

### India Bids Goodbye to Gen Bipin Rawat, His Wife With Full Military Honour

India's Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat and his wife Madhulika Rawat were cremated with full military honour at the Brar Square crematorium in New Delhi on Friday.



Sirish C Mohanty

New Delhi, Dec 10: The final rites of Rawat and his wife were performed by their two daughters. The CDS was accorded a 17-gun salute as per the laid down protocols. A ceremonial battery of 2233 Field Regiment provided a gun carriage, and about 800 service personnel were in attendance at the crematorium.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Union minister Kiren Rijiju, Ambassador of France to India Emmanuel Lenain, and British High

Commissioner to India Alex Ellis were among several others who paid their final respects to Rawat and his wife. Top defence officials of Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh were also present to bid final goodbye to the CDS.

The CDS's and his wife's final journey began amid chants of 'Jab tak suraj chand rahega, Rawat ji ka naam rahega'. As the CDS, Rawat had overseen the implementation of an ambitious tri-services modernisation plan to bring synergy among the armed forces and enhance their overall combat capabilities.

Earlier in the day, right outside his official residence at 3, Kamraj Marg, several people who had gathered, raised slogans of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', 'Gen Rawat amar rahe', and 'Uttarakhand ka heera amar' (Page-7)

## Many faces of Deprivation in Odisha

The curious aspect is the deprivation in districts like Keonjhar, Rayagada, Koraput and Mayurbhanj that bear the lion's share of mineral riches.

Bhubaneswar, Dec 10: The National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2021 by NITI Aayog has presented some disturbing facts for Odisha. The think tank's assessment says almost a third of the state's population (about 29.3%) faces deprivation of multiple kinds, such as health, education and basic standard of living, and places it among the top 10 states with a significant share of population living under poverty. As per the

MPI, over 37% of Odisha's population is deprived of nutrition. In terms of using cooking fuel and sanitation facilities, Odisha's score is low again.

Similarly, a large population has no access to maternal health. What's alarming is that a major chunk of tribal districts have more multidimensional poverty compared to other regions of the state. In districts like Koraput, Nabarangpur and Malkangiri, more than half the population lives below



the poverty line. In Kandhamal, Keonjhar, Rayagada, Kalahandi and Mayurbhanj, the scenario is not any better either. Most of these excessively deprived districts formed the erstwhile KBK region that was notorious for socio-economic backwardness. The MPI lays bare the fact that little has changed despite pumping in hundreds of crores of rupees on this region through targeted

interventions over the years.

Another curious facet is the deprivation in districts like Keonjhar, Rayagada, Koraput and Mayurbhanj that bear the lion's share of mineral riches. Years of mining development and spending of funds from pools like District Mineral Foundation notwithstanding, critical parameters such as health, education and lifestyle remain at the bottom. (Page-11)

### Odisha Assembly Adjourned Sine Die 20 Days Ahead Of Schedule



Bhubaneswar, Dec 10: The Odisha Assembly was adjourned sine die by Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro today, 20 days ahead of the scheduled end of the winter session.

Patro adjourned the House sine die after it passed the (Page-14)

### Odisha Extends Distribution Of Additional Rice For 4 More Months

Each beneficiary of the scheme will get an additional 5 kg of rice from the allotment month of December 2021 to March 2022, in view of the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic situation

Bhubaneswar, Dec 12: The Odisha government on Saturday extended distribution of rice to the beneficiaries covered under the State Food Security Scheme (SFSS) by four months. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has directed to extend distribution of additional 5 kg of rice per head free of cost to beneficiaries of SFSS for four months, said a statement released by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO). As per the



Odisha Extends Distribution Of Additional Rice For 4 More Months directive, each beneficiary of the scheme will get an additional 5 kg of rice from the allotment month of December 2021 to March 2022, in view of the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic situation. As many as 2,88,528 families comprising (Page-14)



# CAG Report Unveils Mismanagement Of Hindu Temples In Odisha



CAG Report Unveils Mismanagement Of Hindu Temples In Odisha

Bhubaneswar, Dec 12: The unholy management of holy temples in Odisha has been brought to the fore by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) report.

The latest report on the General and Social Sector for the year ended March 2020 by the constitutional watchdog reveals of large-scale misappropriation of property and funds of the religious

institutions across the State.

As per the audit report tabled in the State Assembly, the temple management by the Odisha Law Department is afflicted by one-thousand one ills - from the encroachment of land property, malfunctioning of the trust boards, improper management of housing properties, deficient management of commercial premises, unauthorized

**The latest report on the General and Social Sector for the year ended March 2020 by the constitutional watchdog reveals of large-scale misappropriation of property and funds of the religious institutions across Odisha.**

custody of jewels of the deities to non-maintenance of records et al.

The findings said the objective of the Orissa Hindu Religious Endowment (OHRE) Act, 1951 was not being largely adhered to by the religious institutions' boards in the State. There was a lack of proper control and monitoring mechanism to safeguard property and valuables of the religious institutions, the report pointed out.

The CAG conducted an audit of the records of 13 temples of the State and found that of the total landed property of 12,767.679 acres of these temples, only 5,749.464 acres (45.03

percent) were under their possession and 35.28 percent of the land was under encroachment.

According to the report, Sri Lingaraj Temple has 69.423 acres of land property in Bhubaneswar out of which 36.370 acres were under encroachment. The highest 4,030.78 acres of land belonging to Debottar Dhenkanal is under encroachment. Historian Anil Dhir said, "The land properties of Lord Jagannath were identified across Odisha and seven other states. What measures were taken by the State government to get the properties back? Many influential people have

encroached upon the temple lands in a big way. There are thousands of temples under the endowment commission in the State. The properties of those temples cannot be controlled without an adequate workforce."

Saroj Kumar Sethi, Dhenkanal Collector said, "We recently held a meeting and tehsildars have been asked to carry out eviction drive to free the temple land from encroachments. After the eviction, the land measurement will be done and the property will be brought back to the possession of the administration." Meanwhile, the finding of the CAG report has given fresh ammo to the

Opposition BJP and Congress, who made no delay in launching a scathing attack at the ruling party.

BJP general secretary Lekhashree Samantasinghar said, "It was said that 8,510.500 gms of gold articles of Sri Akhandalamani Temple were stored in an iron chest in District Treasury of Bhadrak. Now, it has come to light that the two keys of the iron chest are missing akin to the keys of Srimandir Ratna Bhandar. It indicates that Hindu temples are being largely ignored and we suspect a big conspiracy behind it by the State government."

Congress MLA Santosh Singh Saluja said, "The State government is maintaining silence on such mega irregularities in religious institutions because people nominated by it are indulging in such corruption at those sacred institutions."

## Mortal Remains Of Martyred Odia IAF Jawan Rana Pratap Das Consigned To Flames



Talcher, Dec 11: Mortal remains of Rana Pratap Das, the Odia Junior Warrant Officer (JWO) of the Indian Air Force (IAF) who was among the 13 killed in Wednesday's military helicopter crash near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu, was consigned to flames with full state honours at his native place Krushnachandrapur near Talcher town as thousands paid their last respects.

As the martyred soldier's funeral pyre was lit by his nephew Atish Das at a special crematory ground in his native village, the chanting of 'Rana Pratap Amar Rahe' filled the air.

Thousands with moist eyes lined up on both sides of the road showering flower petals amid chants of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', 'Rana Pratap Amar Rahe' as the special ambulance carrying the mortal remains of the fallen soldier reached his native

village in a special ambulance.

Earlier in the day, mortal remains of Das arrived at the Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar, where a guard of honour was given.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, several Ministers, MLAs, DGP Abhay and many other political leaders paid floral tributes to the mortal remains of Das at the airport.

Patnaik while paying floral tribute on the mortal remains of Rana Pratap Das highly praised his dedicated service and patriotism, and also expressed his sympathies to the bereaved family members.

Das is survived by his wife, one-year-old son and his elderly parents.

## Delhi Girl Unable to Ride New Scooty Because of The Word 'SEX' on Number Plate, People Mock & Bully Her

New Delhi, Dec 1: A Delhi girl who recently bought a new scooty has been left embarrassed after she received an unusual registration number for her two-wheeler. The Delhi Regional Transport Office (RTO) assigned 'DL 3 SEX \*\*\*' registration number to the scooty, leaving the girl red faced. Notably, it has been three weeks since she got the registration plate but she hasn't taken the two-wheeler out even once, because the number has the word S-E-X in it.

According to DailyO, the girl, a fashion designing student, used to travel from Jankapuri to Noida via Metro. In order to avoid travelling the long distance in crowded Metros, she had asked her father to buy her a scooty. After requesting her father for over a year, he finally gifted her one on Diwali. As soon as the scooty got the identification number, the family noticed the letters 'SEX' on the number plate. "The aunties of my



Delhi Girl Unable to Ride New Scooty Because of the Word 'SEX' on Number Plate

neighbourhood are calling me besharam (shameless). Everyone around me is bullying me," she told. After the ridicule and mockery, her father requested the two-wheeler seller to change the number, but the seller refused his request saying that a lot of people had received similar numbers. "A large number of cars and scooters have received such a number, and your daughter is not the queen of the world that she will get a new one," the dealer told the girl's father.

Seems like there is no end to her woes as there is no provision to change the allotted number. "Once the vehicle number is allotted, there is no provision to change it as of now, as the whole process runs on one set pattern," Commissioner of Delhi Transport KK Dahiya told Aaj Tak. Two-wheelers are denoted by the letter 'S' in Delhi and currently, the two letters in circulation are 'E' and 'X' for registration of two-wheelers. So, the number plate of a new scooty will inevitably have 'SEX' on it.



# Varanasi sets strong Hindu corridor, Oppn has to look for new path!



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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Varanasi blitzkrieg climaxes with the launching of the Vishwanath corridor with its strong Hindu, Hindutva, or Hinduism thrust. The Rs 339 crore project is completed in less than three years.

The reverberation of Har Har Mahadev, chants for Shiva, a festive joyous mood, and a veiled feeling of reestablishing the supremacy of the Hindu ethos changes a lot.

The Vishwanath corridor certainly opens up the challenges. How it shapes up in UP will decide the course for 2024 general Lok Sabha elections, which possibly would have a new delimitation to elect 888 Lok Sabha MPs against the present 543. Rajya

Sabha will seat 384 against 245 now. The politics in UP is becoming more complex and may finally lead to complicating the Indian politics

The opposition is in a bind. The compulsion of the opposition is that it does not want to go against the majority euphoria that has given two terms to Modi and also put UP in BJP's kitty.

Now Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav takes credit for sanctioning the corridor that today eloquently reminds of Maratha queen Ahilyabai Holkar and the rise of BJP.

A foxed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has also fallen for the bait and says that now a Hindu government has to unseat

the proponents of Hindutva. That is a problem. Careful weaving of religious ethos into politics is setting the election mood. The problems of price rise, Kisan, joblessness, difficult business scenario pales into nothing says a UP minister in Varanasi celebrations.

Yes, Modi has made a difference. Except for once on December 3, 2018, in an election rally, Modi has never reflected his idea on Hindutva. Responding to Rahul Gandhi, he said, "Oh brother ...Hindutva...is a rich heritage. Even the sages never claimed to have full knowledge of Hindu and Hindutva. I am a very small man and I do not claim to have such vast knowledge."

It is different from what LK Advani had said in his party presidential address in 2004, "Hindutva is a sentiment, it is neither an electoral slogan nor should it be confused with religion". In his view, Hindutva is the core of our nationhood. But Advani was confined by the Supreme Court narrative that it was a way of life. Modi has made it a wave and connected the majority.

The opposition has lost its secularism plank and now finds it difficult to reject the Hindu in any form as Varanasi and Lord Vishwanath are its unwritten core. It sways the majority mindset.

Varanasi is very

critically located too. It influences directly UP, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. Being a cultural epicenter it touches other regions up to far off Rameswaram in the south. Anything new at the Lord's abode touches heart everywhere.

The expansion of the temple complex to over 5.3 lakh square feet area, a spruced-up city, easy access to the temple, the glory of the new structure, and the beautiful Ganga ghats touch everyone.

The temple administration says that one lakh persons can congregate at any given time. Acquisition of houses and buildings was done to make space for this corridor. To implement this corridor built in a total of 25 thousand square meters, 296 buildings of different localities were bought, out of which 227 were private properties and 31 were buildings of Sevait. Apart from this, five properties of Municipal Corporation including 13 temples and 21 assets of various trusts have also been acquired.

Carefully it has sidelined the issue of the Gyavapi mosque though it is not outside the larger agenda. The Sangh Parivar wants it solved through a proposal coming from the minority community. The RSS set up Muslim Rashtriya Manch is trying to carve

out a niche among minorities and calling upon Muslims to act against terrorism.

The two-day stay of the prime minister and the beginning of a month-long celebration at Varanasi is aimed at setting the UP election mood about two months from now. It has set a new political commonness in Hindutva. The opposition Congress, various regional parties, Samajwadi, Aam Admi Party, are now playing on the turf of the BJP. Even the CPI-M is not ignoring the presence of the strong Hindu sentiments. It is more pervasive than the SC concept of a way of life.

It is a strategic victory of the BJP, carefully carved out by the RSS. The government acquisition of the Kashi Vishwanath temple happened decades ago during Congress rule. The subsequent BSP and SP governments became unpopular as they drew the revenue from Kashi Vishwanath in the government account. But for the temple and the corridor, the BJP certainly won.

The evening Ganga arati with chief ministers and deputy CMs of various BJP-ruled states and a scheduled meet to address conclave of 12 BJP CMs and nine deputy CMs, the party is all set to sweep the mood, perhaps beyond the 2022 UP polls.

The opposition has been sharpening their weapons post-withdrawal of the three kisan bills. But the Varanasi corridor may make their move to capture power arduous. It might create a move to bring disunited opposition on one platform as Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi put it on Monday. That might make a difference in vote pooling, the opposition may be hoping as it had once worked against the Congress.

There is one difference. The vigorous campaigning mode that the BJP has adopted so far does not look fragile as the then Congress was fighting a demoralized battle. The BJP is upbeat and hopes to keep the moves under its control, UP deputy chief minister Keshav Prasad Maurya says. The BJP is not oblivious of the opposition unity move and its campaign managers say that they would undo each move of the opposition. The prime minister's speech is full of the thrust of supposed BJP preparedness.

But that does not mean that the opposition is not making efforts to unseat the BJP. Whether they would succeed or not would decide the course not only for UP but to the Lok Sabha 2024 when 350 seats more have to be contested.

An interesting political phase begins.



## Birsa Munda Stadium to Be Ready Soon: Sports Minister



Rourkela: Sports Minister Tusharkanti Behera on 30th November inspected Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium and other sports infrastructure under construction at Rourkela in Odisha's Sundargarh district.

The Minister, along with Secretary in Sports and Youth Services department R Vineel Krishna, also inspected the Birsa Munda Football Stadium and Biju Patnaik Indoor Stadium.

After visiting various

sports infrastructure sites, the Minister said the construction of Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium in Rourkela is going on in full swing. The construction work, which had come to a halt due to COVID, is now moving at a fast pace and the stadium is expected to be completed by July 2022.

The Men's Hockey World Cup is set to be held in Odisha in 2023. Odisha will be hosting the international tournament for the second time in a row.

The World Cup will be played at Birsa Munda

Hockey Stadium in Rourkela and Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will soon inaugurate the indoor stadium, said the Sports Minister.

Rourkela MLA Sarada Prasad Nayak, Sundargarh District Commissioner Nikhil Pawan Kalyan, Rourkela Additional District Commissioner and Dibyajyoti Parida of Metropolitan Corporation Commission and Panposh Sub-District Commissioner Daulat Chandrakar were present.

## RSP wins Genentech Award for Environment Protection



SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has won the prestigious Greentech Environment Award 2021 for outstanding achievements in environmental protection. The award was presented to the leading steel producer of the region at the Annual Greentech Award function held in Mahabalipuram, Tamilnadu on 26th November 2021. R K Patra, CGM (SMS-I) and P C Das, GM Incharge (EMD), RSP received the award on behalf of the plant from Rajeev Bhadauria, Managing Partner: Ebullient, Co-Founder: Mytransform.com, and K. Sharan Chairman and CEO, Greentech Foundation.

The coveted award has been presented to RSP, in recognition of its remarkable performance in environmental management. Notably, the Steel Plant in its illustrious journey of more than six decades has been nurturing an environment in tandem with contributing its bit to nation-building with the might of steel. As a responsible corporate, RSP has taken effective steps to minimize pollution, enhance recycling of wastes, and adoption of

cleaner technologies to achieve a sustainable way of manufacturing steel and living in harmony with nature as well.

In a function organized at Manthan Conference Hall on 6th December, Amarendu Prakash, DIC, Bokaro Steel Plant & Rourkela Steel Plant congratulated the RSP collective for winning the prestigious award and encouraged all to make the operations of the Steel Plant even more eco-friendly and sustainable manner.

From the adoption of environment-friendly latest state-of-the-art technologies in the production chain to effective use of 4R- viz. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle & Recover for conservation of energy & natural resources, RSP has been adopting a multi-pronged approach for the effective protection of the environment. The ambient air qualities of the steel plant areas are monitored continuously and are well within the statutory norms. The Steel Plant has also taken adequate steps for the treatment of its industrial effluent as well as domestic effluent.

## RSP and NITR joins hand to Spread Organic Farming for Women Farmers

A training program on "Waste to Wealth," sustainable organic farming techniques was introduced at SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) on 30th November 2021. Mr. P K Satapathy, ED (P&A) of RSP, and Professor Simanchalo Panigrahi, Director, NIT-Rourkela were present at the inaugural function organized at Institute for Peripheral Development, Sector - 20 and inaugurated the Vermicompost Unit to mark the commencement of the project. Ms. Munmun Mitra, GM Incharge (CSR), Prof. Nihar Ranjan Mishra, NIT-Rourkela, Prof. Rama Chandra Pradhan, NIT-Rourkela were also present on the dais. Mr. P K Satapathy highlighted the importance of organic farming and its relevance in the modern day of genetically modified seeds and adulterated food items with special reference to healthy living. Professor Panigrahi emphasised the advantages and needs of student involvement and networking for better results. The joint venture is taken up at the approximate cost of Rs. 45 lakhs is spread over 48 months. It aims at



addressing the common interest of both RSP and NIT in terms of agriculture by creating organic farming sites at different locations of RSP peripheral areas and Horticulture Department areas. Plans are afoot to cover about 700 women farmers from periphery villages in this project by educating and giving them hands-on training in various facets of Organic farming like vermicomposting, bio-pesticides, better utilization of land, maintaining soil health, etc. The project is also designed to facilitate technology transfer scientifically and promote research and development along with the creation of market linkages, with Self-help groups, Government, and other agencies.

## Atanu Bhowmik, Chosen As New Director In-Charge, RSP

Rourkela: The Public Enterprises Selection Board has selected SAIL Executive Director Atanu Bhowmik for the post of Director In-Charge of the Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP). After finalising Bhowmik's name, the selection board recommended the Ministry of Steel for his appointment. The board interviewed six EDs of SAIL, including 56-year-old Bhowmik, a general manager of RINL, and a senior general manager of MECON. The post of Director In-Charge (earlier CEO) in RSP was lying vacant since August 1 this year. Bhowmik was born in Rourkela and did his schooling there. After schooling, he graduated in metallurgy engineering from the National Institute of Technology-Rourkela in 1988. As Director In charge of RSP, Bhowmik will be a member of the Board of Directors and report to the Chairman. He will be overall in charge of RSP and be responsible for the efficient functioning of the plant and mines concerned.



## Sundargarh to Become First Child Friendly District of the Country

Sundargarh, Dec 8: The district administration has launched a new program on 8th December towards making Sundargarh a Child-Friendly District. Supported by District Mineral Foundation (DMF), the program is going to cover all 279 Gram Panchayats in the district. Such an initiative by the Sundargarh district administration is a first of its kind across the country.

To manage the program, implementing partner agency Youth for Social Development has been assigned work at 8 blocks of the district while another organisation DISHA is set to manage the program in 9

other blocks. A training program was held recently at Bisra to orient the block coordinators who are engaged as the frontline workers across all 17 blocks. The 3-day program was inaugurated by CEO DMF Maheshwar Chandra Naik. To make Sundargarh conducive for the growth and development of children, various interventions have been initiated at the GP level. The Block Coordinators will make presentations on facts and data gathered from the grassroots level concerning various child development indicators. Different government departments will thus consider such grassroots

input while formulating various child welfare programs. The new initiative focuses on active community participation to realise children's needs and adopt means to fulfill the same. The Block Coordinators will connect with field functionaries like Anganwadi workers, ANMs, ASHA workers, PRI Members, teachers, doctors, and other stakeholders to make them contribute to this process.

At the GP level, a 'Child Rights Protection Committee' will be formed with parents, school management committee, mothers committee, PRI members, and other service providers. At the meeting of the

committee, issues relating to children's nutrition, drinking water, sanitation, education & health, hygiene, and safety will be taken up. Children will be trained to participate in these meetings and represent their cause. The primary objectives of the Child-Friendly Sundargarh program are to ensure the protection of child rights, end child marriage, abolish child labor, put an end to child trafficking, stopping abuse and violence against children. Moreover, the focus will be on ensuring the right to education for children and preventing school dropouts. Ultimately, the program

intends to facilitate a nurturing environment so that each child can get an opportunity for physical, cognitive, and holistic growth. Different programs have been taken up towards mother & child development in the Sundargarh district. Special nutrition drives like Spirulina Chikki and sugar and Ragi Laddu distribution are operational for children. Thus, the Child-Friendly Sundargarh initiative will also focus on ensuring the benefits and entitlements of children under various government schemes and programs in the district. As a result of this program, children's issues will be

prioritised in the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) and budget allocation to be made to fulfill the same through various programs. Towards successful implementation of the program, a three-tier monitoring mechanism has been instituted. The GP level committee will function under the Sarpanch. Similarly, the Block Level Committee led by the Block Chairman & BDOs will review the child development process at all Panchayats. At the top, the committee headed by the Collector will take stock of the program across the district and chart the course of action from time to time.



# NHRC directs Odisha Govt to give compensation to the deceased family

JAGATSINGHPUR, Dec 12: The National Human Rights Commission [NHRC] has directed the chief secretary of the government of Odisha to pay a compensation of Rs 3, 00,000 [Three Lakh] to family members of a man from Erasama who died following electrocution two years back.

The NHRC found it is a clear case of human rights violation and negligence act of electricity department for which the man succumbed so

ordered to pay the compensation within four weeks and sent compliance report to the commission.

One Nilamani Swain a farmer from Erasama village had electrocuted on September 19, 2019, when he came in contact with a live 11KV wire hanging on his field. on behalf of the deceased family, one Pratap Chandra Mohanty had complained to NHRC that causing very low hanging of wire Nilamani electrocuted and

later died and sought to award compensation.

Acting on the complaint NHRC had issued show-cause notices to chief secretary Odisha, state energy department, and TPCODL u/s 18 of the PHR Act 1993 sought responses why an amount of Rs 3,00,000 shall not be awarded to the deceased family.

Answering NHRC show cause notice special secretary Energy department Odisha inclined to pay compensation

to the deceased's kin and informed that an amount of Rs 1,50,000 has already been paid to the deceased family amid judicial proceedings by TPCODL and ready to pay more compensation as per commission order.

Disposing of the complaint commission accepted the submission made by the energy department and ordered to pay another Rs 1, 50,000 to the deceased family and submit compliance within four weeks.

## Dhinkia villagers erect gates, to prevent the entry of police and Govt officials



JAGATSINGHPUR, Dec 12: After a scuffle between police and villagers witnessed in Dhinkia village resulting in 7 police personnel being hurt and two police vehicles getting damaged, the agitated Dhinkia villagers have erected three bamboo gates at the village outskirts.

Three gates were erected to Dhinkia village at Govindapur, Trilochanpur, and Mahala villages on Sunday. Reports said that villagers are on a 24 hours duty guarding the gates against the entry of police and government officials including JSW project sympathizers from the locality.

The gates erection at Dhinkia village aims to prevent police and government officials entry into the area, we strongly denounced police action that occurred in the village on Saturday night while searching Samiti Member Debendra Swain. Police had raided Samiti Member house on Saturday night and after not tracing him vandalized his house. Debendra's family member informed that police have implicated him in a false case. Amid the JSW proposed project tripartite meetings Debendra has been targeted by civil administration and police

to push him in a case due to his strong opposition against JSW Company, the family member said.

However police have clarified that following a bomb hurling incident that occurred in Govindapur village cops had moved to the occurrence site for investigation were confronted with villagers, the agitated villagers had attacked policemen as consequence 7 cops got injured and 2 police vehicles were amaged,

Meanwhile, the anti-JSW opponents have intensified their agitation in Dhinkia village, gates have been erected in three different locations connecting Dhinkia village, braving incessant rains and severe cold anti-industry brigade including women are guarding the gates preventing police, government officials and any outsiders entry to the village. Recently Jagatsinghpur district administration had conducted four tripartite meetings in JSW's proposed project site villages in its plan to woo the villagers, moreover, the meetings had drawn positive responses from villagers with regards to the JSW project starting, but the recent development in Dhinkia village pushing the matter tizzy, sources informed.

## Dhinkia Panchayat Samiti member axed

JAGATSINGHPUR, Dec 12: The state Panchayati Raj department has sacked Dhinkia GramaPanchayat Samiti member Devendra Swain owing to his indiscipline activities with regards to the Panchayati Raj institutions Act and rules. The departmental special secretary in letter No 21538 dated December 08, 2021, has apprised Jagatsinghpur collector and Devendra Swain and

instructed to implement with immediate effect.

The report said that Devendra had been recognized as a strong bitter of the JSW project and extended his non-cooperation to civil administration during consecutive tripartite meetings held in proposed project site villages recently, moreover promoting an anti-JSW environment in the locality and conducting anti project meetings.

Acting on the event Jagatsinghpur collector on September 30, 2021, had asked Devendra to appear before the Erasama block development officer to defend allegations against him or submit written compliance but he could not turn up.

Furthermore, civil administration again on November 30, 2021, asked Devendra to appear before the authority protecting his position as a public representative under

Panchayat Samite Act and rules but Devendra again skipped the hearing. As a consequence district, Panchayati raj department had furnished detailed reports to the state government describing Devendra's unlawful activities performing as a Samiti member, Based on the report state government found Devendra guilty and sacked him from the post on Wednesday.

## 85 births recorded amid cyclone Jawad's in Jagatsinghpur

JAGATSINGHPUR, Dec 12: As the Jagatsinghpur district administration battled cyclone Jawad and full swung for preventive preparations, as many as 168 pregnant women were shifted to safe places across the district, from the 85 women were born children, recorded as 43 male and 42 female babies.

As part of priority shifting pregnant women to safer places and cyclone shelters during cyclone Jawad, a block-level drive was undertaken for two days and successfully identified the pregnant women in different locations through hospitals and



Anganwadi workers.

Many women who happened to be in the last leg of their pregnancy were moved to cyclone shelters and hospitals, 165 women figure in the list of evacuees.

Two medical teams comprising doctors, nurses, health staffs were deployed

to keep watch on the women equipped with medical assistance and medicines.

Sharing experiences an Anganwadi worker attached in Erasama block informed that many pregnant women were initially reluctant to move cyclone shelters later agreed to go there. One

such expectant was given December 10 as her delivery date, it took a lot of persuasions to shift her to the shelter surprisingly the woman gave birth to a boy on Saturday evening six days ahead of schedule now the woman and baby were well under the medical supervision of Erasama hospital, she added without naming.

A handful of women gave birth in the multipurpose shelter homes and CHCs and district headquarters hospital here during the cyclone, civilians have praised civil administration initiative.



## Two trained dogs to join for Similipal security

Baripada, 12 December 2021:-The Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) authorities of Mayurbhanj district took a special initiative for the security management of the forest by engaging two trained dogs. The two dogs will engage for security in the forest within a month, said Deputy Director (DD) of STR South Samrat Gowda on Sunday. He said the initiative has been taken to check for the poaching of wild animals inside the STR. The DD said that an NGO had provided one male named Drona and a female one named



Maya who had received training in wildlife protection from ITBP's National Dog Training Centre, Bhanu in Chandigarh recently. The officials had already brought them to Mayurbhanj district fifteen days past and are being cared for by four staff who already got training. The DD said adding that they joined the Similipal dog squad to assist in tracking poachers, finding hidden guns, snares, passions, and other wildlife articles, etc besides tracing the person who was chopping timbers inside the Similipal.

He said earlier, a couple of trained dogs had assisted to check these activities in Similipal, unfortunately, this drive was stopped after they succumbed. However, the STR authority also engaged three trained elephants named Mahendra, Sobha, and Bhavani who were brought to Similipal from Karnataka in November 2001 for the promotion of eco-tourism and protection of wildlife and forests. They were trained for these jobs. While Sobha gave birth to a female elephant Laxmi in April 2002, Bhavani gave birth to Rajkumar in October 2002, and Shivani in December 2008. After the death of Laxmi due to snakebite in April 2006, Bhavani and Shivani have been staying inside Similipal forests. Sobha and Mahendra were sent to Berhampur range and Rajkumar to Chandaka forest.

## Elephants razed ripened paddy and damaged houses in Mayurbhanj

Baripada, 12 December: The people of the Mayurbhanj district were deprived of peace due to the havoc of elephants. While the elephants of Similipal national park are sneaking to the human settlements and damaging crops and other properties worth lakhs, the elephants of neighboring State Jharkhand are making the same woe. Now the residents of Andharikhaman, Ambabedha, Bagabasa, Padiabedha, Gourigada, Tikarpada, and Baliposi villages in Thakurmunda range of Karanjia forest division of Mayurbhanj district are living

with scare and spent the sleepless night when a herd of 26 elephants has razed ripened paddy and razed houses in both day and night for the last four days. While hectares of standing and cutting paddy were damaged, at least two houses in Gourigada and Tikarpada villages had been damaged by the herd.

The villagers said the elephants entered the Thakurmunda range after passing through a corridor at the Saharapada area under the Keonjhar district on Friday.

Within four days of their movement to the range, the

herd had razed hectares of standing and cutting crops lying on the fields. While the farmers have demanded before the forest department for a permanent measure to check the movement of elephants to human habitation, the department has yet to take any step in this regard, said Baya Majhi, a resident of Tikarpada village.

The elephant herd damaged the house of Sudarshan Patra and ate more than 2.5 quintal rice being stocked in his house besides eating vegetable crops in his orchard. His family members narrowly escaped and went to

the neighbor's house just before the herd reached his house.

Another victim of Tikarpada village Baya Majhi, his house was razed by the elephant herd in the same night.

Deputy Ranger Kishore Kumar Panigrahi said that as per the initial report the elephant herd had damaged more than one-acre paddy and damaged a house. Presently the elephants are roaming in the Tikarpada forest. As many as 35 forest personnel have been engaged to keep watch on the movement of the elephants.

## Tribals took out rally for language recognition

Baripada, Dec 9:-Tribals from different organisations along with tribal students of educational institutions took out a rally recently in Baripada town pressing their demand that the Santhali language is included as a State Minority language.

They demanded that the State Government is giving priority over other

languages and their developments, the tribal language Santhali has been neglected. Even the government-run educational institutions did not use the language as compulsory and optional subjects by engaging trained teachers in schools, colleges, and universities. They warned that if the State Government will not take any step over

the issue, they will give their right answer while they cast their vote for the upcoming panchayat and municipality election.

"We have demanded that once the State Government will include the Santhali language as State Minority language, automatically the language has been developed and the tribal students who are

reading in various government-run educational institutions will get the benefits and preserve the language respectively," Solai Marandi an organiser.

They also gave a memorandum to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik through Collector of Mayurbhanj Vineet Bhardwaj in this regard.

## Sixty families to be relocated for Deo medium irrigation project

Baripada, Dec 12:- Mayurbhanj district administration decided to relocate as many as 60 families for further expansion of work of Deo medium irrigation project. A meeting was held in the officer chamber of Karanjia sub-collector Dr. Rajanikanta Biswal recently in presence of Badal Kumar Sahoo the Chief Engineer and Executive Engineer Ajit Kumar Jena of the project along with Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Karnajia Sudarshan Gangi and other officers about the relocation planning of these 60 families.

Sub-Collector Dr. Biswal said that the district administration is planning for the relocation of these families for the further expansion work of the Deo medium irrigation project. The families are presently living in five villages in

Badaramchandrapur, Takurpatana, Shymchandrapur, Kadalibadi, and Badbarhakamuda of the division. They will be relocated near Batapalas and a plot just around a kilometer away from the project site. The relocation program will be commenced from 17 December to 22 December in presence of police, officials of the Deo project.

Compensation, housing under various government housing schemes, shifting, temporary house facilities will be provided during the displacement.

Earlier, the district administration had relocated 502 families out of 1040 families from Hatibari, Dudhiani, and Migiginandi areas in different phases and the project work had started paving the way for partial commencement of water supply on 25 June as an experimental

basis that inaugurated by Collector of Mayurbhanj Vineet Bhardwaj in presence of Keonjhar Lok Sabha MP Chandrani Murmu and Karanjia MLA Basanti Hembram.

It may be noted that the foundation stone for the Deo irrigation project had been laid in June 1992 by former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik and the project was estimated to cost Rs. 52 crores. It had taken time for 29 years to complete a portion of the project and release water via the right canal. The cost overruns and now the project estimate has reached Rs.900 crore. At least 9000 hectares of land will be irrigated and farmers of both Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar districts will be benefited, said the officials. Initially, the project had provided a water supply facility to more than 3,500-hectare land for the Kharif cultivation this year in the Mayurbhanj district.

## Rajya Sabha MP urged for new railway connectivity in Mayurbhanj district

Baripada, Dec 4: BJD Rajya Sabha MP Mamata Mohanta had urged for new railway connectivity for the Mayurbhanj district in the Parliament Session. The demands are 38 km between Budhamora and Chakulia and Bangiriposi-Gorumahisani. She said that despite the Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik giving his consent that his government was ready to give land at free cost for the development of the railway in the State, the delay of railway connectivity in the district was a major concern. However, the mineral-rich tribal-dominated district has been neglected in this regard and never improves the social and economic condition of the people.

Replying to the questions raised by the Rajya Sabha MP, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw answered that the survey work of 55-new railway route

between Budhamora and Chakulia already completed, while 38 km come under Jharkhand State, 17 km are under Mayurbhanj district under Odisha, delay in land acquisition and clearance of forest lands in both States are leading to delay to start route work. The Modi Government is given more priority for the railway development for Odisha, answered the Railway Minister.

The Rajya Sabha MP Mamata Mohanta urged that while inaugurating the Railway Heritage Museum at Baripada on 17 November that Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs and Jal Shakti Bishweswar Tutu and the Lok Sabha MP of Mayurbhanj stated that the railway services between Baripada and Puri will be introduced soon. Besides, survey work of the new railway line between Bangiriposi and Gorumahisani has already been



completed which the route connectivity work is expected to commence within a couple of months, the connection of Chakulia and Badampahar the railway connectivity to Mayurbhanj in Odisha and Jharkhand are necessary for the social and economical development which major demanded being holt due to land acquisition and forest land clearances to be addressed soon that the Tribal Affairs Minister assured before the people are not seen of their positive sign.



# Implementation Of Smart Cities Mission Extended To June 2023

New Delhi, Dec 2: The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has extended the timeline for the implementation of Smart Cities Mission to June 2023 due to the Covid pandemic and other reasons, a senior official said on Thursday.

According to an earlier deadline, the cities were expected to complete their projects within five years of being selected under the Smart Cities Mission. The official said all the 100 smart cities selected under the mission will now have to complete their projects by June 2023.

Hundred smart cities had been selected through four rounds of competition from January 2016 to June 2018. The ministry had launched the Smart Cities Mission on

**Hundred smart cities had been selected through four rounds of competition from January 2016 to June 2018. The ministry had launched the Smart Cities Mission on 25 June 2015.**

25 June 2015.

"The timeline for the implementation of Smart Cities Mission has been extended to June 2023 due to COVID pandemic and other reasons. Cities that have been selected in 2016 or 2018 will have to complete their projects under the mission by June 2023," the official told PTI.

In the past, the government has come under

criticism from the opposition over the implementation of the smart cities mission, one of the flagship programmes of the BJP government.

According to the ministry, the objective of the Smart Cities Mission is to promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to their citizens and a clean and sustainable environment through the application of

smart solutions.

Recently, the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry had said that as of November 12, 2021, these Smart Cities have tendered out 6,452 projects worth Rs 1,84,998 crore. Out of these, work orders have been issued in 5,809 projects worth Rs 1,56,571 crore and 3,131 of those projects worth Rs 53,175 crore have been completed, it said.



Till the same period, the Central government has released Rs 27,235 crore to states and Union territories for their smart cities. In a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha on Thursday, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Kaushal Kishore said the period of

implementation of the Smart Cities Mission has been extended to June 2023.

Asked whether more cities are being considered under the mission in Gujarat, the minister said that presently, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Central government.

## Puri Srimandir Senior Servitor 'Sexually Assaults' Minor Servitor, Arrested



**It is pertinent to mention here that the Singhadwara Police had arrested a servitor of Srimandir yesterday (December 9) on charges of molesting a minor girl on the premises of the 12th-century shrine.**

Puri, Dec 10: In a shameful incident, a senior servitor of Srimandir in Puri was arrested on allegations of sexually assaulting a minor servitor within the temple premises. The senior servitor, identified as Laxmi Khuntia, has been booked and arrested under Sections 294, 377, 506, and POCSO Act.

Earlier today, the Singhadwara Police Station had registered an FIR and launched an investigation based on the complaints made by the minor

boy's father. As alleged by the minor victim's father, the senior servitor had been molesting his son for several days. The servitor at Goddess Laxmi temple had first sexually assaulted his son around 2 months back when the latter was at Bhubaneswari temple, the complaint states.

When the minor boy protested, the senior servitor threatened him with dire consequences if he revealed anyone about the incident. Moreover, the senior servitor

had also warned him not to allow him to enter the premises of the shrine if ever he opened his mouth. The victim's father has also lodged written complaints about the shameful incident with the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), the association of servitors (niyog), besides the police.

"We have registered an offence (C/R no 117/21) based on the allegations. We have launched a probe to collect more relevant information in

connection with the case," said Mihir Kumar Panda, Additional Superintendent of Police (ADSP), Puri. It is pertinent to mention here that the Singhadwara Police had arrested a servitor of Srimandir yesterday (December 9) on charges of molesting a minor girl on the premises of the 12th-century shrine. The incident reportedly occurred on Wednesday when the servitor molested her near the Baman temple within the premises of the shrine.

## Golden Baba among 3 Absconding Fraudsters in Odisha CB's Wanted List

Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of Odisha Crime Branch today released a WANTED list seeking information on three absconding fraudsters including Golden Baba in connection with chit fund and fraud cases. The self-styled godman Jyoti Ranjan Beura alias Golden Baba was arrested by Chandrasekharpur police on December 31, 2018 on charges of duping people and several companies of crores on pretext of sanctioning loans from finance

companies. The EOW also sought information from people on two more absconders - Tribeni Mohanty and Aditya Dash - in chit fund cases. Addressing a presser here today, EOW SP Dilip Kumar Tripathy informed



that Tribeni Mohanty is accused of duping investors of Rs 13 crore and Aditya Dash had allegedly defrauded depositors of Rs 20 crore alluring them of high returns. While the duo is absconding in 2012 and 2013 respectively, Golden Baba is at large since 2019.

People can share information with the police on Tribeni Mohanty by dialing 7008160114. They can contact the EOW on the phone numbers: 9437097662 and 9438129612 for Aditya Dash and Golden Baba respectively to give details about their hideouts. The informers will be rewarded by the EOW for sharing valid information about these three Wanted absconding accused persons, the SP added.

**From Page-1**

### India Bids...

rahe', while dignitaries paid floral tributes and last respects till the funeral procession left the bungalow.

General Rawat's two daughters performed traditional rituals before the caskets of their parents were moved to the gun carriage. Home Minister Amit Shah, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, and a host of other dignitaries, among others, on Friday laid wreaths on the mortal remains of General

Rawat and his wife.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on Thursday paid tributes to Rawat, his wife and 11 others at the Palam airbase after the bodies were brought to Delhi on a C130-J Super Hercules aircraft. Along with PM Modi, the country's top defence brass also paid their respects to the deceased. Of the 13 deceased, bodies of only three - General Rawat, his wife and Brigadier Lidder - were identified so far. Brigadier Lidder was laid to rest earlier in the day with full military honours.

# Is Our Assembly A Temple Of Democracy?

The nonsensical manner of the members suggests otherwise



Sirish C. Mohanty

Ancient Athens was the cradle of democracy. The Athenian assembly was the first, and most important institution and every male of Athenian citizenship above the age of thirty could take part in the discussions, but no women, no men under the age of thirty, and of course none of the many thousands of slaves were allowed to take part in the discussions. The Roman republic, established in the 8th century BC, had legislative assemblies, who had the final say regarding the election of magistrates, the enactment of new statutes, the carrying out of capital punishment, the declaration of war and peace, and the creation (or dissolution) of alliances. The Roman Senate controlled money, administration, and the details of foreign policy.

In Anglo-Saxon England, the Witenagemot was an important political institution. The name derives from the Old English *Witena*, or *witena*, for "meeting of wise men". With the advancement of democracy, the wise members of the

assembly were chosen by the people through the election and that is what we in Odisha follow in an advanced form adhering to the provisions of the constitution of the country. Over time we are constrained to ponder; are we electing the wise to the august house or the temple of Democracy- 'Assembly'?

The current session of the Odisha Assembly sits only for less than two hours in nine days! That is all the business the Odisha Assembly has been able to transact in the first nine days of its ongoing winter session. And the way things were going, this session goes the way the last several sessions have gone - ends abruptly well before the scheduled closure on December 31- history goes on to repeat.

There is no point in trying to share out blame on one side because both sides are equally culpable in ensuring that no business is transacted in the House. For the treasury benches, an Assembly session appears to be an unwelcome

compulsion that has to be somehow gone through to fulfill constitutional requirements. The only point of interest for them is the passing of Bills, with or without the Opposition (preferably the latter so that there is no discussion on them in the House). Notwithstanding its customary pre-session boast that it is 'ready to face any issue', the ruling party does everything it can to fidget out of the debate on issues that have the potential to embarrass the government.

A perusal of the record of the last several sessions of the Assembly shows that the ruling party has invariably found one excuse or the other to wind up the session well before the scheduled closure. Sessions scheduled for a month have been adjourned after just 8-10 days on the ground that there is no 'legislative business left'. One wonders why is the House scheduled for 20-30 days in the first place when there is not enough 'legislative business' for the House to last that long?

As for the Opposition, stalling the proceedings in the House appears to have become an end in itself - and not a means to draw attention to an issue. Nothing illustrates this point better than the fact that it refused to take part in the debate on the adjournment motion on the probe into the Mamita Meher murder case moved by Congress, which had been scheduled for discussion. Rather than take part in the debate, party legislators chose to do a 'parikrama' of the Assembly with placards in their hands and slogans on their lips. On their part, the BJP members beat gongs and cymbals in what they said was an effort to wake up the Chief Minister and the Leader of the House from his 'deep slumber'.

What was nonsensical was the sprinkling of holy water by both the Opposition and the ruling party in an apparent bid to 'purify' the 'temple of democracy. First, the BJP and then the Congress sprinkled gangajal in the House, which had been supposedly desecrated by the presence of the minister of state for home Dibya Shankar Mishra, the demand for whose resignation has stalled proceedings since the beginning of the session. Not to be left behind, the BJD has now emulated the Opposition by doing the same so that 'good sense prevails on Opposition members'. The irony of it is lost on both sides. Someone should tell the

conscientious members that the 'temple of democracy is desecrated not by the presence of a member but by the clowning around that have been on display in every session in the last few years. In doing what they are doing inside the house, the members are not only making caricatures of themselves and reducing the 'temple of democracy' to cheap street theatre but also mocking the people who have elected them.

The one man who could have broken the logjam is the Leader of the House, and it seems he is least interested in what emerges in the Assembly. As the Opposition has rightly pointed out, the fact that he continues to roam the whole state - to distribute BSKY smart cards, comes to Kalinga stadium to encourage players - but stays away from the Assembly shows the disdain he has for the 'temple of democracy. While all members of the House are equal in status and privileges, strangely the speaker remains silent on the long-absent of the Leader of the House.

With none of the stakeholders appearing keen on the smooth and uninterrupted conduct of proceedings, we the people are condemned to see the farce that has passed off as an Assembly session in the future too turning the temple of democracy into the street theater. Nevertheless, it's time to introspect- do we elect judicious men to the august house?

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

The policy of expansionism & hegmonism by China has escalated the border dispute & tension with the neighbouring countries. In the past, India has already been a victim of the Chinese aggressive policy. As

you have rightly opined, India should now adopt political brinkmanship to thwart the evil design of china in regard to Arunachal Pradesh & Kashmir.

Therefore, time has come for India to retaliate China by giving recognition to Tibbet which would

put an end to chronic boarder dispute.

Secondly, your special story gives a candid & forthright narration of causes that contributed to the ignominious defeat of BJP in recent past. You have forwarned the BJP policy makers to be forearmed before

coming election of UP & Haryana.

Of course, the panic-stricken Modi led govt has already curtailed the fuel price to pacify the public anger.

Another surprise thing, just recently, "Majboot Sarkar" of

Centre which was hellbent to implement the farm laws despite fierce agitation, has proved itself as "Mozboor Sarkar" by abruptly announcing the repeal of farm law.

**Bharat Patra**

**Rtd. Banker & Social activist,  
Keonjhar.**



# Visible Unseen



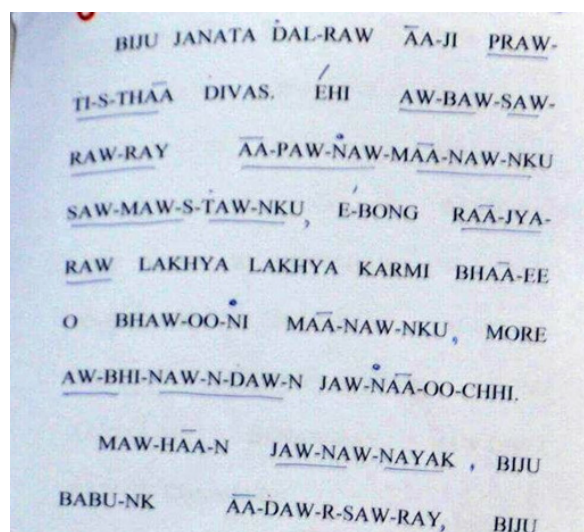
Sirish C. Mohanty

Odias, who speak loud and clear, are happy, who are we to complain?

There are two kinds of Odias. The first, clearly in a majority, think Naveen is the best of the CMs material that has happened to Odisha since independence. He is the 'outsider' who has made Odisha his home and has done what none of the 'insiders' who preceded him could. He is honest to the core and has nothing but the interest of the '4.5 crores Odias' in his mind, heart, and soul. In short, he is beyond reproach and can do no wrong. A senior journalist even suggested in an article that the results of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections would have been entirely different and Modi would have bitten the dust had Naveen Patnaik been projected as the Prime Ministerial face of the combined Opposition!

The other, minority view sees him as a cynical, ruthless, and vengeful politician who has made winning elections into fine art through political skulduggery and use of money and official machinery. It paints him as a person who has institutionalized corruption at every level, presided over the lampoons in politics, and jettisoned everything that his late father Biju Patnaik stood for even as he continued to rule in his name and has nothing but utter disdain for everything Odia.

The truth, as always, perhaps lies between these two mutually exclusive views. Let us, for a moment, assume that all the charges that his detractors have been making about how he won all elections - that he simply spent his way back into power, converting Odisha into a state of 'beggars' beholden to the government for everything in his cynical search for votes; made the entire official machinery, including the police, into an extension of the party; entered into selective deal-making with the two major opposition parties; had almost the entire media eating out of his hands and so on - were true. But all of it still



Naveen's Odia speech in Roman alphabets

doesn't explain the scale of the victory, especially in the Assembly elections, his major concern. That his party managed to increase its vote share over 2014, even if marginally, is a stupendous achievement by any standards for a government that was seeking a mandate for consecutive terms. It helped the party keep unblemished its unique record of adding to its vote share in every election since 2000 and made mincemeat of the anti-incumbency that the Opposition and Naveen's detractors were banking on. Just like the desperate efforts of some shell-shocked intellectuals to discredit the massive mandate that Modi has received as 'murder of democracy, any attempt to attribute Naveen's victory against all odds will be dismissed as an expression of frustration. It would be mean not to doff your hat to the man of the moment, who continues to pull off an incredible victory against heavy odds.

Indian politics in the present era is a cynical, ruthless, and cut-throat game where only those who are willing to play by the rules and excel in them can survive and prosper. Elections as everyone knows; are not fought or won on thin air. Money does play a role, as do muscle power, misuse of officialdom, and the media. And Naveen can't be faulted for having to put all of these

to good use in winning elections. While his election-winning ways can be condoned, what his emphatic win cannot whitewash is the record of his government as one of the most corrupt - if not the most corrupt - ever. The Great Mining Scam, easily the biggest corruption scandal in the history of the state, began and continued for nearly a decade under his direct watch. The chit fund scam is another scam where the active connivance of the government and ruling party politicians is public

knowledge. There are several incidents of rape and murder of women in the state, the most recent one is the Mamita Meher case, where MoS of home was allegedly involved. After a long silence, Chief Minister Naveen on Dec 4 presented a statement via VC in connection to lady teacher Mamita Meher

against women were reported against 23,183 in 2019, registering a rise of 9.94 per cent.

You can forestall all inquiry through political deal-making. But the facts speak for themselves - even if they don't matter for the vast majority of people, as the election results show. That



Bon voyage Bonhomie

murder case in state assembly, amidst opposition party creating ruckus in the well of the house. At 112.9 offences per 1 lakh population, Odisha's crime rate against the fairer sex is second only to Assam where it stands at 154.3. In 2020, a total 25,489 cases of crimes

these are not issues for the electorate, despite the fact the Odisha farmers are the second poorest in the country and the government opposes the farms law scripted exclusively for the states like Odisha, is a tribute to the perception management skills of Naveen Patnaik!

## The bonhomie is increasingly unconvincing



Sharp shooters: Aparajita, Pratap Sarangi, and Bijay Mohapatra side tracked

In a dubious turn of events after the 2019 elections, BJD has moved closer to its poll time sworn enemy. The BJD's absolute support to the BJP surfaced when it nominated a BJP parliamentarian, Ashwini Vaishnav, to the Rajya Sabha, at the request of the Prime Minister and the Home Minister. Acceptance of this request by Patnaik demonstrates bonhomie between the two parties. To counter the growing sensitivity that BJD and BJP are both sides of a coin, the

saffron party decides to let the show of fight BJD continue but draws a Laxman Rekha of don't hit below-the-belt. The former Union Minister Pratap Sarangi breached the Rekha of attack and was shown the door. Bijoy Mohapatra's display of undeniable proof to the media against the Naveen-led government for defending the culprits of Mamita Meher's murder proved costly for him. The most recent victim was Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi; who attacked Naveen beyond her party's unseen 'Laxman Rekha'. All these sharpshooters were dropped from

the BJP state unit's core committee was formed to monitor the ensuing elections in the state. The message it emits is loud and clear to be a cacophony for the political aficionados. The fledgling small parties have gone oblivion and the state of Congress is better to adumbrate. Seemingly, 4.5 Cr Odias have to rot between the devil and the deep blue sea, until Lord Jagannath showers a miracle. Hence: "Until our paths converge, give me eyes to see the visible unseen; These lonely roads will always lead you home".



# Malnourished Children Under-5: Number Goes Up In Odisha

**Despite in the list of top-10 SAM hit states, Odisha could utilise only 46 percent POSHAN allocation after foregoing Rs 151 cr**

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: The pictures of severely malnourished children from Nagada in Kashinagar were galore in Odisha; the bitter truth to the fore today is the tally of severe acute malnourished (SAM) children in the State was up by over 48 thousand during the last two decades.

The State government seems less bothered over the rise is evident from the fact that Odisha could utilise only 46 percent of the total POSHAN allocation made available by the Centre in 2020-21. And the irony was that the State had foregone a whopping Rs 151 cr from 2017 to 2020 for not implementing the scheme. The state has a massive 2.094 lakh SAM children in 2005-06.

As per the recent NFHS-5 data, the proportion of severely wasted (weight to height ratio) under -5 children in Odisha has increased to 6.4 percent from 5.2 percent in 2005-06. And the estimated SAM U-5 children have increased to 2.578 lakh in



**Severely Acute Malnourished Under-5 Children Up At 2.57 Lacks In Odisha**

2020-21 from 2.094 lakh in 2005-06. These shows during the last two decades, the estimated SAM children in the State have posted a rise of over 48,340.

The POSHAN Abhiyaan was launched in 2017 by the Union Government to improve the nutritional status of children (0-6 years), adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. The target of the mission is to bring down stunts in children (0-6 years), from 38.4% in 2016 to 25% by 2022. Besides, it also aims to reduce anemia among women and

adolescent girls (15-49 years) and improve birth weight. The mission of the scheme is to eradicate undernutrition at the grassroots and make India malnutrition-free by 2022.

The State didn't implement the scheme till 2019. However, Odisha made a U-turn in 2020 and implemented the scheme. The Centre allocated Rs 163.58 cr in 2020-21, but the utilisation in the State stood at Rs 75.55 cr. Significantly, one of the main features of the POSHAN scheme is to set up Nutritional Resources Centres (NRCs) in districts

having a high prevalence of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).

NRC And SAM

Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) function at public health facilities exclusively to cater to the under-five sick Severe Acute Malnourished (SAM) children who are admitted for clinical management of their medical complications along with nutritional management.

Recently, a Union Women and Children report revealed that the Centre has identified a high of around 15,595 SAM children in Odisha who have undergone treatment at NRCs. Odisha has established 45 NRCs vis-a-vis 315 by MP, 62 by Chhattisgarh, and 68 by Jharkhand. All the states have been grouped in High-Focus states in the country where undernutrition and SAM children are among the top-10 in the country.

Moreover, only around 16 NRCs are functional in as many as nine high-burden western Odisha districts where infant mortality and U-

5 deaths are very high. As per WHO and Unicef, NRCs play a vital role in curbing the rising SAM children, if the concept of NRCs (started in 1955) is to be implemented holistically.

Nagada And NRC

In July 2016, Odisha hits national headlines when as many as 19 children died of malnutrition. The mishap could have been prevented had the Odisha government established NRCs there.

"The Linking of NRCs with the community-based core model of management of severe malnourished needs to be implemented in letter and spirit. This model as envisaged by the WHO provides a framework for an integrated public health response to curb malnutrition, treat most patients with SAM at home, and that in-patient care is reserved for those with acute medical complications," observe a WHO report.

Had the State government implemented the NRs in letter and spirit, the lives of 19 innocent tribal children could have been saved? Despite

Nagada's setback, Odisha refuses to take any lesson, which is evident from the lackadaisical implementation of the POSHAN scheme.

NFHS-5 2020-21:

Odisha's proportion of Stunted U-5 children is 34 percent, and Underweight U-5 children at 34.4 percent. Odisha has a high U-5 mortality rate. And SAM is the major cause.

There are 18 worst-hit districts in Odisha's where nearly half of the child populations under five are in the stunting category. They are- Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, Ganjam, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Balangir, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Bargarh, Boudh, Subarnapur, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Sundeargarh, Keonjhar, and Mayurbhanj. The proportion is nearly 35 percent in four other districts. On average, at least one-third of children less than five years of age in 29 of 30 districts are in the grip of malnutrition, reveals an NRHM (National Rural Health Mission) report.

## Utkal Alumina Organised Blood Donation Camp



Nuapada, Dec 10: (Jogeswar Das) As a part of its relentless pursuit towards health and wellbeing of this region, the Utkal Alumina International limited, a subsidiary of Hindalco Industries limited of Aditya Birla Group has organized a Blood Donation Camp at its Township club house Nuapada on 10th December 2021 in association with Dist. Head Quarters Hospital, Rayagada and Ama Odisha.

Employees of Utkal Alumina along with their family members, employees of partner's establishments, contract workers and laborer along with the community people have voluntarily donated their blood for a social cause which would meet the blood requirements of the Blood Bank of Rayagada district. Total 225 units of Blood have been collected from this health camp.

Mr. Dharmananda Behera, ADM Rayagada graced the inaugural event as Chief Guest. Mr. Sarat

Sabat, Tahsildar Kashipur, Mr. Mazhar Beig, Unit Head Utkal Alumina, Dr. Abdul Mazid, Blood Bank Officer Rayagada have graced the inaugural session as distinguished guest along with other senior officials of UAIL along with the CSR, Admin & CR and Sustainability team.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest ADM Rayagada applauded the efforts of UTKAL Alumina for organizing the event specially at this critical juncture of COVID 19 when blood became the most precious things for human life. He encouraged the industries to organize such noble initiatives which would contribute towards the health and well being of society at Rayagada district.

Tahasildar Kashipur, Mr. Sabat acknowledged the arduous effort of Utkal Alumina for organizing the voluntary blood donation camp. He assured to extend all necessary support from the district administration towards organizing such camps.

In his deliberation Mr. Mazhar Beig, the unit head Utkal Alumina expressed that donating blood is the best gift one can render for the humanity. He emphasized that Utkal Alumina is always at the fore front in taking such initiative which are beneficial for the society and Rayagada district at large. He praised the donors who have voluntarily come forward and donated the precious gift of life for a social cause.

## I don't see Congress getting 300 seats in 2024 Lok Sabha polls: Azad

**Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Wednesday said that he doesn't see his party getting 300 seats in the next Lok Sabha elections of 2024. The remarks while Azad was justifying his silence on the abrogation of Article 370 that conferred special status to Jammu and Kashmir.**

Poonch, Dec 2: He said only Supreme Court, where the matter is pending, and the Centre can restore it. Since the BJP-led central government abrogated Article 370, it won't restore it, he said at a rally in Poonch district's Krishna Ghati area.

"I do not see it good to make any false promises to the people. We cannot promise that we will form the next government at the Centre with 300 MPs and will do it (revoke the August 5, 2019 decision)," the veteran Congress leader said.

Without naming National Conference Vice-president Omar Abdullah who recently criticised the Congress' silence on Article 370, Azad said although the case is before the Supreme Court, he had



Ghulam Nabi Azad was justifying his silence on the abrogation of Article 370

opposed the move as "unconstitutional" in Parliament several times as the leader of the opposition.

He said the prime minister and the Union home minister have already promised the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, and therefore, the government should bring a bill in Parliament for this and also

include in it constitutional safeguards to protect land and jobs of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Azad said elections can happen immediately after the winter ends as the security situation has improved.

All opposition parties need to stand and press for elections soon after the end of the winter as a popular government alone can address the issues being faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir, he said. "Former prime minister Indira Gandhi used to say that we need to take more care of the border residents as they are the ones who are standing shoulder-to-shoulder with our forces to safeguard the country and also suffer the major brunt in case of shelling and firing," Azad said.



# Sanjiv Mehta is President-Elect, FICCI (2021-22)

NEW DELHI, 06 December 2021: Mr Sanjiv Mehta, Chairman and Managing Director, Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) will be appointed as the President of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) at the conclusion of FICCI's 94th Annual General Meeting on 18th December 2021. Mr Mehta, currently, the Senior Vice President of FICCI, will be succeeding Mr Uday Shankar, the current President of FICCI.

Mr Mehta is also the President of Unilever South Asia (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka & Nepal), and is a member of the 'Unilever Leadership Executive' which is Unilever's



Global Executive Board.

During his eight years at the helm, HUL's market capitalisation has increased by over \$55 billion making it one of the most valuable companies in the country. In this period, HUL has won several awards and recognitions including the

prestigious Economic Times 'Company of the Year' & 'Corporate Citizen of the Year' awards, Business Standard's 'Company of the year' award and the 'Best Governed Company' award by the Asian Centre for Corporate Governance and Sustainability. Forbes rated


HUL as the most innovative company in India and the 8th most innovative company in the world. Aon Hewitt in a global study rated HUL as the 3rd best company globally for building leaders.

Mr Mehta, alongside leading HUL, is also a Director on the Board of Indian School of Business, member of the Breach Candy Hospital Trust and the South Asia Advisory Board of Harvard Business School. He chairs Xynteo's 'Vikaasa', a coalition of top Indian and MNC companies.

Mr Mehta was conferred honorary 'Doctorate degree in Business Management' by Xavier University, Bhubaneswar. He has also been recognised as the

'Business Leader' of the year by the All India Management Association, the 'Best CEO Multinational' by Forbes India Leadership Awards, the 'Management Man of the Year' by Bombay Management Association, the 'CA Business Leader' by The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, the 'Best Transformational Leader' by the Asian Centre for Corporate Governance & Sustainability and 'Business Leader of the Year' by Economic Times. He was also awarded the 'Pralhad P. Chhabria Memorial Global Award' for his outstanding contributions to the industry, the 'Sir Jehangir Ghandy Medal for Industrial and Social Peace'

by XLRI - Jamshedpur and 'JRD Tata Corporate Leadership Award' by the All India Management Association.

Mr Mehta has done his Bachelors in Commerce (India), Chartered Accountancy (India) and has also completed his Advanced Management Program (Harvard Business School). Mr Mehta is married to Mona Mehta who too is a Chartered Accountant, and they have twin daughters Naina and Roshni who have studied at MIT, Cornell, and Harvard Universities. A firm believer that 'doing well' and 'doing good' are two sides of the same coin, he propagates the cause of compassionate capitalism. 

## Public hearing on mining expansion gradually becomes a sponsored farce

Joda, Dec 11: For expansion or increase of mining production, the state pollution control board conducts a public hearing to ascertain the public opinion. But gradually the system has turned out to be a sponsored farce. Excessive use of the police force to frighten the local villagers who have opposed the expansion on

counted villagers who spoke in favor of the mine owners were allowed by a huge contingent of cops and declared the public hearing a grand success. The company's heaps of assurances were showered in the process of hearing which would never to be fulfilled as evidenced in the other similar public hearings. There is no



various genuine issues is seen to be used. Expert mining contractors in the meantime are believed to be behind the scenes who have mastered suppressing the environmental issues in connivance of the state government administrative agencies.

As a tip of an iceberg, the incident occurred while the public hearing of M/s Sri Metaliks for a mine, the public hearing to get clearance for an increase of production near Khandbandh. Only hand-

system of follow-up by the government. Hence it is 'Raat giya, baat giya'. The mine owners give a hoot to their assurances once the public hearing is over. Officer of the Keonjhar pollution control board Puskar Chandra Behera, and the ADM Keonjhar Sushama Belung conducted the public hearing and declared the hearing a success in favor of the mine owners without taking into account the ground reality it is alleged by the villagers. 

## Khao Gali Near Ram Mandir In Bhubaneswar Gets FSSAI Tag

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: Good news for foodies in Bhubaneswar as the popular 'Khao Gali', the

Temple Nayapali, Bhubaneswar have also received the certification of Food Safety and Standards



**Odisha was placed at 26th position in 2018-19, 13th position in 2019-20. The State has moved to the 4th position in 2020-21**

street food court near the iconic Ram Mandir in Unit 3, has been declared as 'Clean Street Food Hub' by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

Khao Gali, the street road connecting Convent School, has about 30 food stalls. Water and toilet facilities are provided in the lane having necessary beautification measures in place.

Under the programme of Blissful Hygienic Offering To God (BHOG), Tarinima Temple in Rourkela and ISKCON

Authority of India (FSSAI).

Sharing the information after a State-level food safety advisory committee meeting held on digital mode, Odisha government officials said that the State has moved up in the National Food Safety Index.

Odisha was placed at 26th position in 2018-19, 13th position in 2019-20. The State has moved to the 4th position in 2020-21, the officials stated.


At the meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Suresh Mahapatra, instructions

have been given to train street vendors about preparations of safe food. Similarly, the officials have been asked to ensure that production and use of adulterated raw food materials should be dealt with sternly.

The State Food Testing Laboratory has enhanced its capacity and has been accredited by the National Accreditation and Calibration Board. Apart from this, mobile food testing laboratory has been rolled out for food testing in different melas, public

celebrations and festivals.

It is pertinent to mention here that in 2020-21, 3049 samples were collected and tested by way of surveillance and enforcement. Out of this, 576 samples were booked under adulteration and misbranding.

By the end of October 2021-22, 1984 samples were tested, out of which 446 were booked under adulteration or misbranding. Apart from this, a total of 280 cases were compounded with fines. 

## From Page-1

### Many faces of ...

This must rankle the BJD government, which has been in power for the last 20 years in the state. It claims to have pulled a large population out of the depths of poverty through a battery of pro-poor and populist

policies, but the gross inequity in regional development is surprisingly high. The declining farmers' income as per another survey also points at the problem. The government must not revel in self-congratulation but do some serious introspection instead.



## Odisha police plea against re-investigating 2 local BJP leaders' murder rejected

**Local BJP leader Kulamani Baral's family alleged that his murder was linked to a campaign against local leaders of the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leaders linked to alleged irregularities related to PMAY houses. Odisha police, they said, was trying to shield law minister Pratap Jena**

BHUBANESWAR, Dec 9: An Odisha court on Wednesday rejected the state police's plea challenging a magisterial court's decision to order a re-investigation into the murder of two local Bharatiya Janata Party leaders in a Cuttack village and require the police to produce the call data records, or CDR, of three persons considered to be close to law minister Pratap Jena.

In August, the court of judicial magistrate first class in Salipur area of Cuttack district ordered a fresh probe into the case. Three months later, in November, the court also asked the police to submit the call detail records of Mahanga panchayat Samiti chairman Sarat Nayak, Bapi Biswal, a representative of law minister Pratap Jena and Prafulla Biswal, the main accused who died in a road accident in February, a month after the two murders.

Additional district cum session's judge in Salipur, Dhanurdhar Senapati, on Wednesday rejected the revision petition filed by police against the magistrate's order.

Kulamani Baral, 75, in charge of Salipur Mandal of BJP and a former chairman of Mahanga panchayat Samiti and his 80-year-old associate Dibyasingh Baral were killed on January 2 near Cuttack's Jankoti village on their way home on a motorcycle.

While Kulamani died on the spot, Dibyasingh Baral died the following morning at Cuttack's SCB Medical College and Hospital.

Kulamani Baral's family alleged that the murder was linked to his campaign against local leaders of the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leaders over alleged irregularities related to PMAY houses



meant for poor people.

The first information report (FIR) registered by the police on the statement of Kulamani Baral's son blamed law minister Pratap Jena and 12 others for the murder. Investigators, however, could not find any evidence to link the minister and did not name him in the charge sheet.

Baral's son asked the judicial magistrate to get the murders reinvestigated, alleging that the police shielded him during their probe and kept his name out.

Mahanga police station inspector Nihar Mohanty did not submit the CDR or the reinvestigation report. The judicial magistrate court last week issued a show-cause notice to him asking him to explain why coercive and punitive action will not be taken against him for not appearing before the court.

The Inspector-In-Charge (IIC) of Mahanga police station Nihar Ranjan Mohanty finally appeared before the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) Court, Salepur in connection with the sensational double murder case on Friday.

## Lok Seva Bhawan; Restricted to Media Odisha Government Curtails Journalists' Rights: is drawing flak for closing the Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar for journalists for over one and a half years now.



Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: The Naveen Patnaik-led Odisha government is drawing flak for closing the Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar for journalists for over one and a half years now. The government, on one hand, declares the journalists as 'Covid warriors' while, on the other hand, has barred them from visiting the Lok Seva Bhawan on the pretext of Covid-19 transmission has not gone down well with the scribes. "It is unfortunate that journalists are not allowed entry into the Lok Seva Bhawan. If they don't get access to reach and ask questions how the accountability of the government will be fixed? Citing the excuse of Covid, how far it is justified to not allow journalists into the Lok Seva Bhawan!" asked senior journalist and the editor of 'Out look' Ruben Banerjee. In this regard, senior journalist Sekhar Gupta said journalists should report the matter to the Editors

Guild of India.

Journalists from electronic and print media visit the Lok Seva Bhawan to collect reactions on various incidents and issues directly from the concerned Ministers, Secretaries, and other officials. Since their entry into the Bhawan has been denied for one and a half years, their way of working has severely been affected. The government has deprived them of their rights and freedom. At present press briefings and press conferences, which earlier used to be held at the Lok Seva Bhawan, are being carried out in virtual mode, depriving the journalists of asking questions. "There is no longer such restriction anywhere in India. It is still not understood why the journalists have been denied access to the Lok Seva Bhawan. Right now, the government is only sharing information with the journalists whereby the journalists are losing one of their rights to ask," observed senior journalists of the state. "Denial of entry into the Lok Seva Bhawan amounts to curtailing the freedom of the press and denying information to around 4.5 crore people of Odisha," is never a healthy symptom of a democratic government. Media is regarded as the fourth pillar of democracy. A question now has emerged how favorable it is for a democratic setup to restrict journalists from visiting the Lok Seva Bhawan?

## CM Naveen Breaks Silence Over Mamita Murder Case

**In a statement to the Odisha Assembly, the Chief Minister said, "The death of Mamita Meher was very sad and unfortunate incident and we all are deeply anguished and pained by this heinous crime."**

Bhubaneswar, Dec 3: Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik on Friday broke his protracted silence over the sensational lady teacher Mamita Meher murder case by terming the incident as 'sad and unfortunate'. In a statement to the Odisha Assembly, the Chief Minister said, "The death of Mamita Meher was very sad and unfortunate incident and we all are deeply anguished and pained by this heinous crime. She was a young and bright daughter of Odisha, having a brilliant future. The Government will ensure that no stone is left unturned to see that the perpetrators of the crime are brought to justice as per law in the shortest possible time."

The Chief Minister also condemned the way this sensitive and heinous crime has been politicised. "While dealing with such sensitive cases, we must never forget the pain and agony the family members of the victim go through. Things went to such an extent that the parents of the victim had to request with folded hands not to do character assassination of their daughter and politicise her death. Despite their emotional appeal, the politicisation of this issue sadly continues," Naveen's statement read.

Reiterating his commitment towards justice for all, especially women and vulnerable sections, the Chief Minister said, "We will move the competent court for fast track trial so that the perpetrators of the crime are brought to justice in the quickest possible time."

The CM's statement to the House assumes



Protests Over Mamita Murder, Demand For Ouster Of Minister

significance in the backdrop of the pandemonium created by the Opposition parties during the on-going winter session of the State Assembly over demands of expulsion of the Minister of State (Home) Dibya Shankar Mishra whose complicity in the murder has been alleged.

The Opposition has been disrupting the House proceedings seeking a discussion on the Mamita Meher murder case. It is pertinent to mention here that the Odisha government had earlier written to the Orissa High Court to appoint a sitting or retired judge of the High Court or District & Sessions Judge to monitor the investigation of the case. Subsequently, the High Court has appointed a retired District Judge to monitor the investigation of the case.

"Now the entire police investigation will be subjected to judicial scrutiny, we should respect and have faith in our independent judiciary. I have always ensured that the police have full functional autonomy; that they do a professional job particularly in heinous offences relating to women; and take legal action without fear or favour against anybody, if there is evidence, no matter how high and mighty he is," the statement read.

The CM also reposed his faith in the police investigation into the murder of the lady teacher. "Wherever there has been delinquency or negligence, stringent and exemplary action has been taken against erring police officers. In the past, there have been such sensitive cases against women. These cases were later either investigated by CBI, or were subject to High Court scrutiny or judicial inquiry. In no case were the state agencies found to be lacking in professionalism," said CM.

Patnaik expressed his dissatisfaction over the attempts being made to prevent 'members of the House' from discharging duties. "The Indian Constitution has given crucial responsibility to the Legislature and its Members enjoy certain safeguards and privileges for helping them discharge their duties without fear, intimidation and pressure. It will be a travesty if the members of the House are not allowed to discharge their constitutional duties. This is also setting a wrong precedent and such antecedents can be misused anytime," the CM's statement added.



## First among Generals: CDS Rawat was a fauji to the core

**Gen Bipin Rawat's death: PM Modi, President Kovind, Rajnath Singh, Rahul Gandhi, Amit Shah mourn CDS**

New Delhi, Dec 9: General Rawat epitomised military professionalism like no one else, said a retired three-star general who was among Rawat's best friends. "He was driven by his convictions. He took strong decisions even if they were not popular. The organisation's interests were always topmost for him and he didn't care about his popularity," said Lieutenant General BS Sandhu (retd), who knew Rawat for more than 45 years and was his course mate at the Khadakwasla-based National Defence Academy.

Rawat's previous appointments included those of the army chief, army vice chief, Southern Army commander, corps commander in the northeast, and division commander in Kashmir.

But the assignment he loved talking about most was his tenure as the commander of United Nations' North Kivu Brigade in the Democratic Republic of Congo in the late 2000s. "It was one of my most memorable assignments. I am glad I could make a difference there," Rawat told a few years ago. When he took charge of the brigade; things weren't going too well for the world's costliest peacekeeping mission, known by its French acronym MONUC. The locals were contemptuous of UN peacekeepers, questioning what difference they had made and accusing the mission of doing little to protect them. Angry crowds would often hurl stones at UN vehicles on the streets of Goma, the capital of North Kivu and where the Indian brigade is based.

Rawat reworked the velvet-glove strategy to an iron fist within a month of his arrival, frequently authorising the use of attack helicopters to strafe positions held by rebel groups responsible for civilian deaths, recruiting child soldiers, and displacing millions of people. He was able to control the situation quickly.

Under Rawat's leadership, the Indian brigade saved a key Congolese province from being overrun by rebels. Lieutenant General Babacar Gaye, then Force Commander of the UN mission in the Congo, wrote in the



commendation awarded to Rawat that it was due to his "leadership, courage and experience" that North Kivu's capital Goma never fell, the country's eastern region was stabilised and the main rebel group was forced to come to the negotiating table.

General Rawat was a man with tremendous moral courage, said Lieutenant General Ajai Singh, who heads the Andaman & Nicobar Command and reported directly to the CDS. "He was an exceptional military leader, with a rare, larger vision for integrated warfighting," Singh said.

From changing the face of UN peacekeeping to closely supervising India's two publicly acknowledged surgical strikes on foreign soil, Rawat brought enormous experience to the table as India's first CDS, something acknowledged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday.

Son of a three-star general, Rawat was commissioned into the army in December 1978 after graduating from the Dehradun-based Indian Military Academy where he was awarded the Sword of Honour. He was commissioned into the 5/11 Gorkha Rifles.

The National Democratic Alliance government superseded two top generals - Lieutenant General Praveen Bakshi and PM Hariz - to appoint his army chief in 2016.

In a statement, the Indian Army said Rawat was a visionary who initiated far-reaching reforms in the military's higher defence organisation, and was instrumental in creating the foundation of India's joint theatre commands and giving impetus to the increased indigenisation of military equipment, a legacy which will be carried on and strengthened by successive generations.

## IAF helicopter crash: Lone survivor had close call last year, got Shaurya Chakra for gallantry

**A year ago, he had a close call when a Light Combat Aircraft that he was flying developed system failure, resulting in total loss of control**

New Delhi, Dec 9: Group Captain Varun Singh, the lone survivor of the helicopter crash Wednesday, is in critical condition at the Military Hospital in Wellington.

A year ago, he had a close call when a Light Combat Aircraft that he was flying developed system failure, resulting in total loss of control. Going "beyond the call of duty", he managed to land the aircraft and for this "act of exceptional gallantry", he was awarded the Shaurya Chakra on Independence Day this year.

In one of his Twitter posts, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said: "Praying for the speedy recovery of Gp Capt Varun Singh, who is currently under treatment at the Military Hospital, Wellington."

The IAF officer, who is Directing Staff at the Defence

Services Staff College, Wellington where CDS Bipin Rawat was headed for a lecture, was based at the same Sullur air base as a Wing Commander. On October 12, 2020 "he was flying a system check sortie in LCA, away from parent base, after major rectification of Flight Control System (FCS) and pressurisation system (life support environment control system)".

According to his Shaurya Chakra citation, the cockpit pressurisation failed at high altitude. He "correctly identified the failure and initiated a descent to lower altitude for landing". But while descending, the Flight Control System "failed and led to total loss of control of the aircraft".

"This was an unprecedented catastrophic failure that had never occurred.



There was a rapid loss of altitude with the aircraft pitching up and down viciously going to the extremities of G limits," it stated. Despite being in "extreme physical and mental stress in an extreme life-threatening situation, he maintained exemplary composure and regained control of the aircraft, thereby exhibiting exceptional flying skill".

At about 10,000 feet, the aircraft again experienced total loss of control "with vicious maneuverings and uncontrollable pitching" and under the scenario "the pilot was at liberty to abandon aircraft". But Singh, "faced with

a potential hazard to his own life", tried to land the aircraft safely, displaying "extraordinary courage and skill".

The citation said Singh "went beyond the call of duty and landed the aircraft taking calculated risks" which also allowed "an accurate analysis of the fault on the indigenously designed fighter and further institution of preventive measures against recurrence".

For this "high order of professionalism, composure and quick decision making, even at the peril to his life, he not only averted the loss of an LCA, but also safeguarded civilian property and population on ground," it stated.

## Jagannath Temple To Remain Closed For Devotees On Dec 31, Jan 1

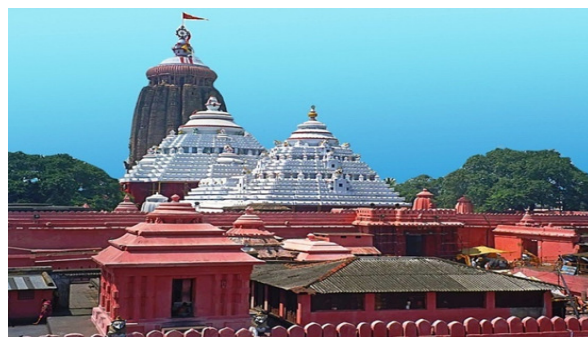
Puri, Dec 12: Darshan of Lord Jagannath at the Shree Jagannath Temple here would remain out of bounds for devotees on December 31 and January 1 of 2022, the New Year's Day which marks the start of a new year according to the Gregorian calendar. Keeping in view the heavy footfall of devotees at the temple on December 31

and January 1, the decision in this regard was taken at the Chhattisa Nijog meeting held here today.

Only servitors will conduct the rituals at the temple. The timings for the holding of rituals of Pahili Bhoga, Makar Sankranti and Debabishek were also finalised at the Chhattisa Nijog meeting.



## Odisha Urban Polls: Ward Reservation Lists For BMC, CMC, BeMC Published



Bhubaneswar Dec 11: Moving a step further towards holding elections to municipal corporations in Odisha, the Urban

Development Department today released the draft reservation lists for municipal corporations of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and

Berhampur-Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) and Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC).

As per the notification issued by the department, citizens residing in the territorial jurisdiction of these municipal corporations can register their suggestions/complaints on Ward reservations within 10 days from the publication of the notification.

After the due date, no

suggestion/complaint will be accepted, the notification added.

However, Ward reservation lists of Rourkela and Sambalpur have not been published due to pending court cases, which has cast uncertainty over the holding of elections to the civic bodies in these two places.

The final Ward reservation lists of the three municipal corporations are scheduled to be published on December 29.



# Odisha Girl Nibedita Chosen For Antarctica Expedition To Study Climate Change Effect

As many as 90 persons across the globe have been selected by the 2041 Foundation for the prestigious expedition. Nibedita who is a denizen of Rourkela will be part of the team

Rourkela, Dec 2: Odisha girl Nibedita Biswal has been selected for the annual Antarctica Expedition-2022 to study and spread awareness about the effects of global warming and climate change.

As many as 90 persons across the globe have been selected by the 2041 Foundation for the



Odisha Girl Nibedita Chosen For Antarctica Expedition To Study Climate Change Effect

prestigious expedition. Nibedita who is a denizen of Rourkela will be part of the team.

The team will research the impact of the melting glaciers on earth due to climate change. The expedition will start on March 17 and continue for 12 days. "There will be workshops on environment and various

climate leaders will impart training to the participants during the expedition. We will also carry out research on the impact of climate change on Antarctica," said Nibedita, who is an employee of MCL.

"Personally I will shoot a video on Antarctica and interact with the scientists

working at the base station. I will also convey to my team about the natural disasters battering Odisha every year," said Nibedita.

The expedition will cost Nibedita around Rs 16,00,000 to Rs 18,00,000. She has appealed Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and various corporate sectors to extend helping

hands to make her expedition successful.

Notably, 2041 Foundation was founded by Robert Swan of England. He is the first man in history to reach both the North and South Poles. The foundation's mission is to teach the world's future leaders about climate change and its consequences.

## Berhampur Couple Saga Husband Incommunicado, Did Not Come For Counselling, Alleges Wife

Berhampur: The woman who had moved the SDJM's court appealing to stay with her husband, has filed a petition in the Court of SDJM Berhampur pleading to stay in her husband's own house, instead of a guest house,

reports stated. The woman, Tapaswini Dash (Dimple) had staged a protest with the help of social workers for a few days and later approached the court, to stay with her husband Dr Sumit Sahoo. According to her, Dr Sahoo has left her alone and

is incommunicado. "My husband did not turn up at the Family Court for counselling. I am not aware of his whereabouts over the last four days. I am meeting my ends at the arranged accommodation," said Tapaswini.

## Congress Seeks Judicial Probe Into Police Atrocity On Party Workers



Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: The Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) has demanded a judicial probe into the police lathi-charge on party workers yesterday and questioned the atrocious action of the cops inside the Congress Bhawan.

Senior Congress MLA Narasingha Mishra, in a press meet on Saturday, condemned the incident. Other than the judicial probe, he demanded slapping of section 307 of

IPC on the erring cops apart from compensation to injured workers.

Mishra said that no one has given police the authority to exercise such power on the public. Either the police don't know the law or are engaging in illegal work under pressure from the government, he added.

He said that the party will move the Human Rights Commission and also intensify the agitation in the coming days. Notably, Commissionerate Police on

Friday resorted to lathi-charge on Chhatra Congress activists who were trying to barge into the premises of Odisha Assembly during a protest over the issue of lady teacher Mamita Meher murder case.

On the other hand, Chhatra Congress activists have alleged that the police even barged into Congress Bhawan and attacked them. Many of them, including some female activists, were injured in the attack.

From Page-1

### Odisha Extends...

9,15,532 members covered under the State Food Security Scheme, will be benefited, the CMO release read.

"For this purpose, 4,578 tonnes of rice will be supplied per month totalling 18,310.640 tonnes of rice from the State pool with an expenditure of Rs

68.13 crore from the State's own fund," read the release. This will facilitate beneficiaries enrolled in the State Food Security Scheme to remain at par with the beneficiaries under National Food Security Act, it added.

Earlier, the Centre had extended its free ration

scheme, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), for another four months, until March 2022, after acknowledging that poor families in the country still need food security support amid the current recovering economy.

### Odisha Assembly ...

Appropriation Bill amid pandemonium by the Opposition. The House also passed the Supplementary Budget of Rs 19,833 crore.

Prior to the adoption of the Appropriation

Bill, Finance Minister Niranjana Pujari laid the CAG report for 2020-21 in the House. The Odisha Assembly which commenced its winter session on December 1, could not

run smoothly for a day. In nine working days, the House could conduct business for two hours only. It was adjourned with 17 business days remaining.



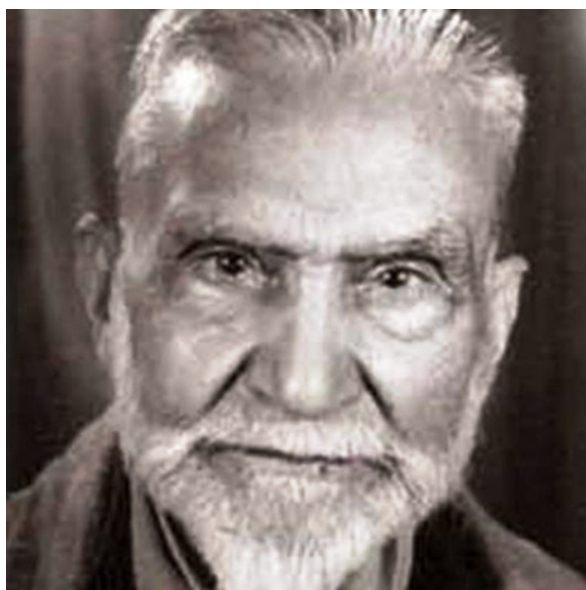
# India's First Government in Exile

Indian history is full of examples where its brave sons and daughters sacrificed everything to establish the pre-eminence of the nation even in difficult times. During the freedom movement, many such great personalities with their grit and determination fought against imperialism tooth and nail. But it is highly deplorable that the succeeding generations were deprived of knowing their stories as no serious attempt was made to connect them to the past. But these freedom fighters are now getting due recognition at a time when the country is celebrating 75 years of its independence.

Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh is one such freedom fighter who has been lost in the annals of history despite his immense contribution to India's freedom struggle.

Mahendra Pratap was born on December 1, 1886,

in the royal family of the Mursan princely state of Hathras. When he was 3 years old, Raja Harnarayan Singh of Hathras adopted him as a son. He spent his childhood in a huge palace in Vrindavan. He completed his early education in a government school, but later he was enrolled at the Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental Collegiate School, which later became the Aligarh Muslim University. In 1906, Raja Mahendra Pratap attended the Congress session in Kolkata going against the wishes of the Maharaja of Jind. The intense feeling of patriotism took over him after coming in direct touch with many leaders involved in the Swadeshi movement. As a royal heir, he was entrusted with the task to encourage small industries and indigenous goods. The words of Dadabhai Naoroji, Bal



**Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh**  
(1 December 1886 - 29 April 1979)

Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal had a strong influence on Mahendra Pratap who started the movement to burn foreign clothes in his state.

With the purpose to liberate India from the clutches of the British with the help of foreign powers, he befriended with leaders of many European countries.

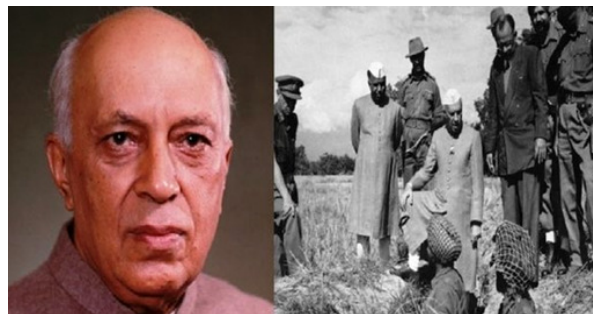
After which he moved to Kabul where he formed the Interim Government of India on his 28th birthday on December 1, 1915. He made himself the President and Maulvi Barkatullah as the Prime Minister. Due to his revolutionary ideas, Pratap had a good relationship with Lenin, who invited him to visit Russia.

By then Mahendra Pratap had become a big threat to the British. The British government placed a reward on Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh, confiscated all his property, and declared him a fugitive. In 1925 he moved to Japan. Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh was also nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1932. After 32 years, Raja Mahendra Pratap returned to India in 1946 and went directly to Wardha to meet Mahatma Gandhi. By then independence from the British was pre-decided. He

was elected to the Lok Sabha from Mathura in 1957.

Subhash Chandra Bose also followed the path shown by Raja Mahendra Pratap to establish the Azad Hind Government. On 14 September 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while laying the foundation stone of a university named after him in Aligarh, said, "The modern technical college in Vrindavan was built by him with his resources, by donating his ancestral property. Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh had also given a large area of land for building Aligarh Muslim University. Today, in this Amrit Mahotsav year, when the 21st century India has made a giant leap in the domain of education and skill development, then at that time building a university in the name of such an immortal son of 'Maa Bharati' is a true tribute to him."

## The biggest blunder made by an Indian Prime minister ever



**Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru is the emperor of Blunders**

### Refusing a Seat on the UN Permanent Council:

Today's Veto Powers of China could have been enjoyed by India. In 1948 - India was more respectable than China. China was in throes of a civil war (which was being won by the Communists but still) and was largely an Agrarian Economy.

Indias Manufacturing Sector contributed to a whopping 22% GDP against a mere 1.8% by China (roughly around 15 times more), India was a colony that had been well constructed and administered by the British for almost 90 years against

the Chinese chaos. India had better roads, better irrigation systems, and better organizations and against all this China had nothing. Yet when it came to a seat on the Permanent Council - Pandit Ji in his entire wisdom passed. He actually passed the offer to have a permanent seat on the UNSC simply because he wanted to remain none aligned with a few loser thugs like Tito (Who was a staunch Communist), Nasser (who was a staunch megalomaniac) and a few others. Today China control the seat that should have been rightly ours and make us beg for every single thing.

**The Indo China**

### Debate:

Against our blood brothers Pakistan - we have always enjoyed stalemate and even some good and honorable victories (like Uri, 1971 etc) but our defeat against China was utter and total. We were smashed into tiny pieces. The Architect of this defeat was Nehru and his Hon Defence Minister. In the Book - "The Indo China War" - by D B Stevenson (Banned in India since 1974 and not even AB Vajpayee or Modi have revoked the Ban, and Files have been redacted in 1983 by Indira Gandhi permanently) - DB says that Nehru had a lot of advice from his army men that China could not be defeated, She just had too much manpower, too many resources and too good troops used to the cold. The Military Council lead by Col. Gurdeep Singh Bedi clearly said the War could be a disaster. Instead he was rebuked for Patriotism and Nehru and his Defence minister Krishna Menon - appointed yes men and their report said India could defeat

China within 21 days. The result was surrendering Aksai Chin and roughly 405000 Ha of Land that China literally usurped while all we did was give shelter to the Buddhist monk Dalai Lama while recognizing 'one China'.

### The Kashmir Crisis:

Every Conflict with Kashmir began because Nehru had an affinity to Kashmir as a boy. He could have got the entire state including POK and IOK and Jammu for India - but instead he did not. Although Mountbatten advised him to send troops to Kashmir and reinforce the entire region - Nehru wanted to wait for a Referendum. It was a noble idea but not when the enemy is a power grabbing greedy infant nation of Pakistan. By the time Chacha woke up - Pakistan had already sent the troops in and because we were none aligned - the partition began and ended up into one of India's most tiresome conflicts of the 20th and 21st Centuries as the UN was allowed to interfere.

### The Plethora of Corruption:

It was his daughter Indira who took the crown for the corruption that racked the Nation from 1968 (The First great inflation) to 1977 (The Third Great inflation). However old Chachaji sown the seeds of corruption by literally awarding licenses on platters to rich businessmen in exchange for money and funds. While Chachaji was a wealthy man and used this money for party work and for actual welfare - Beti decided to use the funds to create power and created her own army that was defeated only by Narendra Modi in 2014 and 2019 when the Nation had had enough. Nehru gave licenses to Bajaj, Godrej, Sylvania, Wadia and Birlas to literally manufacture anything of consequence from Soap to Clothes to Light Vehicles. Instead they created inferior products and supplied 1 for a demand of 20 slowing down the nation for almost 44 years before the World

Bank humiliated us enough for Rajiv Gandhi to start moving forward. By then China who until 1966 was agrarian and had 20% of our manufacturing capabilities - had become 15 times stronger and powerful than we had ever been. This corruption continued as the second generation led by Ambani and his cronies began to literally bribe the crap out of people to get business concessions and create a fake empire that can be easily toppled by two successive economic crises globally.

### The Indus Water Treaty:

Nehru strangely agreed the Indus Water treaty that allowed 80% of Indus Water to Pakistan and only 20% for India. All in all - he humiliated and backstabbed his old friends Patel and Kriplani. He dangled poor Kamaraj with promises he could not keep. He kept winning votes purely because Valabhai respected Gandhi too much to literally fight (Otherwise Valabhai would have been a good predecessor to Modi).



## NO TIME TO DIE

# The movie is a fulfilled entertainer that will give you your money's worth



NO TIME TO DIE is the story of the legendary secret agent who returns to

service after his past catches up with him. The film starts with Madeleine

Swann's (Léa Seydoux) flashback. As a child, she had witnessed the murder of her mother at the hands of Lyutsifer Safin (Rami Malek) at her home. Lucifer tries to kill him. But she attacks him and later Lyutsifer even rescues him when she falls in a frozen lake. In the present day, Madeleine is with James Bond (Daniel Craig) in Matera, Italy. All is going well until Spectre assassins attack Bond. He and Madeleine survive the attack and they even overpower the assassins. However, Bond believes that Madeleine has betrayed him. She pleads and assures them she hasn't betrayed him. Yet, he leaves her. Five years later, MI6 scientist Valdo Obruchev (David Dencik) is kidnapped from an MI6 laboratory. Their bioweapon project also gets leaked. Bond, meanwhile, is now retired and residing in Jamaica.

CIA agent Felix Leiter (Jeffrey Wright) and his colleague Logan Ash (Billy Magnussen) contact Bond and ask his help in finding Obruchev. Bond initially declines. But when he bumps into Nomi (Lashana Lynch), his successor as 007 at MI6, and when



Nomi warns him not to get involved in this case, Bond accepts CIA's offer. Bond then goes to Cuba and with the help of a young agent Paloma (Ana de Armas), they infiltrate into a Spectre meeting. Soon, Bond realises that Spectre members are aware of his

presence and are about to use the bioweapon to kill him. But in a sudden twist, the 'nanobot mist' kills all the Spectre members instead. What happens next forms the rest of the film.

Neal Purvis, Robert Wade, and Cary Joji Fukunaga's story is excellent and has all the ingredients of a mass entertainer. Neal Purvis, Robert Wade, Cary Joji Fukunaga, and Phoebe Waller-Bridge's screenplay is entertaining. The writers have peppered the narrative with some highly interesting action and dramatic scenes. The villain track, however, is weak. Dialogues are straightforward and sharp.

Cary Joji Fukunaga's direction is splendid. A lot is happening in the film throughout. Hence, despite the long length (160

minutes), one doesn't mind as the interest levels are high for most of the film. The 20-minute long introductory sequence is very well executed especially Madeleine's flashback. However, the track of the antagonist is not as menacing as

intended. The Bond series and many such big action entertainers have had far more evil villains. The climax at the island is impressive but this is where the film drags a bit.

Daniel Craig, as expected, is splendid, in all respects. It's moving to know that this is the last time he's playing this iconic character and hence, this performance is even more special. Léa Seydoux is absent in the middle of the film but compensates for it with her fine performance at the beginning and the second half. Rami Malek is strictly okay. Lashana Lynch is great and the constant tension between her character and that of Bond adds to the madness. Ana de Armas is there for just 15 minutes but rocks the show. She looks like a million bucks in her high-slit backless dress. Jeffrey Wright is lovely in a small role. Christoph Waltz gets limited scope this time. Ralph Fiennes (Gareth Mallory) and Ben Whishaw (Q) are dependable. David Dencik and Billy Magnussen are decent. Child actor Lisa-Dorah Sonnet (Mathilde) is cute. On the whole, NO TIME TO DIE is a fun-filled entertainer that will give you your money's worth. It was released in India on September 30. Despite the delayed release, it'll find an audience as it is not available on piracy, the word of mouth is very positive and also because it is the last Bond film for Daniel Craig.

THE INDUSTRY & MINES  
**OBSERVER**

Vol.-15  
Issue -16  
December 16

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