

Fortune of iron ore miners linked with China trade

India's largest government-owned iron ore producer NMDC has recently reduced the price of 65% ferrous (fe) content lump material by Rs 200 to Rs 5,950 a tonne and that of 64% fe endowed fines by Rs 400 to Rs 4,760 a tonne



Sirish C. Mohanty

India's largest government-owned iron ore producer NMDC has recently reduced the price of 65% ferrous (Fe) content lump material by Rs 200 to Rs 5,950 a tonne and that of 64% fe endowed fines by Rs 400 to Rs 4,760 a tonne. Earlier, since July this year, the company, which is targeting a production of 47 million tonnes (mt) during 2021-22 against 35 mt achieved last year, had three occasions to cut prices of lump and fines. Steelmakers benefiting from elevated prices of finished (Page-14)



When it comes to iron ore exports, the overwhelmingly biggest destination for India is China.



ମହାପୁରୁଷ ମହନ୍ତଦଙ୍କ ଜୟନ୍ତୀ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ
ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳଙ୍କ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା



DADLS-28

ଆଜି ମହାପୁରୁଷ ମହନ୍ତଦଙ୍କ ପବିତ୍ର ପୁଣ୍ୟ ତିଥି ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟର ମୁସଲମାନ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।

ଶଶେନ୍ଦ୍ରାମାଲି
(ଗଣେଶୀ ଲାଲ)

OIPR- 15001/13/0052/2122



ମହାପୁରୁଷ ମହନ୍ତଦଙ୍କ
ଜୟନ୍ତୀ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

DADLS-28

ମହାପୁରୁଷ ମହନ୍ତଦଙ୍କ ପବିତ୍ର ଜୟନ୍ତୀ ଅବସରରେ ରାଜ୍ୟର ସମସ୍ତ ମୁସଲମାନ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଇବା ସଙ୍ଗେ ସଙ୍ଗେ ସେମାନଙ୍କର ସୁଖ ଓ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

କରୋନା ମହାମାରୀ ସଂପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଦୂରେଇ ଯାଇନାହିଁ । ସରକାରଙ୍କ ତରଫରୁ ଜାରି କରାଯାଇଥିବା କୋଭିଡ କଟକଣା ଅନୁପାଳନ ପୂର୍ବକ ଏହି ଉତ୍ସବ ପାଳନ କରିବାକୁ ମୁଁ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ନିବେଦନ କରୁଛି ।

(ରଘୁନନ୍ଦନ ଦାସ)

ସୂଚନା ଓ ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ, ଜଳସଂପଦ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

OIPR- 15001/13/0052/2122



ମାନ୍ୟବର ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ
ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା



DADLS-28

ମହାପୁରୁଷ ମହନ୍ତଦଙ୍କ ପବିତ୍ର ଜୟନ୍ତୀ ଅବସରରେ ମୁସଲମାନ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି ଏବଂ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ବିକାଶରେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର ସହଯୋଗ କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

କୋଭିଡ ନିୟମାବଳୀର ପାଳନ ଯଥା ଠିକ୍ ଭାବରେ ମାଧ୍ୟମିକିବା, ହାତ ଧୋଇବା ଏବଂ ସାମାଜିକ ଦୂରତା ରକ୍ଷା କରି ପର୍ବ ପାଳନ ପାଇଁ ମୁଁ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ଅନୁରୋଧ କରୁଛି ।

ନବୀନ ମହାନ୍ତି
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

OIPR- 15001/13/0052/2122

India breaks its silence on China's new land boundary law

Delhi urged Beijing to avoid using it as a pretext to take action that would unilaterally alter the situation on the unresolved frontier

New Delhi, Oct 28: India on Wednesday broke its silence on China's new land boundary law and urged Beijing to avoid using it as a pretext to take action that would unilaterally alter the situation on the unresolved frontier.

The official Indian response to China's land boundary law came four days after the neighbouring country's top legislative body, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, passed the legislation for the "protection and exploitation of the country's land border areas". The new law will come into



effect from January 1.

The external affairs ministry said in a statement on Wednesday: "It may be noted that India and China have still not resolved the boundary question. Both sides have agreed to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable resolution to the

boundary question through consultations on an equal footing."

The external affairs ministry added: "We have also concluded several bilateral agreements, protocols and arrangements to maintain peace and tranquillity along the LAC in India-China

border areas in the interim.

"Such a unilateral move will have no bearing on the arrangements that both sides have already reached earlier, whether it is on the boundary question or for maintaining peace and tranquillity along the LAC in India-China border areas. We also expect that China will avoid undertaking action under the pretext of this law which could unilaterally alter the situation in the India-China border areas."

India also took the position that the law does not confer any legitimacy to the "so-called" China-Pakistan Boundary Agreement of 1963

that New Delhi has consistently termed illegal and invalid. India claims sovereignty over part of the land China and Pakistan had ceded in favour of each other through the deal, including in northern Kashmir and Ladakh.

A 3,488km India-China land boundary remains disputed and both countries have spent over a year trying to de-escalate after the biggest flashpoint along the Line of Actual Control, in eastern Ladakh, in 50 years.

The new law gives more powers to the Chinese People's Liberation Army to counter any invasion,

encroachment, infiltration or provocation on any of the country's borders with 14 nations and also provides for more stringent border closures if Beijing deems fit.

The provision for stricter border closures also appears to be a response to the situation in Afghanistan, with which China shares a 74km border in the Xinjiang-Uyghur Autonomous Region. Beijing is concerned about the Taliban's links with the East Turkistan Islamic Movement, an Uyghur extremist organisation, and has asked Afghanistan to crack down on the group.

'India will have whole of Kashmir someday,' says top IAF official



Air Officer Commanding in Chief (AOC-in-C) of Western Air Command, Air Marshal Amit Dev spoke to media

New Delhi, Oct 27: A high-ranking Indian Air Force official on Wednesday expressed hope that India will be able to govern the entire Kashmir, including the Pakistan-occupied territory. Air Officer Commanding in Chief (AOC-in-C) of Western Air Command, Air Marshal Amit Dev said there was no plan to capture Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Dev was speaking to the media at the 75th anniversary of Indian troops' Budgam landing.

He also pointed out that people in PoK were not treated fairly by Pakistan.

"All the activities which were carried out by the Indian Air Force and the Army (on October 27, 1947) resulted in ensuring the freedom of this part of Kashmir. I am sure that someday, the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir will also join this part of Kashmir and we will have the whole of Kashmir in years to come," Dev said.

"Entire Kashmir is one, the nation is one. People on both sides have common attachments. Today or tomorrow, history will witness that nations come together. We do not have a plan at the moment, but, God willing, it will always be there because people in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir are not being treated very fairly by the Pakistanis," Dev further added.

Following the signing of the instrument of accession with India by then ruler of Jammu and Kashmir Maharaja Hari Singh, Indian troops landed in the Valley on October 27, 1947 the very next day after Pakistani tribals carried out raids.

The AOC-in-C of the Western Air Command also highlighted that the IAF faces many challenges, but the basic challenge it faces is technology.

"The rate of change of technology is so fast in the world today that we have to keep pace with that. If any nation which is

to grow economically has to have a strong military, we must fulfil our obligation to the nation in the years to come and we are always ready for the challenge," he said.

He, however, said that the IAF has become a very capable force. "After the instrument of accession was signed, we moved in our troops quickly and Srinagar airfield was saved and thereafter we launched further offensive and pushed the Pakistani military, which came as Kabalis (tribals), further back," Dev said.

Dev claimed that if the United Nations did not intervene the entire Kashmir would have been India's.

He said the IAF and the Army carried out many small missions including the operations in Poonch after an airstrip was laid there in a short span of a week, attacks on the Srinagar airfield, in Skardu ammunition dump and in Leh.

This Day: 28 Oct 1947 - Kashmir accedes to India

Plebiscite Soon On Ruler's Decision - Sheikh Abdulla To Form Interim Govt. - Union Troops Rushed For Protection Of State

In view of grave emergency the Maharaja of Kashmir has acceded to the Indian Dominion. In a letter to Lord Mountbatten he declares that "the other alternative is to leave my State and my people to freebooters." He adds: "This alternative I will never allow to happen so long as I am the Ruler of the State and I have life to defend my country."

The Maharaja has also stated that he has decided to invite Sheikh Abdulla to form an Interim Government to work with the Prime Minister.

Lord Mountbatten, accepting the accession, has stated: "It is my Government's wish that as soon as law and order have been restored in Kashmir and her soil cleared of the invader, the question of the State's accession should be settled by a reference to the people." Lord Mountbatten added that Indian troops had been sent to defend the State and "to protect the lives, property and honour of your people."

That Kashmir has been thus saved is the result of quick moves on the political chessboard. Indian troops left by air in batches for Srinagar this morning. They immediately took position at the aerodrome and in the capital of Kashmir and thereafter proceeded to Baramulla where they engaged the raiders. It is generally agreed that the troops have shown great enterprise and done, a fine piece of Job.

Mr. Mehrchand Mahajan, Mr.

V. P. Menon and Sheikh Abdulla left early this morning for Jammu to see the Maharaja. Mr. Menon returned this evening with the Instrument of Accession duly executed by the Maharaja, and immediately thereafter met the Governor-General, the Prime Minister and the Minister for States. The first news of the

and pledged his party's full support to the Maharaja to throw out foreigners. He did not bargain in the crisis but placed his services unreservedly at the disposal of the Maharaja.

The Government of India, too, has set a fine example by declaring that even though Kashmir had acceded to the Indian



accession was announced over the radio and it caused widespread relief since there has been a great deal of anxiety about the safety of the people in Srinagar.

Pakistan Leaders Outwitted

Apparently, the Pakistan leaders have been outwitted. Mr. Jinnah's arrival in Lahore and the Pakistan Defence Secretary visit to Peshawar were timed to coincide with the startling developments in Kashmir.

It is said that the attitude of Sheikh Abdulla and his colleagues and followers of the National Conference has been the most heartening aspect of the situation. The great leader of Kashmiris set his face sternly against the invaders

Dominion it would still stand by the wishes of the people. This stand further strengthens its case in regard to Junagadh and Hyderabad and considerably enhances its moral stature.

Coloured Version By B.B.C.

Considerable surprise is expressed in New Delhi at the one-sided version that is being daily put out by B.B.C. of developments in Kashmir. Even today it stated that the revolt is of the local Muslim population of Kashmir, whereas the emergency has been caused by the attack from outside and as stated by the Maharaja, "the people of my State, both Muslims and non-Muslims, generally have taken no part at all."

Chip shortage: revive hardware, India can rule the world



Prof. Shivaji Sarkar
Former HOD in English journalism in IIMC, Delhi

World is a funny place. The way to global recovery sometimes is disrupted by an invisible virus and as it tries to come out by a small computer chip.

It is thawing Indian and global industry. The sudden shortage of semi-conductor due to production stress shifting has put world giants on a tricky slowdown.

A whole array of products - cars, washing machines, wheel chairs or medical and diagnostic instruments depend on semi-conductors. It hits even the disabled-using a semi-conductor controlled wheel chair. The disruption is said to continue for a year.

India is no exception starting from cars and to the medical and personal computer sector. It is

hitting an economy trying to struggle back in a post-pandemic situation. It impacts car production already dislocated due to campaign to junk fine working ten-year-old cars or even life saving medical products.

Globally many products are in short supply. The chips that are in short supply perform various functions in modern products, and there are often more than one in a single device. Many electric and electronic hardware firms despite having orders are unable to complete the production cycle.

The automobile sector accounts for about 10 per cent of the overall demand, with the rest coming from the electronic appliances and gadget industry, such as mobile phones and

laptops, among others. And who is not suffering from Jaguar to Hyundai, Ford, Maruti, gaming industry and entertainment and an array of others. Many of these industries are on a halt. Even the smartphone industry is hit and can lead large groups like Apple to crisis.

It is difficult to fathom the losses. Production is being delayed, inventories and debt burden at factories are growing. It may lead to not only delay alone but the consequent higher interest repayments can cause sharp price rises in a world pestered by severe inflation. Banks are also hit and may head for another NPA regime.

The chip production was hit hard during pandemic as major industries remained closed and the chip makers looking for an alternative got into different areas away from the core buyers - cars, aeroplane and other high-end aerospace manufacturers, who shut down operations because of the pandemic. This had ripple effect through the supply chain to semiconductor manufacturers who reassigned production to the consumer electronics and computing industries, which had an upsurge in demand.

The rest was acerbated by the 5G technology dependent highly on several kinds of chips. Technology changes always may not

be advancement. It can cause disruption too. This is what is happening in a world that is depending on only one kind of technology, which is either a control mechanism or useful in secondary system.

The technological monoculture has become a severe problem. The source materials are also not that immense that it can continue supply forever. The alternatives are not easy to find. Never in the past technology has been so dependent on one aspect. The older technology had room for creating easy alternatives, the new software and chip-based technologies get into glitches easily. It is time for the world to rethink for induction of multi-faceted technology options. The world now has less option for jugaad that used to come out with citizen initiatives.

Since there is lack of such avenues getting out of the quagmire in an intellectual property controlled regime is becoming difficult. The lack of the chip is hitting the critical life-support systems, including those used in the ICU. The prices of ventilators, imaging machines, glucose, ECG, blood pressure monitors and pacemakers are rising.

The chips for the Indian medical technology makers are sourced from Indian vendors. But they import it from China, Taiwan and the US. In the race for software driven IT

industry, no one apparently focused on setting up of chip fabrication unit for decades in the country. The experts had always expressed concern over the rise of a secondary industry and taking the prime space in economy.

It is not just the consumer an array of industry and electronics segments are hit. The crisis of the life-saving industry has already led to shortage of patient monitors, ECGs and many other simple devices. But it was not easy to believe this even a short while ago.

India had a computer hardware sector in 1990s. It had also a semi-expert operated by self-trained parallel market. It was called the Nehru Place or Ghaffar Market technology. These were ignored and allowed to die as imports appeared to be at less cost. Apart IPR type rules that has caused immense problems for India-like countries, were not contested with the vigour it needed. The industry is now blaming the government. It earlier did not approach the government and now it is clamouring for having an Indian atmanirbhar chip production. It may be good suggestion. But it takes decades to set up such facility.

As of now be it car, medical, security and many other critical areas chip shortage has added to prices manifold. It has also led to production

losses. The SIAM, car makers association, notes that the cumulative sales from April to August 2021, the passenger vehicle segment is still below the level of 2016-17, the two-wheeler segment is lower than the level of 2011-12, and the three-wheeler segment is behind by many years.

Sales of used cars may have gone up many times but for the silly bureaucratic and National Green Tribunal initiated moves to scrap the cars. More the cars, more people remain employed. Similarly, if a hardware industry is propped up, IPR protection is given, the country would do better. Unless the silly annihilating scrapping system is reversed, India's supposed middle class economy is headed for collapse.

India is preparing for a digital boom starting with education. This may not be easy as even the personal computer system is hit by the chip scarcity. Its prices and cost per student is rising. It is also to hit the small and large businesses.

The Narendra Modi government has an open mind. It must initiate a process on war-footing to revive the hardware sector and keep prices of electronic devices under check, contest the annihilating IPR rules and help the country usher in a regime where all breathes freely, act together and leads India to a prime global position.

SAIL - Trade Unions Sign Agreement amidst Dissent Voices

Rourkela, Oct 25: At last the long-awaited salary revision for Steel Authority of India (SAIL) employees has finally seen the morning sun as a settlement has been reached between unions and SAIL top Management. Employees' agonizing and tiresome wait of almost 58 months for wage revision of SAIL employees ended on 21st October when SAIL management and the majority of trade unions reached a consensus for settlement. Out of the five unions, three unions agreed to the offer of Management while two unions did not agree to put their signatures on the settlement papers. As per the new wage revision employees will get a benefit of 13 percent increase in Minimum Guarantee Benefit and a 26.5 percent increase in perks. The most important thing is that after the wage settlement, the arrears will be paid in one installment from April 1, 2020. Around sixty thousand employees of SAIL will be benefited from the agreement.

The previous five-year agreement had ended on 31st December 2016. Since then the SAIL employees were waiting for the new agreement.

The negotiations for the new agreement began on 1st March 2019 and after 12 rounds of sittings it was concluded on 21st October. But even after almost 58 months of agonizing wait what emerged has got mixed reactions. Even all the five unions participating in the negotiations could not reach to consensus.

Of the five unions participating in the negotiations HMS, AITUC, and INTUC gave their consent to the agreement. But CITU and BMS refused to put their signatures on the agreement.

This wage settlement will be applicable for the next ten years. All earlier agreements used to be of five years.

CITU and BMS were adamant about 30 percent perks but later came down to 28 percent. But other three

unions accepted Management's offer of 26.5 percent perks. Secondly, SAIL Management's proposal to give arrears from 1st April 2020 instead of 1st January 2017 has been vehemently opposed by CITU and BMS.

The meeting on 21st October at Delhi was attended by top SAIL officials including Director Finance Amit Sen, ED Personal K.K. Singh, Director-in-Charge Anirvan Das Gupta, Durgapur, and Bumpur CEO AB Kamalakar, INTUC's Dr. Sanjeeva Reddy, BN Choubey, AITUC Adi Narayan, VS Giri, Ramashray Singh, Sanjay Wadekar, Rajendra Singh from HMS, Tapan Sen of CITU, Lalit Mishra, Dinesh Kumar Pandey of BMS, etc.

Himanshu Bal, President of Rourkela Steel Plant's recognized union who was part of the NJCS is irked by the decision of majority unions agreeing at lower offers.

He regrettably said that all trade unions were united in a core committee meeting to stick to the demand of 28 percent perks. But later in the NJCS meeting, three unions lowered it first at 27 percent and agreed to a 26.5% hike only. Mr. Bal was also highly critical of diluting the payment of full arrears from 1/1/2017 by imposing negative conditionalities like affordability, financial resources, etc. Payment of Perks will be subject to review after every three years within the tenure of the agreement. We could not agree with all these preconditions given in the MOU and 26.5 percent perks.

BMS cannot agree to such negative preconditions. So BMS did not sign the agreement.

CITU also remains severely critical of the agreement. CITU's vice president Bishnu Mohanty rejected the agreement. In a press conference, he termed the agreement as anti-labor. He castigated the three unions who nodded in support of the agreement.

Cuttack Win Ajit Ray Basketball C'ship

Rourkela, Oc, 25: Odisha Student Club of Cuttack emerged as the first champion of the 1st Ajit Ray Memorial Basketball Championship held at Rourkela. They beat Ispat Sporting Club of Rourkela in the nail-biting final match by 66-64 played on 17th October at the Ispat Basketball complex, sector six.

This tournament was instituted in the memory of Ajit Ray, a basketball player of Rourkela.

The Championship was jointly hosted by SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP), and Odisha Basketball Association at Ispat Basketball Complex. In the four day tournament total 12 teams from



Rourkela, Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Bhubaneswar, Berhampur, Rayagada, Cuttack took part in the tournament.

The Championship trophy included a cash award of Rs.10, 000. The Runners up team bagged a

trophy and a cash prize of Rs.5, 000. Celtics Club, Cuttack, finished at the third spot and got Rs. 3,000.

Mr. A.K. Pradhan, ED (Projects), RSP was the Chief Guest of the function while Mr. Bimal Kumar Bisi,

Ex-CGM (RSP) and Mr. B K Raut, GM (Protocol, Hospitality and Social Welfare) were the Guests of Honour. The dignitaries presented the prizes to the winners and the runners-up teams of the tournament.

RSP Union Elections scheduled on 15 November

Rourkela, Oct 25: The election for recognition of the union of Rourkela Steel Plant has been scheduled to be held on 15th November. It is being held after a delay of 18 months. After the win, a union is recognized for three years. The incumbent union - Rourkela Ispat Karkhana Karmachari Sangh (RIKKS)-affiliated with BMS's three-year tenure was ended on 25th April, last year.

RSP's 11059 employees will cast their votes through a secret ballot to elect their union to represent them before the Management.

15 labor unions have filed

nominations to participate in the election process.

This will be the 8th direct election for the recognition of the union. The first election was conducted in 1995 in which Rourkela Shramik Sangh, led by late MDN Pannicker won it with a big margin. Later he got his union affiliated with INTUC. RSS continued to win the support of the RSP workmen for five consecutive terms. Their winning streak was halted by RIKKS in 2015 when BMS-affiliated organization emerged surprise winner by garnering 7330 votes. Before this

RIKKS always remained an insignificant entity in the hustling. In 2018 they again won the confidence of 4861 workmen to retain the recognition.

The 15th November battle will be an interesting affair as RSS and one other organization Gangpur Mazdoor Manch (GMM) have decided to fight the election under one banner. In the last election, RSS has polled 3730 votes while GMM had got 2353 votes. Their combined votes were more than the RIKKS's vote of 4861. But RIKKS president Himanshu Shekhar Bal

confidently says that they would win the workmen's confidence again. "We have worked for the betterment of the workmen. In the recent NJCS agreement, we have not compromised with the employee's interest. BMS refused to sign the agreement whereas INTUC has put their signature on the agreement. RSP employees understand who is with them and who is not." Himanshu Bal further said the NJCS agreement which ignored the workers' interest would be a major issue in the union election.

Eye Bank helps 1126 persons get back eye sight

Rourkela, Oct 25: Ispat Drushti Daan Eye Bank of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP), operating at Ispat General Hospital (IGH) has become a beacon of hope for visually impaired persons.

This eye bank, set up in April 2014 as a part of

the hospital corneal retrieval program (HCRP), has so far recorded cornea collections of 1514 and transplantations of 1126. In the current calendar year, the Eye Bank has received 104 Cornea donations to date, out of which 60 were

transplanted thus restoring the eyesight of many persons.

Notably, the eye bank is being run in association with Drushti Daan, an NGO eye bank. It has been rendering invaluable expert surgical intervention for the

collection of the cornea.

The Ispat Drushti Daan Eye Bank is equipped with state of art facilities and types of equipment and has been successful in restoring the vision of persons with irreparable eye ailment by transplanting corneas.

People pique over the frequent transfer of collectors in Jspur district

JAGATSINGHPUR, Oct 25: Administrative and developmental works as well as providing service of good governance to people in Jagatsinghpur district have taken a severe jolt due to frequent transfer of collectors. From February 2019 to October 2021 as many as five collectors have assumed office and got transferred subsequently.

On October 21 the incumbent collector Sangram Keshari Mohapatra was transferred to Khurda district Collector replaced by 2015 batch IAS Parul Patawari.

It started with the then collector Yamini Sarangi had shifted from Jagatsinghpur in February 2019 and Guha Poonam Tapas Kumar IAS joined as a new collector subsequently. After conducting successful general

elections in 2019 and handling post-restoration works of cyclone 'Fani' the lady collector was shifted in June 2019 and Sangram Keshari Mohapatra assumed office as district collector forthwith.

Mohapatra had settled down and involved himself in welfare works and successfully launched e-governance works in the district, moreover effectively implemented Covid 19 pandemic preventive measures during consecutive lockdowns and unlock process in the district, but Tirtol by-poll constrained him from leaving Jagatsinghpur.

Following direction from the Election commission of India, the state government transferred Mohapatra after Congress and a few political parties charged him with a bias towards the ruling BJD and

an officer belonging to his home district. As a consequence state government posted Saroj Kumar Mishra officiating collector Jagatsinghpur on October 5, 2020.

The new incumbent Saroj Kumar Mishra conducted a successful Tirtol by-poll and concentrated in Covid 19 works in the district following his efforts cases of Covid 19 had been dwindling significantly, strangely state government affected a transfer order Sangram Mohapatra relocated to Jagatsinghpur district again and Mishra transferred to Rayagada collector as result Mishra got a sad departure from Jagatsinghpur serving only three months.

Sources informed that people are now expressing displeasures at the state

government move to transfer of district head repeatedly thus fuelling a debate among them.

A district collector plays a key role in organizing and supervising developmental works and revenue collection. A collector takes a few months to get acquainted with the geographical, social, cultural, and economic aspects of the district apart from taking stock of the welfare works. After being familiar with the official setup of the district, he begins his strategy concerning administrative functioning, but frequent transfers have made it difficult.

Moreover with developmental works have been lagging due to Covid 19 lockdowns since March 2020 and the situation is improving fast as the state government

launches unlock process systematically.

Four major works are progressing in the district as Covid 19 vaccination drive, strict implementation of Covid 19 guidelines to check the expected third wave, reopening of schools and colleges, reopening of religious places, and paddy procurement from farmers, electoral roll correction for ensuing Panchayat elections.

Furthermore, the state government plans to hold Panchayat elections in early 2022 next, as consequence due to notifications for reservation of seats has been published, the public has been given liberty to file their complaints before the collector objecting to reservation yardstick, and collectors would act over the complaints and public

grievances. In this crucial situation shifting of existing collectors is avoidable, suggested few residents.

A collector has been assigned to monitor these major responsibilities including routine works in the district. A collector would be held accountable for any of these key works put a halt and moved aimlessly. Besides, that state government is affecting transfers of collector citing reason is necessary for the public interest and develop efficiency in the public administration but the frequent transfer of collector is not acceptable. Jagatsinghpur district which observed its 28th year of formation in the year 2021 has seen so far the transfer of 22 collectors as of date.

J'spur kid Sai Srayansu names in India Book of records



JAGATSINGHPUR, Oct 25: A 6-year-old girl D Sai Srayansu from Taradapada village here registered her name in the India Book of Records for her outstanding concert reciting 108 Sanskrit Sloks within 24 minutes. Srayansu a class 2 student reading in Times Gurukula School, daughter of Sasmita Mishra and Suraj Panda residing with her

grandfather Rashmi Ranjan Mishra, who had been running a few educational institutions in Jagatsinghpur. Originally Srayansu had been fascinated by religious events being hosted at her grandfather's residence regularly, and she started reciting Sloka's at her tender age, informed her parents. Soon after her name appeared in the

prestigious India Book of records, a felicitation ceremony was hosted in the campus of ITI Taradapada, where DIPRO Kamini Ranjan Patnaik, educationist Himansu Acharya, Sukanta Kumar Pradhan, Sanjukta Das, Gouranga Charan Panda, Minati Panda, Sameer Ranjan Das, and Sushree Anjusa participated and blessed the kid for her success.

62nd police commemoration day celebrated

JAGATSINGHPUR, Oct 25: The 62nd police commemoration day was observed at the police parade ground in Punanga, district superintendent of police Akhileshwar Singh attended the event as chief guest. Addressing cops at the celebration SP Singh reiterated the significance of police commemoration day and remembered the

supreme sacrifices made by police personnel in the state in different circumstances on duty, later SP paid homages to the 377 police personnel and CISF men across the country those sacrificed lives this year. Messages received from the state governor and chief minister on the occasion of police commemoration were read by SP Singh. Malaya Kumar Das Havildar

police and a corona warrior of the district who succumbed this year a cash prize of Rs 5000 was given to the deceased wife in the celebration. Among others, additional SP Umesh Kumar Panda, additional SP Paradeep Nimain Sethy, DSPs, OICs from different police stations, and police personnel attended the event.

J'spur's new collector Parul Patawari assumes office

JAGATSINGHPUR, Oct 25: In a minor reshuffle of administrative setup effected forthwith by state government Ms. Parul Patawari a 2015 batch IAS appointed as new collector of Jagatsinghpur district who assumed office. Ms. Patawari took charge from ADM Jagatsinghpur who had been posted in charge collector after the transfer of S K Mohapatra to Khurda district collector two days ago. The new collector Ms.



Patawari reached the district collector office on Wednesday afternoon was received by the ADMs Satchidananda Sahoo, Kanhu Charan Dhir, and Chinmayee Biswal accompanying sub-collector, Project director DRDA, BDOs from different blocks, revenue officers and collector staff, and employees. After assuming office, the new district collector held meetings with district officials and inspected several administrative departments.

Banktira barrage project to irrigate 3700 hectares lands in both Balasore and Mayurbhanj

Baripada, 28 October:- In a bid to check water crisis in farming during Kharif season in both Mayurbhanj and Balasore districts, the Subarnarekha Irrigation Project (SIP) of Mayurbhanj district to set up a pipe water supply project in Budhabalanga river very soon after erecting a barrage at Banktira just a few kilometer distances from Amurtnala upper side in Remuna block of Balasore district. The pipeline project will provide irrigation facilities to more than 3,700 hectares of land during Kharif season and farmers of more than 120 villages under 22 panchayats within three blocks in Balasore district and one block in Mayurbhanj district will be benefited.

The Executive Engineer of SIP Ramakanta Mohapatra said that initially the project had been targeted to cover a water supply facility to 3700.67 hectares of land. As per the estimation of the project, 748.46 hectares of land in 20 villages of 4 panchayats in Remuna block, 6,139.79 hectares land in 85 villages of 14 panchayats in Balasore Sadar block, 74.91 hectares land in the villages of 2 panchayats under Basta block of Balasore district along with 432.53 hectares land in 13 villages under 2 panchayats of Betnoti block under Mayurbhanj district will be benefited.

Executive Engineer of SIP Ramakanta Mohapatra said that it is a medium water supply project that does not require any land acquisition and the lands will be irrigated through the pipeline. As per the 2020 financial year, the cost of the project is Rs.376.05 crore. A 200-meter length concrete barrage will be constructed. The project cost will be provided by Water Resources Department, the Government of Odisha after surveying of barrage base and pond area, canal alignment, ayacut, and geotechnical investigation of the barrage-based area by the Geological Survey of India in April.

The design and drawing of the barrage are pending with Chief Engineer, Designs at Bhubaneswar. Soon after the drawings are available tender for the work will be floated.

Four day-long FZ Forza OSBA State Ranking tournament commences

Baripada, 28 October:- The four-day-long FZ Forza Odisha State Ranking Tournament commenced in Indoor Hall in Baripada of Mayurbhanj district from Thursday amid strict adherence to Covid-19 protocol.

Mayurbhanj Collector Vineet Bhardwaj inaugurated the event in presence of SP Rishikesh D Khilari, Deputy Collector Sujay Kumar Pati, Kishore Kumar Biswal the General Secretary of Mayurbhanj Athletic Association (MAA), Krushnananda Mohanty the President and Rabindra Kumar Behera the head of Odisha State Badminton Association Development Committee from Mayurbhanj, players and members of the organization.

Mayurbhanj Collector Vineet Bhardwaj expressed his pleasure for the state-level event



which is being conducted for the first time in the Mayurbhanj district. He encouraged the players who came across Odisha to participate in the event. "Sport is a platform where the players showcase their skill. After winning from the ranking tournament, they will get opportunities to participate in higher-level events; this also makes them proud not only in the district but state and nation too. The player

should continue their practice which is important for the event" the Collector said.

Mayurbhanj SP Rishikesh D Khilari also spoke about the nice arrangement of the state-level event that is organized by the Development Committee. He encouraged the players to participate in the event as one type of competition which will help them in the future, the SP said.

The Head of the

Development Committee Mr. Behera said that at least 61 boys single, 45 boys doubles, 8 mix-doubles both boys and girls along with six ladies doubles and 15 ladies single events are being performed by the players in four day-long events followed by Covid-19 protocol. The players had been allowed to the Court after submitting their double-dose vaccine certificates and Covid-19 native antigen test report.

Women farmers script vegetable farming a success story

Baripada, 28 September:- Nothing is impossible for a willing heart. The willpower of some women farmers of the tribal-dominated Mayurbhanj district has scripted a success story by cultivating seasonal crops like bitter gourd, ridge gourd, and beans on single lands that were unused for long. The women formed a 'Devishakti' producer group and the district horticulture department is providing the producer's group extended training support and farming-

related accessories at subsidy price to see their willpower.

The group has been formed by 30 women of Nuagaon village under Badadeuli Gram Panchayat in Karanjia block. The group has invested Rs.30,000 for the seasonal cultivation in 6 acres of single lands been unused for long. Each member of the group had provided Rs.1000 for the seasonal crops bitter gourd, ridge gourd, and beans on the lands and earned more than Rs.1.5 lakh by selling

the vegetable crops.

President of the group Dukhini Naik expressed her pleasure as she was capable of providing financial support to her family in the pandemic situation. "If I will provide Rs.10,000 to Rs.12,000 financial support to my family within two and half months by investing Rs.1,000 is a great achievement for me," she said.

Sanjulata Naik Secretary of the group said that Laxmipriya Mohanta had given us a

plan to do something which will be a source of income at the time of the pandemic. When the income of their parents and family members was much poor for the pandemic, laborer demand was found poor and it had been made critical to cater to daily family requirements in the pandemic situation. Observing the daily wants of the family, this plan has been accepted by some women and at least 30 women have come forward for the seasonal

cultivation. As per the direction of the horticulture department, three types of seasonal crops were cultivated in single lands of six acres. Finally, the group was successfully achieved in the field and earned more than Rs.1.5 lakh in the season.

Laxmipriya Nayak the Assistant Horticulture Officer of Karanjia said that the group had invested Rs.30,000 and earned more than Rs.1.5 lakh. The seasonal vegetable crops gave

them Rs.9,000 to Rs.10,000 net profit as the department has provided them bamboo grass, net, and other accessories in subsidy. The department has developed a market linkage for selling the vegetable. They will earn more profit too as the vegetables get marketed easily. The group has decided to continue cultivating the crop in other seasons also, the AHO said, adding that presently 100 more women of the locality have come forward in the line.

National Women Commission Vs Odisha State Women Commission



State Women Commission hasn't come up with specific studies to curb the crime rate. Crimes against women could easily be nipped in the bud if police acted swiftly on first complaints. Their act of patronising powerful elements in the society bolsters the morale of law-breakers

Even as the outrage over the murder of Mamita Meher by the President of the School Managing Committee where she was working, is getting amplified each passing day, all eyes are on the statutory bodies for women - the Commission for Women.

While the chairperson of the National Commission For Women, Rekha Sharma, taking the murder case suo moto, has asked for the removal of the ministers from the Naveen Patnaik cabinet, the Odisha State Women Commission emphasises only on awarding stringent punishment to the accused in police custody.

Speaking to mediapersons after her visit to the victim's house, OSCW chairperson Minati Behera has said the following.

- Stringent punishment for the prime accused in police custody
- Rehab plan for the

economically and mentally distressed family of the victim

- Fast-tracking of the Mamita Murder case
- Filing of the charge sheet in the case at the earliest.
- The real culprits should be punished.

Earlier, the NCW chairperson, Rekha Sharma, in her letter to Chief Minister, has raised the following points.

- Asked the CM Naveen Patnaik to personally take cognisance of the Mamita Murder case
- Remove accused ministers for a fair investigation,

especially the allegation of sexual exploitation in the edu institution.

- Asked the DGP to provide security to victim family, complete investigation in a time-bound manner

A look at the statements made by both the chairpersons infer a big difference. While the NCW is for conducting an inquiry into the allegation of sexual exploitation in the institution and batted for removal of the ministers who purportedly had a cosy relationship with the key accused, the OSCW focus is limited to only on the Mamita murder case and its outcome.

NCPCR Vs OSCPCR

When on the allegations of sexual exploitation of minor girl students, the OSCPCR is yet to issue any statement. Today the NCPCR has sent a missive to Bolangir SP asking to send a full report after a proper inquiry into the matter within 5-days.

What Does The Women Commission Act say?

A look at the Women

Commission statute 1990 reveals the following role of these statutory bodies. The commission has certain mandates and functions.

- Main mandate is safeguarding women rights
- Study the problems faced by women.
- Evaluating status of women in society.

The Functions

- Counselling on family disputes etc
- Legal services include proposing amendments to bills and intervention to women in distress.
- Research on a wide range of gender subjects.

The Ground Reality In Odisha

Even as the Odisha police data and NCRB report show how a few districts in Odisha bear the lion's share of crimes against women, there has been no study, whatsoever, on the underlying causes by any of the statutory bodies in the State

As per police data, as many as 10-districts in the State report maximum cases

of crime against women in the State. The districts identified are Balasore, Bhadrak, Bolangir, Kendrapada, Kalahandi, Puri, Nayagarh, Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar that report maximum sexual crimes in the States. And in the sensitive city list, the State capital Bhubaneswar topped the list.

But as of today, the State Women Commission has not commissioned any research study to find out the causes, the socio-economic milieu in the districts and preventive measures needed.

"The State Women Commission hasn't come up with specific studies in the State to curb the crime rate. Crimes against women could easily be nipped in the bud if the police take swift action on the first complaints by the victims. Their act of patronising powerful elements in the society bolsters the morale of law-breakers," observed activist Tapasi Praharaj of the All-India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA).

Bolangir DFO Nitish Kumar wins Green Warrior Earth Hero Award

Bolangir, Oct 23:(Sudhir Mishra) Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Bolangir, Nitish Kumar was given the "Green Warrior" this year by NatWest Group India at Earth Heroes Awards on 20th October, through virtual mode

Institutionalized in 2011, the NatWest Group Earth Heroes Awards (formerly RBS Earth Heroes Awards) in its 11th year, is a national initiative that recognizes efforts of individuals and institutions across India who are working tirelessly to subvert climate change by conserving and preserving the rich biodiversity of the country for a better relationship between the society and nature.

Celebrating efforts in "Biodiversity - A resilient nature is a foundation on which all climate mitigation and adaptation efforts must be raised", the theme for the

2021 awards, and eight winners were felicitated via a virtual ceremony that was graced by the Chief Guest, Ms. Ivonne Higuero, Secretary-General, Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), UN.

Nitish Kumar who joined the Odisha Forest Service in 2014 as an Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) was known for his valuable contributions towards afforestation, infrastructure development, enforcement (protection), and converting technology into conservation outcomes in the Kalahandi North Division. Besides his work extensively on soil and moisture conservation to improve the wildlife habitat of the Kalahandi North Division, and from 2018 to 2020, was instrumental in formulating Fire Control

Rapid Response team in the area as forest fires are a major cause of wildlife habitat degradation in the Kalahandi North Division.

Nitish Kumar was also the first to introduce drone technology in the Odisha Forest Department, for plant health mapping in the elephant habitat area/s and waterbody construction basis the elephant movement data analysis and elephant density mapping.

Monitoring of elephant movement through cameras and infrared and night vision drones has helped him curb human-elephant conflict by giving early warning to communities. Furthermore, with the help of the NOAA-20 Satellite from NASA, Nitish Kumar and his team were able to quickly identify, understand, and respond to fire points in the area.

"Applications of GIS & Drone Technology in Forestry & Wildlife" the

book written by Nitish Kumar was launched in the 2019 Wildlife Week.

Forest and wildlife management is a challenging task, which has encouraged me to explore different types of technological interventions. I believe that technology can help to build efficiency and is beneficial for forestry and wildlife management. "I thank the NatWest Group and jury members for electing me for the 'Green Warrior' Earth Hero Award, says Nitish Kumar while thanking the government of Odisha for its support in carrying out work.

On the occasion, Chief Guest, Ms. Ivonne Higuero, N Sunil Kumar, Head of Sustainable Banking India & Head of NatWest India Foundation, Punit Sood, Head of India, NatWest Group, spoke on a different aspect of climate change and the necessity to tackle it.

Former minister Pratap Mohanty's birth Centenary was celebrated

JAGATSINGHPUR, Oct 25: Former minister and Ex Tirtol MLA Pratap Chandra Mohanty's birth centenary was celebrated in Jhankada under Tirtol block, Jagatsinghpur MP Dr. Rajashree Mallick attended the event as chief guest accompanying former MLA Prabhat Ranjan Tripathy, renowned journalist Gurukalyan Mohapatra, block chairperson Sujata Mohanty, late Pratap

Mohanty kin Sarada Prasad Mohanty, Sasibhusan Mohanty, and Naresh Chandra Rath, lawyer Devasnana Das, scribe Amarjouty Sahoo. Attending guests highlighted late Mohanty's contribution to Odisha politics and his political carrier as a legislator and Minister of State in his living time, Pramod Kumar Mohanty younger son of late Mohanty coordinated the function.

The deceased Habildar's family receives financial assistance

JAGATSINGHPUR, Oct 25: The Jagatsinghpur district Collector Parul Patwari awarded Rs 50 lakh financial assistance to the deceased Habildar Malaya Kumar Das family who died suffering Corona recently. Late Habildar's wife received this pecuniary succor from the collector in her official chamber inside the

Collectorate office here. The report said that following state government decision person declared as Covid warrior to be compensated Rs 50 Lakh causing death due to coronavirus, Malaya Kumar Das Habildar Odisha police had been working in Paradeep police limits, he affected in Coronavirus later succumbed in hospital.

The numbers behind India's billion dose landmark



Sirish C. Mohanty

India's billion dose vaccination statistics mean that the country will likely not see a third wave of infections according to experts. But India's high population (1.3 billion) mean that the country's vaccine drive still has some distance to cover.

The 1 billion Covid vaccine dose count has come along with coverage of 75% adults with at least one dose

India administered its billionth dose of Covid-19 vaccines early on Thursday, the only country other than China (2.2 billion doses administered) to cross the milestone. India's adult population (the only ones eligible for vaccines right now) is estimated at 940.2 million, and this milestone in absolute numbers is a milestone in coverage too. As of 5 pm, around 76% of adults in the country had received at least one dose of the two-dose vaccine. And around 31% have been fully vaccinated.

Seen in the context of the last national seroprevalence survey (these test for antibodies) that showed that almost two-thirds of the population had been exposed to Covid-19, and the current low daily case numbers, the vaccination statistics mean that India will likely

not see the third wave of infections according to experts.

But India's high population (1.3 billion) means that the country's vaccine drive still has some distance to cover.

Half the districts have covered 75% of their population with at least one dose

The 1 billion dose count has come along with coverage of 75% of adults with at least one dose. At the district level, a little over half the districts - 345 of 628 districts of the 2011 census with all of Delhi's and Mumbai's districts taken together - have reached this level of coverage. The top five districts in terms of coverage of first doses are Diu, Kolkata in West Bengal, Gurgaon in Haryana, Solan in Himachal Pradesh, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. The first dose coverage in these districts is the complete adult population as estimated through the number of electors.

Another 261 districts have given at least one dose to 50%-75% of their population. Only 22 districts have vaccinated less than 50% of their population. 16 of these 22 districts are in the northeastern states (nine in Nagaland alone) and the other six

are in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh.

Himachal has administered twice the number of doses per hundred adults as Jharkhand



There are significant variations with India. Himachal Pradesh has administered at least one dose to all adults while Jharkhand has covered only 58.6% of its adults. In the share of fully vaccinated adults, Himachal Pradesh (57% adults fully vaccinated) is three times ahead of Uttar Pradesh, which has fully vaccinated the least (19%). But again, the populations of the two states are in entirely different ranges. Himachal has an adult population of

5.5 million, Uttar Pradesh, 147.4 million.


The inter-district disparity is still high but lower than earlier

National and state-level projections for the 2021 population are available from the National Commission on Population. There is no such projection at the district level. Therefore, the number of electors at the time of the 2019 Lok Sabha election was used as a proxy for the adult population at the district level. Diu has administered at least one dose of vaccine to 222% of its adult population as estimated by the number of electors and both doses to 145%. This could be because of people from other districts

is by classifying districts into quartiles (bottom 25% to top 25%) for each day of vaccination. This shows that the top 25% of districts have given twice the number of doses per hundred adults as the bottom 25% of districts. This disparity is, however, much lower than earlier. At the end of January, the top 25% of districts had given 5 times the number of doses per 100 adults as the bottom 25% of districts. Even on May 1, when vaccination was opened up for all adults, this ratio was 3.8. the gap is narrowing.

India's 1.3 billion populations pose a challenge.

Global vaccination data is available up to different dates for different countries. Taking the latest data for each country, India was second in the world in administering Covid-19 vaccines in absolute numbers. In terms of the proportion of the total population that has received at least one dose of the vaccine, India, with 52% coverage (overall population) ranks 101.

On top of the list are two British Overseas Territories of Gibraltar and the Pitcairn Islands, with full coverage, but the population of the former is only about 34,000 and the latter is less than 50,000. The United Arab Emirates, with 96% coverage, comes next but it also has a population of only 10 million. Among bigger countries or those with a population of 100 million or more, India is ranked 5th among 12 countries for which this data is available. Japan has covered the highest share of its population with at least one dose among these - 76%. 

getting vaccinated in Diu apart from a change in population or low registration of adults as electors. In contrast, Senapati in Manipur, the worst-performing district has administered at least one dose to only 24.6% of its population and both doses to 11.9%.

Such individual comparisons can, however, be misleading because these districts are outliers. A better way to check inter-district disparity

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Your last editorial dealt with the major causes of the backwardness of eastern states like Bihar, Jharkhand, and Odisha.

As you have justifiably enumerated, the quality of governance, poor connectivity, lack of improved health & educational facility, and high concentration of SC/ ST/ OBC population are the bottlenecks responsible for the slow development.

Of course, the Modi govt has

envisaged a new vision & mission to transform Eastern India by exploiting untapped natural resources. For Example, the establishment of Dhamara port, diversification of Paradip port with rail connectivity will go a long way in changing the economic scenery of this region.

Now, the political leaders of both the Centre & states have demonstrated maturity & sagacity to work jointly to root out the chronic hindrances on the path of development.

Secondly, the headline of your

special story with famous Hindi movie dialogue has immediately drawn the attention of readers.

In my opinion, your special story is virtually a Balance sheet detailing the Assets / Liability along with the Profit & Loss account of Narendra Modi Govt.

Although, the Modi govt has been successful to project India's dominant position in the international arena. But, it has failed miserably on the domestic front. Due to the spiraling price rise &

demonetization induced unemployment In addition to this, the very low position of India in the Global Hunger Index is pointing fingers towards the much hyped tall image of Narendra Modi.

Interestingly, your story has made a scathing attack on the mismanagement & maladministration by Naveen Govt in mining operation of mineral-rich Joda, Barbil mining belt as a result of which the native truck owners, as well as mining workers, have been

rendered jobless. The most popular CM, Naveen Patnaik should not turn a blind eye & deaf ear to the untold sufferings of Keonjhar people & must personally look into this serious matter which is now in the volcanic stage.

Lastly, Naveen Patnaik has already created a Brand name & won the hearts of Odia people like his legendary father Biju babu!

With regards.

Bharat Patra

Rtd. Banker & Social activist, Keonjhar.

Is Odisha's Zero-tolerance Policy Tossed?



Sirish C. Mohanty

Odisha was bored with the corruption, mismanagement of help at the natural calamities, and infringement on the woman until 1999. The newly formed Biju Janata Dal in association with the BJP stormed to the office after the 1999 general elections. The government was led by the son of an iconic leader Biju Patnaik. Naveen from the first day of office took a path of zero-tolerance policy to misdeeds that the people were subjected to and thereby assured the state a clean government at any cost.

To maintain the promised zero-tolerance, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has dropped as many as 44 ministers from his government. During the period, only two ministers had resigned while six of the 44 sacked ministers were able to make a comeback. They were Debi Prasad Mishra, Damodar Rout, Bijayshree Routray and Rabinarayan Nanda, Pratap Jena, and Pradeep Maharathy.

The latest ouster took place when Patnaik sacked Agriculture Minister Pradip Maharathy. Pradeep Maharathy, who had made a controversial statement on the acquittal of murder and rape accused, forced to resign from Naveen Patnaik's government on January 6, 2019. His resignation comes a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi raised the issue of justice eluding the victim's family. Maharathy had hailed the judgment of a sessions court acquitting the two accused in the case

of rape and murder of a Dalit girl. Soon after the additional district judge of Khurda acquitted accused brothers Prashant Pradhan and Sukanta Pradhan in the 2011 Pipili gang rape and murder case, Maharathy hailed it saying "truth and justice has prevailed".BJD sources said with each passing day, he was becoming a liability for Patnaik. Speaking about the issue of the poor record of women's safety in Odisha, PM Modi in his public rally at Baripada town of Mayurbhanj district on January 5 had attacked chief minister Naveen Patnaik over the gangrape and murder of the Dalit girl and urged him to get the matter re-investigated. "The system could not give justice to the girl. The government is not taking the matter seriously," Modi had alleged in his speech.

During the Biju Janata Dal's first term from 2000-04, Patnaik had sacked six ministers. They included Kamala Das, Prashant Nanda, Nalinikant Mohanty, Amar Prasad Satpathy, Debi Prasad Mishra, and AP Singh."The then Finance Minister Ramakrishna Patnaik, though not removed, faced a change of his portfolio. Subsequently, Ramakrushna resigned from the ministry and was sacked from the party".

In his second tenure from 2004-09, Patnaik took disciplinary action against 14 ministers for their anti-party activities. Patnaik, during his third term from 2009-14, took major action following the alleged coup bid by the late Rajya Sabha MP Pyarimohan Mohapatra in May 2012. Mohapatra had allegedly planned a coup, which was foiled by Patnaik supporters.

Several legislators and ministers including Prafulla Ghadei, Prafulla Samal, Pratap Jena, Pushpendra



The killer govinda and the killed Mamata Meher

Singhdeo, and Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak were the victim of Patnaik's fury for their connection with Pyarimohan Mohapatra.

"However, Pushpendra Singhdeo and Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak managed to win Patnaik's heart and they were inducted in the ministry after the 2014 Assembly elections. Later,



MoS Captain Dibyashankar Mishra flies high in turbulent air

Prafulla Samal and Pratap Jena also made a comeback to the ministry".

In the fourth term of the BJD government (2014-19) Patnaik removed health minister Atanu Sabyasachi from the ministry over a fire incident in a private hospital where about 25 patients were killed in October 2016. In the subsequent reshuffle in the ministry, eight more ministers were asked to tender their resignations and work for the party. Of the eight persons, only Pradip Kumar Amat was appointed as the Speaker of the House.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's 'zero-tolerance towards crime against women policy has come under the cloud after

Mamita Meher's sensational murder was surfaced.

Minister of State for Home Dibya Shankar Mishra is in the dock over his alleged close links with Govinda Sahu, the main accused. He was blamed for Sahu's dramatic escape from police barrack at Titlagarh on October 18, after photos and videos of the duo surfaced.

The brutality of the pre-planned murder hints at political patronage, alleged the Opposition while threatening to intensify the demand for his removal from the post for a fair probe in the case. The minister has also been accused of brokering a compromise between Mamita and Sahu at his Raipur residence.

With more skeletons tumbling out of the closet, BJP state president Samir Mohanty sought a clarification from the CM on whether the investigation of the case will be handed over to CBI or any action will be taken against the minister concerned.

Notably, Naveen had sacked over a dozen ministers for alleged corruption or wrongdoing during the first decade of his being in office starting March 2000. Naveen, however, seems to have turned a blind eye to the controversies involving his ministers and lawmakers in the fifth term.

Not only Dibya Shankar, Pratap Jena, Arun Sahoo, Rajendra Pratap Swain, and Prasant Jagdev have also courted

controversy in the recent past. While Jagdev was suspended from the party for assaulting a Dalit leader of BJP, no action has yet been taken against the three ministers.

Jena continues in the Cabinet notwithstanding his alleged involvement in the murder of two BJP leaders in his constituency, Mahanga. While police filed a charge sheet without naming him, the magistrate ordered a fresh investigation into the case.

"Law Minister Pratap

led government.

Rising crimes against women in Odisha have become a cause of concern. Odisha has reported four incidents of rape in three days. Three of them are gangrape. A woman in her 50s, two minor girls and a teenage college student were the victims of the heinous crimes that have rocked the state. The college girl, from Balasore, was out on a scooter when she was raped by a youth who followed her.

But that is not the point here. What is disturbing is




Dr. Dmodar Rout: Triple shunted veteran

Jena was involved in Mahanga double murder while Prasant Jagdev had assaulted a Dalit. Now, the name of Dibya Shankar Mishra has cropped up in Mamita murder case, but the Chief Minister has remained mum all this while," Congress spokesperson Debasish Patnaik told a presser.

Cooperation Minister Rajendra Pratap Swain and his brother Birendra were accused by farmers of loan fraud. The cooperative scam worth crores was allegedly carried out through the Cuttack Central Cooperative Bank's (CCCB) Athagarh branch when Birendra was working as its president.

Agriculture Minister Arun Sahoo's name cropped up in the sensational abduction and murder of a 5-year-old girl in Nayagarh. He was blamed by the BJP for allegedly shielding the prime accused. However, the ministers in question have been able to retain their posts in the Naveen Patnaik-

the new low that law and order that has hit in the state, so much so that criminals seem unafraid. Just picture such a scenario in Uttar Pradesh and the outrage it would have unleashed. If brute facts matter, then Odisha reported 1,211 cases of rape in 2020 against 1,382 in the previous year. Going by the NCRB report, the rate of crime against women at 113 offenses per 1 lakh population in Odisha is second only to Assam's 154. The state once considered the safest, registered a near 10% rise in crimes against women in a year during the better part of which the country was in lockdown. The same year, with 12,605 cases, Odisha topped the country in the category of assault on women in an attempt to outrage modesty.

The Dalma-loving Odiyas are in a dilemma; where Naveen's zero-tolerance on crime against women has gone - is the CM confined in the dark - is the government no longer at his command? 

Bengalis Can Feast on Hilsa This Kalipuja as Bangladesh Sends 3k Tonnes of the Fish as Gift

After stopping the entry of Padma Hilsa to India's market in 2012, Sheikh Hasina's government promised to send the largest quantity of Hilsa as a Puja gift this year. But they failed to send it within the stipulated time. The Hilsa traders requested the Commerce Minister of Bangladesh, Munshi Tipu, to send Hilsa to West Bengal. A consignment of over 3,000 tonnes of Hilsa from Bangladesh is expected to reach Kolkata on Wednesday, a day after the ban on the catching, sale and transportation of the Padma Hilsa ends in the neighbouring country, a State government official said.



Bengalis Can Feast on Hilsa This Kalipuja as Bangladesh Sends 3k Tonnes of the Fish as Gift

A directive signed by the Bangladesh Deputy Secretary level official, Tania Islam, was released on Tuesday from the Dhaka Secretariat. It has been said that during the breeding season of Hilsa, catching Hilsa

in Bangladesh from October 4 to 25, taking it elsewhere, marketing and selling was completely banned.

In all, Dhaka gave clearance to 115 Hilsa exporters in Bangladesh to send 40 metric

After Kalipuja (Diwali), the possibility of tasting Hilsa by Bengalis during the feast of 'Bhaifonta' (Bengali Bhaidooj) is high as Dhaka gave the message to keep the Hilsa harmony intact again. The Ministry of Commerce in Bangladesh has promised to send Hilsa again to India.

tonnes of Hilsa to India. Of that, 4,600 metric tonnes of Hilsa, only 1,080 metric tonnes have arrived by October 4.

Apart from the Petrapole border, a small number of Hilsas also entered the country

through Tripura. After that, catching Hilsa was banned in Bangladesh.

There were doubts whether Dhaka would agree to send Hilsa again after Puja or not. The Hasina government has

been sending Hilsa to India for the last three years. In these three years, the relations between Dhaka and New Delhi have fluctuated in various incidents. However, it is believed that Sheikh Hasina's government sent a positive diplomatic message to the country before and after Puja's assurance to send Hilsa.

Bangladesh Commerce Minister Munshi Tipu was in touch with Syed Anwar Maqsood, secretary of the Fish Importers Association in West Bengal. Anwar requested the minister to send more Hilsa. In the Indian market, 30-40 metric tonnes of Hilsa is needed for the daily demand.

Online Worldwide Release of Bhagabat Kathamruta

Toronto, Oct 26(Kishore Diwbedi) The Worldwide online release of Noted Poet and Spiritual practitioner Pandab Charan Das's Magnum Opus, 'Bhagabat Kathamruta' held recently. Published by Toronto-based Vidya Publishing Inc, 65 choicest chapters of Shrimad Bhagabat have been incorporated in this Book. 73 years old Writer Shri Das, has attempted to present the amazing Acts and Awesome Aura of Supreme Lord in a Plain, Simple, nice and lucid manner, commented the distinguished Guests. The Guests released the book symbolically by showing it on the digital platform. The Two Directors of Vidya publishing Inc Dr. Sunanda Mishra Panda and Dr. Tanmay Panda conducted and coordinated the proceedings of the Ceremony in smooth and seamless order.

Presenting the welcome Address Dr. Sunanda Mishra panda underlined that the complete surrender before God after renouncing the instincts of attachment, attraction, greed, and vanity forms the basic foundation of Bhagabat Darshan. The sole goal of Vidya Publishing Inc is to establish the uniqueness of Odia language, literature, and culture in the International arena, explained Dr. Tanmay Panda.

Delivering his speech Honourable Guest Dr. Prasanna Patsani eulogized the creative excellence of the writer Pandab Charan Das by observing that he has opened a new horizon of Odia Literature with his incisive and extensive writings on mythology, ethos, tradition, religion, and spiritual perceptions.

Famous Literary researcher Dr. Pradeep Kumar Mishra pointed out that Bhagat is the story of sensitization about the hard truth of death and the real path to salvation. Hence the essence of Bhagabat has to be Omni prevailed, practiced, preached, and perceived, Dr. Mishra added. Addressing the gathering Editor of Kadambini and Kuni Katha Journals, Dr. Itirani Samant emphasized the fact that the true intention of the creation by the creator becomes fruitful, once it reaches and is understood by the commoners.

The writer of the Book Pandab Charan Das opined that the entire volumes of the scripture i.e. Bhagabat revolves around only two words Humbleness and arrogance. Adherence to humility by forgoing arrogance paves the way to attain sheer bliss and ultimate salvation, Shri Das mentioned. Educationist Jitendra Kar said that Shri Das's extraordinary writings helped him to attain International recognition.

Ireland-based Writer's Daughter Seema Rani Das recited a poem of her father. Dharendra Kar from the USA commented that Bhagabat is the identity of Odia race, literature, and pride. The writer's daughter-in-law Jilu Das exudes confidence that her father-in-law has always been walking in the path of truth, justice and faithfulness. Chandra Mishra from the USA, Subas Sahoo from Bahrain, Dharmendra Kar from Mumbai, and Pradeep Kumar Sahoo from Bangaluru complemented the Noble endeavors of the Writer and Publishers. Dr. Jayashri Nanda from London informed that the job of the BhagabatTungi established by Shree Jagannath Society, U.K. is to ensure the reaching of the sacred messages of the holy Bhagabat at each Odia household.

At the outset, Culture Director of KIIT & KISS Dr. Abantika Pattanayak chanted the hymns of Veda. The book release event was organized jointly by the Bhagabat Tungi run by Shree Jagannath Society, the U.K., and Toronto-based Cansa Cultural Centre. Akshay Mohanty presented a vote of thanks.

The superbly talented vocalist from Mumbai Amrita Bharati and renowned singer from Bhubaneswar Kailash Baishnab enthralled the audiences with their scintillating presentations of devotional songs.

Prominent personalities present include Basant Kumar Panda, Dr. Prakash Dey, Sushant Kumar Pattu, Dipti Ranjan Nanda, Rosalyn Patasani Mishra, Sushree Mohanty, Subhadra Das, Bharat Bhushan Das, and Bibhuti Bhushan Das. NROs and Devotees of Lord Jagannath in Large Numbers from several Countries witnessed the virtual program through video conferencing as well as Social Networking sites.

Bahrain Odia Samaja participates in Little India Cultural Festival

Manama, Oct 21: Indian Inhabitants in Island Nation Bahrain recently celebrated the week long 'Little India Cultural festival' with full of gaiety, glitter and glamour. The Mega Event showcasing the excellence of Indian art and culture was held from 12th October to 19th October 2021. Organised by Bahrain authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) in co-ordination with Embassy of India in Bahrain (EOIB), various Cultural Associations based in Bahrain and Organisations of Indian Communities settled in Bahrain, the unique Fiesta witnessed the display of rarest creative acumen and expertise by the artistes of Indian origin. The little India Cultural Festival was hosted by BACA to celebrate the 50th years of establishment of diplomatic relationship between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Republic of India.

Delivering her speech during the ceremony the chief organiser and President of BACA Shaikha Mai Bint Mohammed Al Khalifa, highlighted that the deep rooted bondage between India and Bahrain having common heritage and history has always been manifested through our rich and vibrant culture.

Bahrain Odia Samaja (BOS) had participated in the Little India Cultural Festival hosted at Manama's Bab Al Bahrain Souq on 17th October 2021.



Addressing the congregation the President of BOS, Dinesh Mohanty thanked BACA and EOIB authorities for providing BOS an opportunity to take part in this Global Cultural Platform. Shri Mohanty expressed his gratitude to the Festival Organizers for facilitating the expositions of Odisha's eternal traditional ethos and sparkling classical as well as folk art forms during the cultural Jamboree.

The superbly talented and much celebrated artistes of BOS had the privilege of presenting the choreographic compositions entitled 'Nritya' consisting of classical Odissi Dance performances and folk dance and music presentations like Dhensa, Rangabati and Dalkhai during the occasion. The Evening's programme commenced with the Odissi Dance performance by Nandini Dash, Priyambada Sahoo and Minati Kumari Sahu. Later on the Folk Dance Dhensa was presented by Ipsita Nayak, Nibedita Nanda, Ankita Nayak, Sagarika Mohanty, Shibashree Dash, Prabhakar Padhi, Laxmikant Nanda, Sharda

Pattanaik, Amaresh Panda and Deepak Sahoo. Budding artistes like Yashaswi Jena, Aditi Sahoo and Anusree Padhi kept the audience spellbound by their captivating performances of Rangabati and Dalkhai folk forms. Master Presenter Arpita Sahoo co-ordinated the cultural programmes in a smooth and seamless manner. The artistes of BOS had completely mesmerised the audiences and stole the show with their soulful and scintillating presentations during the colourful cultural extravaganza. General Secretary of BOS Jaydeep Jena thanked the participating artistes of the BOS for their time, dedication and support to make the Little India Cultural Festival a grand success. The Treasurer of BOS Susanta Kumar Panda expressed his thankfulness to Smt Monika Srivastava wife of H. E. Shri Piyush Srivastava, Ambassador of India to Bahrain and delegates of diplomatic chore representing other missions based in Bahrain for gracing the Festival and blessing the artistes.

Mangaluru Fishermen Catch 1,200 kg Fish But Lose Rs 1.5 lakh Trying to Release it Back to the Sea



Mangaluru Fishermen Catch 1,200 kg Fish But Lose Rs 1.5 lakh Trying to Release it Back to the Sea

Mangaluru, Oct 27: A group of fishermen boarded a fishing boat 'Sagar' and left for deep-sea fishing some 50 nautical miles away from Mangaluru shore 10- days ago. When they spread the fishing net and were patiently waiting for the big catch, the net started pulling away

indicating a large fish being stuck.

Initially, they wondered if it was an entire school of some fish that would fetch them big bucks. But the forceful movement of the net made them conclude that it is one single big fish.

The fishermen tried hard and pulled the fish over the boat. The fish was so heavy that the fishing staff in the boat that is used to help them draw a heavier net shattered into pieces. The fishermen felt very happy looking at the size of the creature they caught. It was around 1,200 kg and would fetch them real good

money.

But this happiness didn't last long. One of the crew members identified the creature as 'Whale Shark', an endangered species of the ocean. When the crew learnt that they have caught an endangered animal, they were surprised. "We were excited to find such a huge creature on the boat. But when we learnt that there are very few such animals left in the sea, we instantly decided to set it free. We knew the fish wouldn't survive if we leave it with the entangled net," said a crew member.

The team began to cut

the net to free the whale shark. It took quite some time to clear all the net off the animal. All this while, the giant creature laid still. They called in nearby boats for some help and used a crane that they carry along to release the animal back into the Arabian Sea.

The fishermen narrated the incident after they returned to the shore on Tuesday night. The fishing net costs around Rs 1.5 lakh. To save the endangered fish, the fishermen gave away quite a big sum.

Dr Pratibha Rohit, director, Central Marine

Fisheries Research Institute, expressed joy regarding the incident. "This is an endangered species of a whale shark. The fishermen catch small creatures of this species under 200 kg rarely. But this time they have caught a huge one. I am glad that they identified the creature and released it back to the sea," she said.

The whale shark is the largest known species of fish. With a lifespan of 80 to 130 years, they feed exclusively on plankton and small fish and don't pose any threat to humans.

India rejects net zero carbon emissions target, says pathway more important

New Delhi: India, the world's third-biggest emitter of greenhouse gases after China and the United States, is under pressure to announce plans to become carbon neutral by mid-century. India on Wednesday rejected calls to announce a net

nounce plans to become carbon neutral by mid-century or thereabouts at next week's climate conference in Glasgow. But environment secretary R.P. Gupta told reporters that announcing net zero was not the solution to the climate crisis.

sorbed by forests, crops, soils and still-embryonic "carbon capture technology. China and Saudi Arabia have both set targets of 2060, but these are largely meaningless without tangible action now, critics say. Between now and



zero carbon emissions target and said it was more important for the world to lay out a pathway to reduce such emissions and avert a dangerous rise in global temperatures. India, the world's third-biggest emitter of greenhouse gases after China and the United States, is under pressure to an-

"It is how much carbon you are going to put in the atmosphere before reaching net zero that is more important." The United States, Britain and the European Union have set a target date of 2050 to reach net zero, by which point they will only emit an amount of greenhouse gases that can be ab-

the middle of the century the United States will release 92 gigatons of carbon into the atmosphere and the EU 62 gigatons, Gupta said, citing Indian government calculations. China would have added a staggering 450 gigatons by its net zero target date, he added.

Prices of matchboxes soar owing to inflation, to cost Rs. 2 from Dec 1

- The matchbox may have been the only item that is being used in daily life which did not see a price increase in the last 14 years.
- The price of the matchbox was last hiked in 2007 from 50p to Re 1. Earlier, the cost of matchbox was increased from 25p to 50p in 1995.

New Delhi, Oct 23: The All India Chamber of Matches in Sivakasi decided to increase the cost of matchboxes after 14 years, hiking the prices from Re 1 to Rs.2. Citing rising costs and inflation, the matchbox industry announced the price hike from December 1.

The matchbox may have been the only item that is being used in daily life which did not see a price increase in the last 14 years. The price of the matchbox was last hiked in 2007 from 50p to Re 1. Earlier, the cost of matchbox was increased from 25p to 50p in 1995, according to reports.

The manufacturers of matchboxes highlighted that there are 14 items that are needed for making matchboxes. The price of a kilogram of red phosphorus, an important material required



to make matchboxes, rose from Rs.425 to Rs.810, wax from Rs.58 to Rs. 80, the outer box board from Rs.36 to Rs.55 and the inner box board from ₹32 to Rs. 58.

The manufacturers also said that the rising costs in acquiring items like paper, splints, potassium chlorate and sulphur have also led to the rise in the price of the matchbox. Secretary of the National Small Matchbox Manufacturers' Association,

VS Sethurathinam while speaking to the Times of India said that manufacturers have decided to increase the selling price from our units 60% to Rs.430- ₹480 per bundle which is excluding the 12% GST levied on them.

Reports also highlighted that the manufacturers initially wanted to price a single unit at ₹1.50 but nixed the idea as shopkeepers would find it difficult to give back 50p change to customers.

Abdullah expresses surprise over Amit Shah's comment on restoration of J&K statehood

Jammu, Oct 24: "It is strange," Farooq Abdullah said. National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah on Sunday expressed surprise over Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement that Jammu and Kashmir's statehood would be restored after assembly elections.

The Home Minister said "urges and aspirations of people have to be satiated for lasting peace" in the Union Territory.

Mr. Abdullah expressed surprise over the logic being advanced by the Central leadership that the statehood will be restored after completion of the delimitation of constituencies and holding of elections.

"It is strange," Farooq Abdullah said and recalled the all-party meeting with Prime

Minister Narendra Modi a few months ago in which he took up these issues.

"(Mr.) Modi had at that point of time asserted that the gap between New Delhi and J&K would have to be bridged by winning over the hearts... Hearts cannot be won by undermining the status of Jammu and Kashmir, which was bifurcated and then downgraded," the NC leader said while addressing a public meeting at Mendhar in Poonch district.

Defending the BJP-led NDA government's decision to revoke Jammu and Kashmir's special status, Mr. Shah had on Saturday said August 5, 2019 was written in golden letters in the history of Kashmir.

He had reiterated that elections would be held in



Amit Shah inspects a bunker during his recent visit to JK

J&K after the delimitation exercise to be followed by restoration of statehood.

"Elections will happen. (Politicians from Kashmir want that the) Delimitation be stopped. Why? Because it hurts their politics. Now, such things will not stop in Kashmir.

"The youth of Kashmir will get opportunities, so a

right delimitation will be done, which will be followed by elections and then the status of the statehood will be restored. I have said this in the country's Parliament and this is the roadmap," Mr. Shah had said.

Mr. Abdullah further said it must have happened for the first time that a State is transformed and downgraded

as a Union Territory.

"The urges and aspirations of the people have to be satiated for lasting peace," he underlined.

Pitching for India-Pakistan dialogue, the NC president said peace in the region will remain elusive unless a conducive atmosphere is made for talks between the two neighboring countries.

He also decried attempts of dividing the society for political gains and said this is not good for the unity of the country and integration of people.

"The nation cannot afford to get fragmented into bits and pieces on the basis of religion. Elections were not to be fought on religion, as these provide an opportunity to put in place responsive

governments which serve the people in terms of development and economic emancipation," he said.

The former Chief Minister expressed grave concern over loss of life, and damage to standing crops and orchards due to heavy downpour, hailstorm and stormy winds across Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr. Abdullah, who is on a four-day visit to Jammu Province, also sought an exhaustive assessment by expert panels on the damage caused, saying preliminary relief in terms of financial assistance should be provided to the affected till the assessment is completed.

He also sought immediate release of compensation to the next of kin of those killed.

CM Should Remove Ministers For Fair Probe: Demands NCW Chairperson



(NCW) chairperson Rekha Sharma on Thursday said that Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik should remove the ministers whose names have surfaced in the case to ensure a fair probe.

"We have already written to the Chief Minister and the DGP. Till the inquiry is complete, the ministers should be removed as it has been found in the past that police is unable to discharge its duties under political pressure," said Sharma.

Sharma further said the Commission is yet to get a response from Odisha government. The Commission will wait for 15 days for the response and might send a team to the State for a review of the case. "We are awaiting a response from the Odisha government. We want Chief Minister should take a note of the atrocities against women which is rising gradually in the State and a strong political will is required to put a check on such incidents," Sharma added.

On Wednesday, the chairperson of the commission had written to CM Naveen

Patnaik to personally take cognizance of this case.

The Commission has also shot off a letter the Director General of Police (DGP) Abhay to immediately arrest all the accused involved in the case and provide safety to the family of the victim.

Mamita's half-charred body was exhumed from a stadium construction site of Sunshine English Medium School at Mahaling in Kalahandi district on October 19, 2021. Mamita, who was working as a teacher at Sunshine Model School at Mahaling in Kalahandi district had threatened Sahu to expose his alleged extra-marital affairs. She went missing on October 8.

Police on Wednesday revealed that the prime accused Gobinda Sahu, the president of the School Management Committee (SMC) had killed Mamita by strangling her in his car on October 8. Sahu later took the body to the under-construction stadium of the school for disposal and burnt it with the help of cardboards and tyres before burying it.

Jadeja 'disappointed' with captain Kohli's remarks in press conference, says 'It shows India's approach'

Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli bats during the Cricket Twenty20 World Cup match between India and Pakistan in

The start of India's opening T20 World Cup game against Pakistan was not the best one. After losing the toss, Virat Kohli & co. were asked to bat first on a tricky batting surface by Pakistan captain Babar Azam. To make matters worse, Pakistan pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi dismissed Rohit Sharma for a golden duck, and soon after, sent back in-form opener KL Rahul to the hut.

India captain Virat Kohli played a crucial knock of 57 runs after coming to bat at no. 3, as wickets continued to fall on the other end. Kohli, though, helped his team to a total of 151/7 in 20 overs.

But in the end, the target of 152 was not enough as Pakistan openers Mohammed Rizwan and Babar Azam scored 79*, and 68*, respectively, to win the match for their team by 10 wickets with 13 balls to spare. At the post-match press conference, Kohli lauded the efforts by



T20 World Cup: One of Virat Kohli's press conference remarks did not go down with former India player Ajay Jadeja, who confessed he was disappointed to hear the captain say such a thing.

Pakistan, and admitted that his team was outplayed by the arch-rivals. But one of Kohli's remarks did not go down with former India player Ajay Jadeja, who confessed he was disappointed to hear Kohli say such a thing.

"I heard Virat Kohli's statement that day. He said when we lost two wickets; we fell behind in the match against Pakistan. I was disappointed with that," Jadeja said on Cricbuzz Hindi Live.

"When a player like Virat Kohli is out there in the middle, there is no way the match has ended. He had not played even two balls and was thinking like that. So, it shows India's approach," he further added.

India will next play against New Zealand on Sunday and Kohli will hope his team can bounce back from the horrendous defeat to pick up their first win of the tournament.

BJP will remain powerful for decades, predicts poll strategist Prashant Kishor

Panaji, Oct 28: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will continue to be a force to reckon with in Indian politics for decades to come, political strategist Prashant Kishor said during a visit to Goa. The head of the Indian Political Action Committee (IPAC), a poll consultancy firm, believes the BJP will have to be fought for "many decades".

Kishor's profile as a poll strategist shot up after he helped the Trinamool Congress (TMC), led by Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee, retain power earlier this year by giving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's BJP a rare snub in the state elections.

Prashant Kishor is now in Goa, assisting the TMC in finding a foothold to contest elections.



Election strategist Prashant Kishor.

While predicting a strong presence for the BJP in the decades to come, Kishor hit out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, saying he was probably under an illusion that it's a matter of time until Modi's power wanes.

"The BJP is going to be in the centre of Indian politics, whether they win, whether they lose - like it was for the

first 40 years for the Congress. The BJP is going nowhere. Once you secure 30% vote at the India level, you are not going away in a hurry," Prashant Kishore said.

"So do not ever get into this trap that people are getting angry and they will throw away Modi. Maybe they will throw away Modi,

but the BJP is not going anywhere. You have to fight it out for the next many decades," he said at an interaction hosted at the Museum of Goa.

"That is where the problem lies with Rahul Gandhi. Probably, he thinks that it is just a matter of time when people will throw him (Narendra Modi) away. That's not happening," Kishor said.

"Unless you examine, understand and take cognizance of his (Modi's) strength, you will never be able to put [in place] a counter to defeat him," Prashant Kishor said. "The problem that I see is that most people are not spending enough time on understanding his strengths, understanding what is

making him popular. Only if you know, you can find a counter."

On how the Congress party sees the future of Narendra Modi and the BJP, Kishor said, "You go and talk to any Congress leader or to any regional leader, they will say, 'it's just a matter of time, people are getting fed up, there will be an anti-incumbency [wave] and people will throw him off'. I doubt it. It's not happening."

The election strategist cited the example of how the Modi government announced massive increases in fuel prices without "any apparent discontent against the man (Modi)".

Prashant Kishor pointed to a fragmented voter base in the country, saying, "If you look at the electorate

level, it is a fight between one-third and two-third. Only one third people are voting for the BJP or wanting to support the BJP. The problem is that the two-third side is so fragmented that it is divided into 10, 12 or 15 political parties, and that is primarily because of the decline of the Congress."

"It's because the [support for] the Congress has gone down, that 65% has got fragmented, leading to a lot of individuals and smaller parties," he said.

The IPAC has begun surveys on behalf of the TMC in Goa to help the party expand beyond Bengal. In Goa, the TMC has taken on board former Congressman Luizinho Faleiro to lead the party in elections.

Odisha to follow the Delhi template to reform government-run schools



NEW DELHI, Oct 25: The Odisha government is taking a leaf out of Delhi's book to reform government schools and to put them on a par with high-end private schools.

The government aims to upgrade physical-digital infrastructure, adopt technology in teaching learning, promote STEM learning, and capacity building of teachers, including the development of a leadership pipeline.

The education, and science and technology secretaries have been entrusted with the task, which will first target high schools through an impact assessment model. Education is the new focus

area to harness medium- to long-term socioeconomic benefits, according to the state government.

"The education sector was disrupted over the last 18 months and this gives us an opportunity to look at it in a fresh way. The high school reform initiative will have a cascading impact on human development, social and economic growth, and making the youth more enterprising," said Manoj Kumar Mishra, secretary Electronics, IT and Science and Technology, Odisha.

"The government school system needs a reform to compete with high-end private sector schools and give students from rural backgrounds an equal

opportunity in access to quality schooling.

"We are targeting high schools (secondary schools) in a phased manner. In the first phase, more than 1,070 schools have been taken up. This will be followed by a few thousand more schools to cover the entire sector. Social welfare schemes have done very well in the state and now our chief minister (Naveen Patnaik) has given a clear direction to reform the school sector," Mishra said.

Reforming the school sector, however, will be a tougher challenge in Odisha than in Delhi, given that the western part of the state is hilly and tribal dominated unlike the relatively developed coastal belt. "There is no problem in saying that we have taken a leaf out of Delhi, but Odisha is not Delhi, and our challenge and the outcome following a successful implementation will perhaps be greater, too," Mishra said.

"The first phase will be completed by 31 March and will give the school

education department a fair idea on the challenges, opportunities and the impact it is going to have," said Anupam Shah, state project director of the Odisha School Education Programme Authority. "The shift is happening from pure book-led education to a multi-modal hybrid education system. You will see several sessions each day, each of which will have 20 minutes of explanatory video content and 40 minutes of lecture. The teacher interface is not going away, but it is getting embellished with new content, aided by technology for better understanding," Shah said.

Work on the curriculum, pedagogy, teachers' capacity building, and the physical infrastructure upgrade to cope with the new challenges has started, Shah said. All government and government-aided high schools of the state can be part of the transformation programme, which is being implemented in phases, he added.

Start a direct flight between Bhubaneswar and Dehradun: AU Singhdeo

Bolangir, Oct 23 : (Sudhir Misha) Former Rajyasabha Member Sri A.U. Singhdeo had urged Union Civil Aviation Minister, Sri Jyotiraditya Scindia to start a direct flight from Bhubaneswar to Dehradun for the benefit of tourists and the general public of Odisha and northern India especially of Uttarakhand. Congratulating the Union Civil Aviation Minister Sri Scindia, to start a direct flight from Bhubaneswar to Pink city Jaipur, in November, Sri AU Singhdeo, in his letter to Civil Aviation Minister on 23rd October, points out that there is no direct flight between Bhubaneswar and Dehradun.

"Every year hundreds of people visit the pilgrimage places like Haridwar, Rishikesh and other holy places of Uttarakhand and several people

also visit the temple city and capital city of Odisha, Bhubaneswar, besides the Jagannath Dham, Puri and Sun Temple at Konark".

Moreover, Dehradun is home to several reputed institutions namely, Forest Research Institute, Indian Institute of Remote sensing, besides the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration at Mussoorie, points out AU Singh Deo, in his letter. Once a direct flight is introduced, people and tourists will find it easier and convenient, to visit their desired destination easily, says AU Singhdeo.

Because of the above facilities and benefits for people, a direct flight between Bhubaneswar and Dehradun be started as early as possible, urged Sri Singhdeo.

Ex Jagatsinghpur block chairman dies

JAGATSINGHPUR, Oct 25: Former Jagatsinghpur block chairman and prominent Congress leader Niranjan Jena passed away due to age-old sickness, he was 69. Late Jena was not only a political leader who had been associated with several organizations and performing social works across the district until death, but he was also the founder of the big Ganesh temple in college square here. Late Jena's mortal remains had been sent to his native village Kulatratanga where he was cremated in the village crematorium, a score of Congress leaders, many prominent personalities have condoled knowing the sad demise of Jena.

Naveen Patnaik: an election-ready politician

Five-time Odisha Chief Minister is known to keep reminding people of his welfare schemes

Thrice in the past one month, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has gone public with the announcement, launch and distribution of smart health cards under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY). He is likely to attend two more district-level smart health card distribution programmes in this month itself.

Like the ₹2-rupee-rice scheme launched by the government in 2009, the health card system is touted to be another game-changing welfare programme in the CM's political journey. It is obvious that the BJD supremo won't let it go like any ordinary welfare scheme. Wherever the events marking the distribution of the cards are organised, the Biju Janata Dal makes sure that Ministers and party MLAs remain present there in large



number.

Distribution of the cards is scheduled to be held in Balangir on September 22. The three meetings there are likely to be made grand affairs akin to impressive public meetings organised in the run up to any election.

What makes Mr. Patnaik get into campaign mode when there is neither any serious election on the horizon nor is there any serious political adversary to challenge his grip? The five-time-CM is known to keep reminding people of his welfare schemes

without waiting for any election dates to be announced. He has earned the distinction of being an election-ready politician.

"The Odisha Assembly is the most sanitised building with people's representatives, employees and journalists subjected to regular COVID-19 check-ups. However, Mr. Patnaik chose not to attend the session physically for fear of catching infection. But he never hesitates to fly down to distant districts for these public events," said Satya Prakash Nayak, Congress

spokesperson.

Mr. Nayak said, "These events are organised in a big way at the expense of the exchequer whereas the BJD is busy delivering political messages. Nowhere in the country a CM keeps launching one scheme in phases week after week."

Though the dates of both the civic body and the panchayat elections have not been announced, the Chief Minister broke his 10-month-long COVID-19 isolation addressing a massive meeting in Kalahandi district in January.

The occasion was the inauguration of a 43-km lift irrigation canal which would irrigate over 25,000 hectares of farmland in 38 gram panchayats from the Upper Indravati project. He had also announced development projects worth ₹2,085 crore. Hordes of Ministers and MLAs attended the event to create the maximum buzz.

Similar strategy was

adopted during the foundation laying ceremony of the hockey stadium in Rourkela a few months ago. About 90 MLAs and a number of Ministers had camped in Sundargarh district prior to Mr. Patnaik's arrival. The event appeared like a high-voltage campaign in which the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party is good at.

Mr. Patnaik has relied heavily on public relations and managing public perception ever since he came to power in 2000. He never fails to leave his stamp even in normal government functions.


During the past couple of years, the BJD government has made sure that Mr. Patnaik distributes appointment letters to newly recruited employees. Earlier, the letters used to be sent to selected candidates without any such formalities.

"Different governments run welfare schemes differently. They make sure that people are informed about

them. Though the way Mr. Patnaik is reaching out to people appears like election campaign, it is his own way of making people aware," said Satya Prakash Dash, a professor of political science in Sambalpur University.

Naming of public infrastructure has been carried out systematically. Anyone who travels 20 km in any part of Odisha, he or she would invariably come across posters with Mr. Patnaik's photographs in background of green, a colour associated with the BJD.

The regional party seems to be outsmarting the principal BJP in the latter's game. Continuous political activities and keeping party cadres busy have been the unique selling proposition of the BJP.

"The Odisha CM seems to be a rare politician who starts preparation for the next election immediately after winning one," said Rabi Das, veteran journalist and political commentator. 

From Page-1

Fortune of iron ...

products - for example, according to Argus, Indian hot rolled coils (HRC) commanded a price of Rs 65,000 a tonne at this month's beginning, registering a smart rise of 62% from a year earlier - would have found a cause for celebration from iron ore prices fall had not prime hard coking coal been trading at a punishingly high \$410 a tonne. The price of coal that is used in the blast furnace (BF) as a reductant has appreciated more than three times since early 2020.

Trade officials say production halts at mines in China's coking coal production hub Shanxi Province and also the fall in September exports from Australia's principal producing center Queensland gave leg ups to coal prices. In the case of iron ore, the government enforced steel production discipline in China, where the making of the ferrous metal is a major source of carbon emission and therefore, fouling of the environment causing annoyance to president Xi Jinping is seen to be the prime reason for major price setbacks of iron ore in the past few months, whereas coal production disruptions in China and supply setback from Queensland remain a cause of grave concern for BF based steelmakers everywhere.

India being very largely dependent on foreign origin coking coal, there will now be a major incremental outgo of foreign exchange on imports of this steelmaking ingredient. The country imported over 51 mt of coking coal in 2020-21. Unlike thermal coal, the country has not only limited resources of coking coal but what is available contains very high percentages of ash. While Australia remains the

principal source of our coking coal imports, we buy metallurgical coke principally from Poland, Columbia, Russia, and Japan.

With resources close to 30 billion tonnes (bt) placing India among the world's major owners of iron ore, the country can generate large export surpluses, provided of course mines in Goa that have remained shut since mid-March 2018 on Supreme Court order return to life and miners in Karnataka get court permission to export. Remember India, then as the world's third-largest exporter after Australia and Brazil, shipped 117 mt of iron ore to the world market in 2009-10. But then because of a combination of court orders and New Delhi's ill-advised pegging of export duty at annoyingly high levels, Indian exports hit lows of first less than 16 mt in 2013-14 and then to 5.5 mt in 2014-15. With India climbing down on import duty on low and medium grades of ore, exports did look up since.

When it comes to iron ore exports, the overwhelmingly biggest destination for India is China. For example, according to China's General Administration of Customs, that country's imports of Indian iron ore jumped 88% last year to 44.8 mt from 23.8 mt in 2019. Significantly, however, the rise of 21 mt was just 1.5% of the total 1.4 bt that China imported in 2020. While such exports to China constituted the most in several years, the redeeming part is that almost two-thirds of shipments had less than 48% iron content. That brings relief to the iron ore industry here since local steelmakers have a distinct preference for lump and high Fe content fines. A perennial problem for the industry is a mountain of mine headstocks that is not very long ago

climbed to about 165 mt. In a big way, therefore, the fortunes of Indian producers of iron ore in terms of exports and prices are linked to China-related trade.

This cannot be otherwise since China alone accounts for close to two-thirds of seaborne trade in iron ore, which is the world's second most traded commodity after crude oil. No wonder that when Beijing mandated nationwide steel production curbs since June in the wake of fading of stimulative spending, Asian ore prices saw a dramatic correction in the third quarter with the index IODEX falling 46%. The prices will continue to remain under pressure due to the combined pressure of low steel production and power shortages in China. With some Chinese mills coming under pressure to resell the contracted iron ore volumes, the market found itself in an oversupply position.

The Chinese building and construction sector alone accounts for anything between 50% and 60% of total steel use. Steel demand there has started falling in recent months driven by government attempts to cool the overheated property market and also deleverage the high levels of debts in the economy. Parallel to applying the brake on construction activity, Beijing has imposed emission curbs ranging from 30% to 50% on several steel mills in Tangshan, the country's biggest steelmaking center. That all these government policies are having a bite on steel production is borne out by August production falling by a steep 13.2% to 83.2 mt year-on-year. In July too production suffered a setback of 8.4% to 86.8 mt. No wonder, the Australian department of industry and resources has forecast iron ore prices to fall to \$93 a tonne by 2022 end.

India, Dubai sign pact to build infrastructure in Kashmir

Srinagar, Oct 19: An agreement was signed between the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the government of Dubai at the Raj Bhawan in Srinagar on Monday to build infrastructure. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was hailed "as a major success for India" by a former Pakistan high commissioner, while the pact triggered outrage in Pakistan.

The MoU signed during a small yet high-profile ceremony indicates a rare formalised partnership with a foreign government at a time when terror operators are trying to demolish the perception that India has strengthened its hold over the region after the special status to Jammu and Kashmir was scrapped.

'A Success For India'

Former Pakistan ambassador to India Dr Abdul Basit, in his YouTube vlog called Kaleidoscope, said, "This [signing of MoU] is a major success for India in the context of both Pakistan and Jammu and Kashmir as OIC [Organisation of Islamic Cooperation] members have always kept Pakistan's sensibilities on Kashmir at the forefront."

Abdul Basit went on to



Jammu and Kashmir and the Dubai government signed an agreement to build infrastructure

say, "There is news that the Dubai government has signed an agreement with the Indian government under which Dubai will invest in infrastructure development in Jammu and Kashmir. Details are yet to arrive about the MoU and how it will bring investment. Whether there will be an investment in the Kashmir region or Jammu is not very clear."

"In the past, they [OIC member nations] have never done something to make Pakistan feel that Muslim nations and the OIC are not standing behind us on the Kashmir issue. They may not have been very vocal, but have ensured not to work against our sentiment on Kashmir. That's why, we saw many times that representatives of the OIC nations used to refrain from visiting Kashmir. Many times, even if they were

invited, the OIC nations kept in mind the feelings of Pakistan."

Targeting the Imran Khan government in Pakistan, Basit said now that the MoU has been signed, it's clear that the matter is slipping out of Pakistan's hands. "We are shaking our hands and legs in the dark. We seem to have no Kashmir policy left. It's sad. The current government's casual approach will haunt it," he said.

"There should be efforts to find a solution. But, is it acceptable that everything is one-sided and the ground is ceded to India? Now, the condition is that Muslim nations are signing MoUs with India," Basit said.

As India's business and diplomatic ties with nations like the UAE grow, Basit said, "At this rate, it's a possibility that soon the UAE and Iran

may open their consulates in Kashmir. If this is the state of our diplomatic effort on Kashmir, this can happen."

WHY PAKISTAN FEELS MoU IS A WIN FOR INDIA

The MoU is yet another attempt by the Narendra Modi-led central government to signal that the mainstreaming of Jammu and Kashmir, through development and investment initiatives, is on course after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

The MoU with Dubai covers real estate development, industrial parks, IT towers, multipurpose towers, logistics, medical college, super speciality hospital and more.

Speaking about the significance of the MoU, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal said on Monday that with the signing of the MoU with Dubai, the world has started to recognise the pace with which Jammu and Kashmir is traversing on the development bandwagon.

Goyal said, "This MoU gives out a strong signal to the entire world that the way India is transforming into a global power, Jammu and Kashmir is having a significant role in

that as well."

The groundwork for the MoU was prepared during the ministers' visit to Dubai between 1-3 October on the sidelines of the inauguration of the India pavilion at the Expo 2020 Dubai.

The MoU, apart from bringing much-needed investment to Jammu and Kashmir, also promises to help India gain greater support of the UAE which has a strong presence in the comity of Islamic nations and also counters Pakistan's propaganda on Kashmir.

Mou Not The First, But Lessons Have Been Learnt

The MoU papers were signed by Ranjan Prakash Thakur, the principal secretary in the Department of Industries and Commerce, Jammu and Kashmir, and Mohammed Ibrahim Al Shaibani, director general of The Ruler's Court, Government of Dubai.

Also present during the ceremony was Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, the chairman, and CEO of DP World, a global leader in supply chain solutions specialising in cargo logistics, port terminal operations, maritime services.

On February 11, 2018, DP World's Sulayem signed the state's first-ever FDI agreement with the then


finance minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Haseeb Drabu, in Dubai in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who was on a state visit to the United Arab Emirates and the crown prince of the UAE, Mohamed bin Zayed at the Presidential palace.

The 2018 MoU involved FDI of Rs 5000 crore through a joint venture over the next five years. DP World was to invest Rs 1500 crore in phase-1 in multimodal logistics parks. The team led by Sulayem visited Jammu for site inspection a few days later.

But a month later, the then Jammu and Kashmir chief minister had sacked her finance minister Drabu and a few months later, the BJP-PDP alliance collapsed.

But, the MoU signed on Monday is different as it's between the Jammu and Kashmir government and the government of Dubai, and with some private entity.

The MoU comes with greater guarantees as the commitment has been made at the highest level.

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah is expected to flag off a direct flight between Srinagar and Sharjah on October 23. This will mark the arrival of Srinagar on the international flight map. 

Odisha Vigilance Raids Properties Of Dismissed Constable Prasanna Behera On DA Charges

Bhubaneswar : Odisha vigilance officials on Thursday conducted simultaneous raids at five places associated with dismissed constable Prasanna Behera on charges of possessing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.


As per reports, the search operations are currently underway at Behera's residence in Kalpana Square, furniture shops in Dumduma and Lingipur, South City Bar located at Patrapada and double storey building at his native village



Nuapada in Khordha district.

As many as five teams of the anti-corruption agency led by two DSPs, five Inspectors and other


officers are conducting the raid on the strength of search warrant issued by the Special Judge, Vigilance, Bhubaneswar. As per the latest report, the raids were

underway and calculation of his movable and immovable properties was yet to be completed. Notably, Commissionerate Police had dismissed constable and president of Odisha Constable and Havildar Association Behera from service on October 24 on several criminal charges against him. A day before, Behera was arrested. Earlier, Behera was suspended for allegedly running a bar illegally at Hotel South City in Patrapada. The offence came to fore after the murder of senior journalist Navin Das' son Manish Anurag. 

Group Clash In Kendrapara Leaves 3 Injured

Kendrapara: At least three persons were critically injured in a violent clash that broke out between two groups at Nuapada market in Patkura area of Kendrapara district on Thursday.

The incident took place in the evening. While one of the injured was shifted to Kendrapara district headquarters hospital, two others were rushed to the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack.

According to sources, the clashes began after one Bibhu Sahu and his relative were attacked by a group at Nuapada market. The clash intensified with one group attacking the rival with cricket stumps and wooden planks leaving 3 persons critically injured. Tension prevailed at Nuapada market following the clash. The market wore a deserted look as panic-stricken traders downed shutters fearing further escalation of violence. Personnel from the Patkura police station visited the market and launched an investigation. 

The White Tiger

CAST : Adarsh Gourav, Rajkummar Rao, Priyanka Chopra, Mahesh Manjrekar, Vijay Maurya

DIRECTION : Ramin Bahrani

GENRE : Comedy, Drama

DURATION : 2 hours 5 minutes

Critic's Rating : 3.5/5

A different beast

The White Tiger is an adaptation of Aravind Adiga's 2008 novel of the same name. The film deals with caste politics and showcases the rich-poor divide that exists in India. It offers a commentary on what's wrong with our country, where even after so many years of democracy, the mighty still rule over those with lesser means. In the film's somewhat lopsided worldview the only way up for the poor is through crime and politics. Director Ramin Bahrani has made the film for Western audiences. Hence, all we see is abject poverty at one hand and high-society lifestyle on the other. It's as if the great Indian middle class, which is driving the world economy forward by its buying power, simply doesn't exist.

This division into the haves and have-nots is too simplistic indeed.

On one end of the spectrum is Balram Halwai (Adarsh Gourav), who has studied a little as a child, knows how to speak Hindi, and his ambition is to become the driver of Ashok (Rajkummar Rao), the younger son of his village zamindar (Mahesh Manjrekar). Ashok, who has studied in America, is married to Pinky (Priyanka Chopra) an Indian girl born and raised in America. While the zamindar and his elder son (Vijay Maurya) treat Balram like he's only a rung above being an animal, the only people who treat him as a human being are America returned Ashok and Pinky. Pinky, in particular, is the sole humanitarian in the film.



She constantly eggs him to rebel, to not take things lying down. Pinky is also guilty of running over a child while drunk driving. A crime which Balram is forced to take the blame for. Does it sound familiar to a well-known hit and run case in Mumbai? His inability to say no further propels him to break the invisible chains around him, leading to a night of

Again, this smacks of ignorance as no rich person will do so. Perhaps the most irritating thing is that the common man, the drivers, Balram's relatives, are shown speaking in English among themselves. Now, a driver might speak to his employers in English but will not do so in the company of his peers. Also, since when did the Pajero become the apex of luxury cars in Delhi among the rich?

As said earlier, the film just hints at the class, caste and religious divide. It barks but doesn't bite. Maybe it's the director's ignorance with India -- Adiga's book is only just a reference point, after all, or maybe he was advised not to dig too deep. Whatever the reason may be, it leaves you with an

Rajkummar Rao crackles as well. They very much look like a yuppie couple who don't quite fit and should definitely go back to America. We wish there was more of Priyanka in the film but it's not Pinky's story. Rajkummar Rao too seems so natural in his role as the younger son who has forgotten that his family are basically gangsters. He's caught between two extremes and is unable to decide where he belongs. Rao showcases his character's helplessness superbly. The film rests squarely on Adarsh Gourav's shoulders, however. He's Balram personified. He's so seamless in his performance that one forgets one's watching an actor at work.



crime, rebellion, but ultimately redemption for him.

The screenplay is full of discrepancies. Ashok, much against his wishes, is shown doing too many deals in Delhi -- for what rhyme or reason, we don't know. His father and brother are shown travelling in the sleeper compartment on a train.

unsatisfied feeling. The lack of depth is buoyed by some wonderful acting. Priyanka Chopra has given a great performance as Pinky who isn't used to the patriarchal ways of her in-laws and openly rebels against them. Her reaction shots to their casual misbehaviour with the servants are spot on. And her chemistry with

It's as if a candid camera is following someone around and is magically privy to the person's thoughts.

We'll reiterate that The White Tiger has been made with the Western audience in mind and further reinforces the stereotype of India being a poor, third world country. The human drama it brings forth thankfully rises above the cliches...



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