

## Naveen begins to end the nightmarish Joda traffic

Keonjhar (A.R. Khan) : The CM of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik has laid the foundation stone of the Joda-Bamberi Highway in Keonjhar district of Odisha through video conferencing today.

The Odisha Cabinet has approved the construction of a 3-km long flyover on Joda-Bamberi Highway in Keonjhar with an estimated cost of ₹144.11 Cr.

The project aims to offer a dedicated freight carriageway for vehicles carrying minerals. It will also reduce traffic congestion and pollution in Joda town.

The formal virtual foundation laying ceremony was held at the Darbar hall in



the office of the Keonjhar District Collector. The function was attended by the Skill development Minister Premananda naik, MP Chandrani Murmu, MLA -Badrinarayan Patra, Bhagirathi Sethy, Minakshi

Mahanta, Collector Ashis Thakre and PD, DRDA Dr. Uddhaba Majhi among others. The residents of Joda and Barbil will be benefited from this project. It will help in increasing connectivity and transport facilities.

ପବିତ୍ର ଦୀପାବଳି - ୨୦୨୦ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ  
ବାଉଁ

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ପବିତ୍ର ଦୀପାବଳିର ଶୁଭ ଅବସରରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାବାସୀ ସମସ୍ତ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଓ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଇବା ସହିତ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର ସୁଖ ଓ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

ଦୀପାବଳି ପାଳନ ଯୋଗୁଁ ସୃଷ୍ଟି ହେଉଥିବା ପରିବେଶ ପ୍ରଦୂଷଣ, କରୋନା ସଂକ୍ରମିତଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ କ୍ଷତିକାରକ ବୋଲି ବିଶେଷଜ୍ଞମାନେ ମତ ପ୍ରକାଶ କରୁଥିବାରୁ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ତରଫରୁ ଚଳିତ ବର୍ଷ ଦୀପାବଳିକୁ କୋଭିଡ଼ କଟକଣା ଅନୁପାଳନ ପୂର୍ବକ ପାଳନ କରିବାକୁ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶନାମା ଜାରି କରାଯାଇଛି । କରୋନା ସଂକ୍ରମଣ ବିରୁଦ୍ଧରେ ଜାରି ରହିଥିବା ଏହି ଲଢ଼େଇରେ ସମସ୍ତେ ସାମିଲ ହୋଇ ଆଲୋକର ପର୍ବ ଦୀପାବଳି ପାଳନ କରିବାକୁ ମୁଁ ଅନୁରୋଧ କରୁଛି ।

(ରଘୁନନ୍ଦନ ଦାସ)

OIPR- 15001/13/0102/2021

ଜଳସଂପଦ, ସୂଚନା ଓ ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

ପବିତ୍ର ଦୀପାବଳି-୨୦୨୦  
ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ  
ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳଙ୍କ ବାଉଁ

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

ବୈଶ୍ୱିକ ମହାମାରୀ କରୋନା ବିରୋଧରେ ସମଗ୍ର ମାନବଜାତିର ଲଢ଼େଇରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନ ବେଶ ଉତ୍ସାହଜନକ ଓ ପ୍ରେରଣାଦାୟୀ । ଏହି ଲଢ଼େଇରେ ସାମିଲ ହୋଇ ଧୈର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଓ ସାହସର ସହ ମୁକାବିଲା ନିମନ୍ତେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର ସହଯୋଗ ଆଶା କରୁଛି ।

ଶଶେଶୀଲୁଲି  
(ଗଣେଶୀ ଲାଲ)

OIPR- 15001/13/0102/2021

ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ  
ଦୀପାବଳି ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା

DADLS-61

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

ଟୀକା ବାହାରିବା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଆମେ କୋଭିଡ଼ ନିୟମାବଳୀର ପାଳନ ଯଥା- ଠିକ୍ ଭାବରେ ମାସ୍କ ପିନ୍ଧିବା, ହାତ ଧୋଇବା ଏବଂ ସାମାଜିକ ଦୂରତା ରକ୍ଷା କରିବା ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଜରୁରୀ । ଆତସବାଜି ନ ଫୁଟାଇ କେବଳ ଦୀପ ଜଳାଇ ଚଳିତ ବର୍ଷ ଦୀପାବଳୀ ପାଳନ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଅନୁରୋଧ ।

ନିତୀଶ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ମହାନ୍ତି  
(ନବୀନ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ)  
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

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# CM Launches Water Resources Dept's 4 Online Services



Bhubaneswar, November 9: In a bid to link the farmers directly with the Water Resources Department under the ambitious 5T Initiative and enable the aggrieved farmers to get their problems solved soon, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today

launched "Secha Samadhan" online service. Now the farmers can upload the video and pictures of their farm problems, especially irrigational needs, on mobile phones and seek the help of the Water Resources Department. Thus, the farmers need not

rush to the office deserting cultivation of the day. Besides this, three other online services were also launched. They include an online application by the farmers for the Community Lift Irrigation Project under the Biju Krushak Yojana, a portal for applying for water distribution to the industries and other commercial establishments.

Addressing the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the farmers are the largest beneficiaries of the Water Resources Department. Hence, this online service can now immensely help the farmers for immediate redressal of

their complaints lodged. The use of technology can now make the department more accountable and transparent in service delivery.

He also said that the time step can be taken now to approve the applications of the farmers meant for the Biju Krushak Yojana.

The Odisha Chief Minister also hoped that the other online services launched today can also benefit the industries and commercial establishments.

He laid stress on creating massive awareness among the public on these online services launched today.

On the occasion, the Chief

Minister also directed to expedite the preparation of digital muster roll under the 5T initiative.

"SechaSamadhan" is a bilingual mobile app through which the farmers can forward the photos or videos and get their problems solved soon. The status of their complaints registered can be intimated to them by SMS and expeditious steps can be taken for a solution. The farmers can now get their problems solved online instead of rushing to the office. Either they can use the mobile app or seek help from the Jan Seva Kendra (public services center).

Similarly, the Go Swift portal has also been improved for water needs by the applicant industries.

The commercial establishments can also take the help of the online portal water allocation of.nic.in.

The launching ceremony was also addressed by Water Resources and I&PR Minister Raghunandan Das and Water Resources Secretary Anu Garg.

Prominent among others, Chief Secretary, Development Commissioner, Agriculture Secretary, Industries Secretary, and Secretary to CM (5T) were present.

## Civic Body Polls In Odisha Likely In June

Bhubaneswar : The Urban Local Body (ULB) polls in Odisha is most likely to be held in June next year as the state government has decided to bring an amendment in the Orissa Municipal (Amendment) Act, 1994, during the ensuing winter session of the State Assembly, sources in the Housing and Urban Development Department said. According to the secretary of the State Election Commission (SEC) Rabindra Nath Sahu, the civic body polls will be held after the state government completes

the process for delimitation of the wards and reservation of seats for the ULBs.

"The delimitation of the wards and reservation of seats is determined by the state government while the preparation of the electoral roll and the conduct of polls is the responsibility of the SEC. Once the state government completes the two aforesaid tasks, the civic body polls will be held within four months," he added.

Notably, the Orissa High Court had asked the state government not to exceed 50 percent total reservation of seats for the scheduled

castes (SC), scheduled tribes (ST), and other backward classes (OBC) in the non-scheduled areas for the urban local body (ULB) polls. Besides it had also told the state government to limit the reservation of seats for OBCs to not more than 11 percent as against 27 percent earlier.

The court, while pronouncing the order in a case related to reservation of seats for Nuapada civic body, had also asked the state government not to raise the cap.

Challenging the order, the state government in September 2018 had



moved the Supreme Court which rejected its appeal and directed it to abide by the directive of the High Court.

Public interest litigation (PIL) was filed in the High Court alleging that

the reservation of seats was more than 50 percent during the panchayat polls in 2012, ULB polls in 2013, and panchayat polls in 2017, which was a gross violation of the order of the

apex court in 2010.

Of 114 ULBs in Odisha, 5 are categorized as Municipal Corporations, 48 as Municipalities (48), and 61 as Notified Area Councils.

While the tenure of 65 ULBs and Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BRMC) expired on September 29, 2018, the representatives of the remaining 48 ULBs including the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation BMC, Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC), and Sambalpur Municipal Corporation (SMC) completed their tenure by February 13, 2019.

# Wasteful expenses national character

India is among the top five disaster-hit countries with \$ 79.5 billion losses

Deep crisis, need to correct priorities



Shivaji Sarkar

Periodic festive post-lockdown (LD) sales are not indicators of the economy booming for sustainable development as a slump may loom large. The problems abound in finances, high government and corporate debt, and pressure on banking hit by low unsustainable interest rates.

The Indian economy has the capability to sprint at 9 percent with extremely favorable policies and around 7 percent with constraints but actually, the September growth in some sectors and contraction in others raises the concern of sustainability.

The narrative that the six-month LD has caused massive damage to the economy is partially correct. It aggravated a situation contracting for about 22 months. The 23 percent contraction

(minus growth) is only an indicator that doctors failed to read the pulse as physicians are wary now about the illusory disease and its existence. The LD has certainly exacerbated a situation that could have been stemmed from the right prescription.

The rating firm ICRA has sounded an alarm that the September recovery may not be sustainable. It says that intra-state goods movement and GST e-way bills increased 9 percent from a year earlier against an August contraction of 3.5 percent. But the rise in auto production (11 percent), power generation, petrol sales are not reflected in actual retail growth. Apart from the calculations are against the massive 23.9 percent slump. It does not see it sustaining beyond the November festivities. The part positive outlook

on exports makes ICRA cautious as improvements in non-oil merchandise exports may get hit in the fresh waves of supposed covid19 emerging in many trading partners.

The HDFC Bank CEO Aditya Puri says the problems are not over. Cars and TV sets flying off the shelves hold out the promise of a return of 9 percent growth. But the rebound is patchy and the country may end up with 9.5 percent contractions at the end of the year, as per RBI projections. He says if semi-urban rural India grows and there are right infrastructure spends 7 percent growth is not difficult though it might take three years.

Skewed LD has devastated the hotel, tourism, and eatery industry that just started to get even with finances after a two-decade struggle. Even the private health care sector is hit. Nobody questions how the car scrapping policy costs citizens a fortune, severe wealth loss and increases poverty. It merely helps middlemen and politicians in cahoots with auto sharks. It needs a deep probe.

India's manufacturing share in the economy has gradually reduced. While the Make in India initiative at its nascent stage may turn the tide, the competition in the region is high with Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Bangladesh. Services have done relatively better in India. Without manufacturing, it may not be easy to

sustain it.

The right to spend is in question. Since 2016, the country is through many man-made critical situations that contracted the economy continuously with some better patches in between. If the surging gold prices are taken as an indicator, it means apprehensive investors are shying away from making the right investments.

The country has taken to wrong priorities. The excessively repeated rebuilding of highways or choking national capital territory with roads that are not needed like the one proposed to Baghpat or projects like Jewar airport or invasive continual construction of excessive infrastructure. Extensive concrete constructions as in Bihar, Odisha, in the new state capitals in Chhattisgarh and Andhra, eroding hills in Uttarakhand, Himachal, North-East, and J&K are damaging natural systems of the Himalayas and fragile ecology elsewhere.

It is a case for constructing less as natural disasters are man-induced. The recent flooding of Hyderabad or a few years back in Kerala is testimony to the massive damage human hands have done. The cost of the disasters is estimated but not taken into financial accounts. Rather these become sources of further erosion of financial mismanagement.

The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction has

revealed that India is among the top five disaster-hit countries with \$ 79.5 billion losses between 1998 and 2017. Yes, the country has been committing mistakes continuously irrespective of the party in power.

Wasteful expenditure has become a national character. The latest being the unnecessary new Parliament building or redeveloping a developed New Delhi central vista costing over Rs 22,000 crore, irrational Rs 1.1 lakh crore bullet train, Rs 6000 crore high-speed rail corridors or several six-lane toll highways (many of these are being rebuilt). The nation has not learned from the mistakes of hi-fi Hyderabad, Bengaluru, or the collapse of Amaravati and Raipur.

One could argue that people need houses. But a third of new residential constructions are unoccupied in most cities. Jewar or Amaravati type constructions are promoting speculative activities causing a severe drain on the economy, enough pollution, difficult living conditions, and citizens being penalized.

The banking system, once the world's best, is collapsing for irrational projects, populist accounts, larger non-repayment of debt, and higher operational costs. India is now one of the most degraded countries on the planet with no national policy on spending, securing public sector units, banking, farms, and land use or car scrapping that benefit the sharks.


The 2014 election

generated hopes of corrections. The BJP made the right noises before the polls. Narendra Modi instilled hope. But somewhere the system got derailed and perpetuation of irrational policies continued. The knee-jerk reactions like demonetization, stressing on wrong construction priorities at the cost of denuding the banks, imposing a high cost on travels through high fuel prices, cess, and tolls (for which the previous regimes were criticized) only has exacerbated the economy.

The promised jobs, a crore a year, could not be provided as the state went into penury. The LD has now made income sustainability difficult as job losses rise despite unlocking.

The exploitative situation, legally denying rights to the labor and farmers, reminds of the heavy industrialization of 18th and 19th century Europe with its concomitant exploitation leading to the rise of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.

Course correction is imperative to check slippage to a deep crisis symbolized by many delayed payments by official organizations during December 2019 and March 2020. The private sector during that period itself had started tightening belts.

A national dialogue is needed to turn the morass into an opportunity. Modi skilled at making decisions is capable of initiating it and tick the right boxes. 



# SAIL rebounds post Profit in the second quarter



Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has declared the financial results for the second quarter of the current Financial Year 2020-21 (Q2 FY'21) which reflects a strong performance. During Q2 FY'21, the Company has posted Profit Before Tax (PBT) of Rs 610.32 Crore and Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs 393.32 Crore against loss of Rs 523.03 Crore and Rs 342.84 Crore respectively for PBT and PAT over the

Corresponding Period Last Year (CPLY). The profit achieved during the second quarter of FY'21 reflects the resilience and robust performance by the Company in a fast reviving economy and domestic market which has been battling the adverse impact of the Covid19 Pandemic during the initial month of the year. Signifying the pick-up in performance and activities, SAIL's turnover in Q2 FY'21 also registered an improvement of more

than 20% over CPLY and stood at Rs 16834.1 Crore. The EBITDA of Q2 FY'21 registered an astounding growth of 58.7% over CPLY and stood at Rs 2098.09 Crore. The Company, determined to face every odd thrown by the onset of Covid, performed exceptionally well and maintained the sales growth momentum from June'20 onwards. After the first two months of the FY'21, which were impacted by the pandemic,

the cumulative performance has been largely made up of consistently better performance since then. SAIL registered an impressive 31.3% growth in sales during Q2 FY'21 over CPLY. With the strategic focus on enhancing the saleable steel production, the Company registered the best saleable steel Q2 production of 3.752 MT in Q2 FY'21 surpassing the previous best of 3.658 MT achieved during Q2 FY'18. The saleable steel production in Q2 FY'21 grew by 5% over CPLY. The focus on operational efficiency also resulted in improvement in the key Techno-economic parameters during Q2 FY'21 viz. Coke Rate (4%), Blast Furnace Productivity (9%), and Specific Energy Consumption (1%) over CPLY.

## 1st Consignment of API X70 grade Steel plates flagged off



The first consignment of 300 Tonnes API X-70 Plates, an import substitute grade plate rolled at the State-of-the-art New Plate Mill of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP), was flagged off on 31st October by CEO Dipak Chattaraj. Notably, the above consignment is a part of an order of 6000 Tonnes. After successful testing of the first consignment of 300 Tonnes, the balance of 5700 Tonnes of plates will be supplied. It is noteworthy that the pipes made from these plates will be used for gas pipeline jobs. Mr. Chattaraj praised the RSP collective for the achievement and said that with the rolling of API X-80 Plates, RSP would be able to enter a niche segment of the market. It is worth mentioning here that the New Plate Mill has been making efforts to develop the above grade product since 2017 which is primarily imported. The success in the development of the import substitute and the subsequent fulfillment of the trial order will help the country save substantial foreign exchange.

## CEO Trophy for Young Managers Award Ceremony held at RSP

The First Edition of the CEO Trophy for Young Managers Award distribution function was organized at CEO Conference Hall of Rourkela Steel Plant on 27th October. RSP CEO Dipak Chattaraj was the Chief Guest. The function was also attended by PK Dash, ED (Works), Raj Vir Singh, ED (P&A), D K Mohapatra, ED (MM), Pankaj Kumar, ED (Projects), and many other senior officers in virtual mode. It is worth mentioning here that the CEO Trophy for Young Managers has been introduced by SAIL in its five Integrated Steel Plants. HRD Centre of Rourkela Steel plant conducted the

competition on 15th October 2020 under the leadership of ED (P&A). The team comprising Md. Faraz Abbasi, AGM (E&A), Anup Agarwal, Deputy Manager (Hot Strip Mill - II), and Deepak Garg, Deputy Manager (Water Management Department) won the first prize in the competition. The 2nd spot was bagged by Ms. Supriya Bhuyan, Deputy Manager (CPP-I), Ms. Jyotirmayee Rautia, Deputy Manager (NPM), and Ms. Rita Murmu, Deputy Manager (HSM - I). The second runners of the competition was the team consisting of Himanshu Mishra, Deputy Manager

(EMD), Ms. Khushboo Mishra, Deputy Manager (R&C Lab), and Dhiraj Kumar, Deputy Manager (T&RM). The theme of the competition was based on Leveraging the digitization capabilities at RSP and preparing it for Industry 4.0. During the function, the three teams made their respective presentations also. The CEO also brought forth certain issues about the digital transformation and preparation for Industry 4.0. He also stressed the importance of using the outlook and attitude of young minds for the development and sustainability of the organization.

## Digital learning laboratory 'World on Wheels' Inaugurated at Rajgangpur



Rajgangpur: To accelerate the digital transformation of learning through E-education, Dalmia Bharat Foundation, an arm of Dalmia Bharat Group launched a digital learning lab named "HP World on Wheels" (WoW) in partnership with HP India at Rajgangpur on 30th October. The 15 seater HP WoW

vehicle is self-contained, IT-enabled, equipped with HP computing and printing equipment, and numerous e-learning tools are run by solar power. It aims to provide computer education to more than 1000 beneficiaries comprising students, SHG members, and youth of Sundargarh district. Ms. Sagarika Nath,

Superintendent of police, Sundargarh while inaugurating WoW appreciated the efforts of Dalmia Bharat Foundation for taking this initiative. She said, "This initiative will provide education and information to younger people, will have a positive impact on the society which is shifting from analog to digital transformation." Sunil Gupta, Regional Manufacturing Head (East), Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited, on the occasion said, "Pandemic Corona has prompted the need for accelerating digital transformation across all realms including education, training, and development.



## BJD retains Tirtol by-poll, Bijaya Shankar gets an easy win



empathetic win defeating his rival BJP candidate Rajkishor Behera by a huge margin of 41,703 votes,

As official declaration announced, BJD candidate scored 88,310 votes, BJP 46,607 votes and Congress 28,778 votes, CPI 1196 votes, and others 5 independent contenders were in by-election fray gaining votes in three-digit figures. The by-poll results showed that BJD holds reign in Tirtol assembly constituency since Tirtol constituency

was formed in the year 2009. In turn, although BJP secured the second position but performed miserably in Tirtol by poll unable to maintain votes secured in the last 2019 elections however congress improved a little. BJD winning candidate Bijaya Shankar Das described his victory devotes to the chief minister and party supremo Naveen Patnaik and his late father Bishnu Das's popularity and good works in Jagatsinghpur district.

**JAGATSINGHPUR :** The state ruling Biju Janata Dal [BJD] once again showed supremacy in Tirtol reserve assembly seat continued its dominance in the electoral fray, party candidate Bijaya Shankar Das registered an

## J'spur scribe's body mourns for late journalist Prabira Pradhan



**JAGATSINGHPUR :** Jagatsinghpur scribe body Zilla Sambadika Mahasangha [ZSM] mourned for the untimely demise of young journalist Prabira Pradhan suffering Coronavirus. A condolence meeting was held at Biju Patnaik Chhak here, ZSM members expressed condolences following the

death of Pradhan and demanded all state government-sponsored mandated financial assistance and benefits to the deceased scribe's family. Among others ZSM office bearers and scribes Pramod Kumar Nayak, Manoj Das, Radhakanta Mishra, Pinaki Mohanty, Deepak Mohanty, Ramakanta Dash,

Tarapada Mohanty, Ashutosh Behera, Sidhartha Das, Maheswar Tripathy, Manas Kaunongo, Tanmaya Panda, Gayadharmaharana, Susanta Kumar Patra, Prasanta Mallick, Ramesh Das, Jouyiti Prakash Nayak, Tapan Swain, Rakesh Behera and social activist Pradip Kishor Choudhury were present.

## Senior Civil Judge court inaugurated in Jagatsinghpur



**JAGATSINGHPUR, Nov 12:** A senior civil judge court [LR] was inaugurated by Odisha High Court judge Kumari Justice Sanju Panda in the judicial building complex here. Speaking at the inaugural function Justice Panda said that a long-standing demand of Jagatsinghpur legal fraternity and

litigants were fulfilled after the inauguration of the civil judge court here. Odisha high court registrar [Administration] R K Bose read out the proclamation issued by the Odisha government as well as High court concerning the starting of civil judge court here. Among others district judge Ananda Chandra

Behera, ADJ Etishree Bhuyain, sub judge Sasirekha Mishra, district collector Saroj Kumar Mishra, registrar civil court Mahasweta Parija, superintendent of police Prakash R, judicial officers from lower courts, district bar association members attended the event.

## Sundargarh Hikes Wage Under MGNREGA

**Sundargarh:** At a time when unemployment is high due to the pandemic Covid and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is the only option to provide wage employment to returnee migrant workers and rural workers. To help the rural poor in the Sundargarh district to cope with the immediate economic impact of the pandemic and prevent them from falling deeper into poverty, the wages of all MGNREGS workers in Sundargarh have been hiked

from 29th October by district administration. In effect, MGNREGS workers of Sundargarh district will earn Rs. 96.40 more per day. They would get now Rs.303.40 per day instead of Rs.207 which they were getting till now. The current MGNREGS wage rate of Rs 207 per person per day will be 'topped up', with Rs 96.40, to match the minimum wage rate of Rs 303.40, notified by district administration by utilizing the funds accrued under District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Trust

Sundargarh said a press note released by district administration. The mineral-rich Sundargarh administration had sought the permission from Panchayati Raj department of State Government for the use of DMF money to pay 'minimum wage' of Rs 303.40 per person per day under the flagship rural employment scheme against the current MGNREGS wage rate of Rs.207 by utilizing funds available under District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Trust.

## Paradip Refinery inaugurates Vigilance Awareness Week-2020



**Paradip (Batakrushna Das):** Shri TDVS Gopalakrishna, ED & RH Paradip Refinery, inaugurated Vigilance Awareness Week - 2020 in

presence of all CGMs, other officials and administered integrity Pledge. Shri Gopalakrishna reiterated that Indian Oil is committed to

adopt and implement the highest standards of corporate governance. A series of activities has been drawn up for observance of the week.



## The apathy of administration force slum residents to open defecation

Baripada : A strong sense of resentment is brewing among the people of the Baripada municipality area of Mayurbhanj district as the municipality has failed to provide toilets to residents of slum pocket under Swachh Bharat Mission. The district administration has claimed the Baripada municipality has become Open Defecation Free (ODF) the residents in the slum pocket of Purnachandrapur, Ward No.15 have been deprived of such facility. However, a set up of a public toilet on the bank of a decade-old pond in the ward for slum residents was limited to plan only. Saroj Kumar Mohapatra the citizen of the Purnachandrapur, Ward no-15 said that the voters of the ward are around 3700 out of the population of around 5000, and most of the people in this ward belong to the SC community and comes under the Slum pocket in the municipality. The municipality was planning for setting up a common toilet at the embankment of a pond in a slum pocket, besides providing individual toilet to families in the ward under Swachh Bharat Mission when Subhasis Mansingh was the executive officer of the municipality. Though a few families in the slum area were getting toilet under the Mission, many families could not construct toilets as the municipality had disbursed Rs. 2000 initially and rest Rs.4200 was to be given after completion of the toilet. As the families are poor could not even lay the foundation of the toilet and the money amounting to Rs.2000 was not sufficient to start the work. A proposal for a community toilet is yet to start, hence the people of the ward were forced for open defecation on the roadside and bank of the nearest pond in the ward. The residents of the ward met to Collector of the district regarding several of their demands like drains and roads. Their demands are yet to be addressed.

## Indigenous teaching-learning materials to help tribal students to remember their lesson

Baripada : The teachers of government primary schools in Mayurbhanj district have taken some initiatives for the primary school students to remember their previous lesson and easily catch on different subjects after they practically used these things called teaching-learning materials. They have innovated the indigenous process to make by the teachers teach with the help of unused small wood, bamboo grass, counting numbers, clock with help of cardboard, weigh and different paints on sanitation, waste management, beast, fishing and picture of village life which will inspire the students and they easily catch their studies and remember their lessons.



The initiative has been taken by the teachers who are teaching primary tribal students of Class-I, Class-II, and Class-III on the languages of Santhali, Munda, and Ho languages. The District Tribal Education Coordinator (DTEC) Sapan Kumar Prusty expressed that at least 90 tribal teachers of the primary schools under Shamakhunta, Kuliana, Suliapada, and Kaptipada

are taking part in the initiative initially held in four primary schools (units) in the district. He said the initiative is taking place amid a pandemic and closure of schools. The DTEC said materials will be given to these primary schools where more students from the tribal communities enroll there. Due to the closure of schools since the seven

months for the pandemic situation the primary school students would be forgetting the lessons. The teaching-learning materials will help tribal students to remember their lesson as they are written in Ho, Santhali, and Munda scripts. The longevity of the materials will have 10 to 15 years, he suspected. Initially, at least 30 government primary schools have taken the materials, and the rest around 30 schools will be taken, he said that fishing materials made by bamboo grass as the way of fishing are a part of courses in social science. The teachers had to spend Rs.2000 to Rs.2500 for buying bamboo grass and made these teaching-learning material.

## Two tribal families of Mayurbhanj ostracised by villagers for two months as they refused to learn sorcery



Baripada : Here is bad news. Two tribal families of a village in Mayurbhanj district have been ostracized by the villagers for a couple of months as they refused to learn black magic. The villagers have

been forcing the two families to learn black magic as mandatory when the rest of the villagers already learned it. The two families have to spend sleepless nights and unable to find any work

together with villagers and face mental torture as they did not want to learn the evil practice. The matter has come to light when the members of the ostracized families along with a group of

people of a tribal organization resorted to dharna in front of Rairangpur Sub-Collector office and gave a memorandum to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday to give the families justice as the local police and local administration did not take any attention from the starting of the issue despite ostracized families repeated requests. Sankhar Baskey and Thumpu Soren of Sandalima village within Bhagabandhi Panchayat under Tiring police limits in Rairangpur Sub-Division of Mayurbhanj district have been ostracized by the villagers from first September.

In the memorandum, Sankhar and Thumpu alleged that Majhibaba Sitaram Hembram and the people of the Santhal community in the village had been forced to the two particular families to learn the evil practice. They charged that the people of the community in the village have already accepted the order of Majhibaba Sitaram and senior people and the villagers have learned the evil practice. It is mandatory to accept the order of the seniors. For this reason, the villagers did not call the victim families to attain any community program or any religious event held in the village, the victims

rueed. The victims said they had given a complaint to the Tiring police station and CDPO of Tiring from the starting of the issue. The Welfare Officer of the Sub-Division was later called a meeting in the presence of villagers. In the meeting, the villagers agreed to accompany the victims' families like earlier relations. Sankhar Baskey said the Sub-Collector assured them to look into the matter. The organization threatened to come to the street and prefer a revolutionary way if the Government will not give justice to the ostracized families.



# Arnab's arrest is a 'travesty of justice': SC

## Goswami released from jail dares CM Thakre

Mumbai, November 11: Republic TV Managing director and Editor in Chief Arnab Taloja Central Jail in Raigad late on Wednesday night. The development came hours after the Supreme Court granted him bail following his arrest on November 4 in a case of abetment to suicide of Mumbai architect Anvay M. Naik and his mother KumudNaik on May 5, 2018, in Alibaug.

Returning from the jail, flashing a 'V' sign and punching in the air several times enroute to his car, Goswami termed his arrest as "illegal" and said no forces could stop a journalist and his TV channel.

He was accorded a rousing, hero's welcome



by the Republic TV staff as he entered the office late on Wednesday with plans to go on air.

Goswami told mediapersons that he was "absolutely fine" and looking forward to work amid thunderous applause outside his office building.

After a week in judicial custody, Arnab Goswami challenged Maharashtra Chief Minister, "Uddhav Thackeray, listen to me. You lost. You have been defeated."

Earlier in the day, Arnab Goswami's lawyer Harish Salve told the top court

that Naik's interior decoration firm was in debt for around seven years and it is possible that he first killed his mother and committed suicide. Salve also claimed before the SC that Arnab paid all his vendors at the right time and the Raigad Police's

decision to reopen the case was not done lawfully.

Salve also talked about several cases filed against Arnab and Republic TV by Maharashtra police in the recent past, adding that the abetment to suicide case was opened at the direction of Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh. Salve urged the SC to transfer the case to CBI and said that heavens will not fall if Arnab is released on bail.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who appeared for the Maharashtra government, said the hearing in this matter is already going on in lower court. Justice DY Chandrachud asked Sibal if the case really requires the

police to question Arnab in custody and is there a direct case of abetment to suicide against him.

"Is this a case of IPC 306? Assuming the FIR is the gospel truth and that's a matter of investigation but is not paying up money Abetment to suicide? It will be a Travesty of justice if bail is not granted while FIR is pending Sibal. I too don't want to watch his channel but if a citizen has approached the SC for justice then we will protect the rights of the citizen," said Justice Chandrachud. Justice Chandrachud observed, "We are dealing with personal liberty here and because he was owed money, Naik committed suicide due to financial stress. Is this a case of Custodial questioning?"

# Indian airline appoints a female CEO for the first time

In a first, an Indian airline has appointed a woman at the top position of CEO



For the first time, a woman has become the CEO of an Indian carrier,

with the government appointing Harpreet A De Singh as the CEO of Air

India's (AI) regional subsidiary Alliance Air. According to a report, AI

CMD Rajiv Bansal issued an order on Friday, saying Singh "will hold the charge of Alliance Air CEO post till further orders."

Singh is currently AI executive director (flight safety). In place of her, the new ED of AI will now be Captain Nivedita Bhasin, one of the airline's most senior commanders currently flying Boeing 787 Dreamliner, said the report.

Captain Nivedita Bhasin has also been asked to head several other

departments, given her experience.

### Who is Harpreet Singh?

As per Times of India, Harpreet Singh was the first woman pilot to be selected by Air India in 1988. Though she could not fly due to health reasons, she has been very active in the area of flight safety. The Indian Women Pilot Association is headed by Singh. The association has Bhasin and other senior women commanders like Captain Kshamta Bajpai as well

who are seen as role models by budding pilots.

### Alliance Air not being sold off with Air India

As per the report in Times of India, Alliance Air will remain a PSU for now as it is not being sold off with the Air India-AI Express-AISATS combine.

AI's old Boeing 747s will be transferred to Alliance Air, which currently has a fleet of turboprops if the Maharaja gets a buyer and is privatized.

# Yes Sir, No Sir, and Very good Sir



Sirish C. Mohanty

In Odisha the government machinery has come across a significant change; the politicians have been pushed to the backseat and the Babus have taken over the driving seat of governance. We all in the state begin to depend on government administrative machinery or babus (bureaucrats) for our day to day living and slogging. Ask common folks and they will say they don't have a clue about how to deal with Indian babus who're non-transparent, unpredictable, completely detached and most men may be from some planet other than earth. Here are some rules that will help you in navigating the bureaucracy. Babus adhere to

these sacred but unwritten and uncoded rules so understanding these rules will help you understand babus better, and ease your living in Odisha. The higher one goes up on the 'bureaucratic ladder' the less one is to get to do. So most of the ideas on governance come from below. This, however, doesn't mean there is a shortage of talent at the top. One more thing: contrary to the popular perception, a substantial number of government officials or babus are honest at least in the letter if not in spirit.

The hierarchy must be respected at all costs. Thus, there's only one way to do things in government is the proper channel way i.e. step

by step up the babu ladder. You just can't surpass a hierarchy level so don't you dare to do that. Babus or bureaucrats are trained to make simple things complicated because they are not trained to trust people. So, they devise rules that often don't make sense but that helps them protect their jobs. Important is unimportant while unimportant is very important in bureaucracy. Means and procedures are given far more important than the goals or objectives they are supposed to accomplish. Babus often do the most stupid things with utmost sincerity without caring about what purpose that serves.

What is the reason for

such a mentality in our bureaucracy? The role of bureaucracy which the British nurtured all along was to harass, manipulate, dominate & control the Indian masses. We continue to work on the same principles. Bureaucracy should have been overhauled to suit Indian conditions & the prime focus would have been to serve the masses. now it has hardened so much (harder than a rock) & become inflexible & ineffective. Right from the British raj, the Babudom has an unwritten code of conduct to follow. The most pertinent part of the code is: If you're a babu, never be over-enthusiastic about office work. Taking too much interest in work and taking any initiative to improve things around may lead to your being projected as someone having no real work. Your bosses will start disliking you thinking that you're up to something that's not obvious. Your colleagues may start distrusting you. In the end, you may be asked to do some crap or you'll be transferred

to an unimportant assignment. Babus, generally don't like other babus behaving differently.

Successful bureaucrats honor the directions of their seniors like gospel. During the pandemic, the collectors were empowered to frame rules to be followed by the people. Before the festive season on the direction of the Collector, the local administration consisting of the Sub-Collector, the Tahasildar, IIC of Police, and the EO of the Municipality called a meeting of the different Puja committees to make them aware of the directives of the Collector. I had an opportunity to be there as chief of a Kalipuja committee.

But unfortunately, I had acted more like a journalist than a chief of a committee. The IIC read out the directives of the Collector. There were conditions- more than seven persons shall not be allowed in the pandal including the priests, loudspeakers shall not be used, and many more. One young man belonging to the ruling party representing

one puja committee unconditionally agreed to the limitations. Rather he said that seven is quite high, suggested to bring it down to four. The presiding officers were overwhelmed with the suggestion. On my turn, I pointed out two things: since it's a tradition that 11 persons bring the Klash and hence are supposed to witness the puja their number can't be reduced, but distance will be maintained. Two: Regarding playing loudspeakers I asked if the directives were aimed at one community as the loudspeaker being allowed to be used in the local Mosques several times a day! The discussions on the directives were abruptly curtailed. Later that young friend suggested to me that you say yes Sir to all, but do what is practicable.

Throughout the state, the pre-puja meetings ended with yes Sir in the letter and no Sir in spirit. Probably most meetings have ended with very good Sir, for resolving to breach the directives at a manageable level. Crackers were banned this Diwali, but the crackle echoes far and wide.

## Owaisi labeled 'Vote-Katua'

However, Asaduddin Owaisi ruled out any tie-up with the BJP

The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen performed remarkably well on Tuesday after the party won five crucial Muslim-dominated constituencies - Baisi, Amour, Kochadhaman, Bahadurganj, and Jokihat - in the Bihar Assembly elections.

The part is expected to play a key role in the formation of the next government, having captured a sizeable number of seats in the state's Seemanchal region, which was being seen as a stronghold of the Grand Alliance.

In Baisi, the party won by 16,373 votes, while in Amour it had secured 52,515 more votes than the next candidate. In Kochadhaman, the party candidate won by a margin of over 36,000 votes while in Bahadurganj, the party bagged the top position with 45,215 more votes. In Jokihat, the winning margin was only

7,383 votes.

Out of these, four seats were won by the Grand Alliance in 2015 Assembly polls. RJD had won Baisi and Jokihat seats, while Congress had won Bahadurganj and Amour seats. Only Kochadhaman was won by JD(U) candidate the last time.

Former Rashtriya Janata Dal MLA and state president of the party Akhtarul Iman won the Amour Assembly seat, which comes under the district of Purnia. Iman has been instrumental in establishing the AIMIM in the region. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, he finished third from the Kishanganj seat and enjoyed a considerable hold over several seats in the region. In the 2015 Assembly elections, when he first contested on an AMIM ticket, he was defeated by then MahaGathbandhan candidate Mujahid Alam in

Kochadhaman.

In Kochadhaman, Mohammad Izhar Asfi defeated sitting MLA Master Mujahid Alam of the Janata Dal (United). This was Iman's seat in 2010 when he was in RJD. In Bahadurganj, AIMIM candidate Mohammad Izhar Nayeemi beat Lakhna Lal Pandit of the Vikassheel Insaan Parishad.

"It's a very good day for our political party," Asaduddin Owaisi told reporters. "People of Bihar have voted for us and given us their blessings. We will work for the people and focus on flood-affected areas."

However, the AIMIM chief said he felt his party must be "lacking somewhere" to have not won more seats. "We will sit together and work on the issues and win the seats next time," Owaisi said.

In the last Assembly elections in 2015, the party had failed

to open its account, when it contested six of the 243 seats. This time around, AIMIM is contested in 20 Assembly seats as part of the Grand Democratic Secular Front that has several other parties, including Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party and Rashtriya Lok Samata Party led by former Union minister Upendra Kushwaha.

The Congress, which failed to make any meaningful inroads in the state, accused Owaisi of undermining its vote base in the crucial Seemanchal region to help the BJP. Most of the seats AIMIM contested were in the Seemanchal, comprising of four districts - Kishanganj, Araria, Purnia, and Katihar - which have traditionally been a Rashtriya Janata Dal stronghold. The party contested 14 seats out of 24 seats in the region.



Senior Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury described Owaisi as a "vote-katua" (vote-cutter) and asked secular parties to be alert of his intentions. The term is a reference for a party whose votes may not result in a win but may impact the electoral result in favor of one candidate against another.

"BJP's tact of using Owaisi's party in the Bihar elections has succeeded to an extent," he told. "All secular parties should be alert about vote-cutter Owaisi."

Although Owaisi's election rallies during the campaign drew large crowds, analysts had predicted it was unlikely that the party will emerge as a major player in state politics.

During his rallies, Owaisi targeted the Grand Alliance more than the incumbent NDA, accusing the RJD, Congress, and others of perennially neglecting the region. The mahagathbandhan in turn labeled warned he would fracture the vote base to the benefit of the BJP.



# How safe are 'Made-in-India' cars

Safety has come a long way in climbing the list of priorities for the Indian car buyer over the past several decades. And while it may still not be as significant as affordability and exterior styling - unfortunate as that is, it has prompted almost every car maker here to highlight and underline protection to occupants that are on offer in their respective products. Some of these products have won accolades the world over while others continue to be deemed unsafe regardless of claims made.

The safety regulation standards that car makers here have to adhere to have been made stringent by the government with a view of reducing injuries and fatalities in the unfortunate case of a mishap. This has indeed led to manufacturers focusing on a more robust body shell, equipping models with airbags, ABS with EBD, and a whole lot more. Take the case of Maruti Suzuki S-Presso for instance. The company says that the car offers ABS with EBD as standard and gets a rear-parking assist sensor along with dual airbags and several other safety highlights.



The company says that the car offers ABS with EBD as standard and gets a rear-parking assist sensor along with dual airbags and several other safety highlights. But not all of these features may be present in the base variant which is likely to gain max traction in the entry-level car-buying market. As such, when Global NCAP put a base variant of S-Presso through a crash test, it failed to impress.

But not all of these features may be present in the base variant which is likely to gain max traction in the entry-level car-buying market. As such, when Global NCAP put a base variant of S-Presso through a

crash test, it failed to impress.

A Maruti spokesperson reacted on behalf of the company to reiterate that the car complies with all safety protocols put out by the Indian government. "It (safety)

cannot be left to the opinion of any self-proclaimed party."

In the same series of tests, the Hyundai Grand i10 NIOS and Kia Seltos - both made in the country - scored two and three stars,

respectively. These are deemed satisfactory ratings although far from the best that's possible. On the other side of the spectrum are cars like Tata Nexon, Altroz, and Mahindra XUV300 which drove out with

five-star safety ratings in the Global NCAP tests previously. That these cars offer a mile-long list of safety features - several starting from the base variant up - helped in securing the impressive ratings.

As such, it may be assumed that these cars also meet with the Indian safety standards put in place.

A school of thought highlights that the Indian safety standards may have come a long way but need to go far further.

And in doing so, crucial safety aspects like dual airbags and three-point seatbelts need to be made mandatory from the base variant up.

The government too appears determined to bring down road fatalities significantly. "India witnesses nearly five lakh road accidents every year, in which about 1.5 lakh lives are lost. We endeavor to bring down these figures by 20-25 percent by the coming March 31 (2021)," Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has said.

And while driver skill, road conditions, and several other similar factors have a big role to play towards this objective, the safety offered by manufacturers in their vehicles will also determine the path forward.



# There are '5 Bidens in Mumbai' claims President-elect Joe Biden



We all know about United States Vice President-elect Kamala Harris' Indian connection. But did you know that the US President-elect Joe Biden has deep-rooted connections with India? Biden had claimed back in

2013 that he had an Indian connection. He described that he descended from George Biden his "great, great, great, great, great grandfather", who was a captain of East India Company. "There are five Bidens in

Mumbai, India," Biden said in 2015 at an event hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry and Carnegie Endowment for International Peace to mark the 10th anniversary of the India-US civil nuclear deal. In 2013, he said that he received a letter from some "Biden from Mumbai" from the Bombay Stock Exchange.


"It's an honor to be back in India and to be here in Mumbai. Off script for a second here, I was reminded I was elected to the United States Senate when I was a 29-year-old

kid back in 1972, and one of the first letters I received and I regret I never followed up on it," Biden said. "Maybe, some genealogist in the audience can follow up for me, but I received a letter from a gentleman named Biden - Biden, my name - from Mumbai, asserting that we were related," he added. However, the Indian Council of Global Relations said that no George Biden was working for East India Company, but there were two Bidens William Henry Biden and his older brother

Christopher Biden who arrived in India in the 19th century.

After more than three days of uncertainty, Saturday saw Democrat Joseph R Biden Jr become the 46th president of the United States defeating President Donald Trump. As the news of his victory in the 2020 US elections came, Biden took to Twitter to announce and thank the people of America for his victory. He tweeted, 'America, I'm honored that you have chosen me to lead our great country. The work ahead of us will be

hard, but I promise you this: I will be a President for all Americans - whether you voted for me or not. I will keep the faith that you have placed in me.'

Soon after reactions poured in from World leaders, congratulating the president-elect and some even expressing their relief at President Trump's defeat. The statements came after the Associated Press called the election for Biden and without a concession from Trump, who prematurely declared victory and has sought to halt ballot counting in several key states. 

## Tata Steel gears up to sell Dutch assets

### Steelmaker in discussions with SSAB Sweden to sell the unit in the Netherlands

Tata Steel Ltd is getting ready to split its European operations down the middle as it begins talks with Scandinavian steel sheet maker SSAB Sweden to sell its profitable division in the Netherlands. This leaves the UK operations, based in Port Talbot in southern Wales, at the mercy of a UK government bailout.

Tata Steel acquired both units when it bought out Anglo-Dutch steelmaker Corus Group Plc in 2006 and has spent the next decade-and-a-half coping with slowing steel demand in Europe, increasing the cost of operations and pension settlements with labor unions.

Tata Steel posted a net profit of ₹1,635 crores in Q2

"The company has initiated discussions with SSAB Sweden based on interest received for the potential acquisition of Tata Steel's Netherlands business,

including the IJmuiden steelworks," Tata Steel said in a press release.

"The company has started discussions with the supervisory board, and the board of management of Tata Steel Netherlands, and the process will move to the next stage, including due diligence and stakeholders' consultations," it added. The company is committed to deploying the proceeds of any strategic restructuring towards additional deleveraging of the balance sheet, it said.

"The company has also initiated the process to separate Tata Steel Netherlands and Tata Steel UK and will pursue separate strategic paths for the Netherlands and UK business in the future," it said.

"Tata Steel continues its dialogue with the UK government on potential measures to safeguard the long-term future of Tata

Steel UK and is also reviewing all options to make the business self-sustaining without the need for any funding support from Tata Steel India in the future."

SSAB Sweden also confirmed on Friday that it is interested in acquiring the IJmuiden steel mill and related downstream assets. Separately, European media has reported that SSAB Sweden is also in discussions to acquire Germany's Thyssenkrupp's steel business, the second-biggest steel business in Europe by sales.

A merger between Tata Steel Europe and Thyssenkrupp was blocked by the European Commission last year.

Tata Steel, India's largest maker of the alloy, is also simplifying its corporate structure in its home market. The company said it is folding listed and unlisted subsidiaries into

four clusters-long products, downstream, mining and utilities, and infrastructure. Towards this end, Tata Metaliks and Indian Steel and Wire Products will be merged into Tata Steel Long Products, a process that will take six-nine months to conclude.

Tata Steel surprised stock markets on Friday when it reported a consolidated net profit of ₹1,635 crores in the September quarter. That compares with analysts' estimates of a paltry ₹29.21 crore.

Consolidated revenue stood at ₹37,154 crore for the quarter, rising 7.44% from the ₹34,579 crores it reported in the year-ago period.

The company produced 6.73 million tonnes of steel in the September quarter, bouncing back to nearly full capacity utilization in the period after covid-related lockdowns affected operations both in India and



abroad in the April-June period.

Consolidated Ebitda (earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortization) surged 60% year-on-year to ₹6,217 crores while Ebitda/tonne rose nearly 41% to ₹8,396, compared to ₹5,963 in the year-ago quarter.

The company said its deleveraging plans are on track as it reduced net debt by \$1 billion in the first half of the fiscal.

"Tata Steel has delivered strong results in India with broad-based, market-leading volume growth, and strong cash-flow generation. There

has also been a significant improvement in product mix towards domestic sales and higher value-added products and a sharp reduction in costs," said T.V. Narendran, chief executive officer and managing director.

"In Europe, though the overall environment remains challenging, and the recovery is more gradual, there has been an improvement in volumes and sales mix. We are continuing our discussions with the UK government regarding the future strategy of our UK business," he said. 



# Respite for RBI as Vegetable Prices Come Off the Boil



New Delhi, November 12: Sizzling vegetable prices in India that have kept inflation high are beginning to cool, helping price growth return toward the central bank's target band and allowing policymakers to keep interest rates lower for longer.

The wholesale price for staples such as onions was 29 rupees (39 cents) a kilogram in New Delhi on Tuesday, down 29% from Nov. 1, while the price of tomatoes fell about 11%, according to the

department of consumer affairs. Potatoes dropped 1.7% to 29.5 rupees during the same period, it said. With fresh crops arriving at wholesale markets, including in New Delhi's AzadpurMandi, one of Asia's biggest fruit and vegetable markets, the prices are expected to decline further in coming days, according to Rajinder Sharma, a trader whose family has been trading in potatoes and onions for more than a century.

While data later Thursday

is expected to show retail inflation was still sticky at 7.3% in October, economists see declining food prices -- which account for 54% of the consumer price basket -- helping ease price gains from November onward.

"The slowdown in food price gains is likely to become more evident starting in December on account of a high year-earlier base and an expected record harvest of the summer crop," said Bloomberg Economics' Abhishek Gupta.


The easing prices may not be enough yet to nudge the central bank's Monetary Policy Committee to resume interest-rate cuts to support an economy headed for its deepest annual contraction this financial year. But it is just what's needed to move the inflation trajectory toward the Reserve Bank of India's 2%-6% target band. The central bank, which is scheduled to announce its next rate decision on Dec. 4, is forecasting inflation to ease to 5.4% in the current quarter, and slow to 4.5% in the three months to March. Economists expect policymakers to continue with their lower rates-for-longer stance adopted at their last meeting in October.

"We expect another pause from the RBI" next month, said Teresa John, an economist at Nirmal Bang Equities Pvt. in Mumbai. "The recent uptick in high-frequency indicators and an improved GDP reading in the fiscal second-quarter will provide some comfort to the RBI." 

## CM Mamata seeks PM Modi's urgent intervention on price rise of potatoes and onions

Kolkata : West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday (November 9) wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi over cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oil, onion, and potatoes being removed from the list of essential commodities. Notably, the exclusion of onion and potatoes are encouraging vendors to hoard and eventually is resulting in a price hike. The West Bengal CM's letter said, "Amendments in Essential Commodities Act are seriously encouraging hoarders in hoarding and profiteering on essential items like potatoes and onions resulting in price rise and suffering to consumers." "I would seek your kind and urgent intervention as the



state govt being now devoid of its powers cannot be expected to remain a silent spectator to the ongoing sufferings of the common people due to extraordinary price rise of essential commodities," the letter said. Mamata also mentions that the amendment in the Act has usurped the powers of the state government and only the Central government can act to regulate agri-products. She asks the Central government to intervene immediately to stop hoarding, increase the supply of onion and potatoes, and control the price hike. Mamata Banerjee also urged Modi to permit the states to bring about appropriate legislation regarding their exercising control over the production, supply, distribution, and sale of the agricultural commodities. Earlier on September 23, Parliament had passed the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill to remove cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion, and potatoes from the list of essential commodities. 

# RSP Gets ENCON Award for Energy Conservation

SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) received the coveted ENCON Award 2020 presented by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), Eastern Region for excellence in energy conservation in the large scale category.

The competition was held on 14th September on a virtual platform by CII Eastern Region.

Notably, RSP was awarded the 4 Star Certificate in the event. BP Pandey AGM and S C Nayak, Assistant Manager, both from the Energy Management Department (EMD) represented RSP in the competition.

It is worth mentioning here that RSP has received the award towards a reduction in

carbon emission and environmental concerns as per the set norms. In the year 2019-20 RSP achieved the best specific energy consumption of 6.244 Gcal/TCS. The Plant has set a target of achieving Specific Energy consumption of 6.0 GCal/TCS, which will have a substantial positive impact in the

fields of cost reduction and environmental management.

The various techno-economic improvements which have contributed towards this achievement include significant improvement in auxiliary power generation (CPP-3) in TRTG, PBS, and BPTG, increase in Blast Furnaces Gas yield and

Coke Ovens Gas yield which has reduced petro fuel and boiler coal consumption and improved PBS power generation which has resulted in a reduction in power purchase from the grid.

CII confers the awards to organizations both in Manufacturing and Service Sectors in recognition of their

systematic, commendable, and intensive efforts for efficient utilization as well as conservation of energy. The assessed companies are awarded a star rating based on their performance concerning meeting all statutory requirements with the highest rating of 5 Star.



# LJP sinks but brings JD-U down

Patna :With with results on Wednesday morning showing Janata Dal-United underperforming in a big way, Lok Janshakti Party president Chirag Paswan appeared to be succeeding in damaging Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led party by playing a major role in its poor show in many seats. The LJP, though, itself looked to have paid a big price in the process, as the Election Commission data showed that it could win just one seat while drawing around 5.7 percent of votes. Paswan's party has, however, been instrumental in the JD-

U's loss in at least 30 seats. As per the EC data, JD-U won 43 seats, a big drop from 71 seats it had won in 2015 assembly polls. JD-U spokesperson KC Tyagi told PTI that a 'sinister' campaign was run against Nitish Kumar as part of a 'conspiracy'. "Apne Bhi Shamil the aur begane bhi (Our own also harmed us along with the outsiders)," he said, without taking any names. He, however, expressed confidence that Kumar will become the chief minister again, noting that top BJP leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit

Shah have made it clear that he will head the government if the ruling NDA retains power. Chirag Paswan - the joker in the pack Chirag Paswan was a man in a hurry. In too much hurry, it would seem. Paswan's LJP won a solitary seat, its worst performance since the party's inception in 2000, putting an end to any outsized ambition of playing kingmaker. Paswan may not have succeeded in preventing Nitish Kumar from again occupying the CM's chair, but he has eaten into the JD(U)'s vote in dozens of constituencies. If



conspiracy theories are anything to go by, he has achieved, in part, what he had set out to - help the BJP become the larger partner in the

NDA. But what happens to Paswan's political future is anybody's guess. The BJP won 74 seats, according to the EC figures. Two other

NDA members have won four seats each. The NDA in total won 125 seats while the RJD-led opposition had won 110 seats.

## BJD Sweeps Odisha Bypolls, Snatches Balasore Assembly Seat From BJP



Bhubaneswar, November 10: The ruling Biju Janata Dal in Odisha has won bypolls to the two assembly seats in the State. While the ruling party once again won the Tirtol seat, it snatched the BalasoreSadar seat from the BJP. BJD's Swarup Kumar Das won the Balasore seat by a margin of 13351

votes from BJP's Manas Kumar Dutta. Das secured 84097 votes while BJP's Manas Kumar Dutta got 70746 votes and Congress candidate M a m a t a K u n d u garnered 4983 votes. In Tirtol, BJD's Bijaya Shankar Das won the by-polls by a margin of 41703 votes from BJP's RajkishoreBehera. Das secured 88310 votes

while BJP's RajkishoreBehera got 46607 votes with Congress candidate HimanshuBhusanMallick garnering 28778 votes. The two assembly segments had gone to polls on November 3. The counting of votes started at 8 am today amid tight security arrangements and strict adherence to COVID-19 guidelines.



# President-elect Biden: What it means for India?



Washington : The White House will see a new incumbent in Joe Biden the most powerful nation of the world, on January 20, 2021. Political analysts in South Asia and the region of the Indo

Pacific are also keenly watching and speculating on the future policies of the new administration. There is the widespread expectation in India that given the bipartisan consensus in the United

States on improving relations with India and the geopolitical realities of the region, India will continue to be viewed favorably by the United States. Biden has overseen a resurgence in

relations with India under his Vice presidency and has been supportive of issues like the Indo-US Nuclear deal, the status of a non-NATO ally for India increased defense cooperation, and support for India's permanent membership of a reformed UN Security Council. Biden, however, is a seasoned and balanced politician and his administration will look for conciliatory policies towards allies and cutting down on rhetoric with competitors while advancing American interests. This could also mean a change in emphasis and nuance as far as South Asia, India, and the Indo Pacific region are concerned.

It can be expected that the Biden administration will work towards ensuring a free and open Indo Pacific, where the rule of law prevails, and that will mean attempts at containment of China will continue while working in

tandem with countries of the Quad, and other South-East Asian nations. In China, the Democrat rhetoric on Tibet, Xinjiang, Taiwan, and Xi Jin Ping has been high, and even if China tries to revive the G- 2 concepts with the US, the systemic rivalry with China is here to stay. Despite this, any adjustments that the Biden administration makes on trade and political issues with Beijing could be consequential for India and the region. In Afghanistan, the Biden the administration will be willing to continue the policy of a drawdown of US troops, and therefore any accommodation with Pakistan, given its influence on the Taliban will be detrimental to Indian interests. A US return to JCPOA under the new administration will provide room for India to engage with Iran on Chahbahar, thus reviving

opportunities with Central Asia and Afghanistan. The Indo US partnership in defense, science and technology, supply chains, and innovation are expected to flourish, and equally, the Biden administration will be closer to India on climate change, WTO, and cooperation in global health and vaccine. The new administration has promised to ease migration-related restrictions for family members and highly qualified STEM students, restore the systematic grant of citizenship and green cards based on family ties, and ease the pressure of family members of migrants facing restrictions in the US. Indian nationals and companies can also expect relief in the grant of H1 B visas. On the whole Indo-US relations under a Biden Presidency are expected to further advance the Indo US partnership.

## Paradip Port trust observed Rastriya Ekta Diwas

Paradip Port Trust observed Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) on 31.10.2020 on the occasion of the Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Shri Rinkesh Roy, Chairman, PPT offered a floral tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel along with other senior officials of PPT. Thereafter, he joined pledge taking ceremony led by Dr. Sanjeev Ranjan, IAS,



Secretary, Ministry of Shipping through Video Conferencing along with HODs and Dy. HODs of

PPT. In the evening, Shri Roy took a salute in the march past by CISF Unit, PPT.

## IFFCO observes Vigilance Awareness Drive

Paradeep, Nov 08 : ( IMO bureau) IFFCOParadeep Unit observed Vigilance Awareness Drive -2020 with the "0Theme Satark Bharat - Samridh Bharat (Vigilant India - Prosperous India)" on 02nd and 03rd November Online mode observing Covid-19 guidelines of Physical distancing. To further strengthen the commitment of all stakeholders at IFFCO to uphold the highest standards of Personal Integrity, Transparency, and accountability. The inauguration was marked by an Integrity Pledge taking ceremony on 02nd Nov by IFFCO Managing Director, Dr. U.S. Awasthi has addressed all IFFCO Employees through Video conferencing and encouraged

them to maintain best practices in life inspired by the ethical values of integrity. Shri Raj Kumar Nagpal, Chief Vigilance Officer read the IFFCO Chairman's message and briefed about the need for a Vigilance awareness drive. Thousands of IFFCO Employees all over the country joined this Inaugural function in online webinar mode. Various programs were organized in two days of Vigilance Awareness Drive - 2020 like Debates, Slogan, Drawing, and Quiz competition to spread awareness among Employees, Dependent children, and Ladies of IFFCO Township at Paradeep Unit. Everyone participated very enthusiastically and

cheerfully. In Concluding Program on 03rd Nov., Shri Ajay Bajpai, Vigilance Officer thrust the importance of Vigilance in all walks of life. Sri Suresh Goyal, SGM (F&A) asked each one to be self-vigilant. Sri K. J. Patel, Executive Director appreciated the entire drive by the Vigilance department and encouraged everyone to lead a life with honesty and integrity. Winners of the various competition held during Vigilance Awareness Drive -2020 announced by VO Paradeep followed by a Vote of thanks from Sri Abhay Kumar Mall, JGM (P & A). All senior officials with IEU and IOA Members were present during the program via Zoom in Online mode.



# Understand shock but violence cannot be justified, says Emmanuel Macron

Paris: President Emmanuel Macron sought to calm flaring tensions with Muslims around the world on Saturday, telling an Arab TV channel he understood that caricatures of the Prophet Mohammed could be shocking while lashing out at "lies" that the French state was behind them. France is on edge after the republication in early September of cartoons of the prophet by the Charlie Hebdo weekly, which was followed by an attack outside its former offices, the beheading of a teacher, and an attack on a church in Nice Thursday that left three dead.

The country was further shaken by a new incident on Saturday when an attacker armed with a sawn-off shotgun shot an Orthodox priest as he closed his church in the French city of Lyon before fleeing, a police source said.

The 52-year-old priest, who has Greek nationality, was shot in the liver at point-blank range and taken to hospital in a serious condition, sources said.

A suspect was arrested later Saturday, Lyon's public prosecutor said, with the motive of the attack remaining unclear.

Softer tone

Macron sparked protests across the Muslim world after the murder earlier this month of teacher Samuel Paty - who had shown his class a cartoon of Mohammed - by saying France would never renounce its laws permitting blasphemous caricatures.

But in an apparent bid to

reach out to Muslims, Macron gave a long interview setting out his vision to Qatar-based TV channel Al-Jazeera, seeking to strike a softer tone.

"I can understand that people could be shocked by the caricatures, but I will never accept that violence can be justified," he said.

"I understand the feelings that this arouses, I respect them. But I want you to understand the role that I have. My role is to calm things down, as I am doing here, but at the same time it is to protect these rights."

He added: "I will always defend in my country the freedom to speak, to write, to think, to draw."

'Relied on lies'

Macron lashed out at "distortions" from political leaders over the cartoons of the Prophet, saying too often people were led to believe that they were a creation of the French state.

He slammed "a confusion that has been fed by many media -- and sometimes political and religious leaders -- which is to say that these caricatures are in a way the project or the creation of the French government or the president".

He also denounced calls for a boycott of French goods, backed in particular by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and taken up by some retailers in Muslim countries, as "unworthy" and "unacceptable".

He said the campaign was created by some private groups "who relied on lies... sometimes from other

leaders" about the caricatures.

Even before the attack on Paty, Macron had promised a tough new campaign against Islamist radicalism in France, which has claimed the lives of hundreds of people since 2015.

Protests erupted Friday in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Mali, Mauritania, and Lebanon, the latest in a string of mass rallies denouncing France.

'Too early to say'

France is still reeling from the latest attack in Nice, which Macron has already described as "Islamist" terror.

French authorities were on Saturday seeking to ascertain if a young Tunisian suspected of killing three people in a knife rampage inside a Nice church had outside help.

Brahim Issaoui, 21, only arrived in Europe from Tunisia last month and, according to prosecutors, killed a church employee, a



Brazilian woman, and a French woman in the attack in the Notre-Dame Basilica on Thursday morning.

The attacker cut the throat of Nadine Devillers, 60, and the sexton Vincent Loques, 55. A Brazilian mother, Simone Barreto Silva, who was stabbed several times, took refuge in a nearby restaurant but died of her wounds there.


Issaoui was shot by police multiple times and is

currently in grave condition in the hospital. Investigators have been unable to question him and his precise motivations remain unclear.

"It is still too early to say if there were others complicit, what his motivations were in coming to France and when this idea took root in him," said a source close to the inquiry who asked not to be named. Investigators believe Issaoui traveled

illegally to Europe via Italy's Mediterranean island of Lampedusa on September 20.

He arrived at the mainland Italian port of Bari on October 9 before coming to Nice just one or two days before the attack.

French police on Saturday arrested another Tunisian man, bringing to four the number of people being held in connection with the deadly attack in Nice. 

*Best Wishes from ::*

## **RADHE RADHE**





# Warren Buffett scores \$10 billion gain as Pfizer's vaccine sparks market surge



Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway scored a \$10 billion gain from the four biggest holdings in its stock portfolio on Monday, as news of Pfizer's effective COVID-19 vaccine spiked their prices.

Apple stock rose as much as 2.8%, boosting the value of Berkshire's roughly 981 million shares in the technology titan by more than \$3

billion. Berkshire's number-two holding, Bank of America, climbed as much as 12%, generating another \$3 billion in paper gains for the conglomerate.

Coca-Cola stock jumped as much as 8%, lifting the value of Berkshire's \$400 million shares in the beverage behemoth by \$1.5 billion. Finally, American Express soared by up to 20%, adding another \$3 billion

➤ Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway racked up a \$10 billion gain across the four biggest holdings in its stock portfolio on Monday.

➤ The billionaire investor's company gained as much as \$3 billion from each of Apple, Bank of America, and American Express, plus another \$1.5 billion from its Coca-Cola shares, after news of Pfizer's promising COVID-19 vaccine sparked a broad market rally.

➤ Berkshire's bias towards financials, industrials, and consumer goods meant it was hit hard by widespread lockdowns this year, but its exposure to the "real economy" fueled significant portfolio gains on Monday.


➤ The conglomerate's stakes in JPMorgan, Wells Fargo, Visa, Mastercard, and other companies also jumped in value.

to Berkshire's gains.

Excluding Apple, Berkshire's portfolio is dominated by financial, consumer goods, and industrial stocks, all of which have been hit hard by the pandemic.

However, its "real economy" bets rallied on Monday, as investors wagered an effective vaccine would revitalize the US economy and help traditional industries rebound.

Several other Berkshire holdings rose in value too. For example, the company gained as much as \$400 million and \$270 million respectively on its diminished Wells Fargo

and JPMorgan stakes, as both bank stocks jumped roughly 10%. Berkshire's stakes in Visa, Mastercard, Synchrony Financial, and Suncor Energy also soared in value. 

## Scientist Behind Covid-19 Vaccine Claims 'It Will Stop the Pandemic'

2020 has been one long wait for the pandemic to finally end, and with Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine, it may finally be near.

Scientists UgurSahin and OzlemTureci, who have dedicated their lives to finding cures for infectious diseases and cancer, helped develop the Covid-19 vaccine that by Pfizer.

Positive data on BioNTech and U.S. partner Pfizer Inc's COVID-19 vaccine is an unlikely success for the married couple behind the German biotech firm, who have devoted their lives

to harnessing the immune system against cancer. Pfizer on Monday said its experimental vaccine was more than 90% effective in preventing COVID-19 based on initial data from a large study.

Pfizer and BioNTech are the first drugmakers to show successful data from a large-scale clinical trial of a coronavirus vaccine. The companies said they have so far found no serious safety concerns and expect to seek U.S. emergency use authorization later this month.

From humble roots as the son of a Turkish immigrant

working at a Ford factory in Cologne, BioNTech Chief Executive UgurSahin, 55, now figures among the 100 richest Germans, together with his wife and fellow board member OezlemTureci, 53, according to weekly Welt am Sonntag.

Sahin told that the vaccine 'will work.'


"If the question is whether we can stop this pandemic with this vaccine, then my answer is: yes because I believe that even protection only from symptomatic infections will have a dramatic effect," he said.

"The vaccine hinders Covid-19 from gaining access to our cells. But even if the virus manages to find a way in, then the T-cells bash it over the head and eliminate it. We have trained the immune system very well to perfect these two defensive moves. We now know that the virus can't defend itself against these mechanisms," he further explained.

While the efficiency of the vaccine can be proven - are there side effects? A report in Daily Mail of the volunteers compared the jab's effects to the likes of



a 'severe hangover'. Many claimed that the shot left them with headaches, muscle pain, and fever, much like vaccines for flu. One 45-year old publicist who volunteered said that

the first dose left her with side effects experienced to the flu shot, but she experienced severe side effects symptoms after she was administered her second shot. 



# Suraj Pe Mangal Bhari



Cast	ManojBajpayee, DiljitDosanjh, Fatima Sana Shaikh, ManojPahwa, Seema Pahwa, Annu Kapoor, Vijay Raaz, Supriya Pilgaonkar, Neha Pendse, Manuj Sharma, NeerajSood, Abhishek Banerjee, KarishmaTanna
Director	Abhishek Sharma
Duration	2 hours 15 minutes
Stars	4/5

A Punjabi boy is in search of his bride. When his wedding was almost finalized, drops in a detective at the worst possible time. The to-be-groom then has just one motive - to destroy the detective's life, but things do not turn out to be as expected. Thus begins the comic ride with tinges of romance and drama.

## 'Suraj Pe Mangal Bhari' Review:

It has been over six months since a fresh movie, more so a comic film that one could watch with the family, released. 'SurajPeMangal Bhari' is the perfect movie to

watch if you want to spend quality time with your family. It is probably even one of the reasons why director Abhishek Sharma might have insisted that the film should release in theatres - because it is exactly the type of movie Indian families have grown up to and loved!

More so, the movie has brought in a collection of actors who excel at their jobs. DiljitDosanjh introduces the film and ever since it is a smooth ride for him. Another factor to look out for is his best friend played by Manuj Sharma, who is obsessed with Hindi films, especially the

ones featuring megastar Amitabh Bachchan.

ManojBajpayee is killing it in his introduction as a neighborhood 'maushi', who is friendly with the other ladies and discusses her husband with them. The actor has adopted many roles as the detective in the film and he is flawless 90% of the time.

Fatima Sana Shaikh is a surprise element, especially soon after she meets with Diljit's character. Not to forget, Supriya Pathak is back on screen after a long time and she is such fun to watch in the role of a mother. Annu Kapoor, who is revealed to be

an uncle to Manoj and Fatima's characters, will leave you in splits with his comic timing too.

'SurajPeMangalBhari' also happens to be a movie which brings real-life couple ManojPahwa and Seema Pahwa together, who are gems of actors anyway. Neha Pendse, Abhishek Banerjee, and Vijay Raaz have a cameo performance in the film, and in their small bits, they also bring out the most to the already hilarious plot.

Coming to the storyline, director Abhishek Sharma and the writers Rohan Shankar and Shokhi Banerjee have done a

great job at the much-needed job - bringing in laughter at the crucial time. They have also paid a tribute to DDLJ in their style and it's hilarious!

While the sets were all real locations - roads, beaches, etc - it was the costumes that caught my attention. DiljitDosanjh was seen wearing 'The Flash' and 'Star Wars' t-shirts in the movie, as a tribute to the cult superheroes. Manoj Bajpayee, on the other hand, in his costumes and makeup, went unrecognizable, especially in the role of a 'beggar' detective. The songs in 'SurajPeMangalBhari' are a

distraction but not so much that it takes away your interest from the storyline. Since 'SurajPeMangalBhari' is not a dance film, the choreography in the film can be termed fairly good. There is no sloppy camera, sound, or lighting work, which makes the film a delight to watch. More so, it is a film that can be seen with families without any second thoughts.

## 'SurajPeMangalBhari' verdict:

Go watch it in theatres and take your family along. You won't be disappointed. Also, wait for the credit scenes, for they will keep you longing for more.



## International accolade in literature

Paramananda Mishra of Village-Nausira, Tirtol, Jagatsinghpur, and Retd. Librarian of A.S. College, Tirtol has received International Award from Mexico, Sweden & of Brazil for his Excellency in

literature. He has written more than 300 poems both in Odia and English Language out of which many are in the process of publication. He continues his writings. His poem 'Hum Humanity' has been selected among 100 competitors from 25

countries. Sri Mishra has glorified Odisha and India as well. He is involved in many literary organizations of Jagatsinghpur District holding several positions. His hobby of writing poems both in English & Odia languages has

been praised and best wishes are pouring in from different literary organizations. Sri Mishra has expressed gratitude to the Suryadaya Bhasa Sahitya partisan for honoring him as Suryodaya Literary Excellent poet.

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