billion Reliance Industries conglomerate and still rule if he wants to. India's and Asia's richest man has promised Silicon Valley investors that he will spin off tele communications-to-technology unit Jio Platforms and Reliance's retailing business from his oil-to-chemicals operations. That will leave three listed entities, and the 63-year-old Ambani has three children. But keeping family interests aligned is important, too. Ambani has made no public statements about succession, but his adult children are stepping up. Akash has been announcing developments at Jio, backed by Facebook and Alphabet-owned Google, and valued at up

to \$70 billion. Twin Isha is visible at Reliance Retail, valued at \$57 billion by investors including Silver Lake and Mubadala. The youngest, Anant, has joined the management team of the industrial division that Saudi Aramco has valued at about \$75 billion.

It points to the easy separation of fiefdoms with valuations in the same ballpark. That might avoid a repeat of Ambani's Bollywood-worthy sibling feud after the death of his father, the founder of Reliance, at the age of 69 in 2002.

### Family management

Even if the empire is divided, there is value in family unity. Reliance is 50.4 percent owned by Ambani, his mother, wife, three kids, and related

entities. Larger business groups in emerging markets find it easier and cheaper to access credit and have more influence with regulators and lawmakers. Keeping things in the family has paid off for Reliance: the Indian company has delivered total shareholder returns three times better than the Nifty 50 over the past 15 years, Refinitiv data shows.

Reliance dismissed as speculative an August report in Mint newspaper of Ambani forming a family council, but it would be a step towards something rare: a family-owned business group that lasts multiple generations. The Agnellis, the Italian clan behind Fiat Chrysler and the Juventus football team, manage the interests of

100-plus family members through a council, though they have largely yielded management to professionals.

At Merck, another potential example, the founding family controls the centuries-old \$19-billion German pharmaceutical and chemicals company through a board of partners that supervises the executive management. Something comparable at Reliance would be a contrast to Hong Kong's Li Ka-Shing, who in 2012 announced he would hand his companies to his eldest son and cash to the other. Ambani's ambition in business suggests he wouldn't shy away from seeking a legacy to rival the Mercks or Agnellis.

## Asia's Richest Banker Explores Takeover of IndusInd Bank

*Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., backed by Asia's richest banker, is exploring a takeover of smaller Indian rival IndusInd Bank Ltd., people with knowledge of the matter said, a move that would create the nation's eighth-largest financial firm by assets.*

Mumbai : Uday Kotak, founder, and chief executive officer of Kotak Mahindra, is looking at the possibility of an all-stock acquisition, one of the people said, asking not to be identified as the discussions are private. Uday Kotak and the Hinduja family have held initial talks over the proposal in which the founders of IndusInd Bank could retain a stake in the lender after a deal, another person said.

A deal would cement Kotak Mahindra's position as one of India's leading private banks, boosting its assets by about 83%. It would also throw a lifeline to IndusInd, which has seen its market value drop 60% to \$6 billion this year after being hit by concerns over worsening



asset quality and an erosion of low-cost deposits. Kotak in 2014 acquired the local unit of ING Group NV for 150 billion rupees (\$2 billion) in the largest takeover of a lender in India.

Deliberations are at an early stage and talks could fall through, the people said.

Kotak Mahindra's spokesman declined to comment. IndusInd "completely denies the said rumor and considers it malicious, untrue and baseless," the bank's external spokesman said in an email, adding the founders "reiterate their full support to IndusInd Bank, now and always."

The U.K.-based Hinduja family began discussions for selling control of the Mumbai-based lender following a dispute between the four brothers over the future of the family's \$11.2 billion fortune, one of the people said.

India's central bank earlier this year pushed back on the Hinduja brothers' plan to raise a stake in IndusInd, people with knowledge of the matter said in June.

Shares of Kotak Mahindra have fallen about 18% this year. Its 2.7 trillion rupee market capitalization makes it India's third-largest lender by value.

IndusInd's shares have fallen 64% in the past year as investors fretted over the founders borrowing money against its shares, worsening asset quality, and erosion of low-cost deposits. The brothers have since repaid the loan backed by shares of the bank.

## RSP Observe Vigilance Awareness Week

Rourkela : 'Simplify, streamline, standardize and digitalize to bring about more transparency,' urged Dipak Chattaraj, CEO, SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) while addressing at the inaugural function of the Vigilance Awareness

Week 2020 on 27th October. The program was organized in a blended model. While a central program was organized with few participants at the HRD Centre adhering to the COVID-19 protocol, the CEO, Executive Directors, GCMS and HODs joined on-line. Notably, every

year Vigilance Awareness Week is observed to commemorate the Birth Anniversary of the Iron Man of India, Bharat Ratna Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel.

V K Yadav, GM (Vigilance) readout message of the President of India, Sanjay Kumar,

DGM(Vigilance) read out the message of Vice President of India, J P Shukla, AGM(Vigilance) read the message from Prime Minister of India and S K Senapati, Manager (Vigilance) presented the message of Central Vigilance Commissioner



## UP registers FIR in TRP case and hands it to CBI

*Six people have so far been arrested by the police in the scam, which allegedly involves inducing homes which form the sample set whose TV viewing is monitored to ensure that certain channels get higher ratings.*

New Delhi : The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Tuesday took over the alleged manipulation of Television Rating Points (TRP) after registering an FIR. The central agency took over the probe from Lucknow police on the recommendation of the Uttar Pradesh government.

A case was registered in Lucknow's Hazratganj police station on the complaint of a person named Kamal Sharma, which was transferred to the CBI.

The FIR has been registered against unidentified people. The charges include manipulating the TRPs using forged means.

The alleged scam was brought to light by Mumbai police earlier this month which



registered a case. Republic TV is one of the four channels being investigated.

Six people have so far been arrested by the police in connection with the scam, which allegedly involves inducing homes which form the sample set whose TV viewing is monitored to ensure that certain channels get higher ratings.

The ratings are a key influencer of advertiser preferences while placing commercials.

ARG Outlier Media Pvt Ltd, which owns Republic TV, and its Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami moved the Bombay high court last week seeking to quash the FIR lodged by the Mumbai police against the channel in the case. The channel filed the petition in the high court on October 16, a day after the Supreme Court refused to hear a plea of one of its senior officials challenging the summons issued by the Mumbai police.

The Mumbai Crime Branch had earlier registered an FIR under various sections of the Indian Penal Code for cheating, criminal breach of trust, and criminal conspiracy against Republic TV and its senior officials, and also against two other local regional channels.

## MP Courts Controversy By Suggesting People Drink 'Handia'

Dhenkanal : BJD MP from Dhenkanal, Mahesh Sahu has courted controversy after a video of him suggesting people to make handia (an indigenous alcoholic-fermented beverage) out of putrid rice went viral on social media. Sahu has reportedly made the remarks while distributing rice and other food materials to residents at Pendarabasa village in the Palalhada area of Angul district on October 23.

According to sources, the parliamentarian distributed rice, chuda, sugar, gur, turmeric powder, and salt to the residents. About 244 elderly persons from Nijigarh, Dimiria, and Balipasi panchayats had gathered at Pendarabasa to receive the items. It was alleged that the food distribution was carried out violating Covid-19



guidelines.

Addressing the people after the distribution of the items, Sahu reportedly told the people that the rice packets were three months old stock. He further suggested the locals make the rice beer.

Reacting to the viral video, the MP admitted to having made the statement and

said 'why I would hesitate to tell the truth.'

"I told the people to serve the rice to gomaata (cow) if they cannot use them or make handia out of it and drink. I advised them to drink the handia before sunrise. Because the beverage becomes alcoholic after being exposed to sun," Sahu

said.

The MP also admitted that the people gathered there to receive the food items had violated the social distancing norms. "They were sitting slightly close to each other and had not maintained social distancing. But I had followed the norms," he added.

## New cooks on the menu to Parliament canteens

After 52 years of feeding India's lawmakers, the Indian Railways is set to exit the canteens and kitchens of Parliament complex by next month to make way for a new agency to feed Parliamentarians.

Northern Railway, which provides the catering arrangement in all food-serving facilities in Parliament House Estate-the canteens, annex, library building, various pantries - has received a communication from the Lok Sabha Secretariat, asking it to vacate the premises and hand over all equipment, such as computers, printers, furniture and the like, and recall all its staff by November 15.

Officials in Parliament and Railways confirmed the



development and said that as per the latest proposal, the Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), which runs the Ashoka Hotel, is set to take over the catering job. Food served in Parliament has been highly subsidized to keep the tariff low for the MPs, House staff, and visitors.

Usually, a committee of MPs oversees the catering arrangements in Parliament. However, the committee for the current Lok Sabha has not yet been constituted. Officials said the decision has been

finalized at the level of the Secretariat administration.

More than 100 Northern Railway staff-cooks, servers, kitchen staff, and others - are posted in Parliament. During House sessions, around 75 additional personnel from Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) are deployed as reinforcement. The Railways had a sanctioned strength of 417 catering staff for deployment in Parliament. Usually, the committee of MPs, along with the

Parliament administration, decides the rates and items of food served in Parliament canteens of various categories. However, Northern Railway is paid whatever cost it incurs from the Ministry of Finance through Parliament. Officials said the annual revenue from Parliament catering is to the tune of Rs 15 to Rs 18 crore.

Officials maintained that the move to get an alternative to Railways for catering for MPs had been contemplated even during the UPA tenure when Meira Kumar was the Speaker. "There have often been quality issues with the railway food," a Parliament official said.



# Gov't Brings Electricity Services Under 'Mo Sarkar', Launches Portal For Consumers

Bhubaneswar : To provide efficient, time-bound, and transparent service delivery to the electricity consumers of Odisha, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today launched a portal 'Mo Bidyut' and mobile app while announcing that the electrical services will be brought under the purview of 'Mo Sarkar'.

The Chief Minister launched the bilingual online electricity integrated consumer service portal, [www.mobidyut.com](http://www.mobidyut.com) developed by the Energy Department.

Speaking on the occasion, Patnaik said that this is one more transformational initiative under the 5T

mechanism.

The Chief Minister said that electricity is an essential service and impacts every aspect of modern-day life. Hence, this service will be monitored under 'Mo Sarkar'.

"Minister and senior officials will be in touch with consumers for their feedback," he added.

This will benefit more than 89 lakh electricity consumers of the state, the Chief Minister informed.

He appealed to the consumers and the general public of the State to take advantage of this facility to resolve their electricity service-related issues in a simple, easy,



and quick manner.

Also, the Mobile App developed for this facility will soon be available in the Google play store for download.

With the launching of the user-friendly web Portal, the consumers will be

able to avail of services about

i) New power connection up to 5KW for domestic, General Purpose, Specified Public Purpose, like irrigation, pumping and agriculture purpose within 48 hrs,

ii) Energy Bill Payment, iii) Grievance Redressal relating to electricity service.

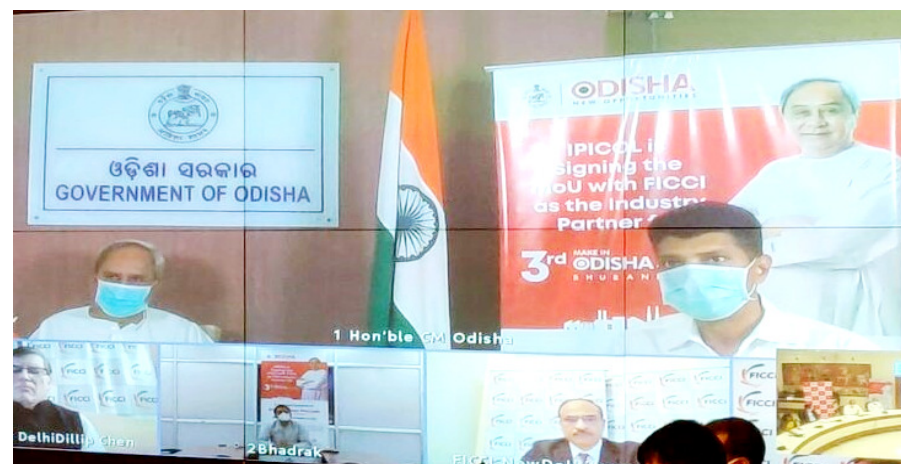
Designed as a uniform online facility for all four Power Utilities of the State such as TPCODL, NESCO, WESCO, and

SOUTHCO, this portal is also equipped with a proper escalation matrix & dashboard facility to ensure smooth flow of service disposal, status updating, and enforcing accountability of utility officials towards consumer issues.

Energy Minister Dibya Shankar Mishra said the department is committed to providing efficient services to people in a transparent manner under the 5T initiative.

Among others, Principal Secretary Energy, Nikunja Bihari Dhal, GRIDCO Chairman Sourabh Garga, Secretary to CM (5T), VK Pandian, and senior officials were present during the program.

## Plans To Make Odisha as Investment Destination



Bhubaneswar : The State has all the mechanisms put in place to realise the vision of making Odisha an investment destination of choice, both nationally and globally. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik reiterated it while addressing the MoU signing ceremony between the IPICOL and FICCI through video conference. FICCI will be the national partner of the State to support investment

promotion activities for the next edition of 'Make in Odisha'.

NB Jawale MD IPICOL at Bhubaneswar and Deputy General Secretary of FICCI Arun Chawla at Delhi signed the MoU.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said the positive policy framework, robust infrastructure, skilled human resources, and result-oriented administrative set up will help Odisha realizing

this vision.

He added that the 5-T Initiatives have brought about a change in Governance and making a significant contribution to the overall industrial ecosystem of the state.

With the signing of this MoU, he expressed confidence that the state will take the next leap in terms of industrial growth and development.

Welcoming FICCI as a

National partner, Patnaik said that the Make in Odisha Conclaves in 2016 and 2018 brought in a significant increase in the quantum of new investments resulting in the creation of a diversified industrial base in the State and as an outcome, the state has established itself as one of the premier investment destinations in the country. Highlighting the state's superior performance as an attractive investment destination despite Covid-19, the Chief Minister said that even during these trying times, Odisha has undertaken various investment promotion activities and leveraged digital technology to reach out to the investor community. This is evident by the fact that the state has attracted over Rs 24,300 crore worth of new investments since February 2020, he informed.

He further said that Odisha

has implemented a robust single window framework to enable seamless, hassle-free, and prompt investment facilitation services.

Wishing the partnership a great success, the Chief Minister said that the initiatives implemented by various Departments have led to expeditious implementation of industrial projects in the state.

Odisha remains amongst the top destinations in terms of grounding of industrial projects, he declared.

Industries Minister Dibya Shankar Mishra, joining from Bhadrak said that both the previous Make in Odisha was a huge success with combined investment offers over six lakh crore.

He added that over 60 percent of these investment proposals are in various stages of implementation.

Joining from Hyderabad, FICCI President Sangitha

Reddy said that Odisha has a special relationship with FICCI. Highlighting the investment climate of Odisha, she said that Odisha has all the critical building blocks for the success of the State.

The industry's body is honored to become the national partner and it will leave no stone unturned to make it a great success, she added. Two videos highlighting the achievements of previous Make in Odisha and the revival of industries during Covid were screened on the occasion.

Among others, Industries Principal Secretary Hemanta Sharma, Secretary-General of FICCI Dilip Chenoy from Delhi, Development Commissioner Suresh Mohapatra, APC-cum-ACS R.K. Sharma, Secretary to Chief Minister (5T) V.K. Pandian, and Monica Nayar Patnaik from FICCI Odisha attended the program.



# Dalai Lama and Tibet card hold key in future India-China border escalation

**Special Frontier Force soldier Nyima Tenzin's funeral ceremony was the first acknowledgment of the role played by Tibetans in India's elite SFF border units**

New Delhi: The myth of India's Tibet card is finally shattered with the rare recognition of a secretive Indian military unit with Tibetan soldiers called Special Frontier Force (SFF). The public display of solidarity during the Tibetan soldier's funeral ceremony, killed on the front lines of deadly clashes with China on 29 August, has virtually 'revealed' the secretive force raised by India through a lot of visibility to the event. Nyima Tenzin, a Tibetan soldier from the SSF was given a funeral with full military honors, wrapped in the Tibetan flag and the Tricolour, in Ladakh.

The ceremony was telecast across India and conveyed a solemn acknowledgment of the role ethnic Tibetans, descendants of those who sought refuge in India after China invaded and occupied Tibet in 1950, have played in India's elite SFF border units.

The event was more significant was the suggestion that India questioned China's sovereignty over Tibet, a red line for China. There was no response from the government if the publicity for the funeral was a policy shift or a signal to China that their current border standoffs at eastern Ladakh could be extended across the Himalayas, a strategic ace up the sleeve some analysts refer to as India's Tibet card.

According to Jayadeva Ranade, a retired

official of the external intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), "the recognition is a clear message to China that your countrymen are fighting alongside us."

"I don't remember this force being acknowledged like this earlier," added Ranade, who heads the Centre of China Analysis and Strategy, a research group in New Delhi.

India has been reticent about the nation's secretive SFF forces and their ethnic make-up. But the SFF is part of the RAW, India's external intelligence agency. But when it is deployed with the army, it is under the military's operational control. However, the army prefers to keep the relationship under wraps. Akin to the US Special Forces, every member is trained as a para-commando and operates undercover in conjunction with the Indian military. The US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) helped India train Tibetan refugees to become part of a special force, the forerunner to today's SFF, after the 1962 war.

The SFF and its Tibetan fighters have a valiant fighting record for India. The SFF played a crucial role during the Bangladesh Liberation Movement that helped defeat Pakistan in 1971 and create Bangladesh. SFF fighters also contributed to the 1999 war that dislodged Pakistani forces who had occupied heights in western Ladakh's Kargil.



Even though the Indian government hasn't formally acknowledged the Tibetan forces, the open support for the unit has aroused emotional appeal among the Tibetan-in-exile community who aspire to see Tibet as an independent nation.

According to Gonpo Dzung, President of the Tibetan Youth Congress, a body that has more than 30,000 members and is fighting for the region's freedom acknowledged "I strongly feel that the younger generation will join the SFF in larger numbers as the event has sent out a message that our contribution will be recognized."

Over 100,000 Tibetans live freely in different parts of India. Tibetans in China's Tibet Autonomous Region, however, face a high degree of state control over their lives and livelihoods, increasingly akin to the situation faced by ethnic Uighurs held in vocational camps in China's western Xinjiang province. Over the decades, Indian leaders have avoided being seen as supporting or aligning

new Cold War against China.

Analysts suggest that peaceful struggle could shift after the next Dalai Lama is selected, particularly as China is expected to attempt to prop up a successor chosen by it. The Dalai Lama, who has been based for decades in Dharamsala, has said any candidate handpicked by Beijing would be illegitimate. Geographically and strategically, India could be key in funneling support to any new Tibetan resistance.

Tibetan disaffection has grown coincident with Chinese repression and forced Sinicization of Tibetan-Buddhism culture, according to Lobsang Sangay, President of Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), who spoke recently during a webinar held on September 28. Chinese

President Xi Jinping has said the stability of China depends on the stability of Tibet. As recent as 2008, China's Central Military Commission ranked Tibet as its most critical sovereign challenge, ahead of even Xinjiang and the self-governing island Taiwan, said Sangay.

It's not clear if or how India may opt to play its Tibet card, but taboos on mentioning Tibet are breaking down. Analysts suggest New Delhi could start to lend its voice to calls for Tibetan autonomy and democracy, echoing Western critics, after remaining reticent for years to avoid irking Beijing. Indeed, India is now signaling to China for the first time in years that playing its long-held Tibet card is at least a strategic possibility. Perhaps, the time has come for a major foreign policy change in India's position on Tibet.

*Best Wishes from ::*

**RADHE RADHE**





# France to Close Paris Mosque in Clampdown Over Teacher's Beheading

French authorities said Tuesday they would close a Paris mosque in a clampdown on radical Islam that has yielded over a dozen arrests following the beheading of a teacher who had shown his pupils cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed. The mosque in a densely-populated suburb northeast of Paris had published a video on its Facebook page days before Friday's gruesome murder, railing against teacher Samuel Paty's choice of

Michel Blanquer said Tuesday that Paty would be posthumously bestowed France's highest order of merit, the Legion of Honour, for having been "martyred" because of his profession. The murder was preceded by a fierce online campaign against Paty and the school, led by the father of a schoolgirl who accused the teacher of disseminating "pornography" for showing a cartoon of the prophet naked. The school said Paty had given

massacre at French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo, where 12 people, including cartoonists, were gunned down for publishing cartoons of Mohammed.

Tens of thousands of people took part in rallies countrywide on Sunday to honor Paty and defend freedom of expression, while Muslim leaders gathered at his school Monday to offer condolences and distance their religion from the atrocity. French President Emmanuel Macron threatened that "fear is about to change sides" in the new anti-Islamist campaign.

Paty's beheading was the second knife attack since a trial started last month over the Charlie Hebdo killings.

In the September attack, two people were wounded outside the publication's former offices.

A silent march is planned for Conflans-Sainte-Honorine on Tuesday evening in homage to Paty, while parliament will observe a minute of silence in the afternoon.

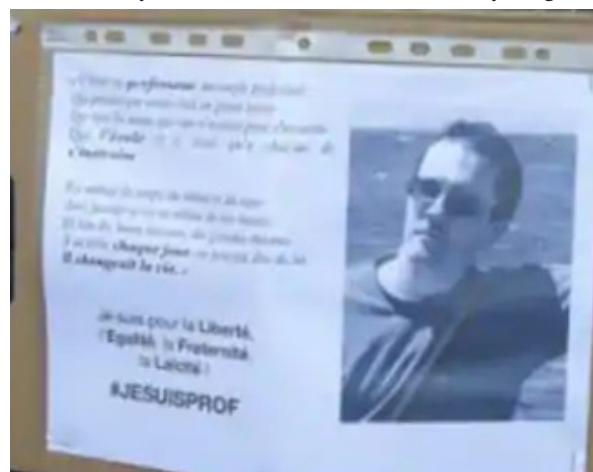
Macron will attend an official homage with Paty's family Wednesday at the Sorbonne university.

Blanquer added that schools countrywide will observe a minute's silence for Paty when pupils return after the autumn break, and a special lesson on the recent events will be taught in all classes.

Justice Minister Eric Dupond-Moretti on Tuesday denied there had been any failure on the part of intelligence services.

"This is an insidious war," he told France Inter. "There is organized terrorism that is monitored by our services, and then there is a young man of 18 who was not on the radar of the intelligence services and who committed this abominable act in the name of misguided religion."

Meanwhile, Paris prosecutors said they had opened an investigation into a French neo-Nazi website hosted abroad that republished the photo of Paty's decapitated corpse posted to Twitter by the killer.



material for a class discussion on freedom of expression, said a source close to the investigation.

The interior ministry said the mosque in Pantin, which has some 1,500 worshippers, would be shut on Wednesday night for six months.

Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin has vowed there would be "not a minute's respite for enemies of the Republic".

The order came after police on Monday launched a series of raids targeting Islamist networks, mainly in the Paris region. Paty, 47, was attacked on his way home from the junior high school where he taught in Conflans-Sainte-Honorine, 40 kilometers (25 miles) northwest of the capital. A photo of the teacher and a message confessing to his murder was found on the mobile phone of his killer, 18-year-old Chechen Abdullah Anzorov, who also posted images of the decapitated body on Twitter. Azarov was shot dead by police.

Education Minister Jean-

Muslim pupils the choice to leave the classroom.

The father who posted the video shared by the Pantin mosque is among 15 people arrested after the killing, along with a known Islamist radical and four members of Anzorov's family.

Darmanin accused the father and the radical of having issued a "fatwa" against the teacher.

On Tuesday, the head of the Pantin mosque, Mohammed Henniche, said he had shared the video not to "validate" the complaint about the cartoons, but out of fear that Muslim children were singled out in class.

Four pupils suspected of accepting payment for pointing Paty out to his killer were also taken into custody Monday.

Junior interior minister Marlene Schiappa was to meet the French bosses of social media networks Tuesday to discuss bolstering the "fight against cyber-Islamism".

Paty's killing has drawn parallels with the 2015

## From Page-1

## Hi-Pot ...

The number of cannabis consumers was second only to those for alcohol - 15.40 crore across the two age brackets - and much higher than those who consumed other categories of drugs and substances classified under the survey, such as opioids, sedatives, inhalants, cocaine, amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) and hallucinogens.

On June 14, one of these 3.10 crores alleged cannabis users died by suicide at his Mumbai apartment. Sushant Singh Rajput was a rising star in the Hindi film industry who was reportedly struggling with mental disorders. Rajput's sudden death triggered a political and media frenzy that began as a quest to determine why he took the extreme step. Three months later, this ostensibly noble pursuit of justice for Rajput is now an ugly charade that has painted the late actor as an incorrigible 'drug addict' who was allegedly pushed in the throes of cannabis abuse by his companion, actor Rhea Chakraborty.

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), whose mandate is to investigate inter-state or international drug trafficking networks, invoked various sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act to arrest Chakraborty on September 8. As per the NCB, Chakraborty is an "active member of a drugs syndicate" and had been procuring illegal drugs (marijuana to be specific) for the late actor. So far, the NCB's case against Chakraborty seems to hinge on the discovery of "59 grams of curated marijuana" from two men, Abbas Ramzan Ali Lakhani and Karan Arora.

The brouhaha over the Rajput-Chakraborty case has brought cannabis, and the larger issue of criminalization of its production, distribution or consumption, under the NDPS Act back into focus. As the national survey of substance abuse suggests, cannabis and its derivatives are the most widely consumed 'drugs' in India. Cannabis, marijuana, hemp, pot, bud, ganja, bhang - call it what you wish, but there's no denying that the venerable, yet reviled, plant is endemic to the Indian subcontinent. The use of its derivatives as medicine or recreational drugs is common among spiritual and ordinary folk alike. Chakraborty is in police custody for allegedly procuring cannabis for her former beau and for purportedly knowing two men who had 59 grams of the banned substance. A walk down the ghats or alleys of Varanasi, the Lok Sabha constituency

of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, may invariably lead to an encounter with holy men who possibly smoke twice this quantity within an hour - and for several hours of the day - without the fear of being apprehended by NCB sleuths or dubbed as criminals.

For over three decades now, the five-bladed leaf has been a banned substance under the NDPS Act of 1985; clubbed in the same category as indisputably more addictive and harmful substances like opioids, amphetamine-based drugs, psychedelic, and psychotropic substances. This, even as the past decade has witnessed a reappraisal of cannabis globally with several countries legalizing its recreational use and researchers studying its potential medicinal use.

The NDPS Act criminalizes cannabis use under the classifications of charas (the separated resin of cannabis), hashish oil, ganja (the flowering or fruiting tops of the cannabis plant), or any mixture, with or without any neutral material, of these derivatives. The Act also bans the cultivation of cannabis and "manufactured drugs" made from "medicinal cannabis" (any extract or tincture of hemp).

However, the Act allows the exploitation of cannabis as bhang by excluding the categorization of cannabis leaves and seeds as narcotic substances. Bhang is typically made by grinding cannabis leaves and seeds and mixing it with milk (though the clandestine use of the plant's flowering tops - a banned substance - in making this mixture is not uncommon). It is consumed in copious quantities by revelers, particularly during Holi and Mahashivratri celebrations, and is the accepted offering for Lord Shiva. This apparent loophole in the Act has led to a paradox - the cultivation of cannabis is illegal, but consuming bhang made from it isn't. Most Indian states have government-run or sanctioned shops for the sale of bhang. Further, hemp is also used widely in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand as a vegetable that is typically cooked on all special occasions, including weddings.

As insensitive as this may sound, the investigations into Rajput's death and Chakraborty's arrest have afforded India a chance to relook at its legal framework on cannabis. As Ambedkar says, "it's high time that we think logically based on scientific evidence to formulate policies as opposed to those based on notions of morality." A tall ask?



# The Kargil Girl



he sets out to. He admires the grit and quiet determination of Gunjan, a national hero, without necessarily worshipping her. He retains what makes her human and that is this biographical drama's biggest achievement. Given that Kargil war is a crucial backdrop and the film centers on pilot training, the helicopter sorties, and aerial combat scenes are executed well, courtesy, renowned

Gender stereotypes are as old as the hills. While men are preordained to excel at something, women stepping into that territory continue to ruffle a few feathers. It's not uncommon for women to face blatant, casual, or concealed sexism, no matter how accomplished. Female athletes are asked who their favorite male athlete is. Are women smart enough to analyze science fiction films or sports? If this is what we face today, Lucknow girl Gunjan Saxena shattered the glass ceiling in the 90s when she became an IAF pilot. She did it at a time when feminism wasn't in vogue. It was only in 2016, that India saw its first-ever women fighter pilots be commissioned into the Indian Air Force. Women were not inducted in the fighter stream before. Flight Lieutenants Gunjan Saxena and Srividya Rajan paved

the way for others to follow. In 1999, Gunjan, the former helicopter pilot at 24, became India's first woman combat aviator to fly Cheetah helicopters in the Kargil war zone. She was tasked with medical evacuations, supply drops, and mapping enemy position duties. Hailing from an army family, raised by a remarkable father (Pankaj Tripathi at his best), what makes Gunjan's journey unique and a film on her much deserving was, her mental conditioning. Her dreams were never defined by gender because it wasn't imbibed in her as a child. She wasn't told what she can or cannot have because she is a woman. She desired to fly a plane since her childhood and that is what she did. She never set out to make a statement or inspire people. She merely followed her dream. But it was looked upon as an act of defiance

**More than anything else, Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl is a deeply moving tale of a feminist father and his feisty daughter. It wages war against patriarchal mind-set and discrimination and identifies it as a bigger threat to progress than the one we perhaps tackled in 1999.**

by those who felt dwarfed by her unrelenting ambition. While some men tried to curtail her growth, the wind beneath her wings were also men - be it her father, a retired army man who raised his son and daughter as equals, or the shrewd but supportive Group Captain at the Udampur Air Force Station. Provocative and gripping, Sharma may not have extensive source material at hand but within two hours, he shows you exactly what

American aerial coordinator Marc Wolff, known for his work in Hollywood blockbusters like Mission Impossible, Jason Bourne, and Star Wars series. More than anything else, Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl is a deeply moving tale of a feminist father and his feisty daughter. It wages war against patriarchal mind-set and discrimination and identifies it as a bigger threat to progress than the one we perhaps tackled in 1999.

## Obituary



**Late Harish Ch. Mohanty**



**(4 June 1955 - 24 October 2020)**

*acche'dyo' yam adhaahyo' yam  
akle'dhyo' syaeva cha / nithyahasarva-  
gathahsthaanoorachalo' yam  
sanaathanah.*

The IM observer family condoles the untimely demise of Shri Harish Chandra Mohanty, youngest brother of IMO Editor. We do not understand why you left this earth so soon, or why you left before we were ready to say goodbye. But little by little we begin to remember not just you passed away, but that you lived. And every moment of your life gave us memories too beautiful to forget.

THE INDUSTRY & MINES  
**OBSERVER**

Vol.-14  
Issue -13  
November 01

**Editor : Sirish C Mohanty**  
**Our correspondents at**

*New Delhi, Rourkela, Jaipur, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Bolangir,  
Baripada, Dhenkanal, Bhadrak, Talcher, Nayagarh, Keonjhar, Joda,  
Sundargarh, Rayagada, Nabarangapur, Jeypore, Phulbani, Nuapara*

### Editorial office

LIG 491, Neeladri Vihar PH II, Chandrasekharpur,  
Bhubaneswar 751021, R.O: Uplands, Banspani, Joda 758034, Odisha  
Editorial: 9437072248, Circulation and subscription: 9938229429  
Email: imobserver@rediffmail.com,  
Our offices at: New Delhi, Raipur, and Mumbai

Printed, Published, Owned & Edited by Sirish Chandra Mohanty at LIG 489 & 490, Neeladri Vihar PH II, Chandrasekhar pur,  
Bhubaneswar - 751021 & Printed at Web line, Weblines, D2/19, Sector-A, Zone-D, Mancheswar Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010