



# WORLD WATCH

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## India has become leader in Oceanic transport and Monsoon-harnessed sea capacity says President Droupadi Murmu



New Delhi, December 04, 2024 : President Droupadi Murmu today said the Indian Navy will continue to ensure maritime security to the country and support

the nation to become a Viksit Bharat by 2047. Addressing a huge gathering at the Navy Day celebration at the Blue Flag Beach at Puri in Odisha this

evening, the President said, that India's economy is full of promises and hopes as its fortune, glory and identity are defined by the seas. She hoped the Indian Navy would continue to protect India's economic growth and our interest in expanding across the globe by maritime trade. President Murmu said India is a great maritime nation with its long coastline, island territory and developed maritime infrastructure. She said India has become a pioneer in oceanic transport, shipbuilding and the ability to harness the monsoon-building sea capacity. The Navy Day at Blue Flag

*Continued on P-2*

## President Visits Srimandir



Puri, December 04, 2024 : President Droupadi Murmu today visited the Sri Jagannath temple here to offer Puja before Lord Jagannath and his sibling deities Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra. Like a normal Jagannath devotee, the President walked on the Grand Road and entered into the 12th century shire through Lions Gate after offering prayer

at the Garuda Stamba. President was received by Gajapati Dibya Singha Deb and Chief Administrator SJTA, Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee at Lion's Gate. She passed through the Baisi Pahacha and entered the main temple. She had darshan of the Trinity and performed puja at the temple. She offered Tulsi to Lord

*Continued on P-2*

## ISRO to launch European space agency's Proba 3 satellite

New Delhi, December 04, 2024 : ISRO has rescheduled the launch of PSLV C 59/PROBA 3 mission, due to an anomaly detected in PROBA 3 spacecraft. The launch is now scheduled at 1612 hours tomorrow. The launch of the Proba 3, the world's first precision formation flying mission will study the solar corona, the Sun's outermost layer. Proba 3 is carrying two satellites- the 200 kg Occulter Space Craft and the 340 kg Coronagraph spacecraft. ISRO will be using its XL



version of PSLV for the mission. After deployment, the two satellites will cruise into a highly elliptical orbit, achieving an apogee of approximately 60,530 kilometres and a perigee of

around 600 kilometres from Earth. This would allow them to maintain a distance of 150 meters apart while flying together as a single unit. The European Space Agency said that the Proba

3 will achieve precise formation which will open a new era for science and applications and future missions on a much larger scale. It will be a lab in space to validate strategies, guidance, navigation and control and other algorithms such as relative GPS navigation, previously tried in ground simulators. ISRO has remarked on the mission as a proud milestone in India's space journey and a shining example of global partnerships. GNR

## DRI seizes 16 kg Mephedrone, Rs. 1.93 cr cash; 5 arrested for smuggling



New Delhi, December 04, 2024 : Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized 16 kg of Mephedrone, a psychotropic substance, and 1.93 crore rupees cash in a

case of smuggling. Five persons have been arrested in the case under the provisions of the NDPS Act, 1985. Based on specific intelligence that

*Continued on P-2*

## Cuttack residents are fed up with mosquito menace ; Targeting CMC commissioner

Special Correspondent  
Cuttack, December 04, 2024 : The people of Cuttack are fed up with the mosquito menace. Whether it is day or night, it has become difficult to stay outside the house with mosquitoes. In the evening, people are knocking on the doors and windows. While



the mosquito density in the city has reached the level of 62, the CMC's mosquito suppression drive has completely failed, which has led to strong resentment from the residents of the city to the High Court bench. Meanwhile, CMC health officials said that if the mosquito bites, there

will be no fever. Most of the corporators have targeted the CMC commissioner over this. More than 500 dengue cases were reported during the same period last year, while now 400 dengue cases have been detected in Cuttack. With the tower on the roof

*Continued on P-2*

# We want to inspire others and bring attention to India's rich folk culture,"



Kadapa : The Savitribai Phule Abhyudaya Mahila Kolatam Troupe, formed with a mission to revive and celebrate India's fading folk traditions, has secured a place in the prestigious Wonder Book of Records. The group, comprising educated professionals, artists, and enthusiasts, is setting a benchmark for preserving cultural heritage through the art form. The group was founded by Bandi Mallika, a native of Kurnool, who currently lives in Proddatur. Trained by Kolatam master Sai



Bharat, Mallika brought together nearly 400 women, including lecturers, teachers, government employees, and students, to create a dynamic team that

celebrates folk artistry. Kolatam, a traditional Indian stick dance, holds a special place in the country's cultural history but has been diminishing in prominence. Under

Mallika's leadership, the troupe has performed the artistic dance in prominent places, such as Tamil Nadu's Arunachalam, where 111 women artistes performed Kolatam for 14 kilometres during a sacred circumambulation event. Their synchronised

movements, accompanied by Annamacharya's compositions and other devotional songs, earned them accolades, including recognition in the TANA Book of Records and the

Bharat Talent Book of World Records. In June, the troupe further showcased its innovation by presenting a unique Dashavatar-themed Kolatam performance at Dwaraka Tirumala in West Godavari district. Donning traditional attire and portraying the ten avatars of Vishnu, 222 women captivated audience with their expressive choreography. This performance secured their entry into the Wonders Book of Records, bringing international fame to the troupe. Mallika, a postgraduate and former school principal, grew up learning classical dance and music. Her passion for traditional arts inspired her to form the troupe, focusing on cultural authenticity rather than commercialisation. Despite stepping away from her

teaching career, she continued to teach and choreograph folk and classical performances, inspiring a new generation to embrace their roots. Mallika's troupe has performed at numerous spiritual events, including Brahmotsavams at Tirumala, Srikalahasti, and other temples, spreading the message of devotion and heritage. "Our performances are self-funded and dedicated to preserving tradition. We want to inspire others and bring attention to India's rich folk culture," she said. Kolatam master Sai Bharat highlighted the cultural significance of folk dances in Indian heritage. The troupe hopes their work will encourage more people to embrace traditional arts and ensure their survival for future generations.

## CONTINUED FROM P-1

### India has become...

Beach of Puri marked the anniversary of Operation Trident, a critical naval offensive during the 1971

Indo-Pak War. It displayed over 15 ships, submarines, and more than 40 aircraft, with

support from Marine Commandos and personnel from the Indian Army. Aiming to highlight

the Navy's capabilities and its dedication in protecting India's maritime interests, the

event demonstrated aerial manoeuvres by MiG-29K and Hawk fighter jets, combat exercises by

MARCOS, submarine operations, amphibious landings, and rocket firing from warships. GNR

Jagannath. She prayed to Lord Jagannath for the wellbeing and prosperity of all, said a senior Sevayat. After spending some time in the temple, Shrimati Murmu came out from the temple gate in front of the Mukti Mandap. She also offered prayers before Maa Bimala, Sakhi Gopal, Maa Laxmi and other deities in the temple complex. A flag was tied in her name

atop the temple seeking blessings for the country, said the servitor. "I prayed for the well-being and prosperity of all citizens across the state and the country before Lord Jagannath," the President told the media. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, accompanied the President after she alighted from her motorcade and

walked along the Grand Road (Bada Danda) to the Srimandir. Speaking to the mediapersons, Chief Administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), Dr Arabinda Padhee said that the shrine was closed to the general public for about an hour during her visit. The President walked to the temple like any other devotee. She also offered

prayers at the Goddess Bimala and Maa Mahalaxmi sub-shrines on the temple complex, Dr Padhee said. Dr. Padhee is camping at Puri and supervising the arrangements for President of India visit to Srimandir and coordinated the entire visit, said a senior priest of Shri Jagannatha Temple. The first lady of the country will partake in Mahaprasad at Raj

Bhawan. The SJTA officials apprised her about the steps being taken by the administration to ensure smooth darshan of the deities for the public, he added. A large crowd had gathered along the road to welcome the President. After paying her respects at the temple, the President attended the 75th-anniversary celebration of the Gopabandhu Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya

at Puri. In her address, the President urged the students to research the untouched aspects of Ayurveda. She said that research would increase recognition of this ancient medical system across the world. As per the programme she will grace the Navy Day celebrations as the Chief Guest of the event on the Blue Flag Beach Puri in the afternoon. Tathya

Mephedrone was being smuggled from Hyderabad to Mumbai in substantial quantity by

two passengers in a bus, officers mounted surveillance overnight and intercepted both passengers in

the early hours of Tuesday. A search of their baggage resulted in the recovery of 16 kg of

white powdered substance purported to be Mephedrone. Preliminary testing confirmed the

same. In subsequent follow-up actions, 3 middlemen and receivers were also apprehended in

Mumbai. Cash worth 1.93 crore rupees was also recovered in a follow-up search. GNR

of the shop, the garbage in the drain, the situation is very pathetic. This has raised questions on the functioning of the CMC. On the one hand, the corporator questioned the Commissioner about the CMC's action, while on the other hand, the people of

Cuttack complained that the drains in the ward are not being cleaned and, even, mosquito smoke spray is not being done in a proper manner. Not only the people of Cuttack city, but the High Court has also experienced this problem. The high court had also

expressed strong displeasure over the mismanagement of the CMC health department. However, if this mosquito bites anywhere, there is no dengue or malaria. CMC health officer Satyabrata Mohapatra has courted controversy by saying

something like this. Health officials said that the three months have been the time for mosquito breeding and people will never be affected by the measures taken by the CMC. Such a statement by the health department is laughable and it is condemnable for

him to say so. Therefore, it is not acceptable to make such a statement without visiting every ward on his own," the Congress corporator said. On the other hand, mosquito oil is being dumped in the drains in 59 wards to suppress mosquitoes, while mosquito smoke

continues in each ward according to the time. Now that it is time to increase the mosquito lineage, the number of mosquitoes has increased. Therefore, in a few more days, the mosquito menace can be completely curbed, the CMC commissioner said.

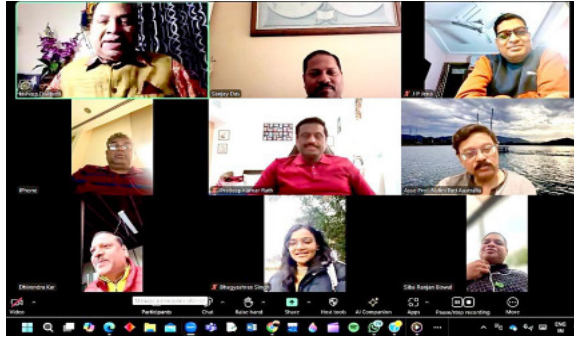
# World Odisha Society to Celebrate Pravasi Odia Divas on January 11th

## Our Correspondent

Bhubaneswar, December 04, 2024 : World Odisha Society(WOS) is all set to celebrate Pravasi Odia Divas (POD) on 11th January 2025 at Bhubaneswar in Hybrid mode. The POD will be observed after the conclusion of Three days long Pravasi Bharatiya Divas scheduled to be held on 8th, 9th and 10th January 2025 at Odisha's capital. In a statement Chairman of WOS Kishore Dwibedi disclosed that Non Resident Odias' Day will be organised to commemorate the Fourth Foundation Day of World Odisha Society. To mark the grand occasion a spectacular Cultural Extravaganza entitled "Utkala Utsava", showcasing the rich



performing arts forms, vibrant cultural heritage and lofty traditional ethos of Odisha will be staged, Shri Dwibedi added. The decision to host Pravasi Odia Divas was taken in a joint meeting of WOS's Executive Body and Working Committee held in online platform under the presidentship of Shri Dwibedi. Members and office bearers of World Odisha Society across the Globe, prominent NROs and representatives of Odia Samajs spreading all over the World are



expected to take part in the Mega Event. The Mahakumbha of Odia Diaspora world wide will also witness the conferment of First Pravasi Odia Samman and Ratnashri Puraskars to eminent Odias in recognition to their outstanding contributions towards enriching their Mother State Odisha's name, fame and fortune in National and International arena. A colourful Souvenir is slated to be published during the Celebration. It may be

mentioned here that World Odisha Society was founded during the auspicious day of Makarsankranti in 2021 with Twenty countries as members. The prime motto of this apex institution of Global Odias is to unite around one and half crore Odias staying outside of Odisha under one platform and channelize their material and metaphysical resources towards all round development of Odisha. Now after three years of existence the

society has substantially enhanced its presence in major parts of the Globe and at present Odia representatives of around 72 countries of the World have become members of WOS. The online meeting was attended by WOS's Founder Dr Arundhati Debi from India, Adviser Dharendra Kar from USA, Presidium Members Amiya Mishra from Dubai and Pradeep Kumar Rath from Abu Dhabi, International Convenor Santosh Mishra from Russia, International Co – ordinator Akshay Mohanty from USA, Vice – Chairman Dr Nalini Pati from Australia, Secretary General Siba Ranjan Biswal from UK, General Secretary Public Relation and Protocol Krupanidhi Biswal from India, President Kuwait Chapter

of WOS Biswaranjan Sahoo, General Secretary and Vice – President of women's wing Dr Chidatmika Khatua and Reeta Patra respectively from India, Cultural General Secretary Kaveri Behera from India, Cultural Joint General Secretary Dr Bhagyashree Singh from UK, Joint General Secretary Brand Promotion Sanjay Das from Zimbabwe, Chief Co – ordinator and General Secretary of New Delhi and NCR Branch Umakant Jena and Jnana Prakash Jena respectively, President of Assam Odia Mahasbaha Jugesh Suna and others from India include senior members Satyabrata Mohanty, Manasmita Jena Nayak, Rajaram Padhi and Youth Wing member Nandan Dwibedi.

## Journalist Sanjay Urges to peoples Save soil save life

### Our Correspondent

Bhubaneswar, December 04, 2024 : World Soil Day is held annually on 5 December as a means to focus attention on the importance of healthy soil and to advocate for the sustainable management of soil resources. The Day raises awareness on the role of soil management in ensuring soil biodiversity and improving soil health, reducing erosion and pollution, enhancing water filtration and storage, achieving sustainable and resilient agrifood systems,

and contributing to carbon sequestration. Journalist Sanjay kumar Mishra Said The Save Soil movement is about bringing humanity together to keep the magic of soil alive. Soil is the basis for sustenance for 7 billion people. It preserves clean water and helps regulate the climate. Soil degradation reduces agricultural yields and threatens farmers' livelihoods. Soil that has been leached of its nutrients cannot support crops, or plants that prevent desertification. Healthy soil is essential to

ensure a steady supply of food and biodiversity. Soil loss translates into widespread poverty and slower economic development. Yet this indispensable natural resource can be overlooked when policy-makers seek solutions to combat poverty and improve livelihoods. Held every year on 5 December, World Soil Day commemorates the importance of soil for our survival and the need to use it sustainably. Sanjay Urges to peoples Save soil save life.

## 5.20 Lakh Dog Bites

Bhubaneswar, December 04, 2024 : The State recorded over 5.20 lakh dog bite cases during January 2023 to October 2024, according to data provided by Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Minister Gokulananda Mallik in the Assembly today. In a written reply to a question of Congress MLA Kadraka Appala Swamy, the Minister said that a total of 5,20,237 dog bite cases were reported in Odisha during the period. This means stray canines or domesticated ones have targeted an average 777 individuals every day. In terms of the absolute



number of cases, 2,59,107 dog bite cases were reported during 2023 while 2,43,565 such cases were recorded during January to October of 2024. As per the Minister's statement, the maximum number of such cases of 33,547, 32,561 and 29,801 were reported during the months of January, February and March of 2024, respectively. Odisha has a large population of stray dogs,

with the 2019 Livestock Census reporting 17.34 lakh stray dogs. In accordance with the Animal Birth Control Rule, 2023, the municipalities and urban local bodies (ULBs) are implementing the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme through the organizations, which got project recognition certificates from the Animal Welfare Board of India, the minister said in his reply. Shri Mallik further informed that 4605 stray dogs were sterilized in eight urban areas of Odisha during the financial year 2022-23. Tathya

## In Odisha; MLAs demand salary hike to Rs 2.5 lakh

### Our Correspondent

Bhubaneswar, December 04, 2024 : Legislators in Odisha, cutting across party lines, on Tuesday demanded their salary increase to address rising costs and inflation. They proposed to raise their monthly salary to Rs 2.5 lakh and pension for former MLAs to Rs 70,000 for one term. They also requested an increase in constituency develop-

ment funds. These demands were supported by leaders from various parties and endorsed by Speaker Surama Padhy, who committed to discussing the matter with the Chief Minister. The Speaker formed an advisory committee headed by MLA Bhaskar Madhei for giving a report in this regard. Raising the issue during the Zero Hour, Opposition Chief Whip and

BJD leader Pramila Mallik urged that in light of soaring prices of essential commodities, the salary of MLAs should be raised to Rs 2.5 lakh and the pension for ex-MLAs should be increased to Rs 70,000 for one term. She also recommended raising the MLA LAD fund from Rs 3 crore to Rs 5 crore. Mallik further called for an increase in the Special Repair Fund and Critical

Gap Funding and asked the Speaker to issue a ruling on the matter. Her request was backed by BJD MLA Pratap Keshari Deb. Deb pointed out that a committee set up by the previous BJD government, after studying the practices in several States, had recommended salary and pension hike for MLAs. However, this recommendation had not been implemented for

various reasons. He stressed that Odisha's MLAs earn significantly less compared to their counterparts in other States, with Odisha ranked 27th in terms of MLA salaries and pensions, and argued that an increase is necessary. Deb suggested that either the government implement the previous committee's report or form a new committee to address the is-

sue. Several ruling party members, including Bhaskar Madhei and Sanatan Bijuli, and Congress leaders Rama Chandra Kadam and Tara Prasad Bahinipati also voiced their support for the hike. Speaker Padhy assured the Assembly that she would inform the Chief Minister and ensure the Parliamentary Affairs Minister raises the issue with the government.



"All the powers in the universe are already ours. It is we who have put our hands before our eyes and cry that it is dark."

- Swami Vivekananda



From the Editor's Pen...

## Role of Dragon over China border dispute

In order to keep relations with its neighboring countries comfortable and peaceful, India has not only taken initiatives at every level on its behalf, but has also shown a positive attitude in many adverse situations. But for a long time, due to the attitude of Pakistan and China, situations of tension and confrontation have often arisen on the border and who has been responsible for it, the world now knows. The kind of activities China conducts along the Line of Actual Control without any provocation cannot be justified by any criterion. India has often raised this issue at the diplomatic level. After periodic talks, there is a situation of peace on the border for some time, but then some activity starts from China, which doubts its intentions. Not long ago, after the talks between India and China, many positive initiatives were taken and hopes of peace were raised. Under this, steps were taken to withdraw its troops on the Line of Actual Control. But in view of China's attitude towards India in the last few years, there is a constant apprehension that how long the conditions of improvement in the situation of tension between the two countries will remain. Now China's growing military assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific region has increased multi-layered tensions. India can see peace on the Line of Actual Control as a relief, but if China's activities in the Indo-Pacific region are increasing concern around the world, then it is time for India to be alert too. In the backdrop of growing global concern, Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh Tripathi on Monday said that the standoff between Indian and Chinese troops in eastern Ladakh has ended, but China's intention in the Indo-Pacific region has not changed. The demonstration of China's military strength in the region and in the South China Sea is a matter of concern for India. It is a fact that China is projecting itself internationally as the world's largest power. It may suit its own conditions, but if it wants to violate the sovereignty of its neighboring countries or by putting them at risk, then it is wrong in every respect. The question is how will it's activities in Arunachal Pradesh be viewed and what are the reasons for this? If India wants to resolve all the questions of the border dispute, China should respond positively and implement the consensus reached for peace with its sincere will.

# World Soil Day

World Soil Day, celebrated annually on December 5, highlights the indispensable role of soil in sustaining life on Earth. It draws attention to the urgent need to address soil degradation caused by activities such as deforestation, urban expansion and unsustainable agriculture. This day also emphasizes the importance of adopting sustainable soil management practices to preserve this crucial resource for future generations. Soil is the natural resource on the earth which directly supports the life of plants and indirectly of animals since the origin of life on the earth. It is very important complex substance available everywhere on the earth. Productive soil is a soil useful to grow crops. As a human being, we need to keep our land safe and secure and away from all the impurities. However, it is not possible because of the technological advancement. Soil

is getting polluted through the toxic substances released by the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides, industrial wastes, etc which are badly affecting the fertility of land. Soil pollution depletes the soil nutri-

ents because of the availability of heavy concentration of undesirable foreign elements into soil through chemicalization. Polluted soil is the low quality soil by various actions of man and natural processes which makes soil unfit for the crop production. Increasing human population and advancement of the human lives is causing soil pollution to a great extent. Main cause of the soil pollution are excessive soil erosion,



Akash Das Nayak,  
MLA, Korei

forest fires, use of chemical fertilizers to improve crop production, pesticides (insecticides and herbicides), bio-c i d e s (malathion, D.D.T., dieldrin, endrin, aldrin, lindane) to

get control over insects, urban and industrial wastes, leaching, drought, untreated industrial water irrigation, water logging, over irrigation, deforestation, etc. It is increasing day by day at a faster rate in the rural and urban areas of the country. According to the statistics, it is noted that consumption of chemical fertilizers by the farmers has been increased by 5.5 million tons from 1980-81 and by 18.07

million tons from 1999-2000 in order to increase crop production. Such toxic chemicals enter the human body through food chain and harm by causing physical deformities, neural tube defect in the new born babies. All the soil contaminants get mixed to the fertile land and causes variety of health disorders directly or indirectly such as respiratory illness, bronchitis, asthma, cancer, etc. Kids are more prone to the polluted soil than the adults as they play into it and gets attacked by many diseases especially respiratory disorders. Increasing human population need more grains thus in order to fulfill this requirement people use highly concentrated fertilizers to improve the crop production which ultimately affects health through the food chain. Soil pollution is the gradual process of soil poisoning of the toxic soil contaminants.

## Healthy soil, healthy planet

World Soil Day also highlight the growing problem due to population expansion. Therefore, it is necessary to take a step to reduce the erosion of soil, to maintain fertility so that food safety can be ensured. Soil pollution is the contamination of fresh and fertile soil which adversely affects the health of crops, plants, animals, human beings and other organisms living in it. Addition of variety of unwanted substances and toxic chemicals from many sources to the soil in the odd proportion causes whole land pollution. Once the pollutants gets mixed to the soil remains in direct contact with soil for long period of time. Increasing industrialization and increasing consumption of various effective fertilizers in the fertile land is continuously changing the soil composition and complexion of earth strata which is very dangerous indication to the future of life on the earth. All the fertile land on the earth is getting heavily polluted gradually day by day through the mixing of toxic materials released by the industries and domestic circles. Major sources of the soil pollution are industrial wastes, urban wastes, chemical pollutants, metallic pollutants, biological agents, radioactive pollutants, wrong agricultural practices, etc. Industrial wastes released by the industrial processes contain organic, inorganic and non-biodegradable materials which have ability to change physiochemical and biological characteristics of the soil. It totally disturbs the level of texture and mineral, bacterial and fungal colonies of the soil. Urban wastes are solid wastes include commercial and domestic wastes which make a huge heap on the soil and contribute to the soil pollution. Chemical pollutants and



Himanshu Sekhar Sahoo,  
MLA, Dharamasala

metallic pollutants are the industrial wastes from the textile, soap, dyes, synthetic, detergents, metal, and drugs industries which are dumping their hazardous wastes continuously in the soil and water. It directly affects the living organisms of the soil and reduces fertility level of soil. Biological agents (such as bacteria, algae, fungi, protozoan and microorganisms like nematodes, millipedes, earthworms, snail, etc) also disturb the physio chemical and biological atmosphere of soil and cause soil pollution. Some radio-

active pollutants from the sources like nuclear reactors, explosions, hospitals, scientific laboratories, etc go very deep to the soil, remain there for long time and cause soil pollution. Wrong agricultural practices using advance agro-technology means use of huge quantities of toxic fertilizers including herbicides, weedicides, pesticides, etc enhances soil fertility however gradually declines the physio-chemical and biological property of the soil. Other sources of the soil pollution are municipal garbage heap, food processing wastes, mining practices, and many more. Soil pollution is very hazardous to the health because toxic chemicals enter to the body through food chain and disturbs whole internal body system. In order to reduce and restrict the soil pollution, all the effective control measures including environment protection laws should be followed by the people especially industrialist. Recycling and reuse of the solid wastes and maximum possible tree plantation should be promoted among people.

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Secretary, ICAI

## In Jajpur ;MLA Himanshu alleges conspiracy by previous government to delay Dankari crude oil reserve project

Our Correspondent  
Jajpur, December 04, 2024 : Dharmasala MLA Himanshu Sekhar Sahoo on Monday alleged a conspiracy by the previous BJD government to ensure the strategic crude oil reserve project at Dankari is never implemented. He alleged the previous government had tried to change the site of the project. "The previous BJD government under various pretexts was delaying the implementation of the project on the foothills of Dankari under Dharmasala block," he said while hinting at involvement of the black stone mafia in the issue. Sahoo blamed the then Dharmasala Former MLA Pranab Balabantray for delaying the project deliberately for his vested interest. In a letter, he sought Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's intervention to start the project. The strategic crude oil reserve was proposed by

the Union government in 2016. While Rs 6,500 crore was proposed to be spent on the project, the then Union Finance minister Arun Jaitley allocated funds for the same in the 2016 budget. A team of officials from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas had visited the proposed site and identified 400 acre land on the foothills of Dankari for the underground rock cavern in September, 2016. The state government had ordered permanent closure of the black stone quarries operating near the site to pave way for the project. However, the local tehsildar had pointed out that the government would lose revenue of around Rs 1,413.86 crore if the quarries in Dankari are closed. The proposed 3.7 million MT depot at Dankari would have stored crude oil stock for 90-100 days to meet requirements during emergencies.

## 'Dakshinanchal Nagarik Samiti' submits charter of demands to CMC commissioner for construction of drains

**Warned, if the commissioner does not implement his promises, would face a mass agitation in the coming days**

Special Correspondent

Cuttack, December 04, 2024 : Cuttack Municipal Dakshinanchal Nagrik Samiti staged a protest in front of the Cuttack Municipal Corporation office demanding immediate implementation of the survey report in the neglected four wards and construction of drains . " Although ward number 56,57,58,59 has been included in the Cuttack Municipal Corporation from the panchayat for two decades, the drain has not been constructed as a basic facility so far. For eight months of the year, waste water is creating an unhealthy situation in the area. Authorities of CMC are not taking any step for solution," said the members of Nagarik Samiti . As a result, people are suffering a lot. Frequently, the authorities

were informed about this much in advance, no action has been taken. Only surveys have been conducted and the file has been crushed under red tape for years under various pretexts. The four wards were added to JICA in 2016 but the project was withdrawn at the next moment. Again, in 2020, the WAPCOS agency had surveyed the project on behalf of the government and submitted a report, but the protesters expressed dissatisfaction over why it was not being implemented so far. A nine-member delegation led by Samiti convener Akshay Roul met the CMC Commissioner . They are Dr Braj Kishore Nayak, Purna Chandra Parija, Bishnu Mishra, Sushanta Mohanty, Ranjan Lenka, Dipti Ranjan Sahu, Dushmanta

Das, Bibhasini Rout. They discussed the issue with CMC Commissioner Anam Charan Patra and handed over a memorandum of demands containing more than six hundred signatures. The commissioner had promised to start work of the drain within the next three months. Among the protesters, Pramod Swain, Rajkishore Panda, Radhamohan Dalbehera, Sushma Mohanty, Surya Narayan Mishra, Bijayalakshmi Dash, Shatrughna Sahu, Yudhishtir Jena, Sanghamitra Barik, Kumudini Pradhan, Sushanta Mohanty, Surendra Sahu criticised the government's negligence and warned that the government would face a mass agitation in the coming days if the commissioner does not implement his promises.

## Tension after security guard dies in mishap

Our Correspondent

Balangir, December 04, 2024 : Irate local residents staged a road blockade after a security guard of jewellery showroom was run over by a truck at Patna Chowk in Balangir town on Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Sidharth Pradhan. As per reports, a speeding truck rammed into a jewellery shop and ran over Pradhan who was on duty there. Following the mishap, tension prevailed in the area. Locals kept the body in front of the Collector's office and demanded compensation for the family of the deceased. They also staged a road blockade in the area. Several vehicles

were stranded on both sides of the road due to the protest. The protestors had a scuffle with police when they tried to clear the road blockade. Pradhan was the only earning member of the family and he lost his life due to the rash driving of the truck driver who was in an inebriated condition. "A person lost his life in a road accident in the area. Some local residents staged the road blockade in protest. We don't know about their exact demand. We are trying to clear the road blockade," said a police official. "I have lost my only son in the accident. Now we are completely helpless. I don't know what to do," said the deceased's mother.

## Rail accidents decline sharply over last decade: Railways Minister



New Delhi, December 04, 2024 : Rail accidents have witnessed a steep decline in the last ten years in the country. The number of train accidents including derailment has also reduced from 135 in 2014-15 to 40 in 2023-24. This was stated by Railways Minister Ashwin Vaishnav in a written reply in Lok Sabha today. The Minister said, this year 29 train accidents have been reported from April to November. He informed me that these accidents have occurred due to equipment failure, errors in train working, environmental factors and human error. He said, 17 persons lost their lives and 81 sus-

tained injuries in these 29 consequential train accidents. Mr. Vaishnav said, two crore 89 lakh rupees have been paid by the Railways as ex-gratia amount to the next of kin of deceased and injured in train accidents. The Minister informed that safety is the highest priority of Indian Railways and several steps have been taken to enhance safety in trains. He said the Kavach system has already been deployed on one thousand 548 route kilometres. He added that work is in progress for the Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah corridors on 3,000 route kilometres. GNR

## Maharashtra: CM-Elect Devendra Fadnavis meets Governor to stake claim to form the government

New Delhi, December 04, 2024 : In Maharashtra, BJP leader and Chief Minister-Elect Devendra Fadnavis today met Governor C P

Radhakrishnan to officially stake claim to form government in the state. He was accompanied by caretaker Chief Minister and Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde and NCP chief Ajit Pawar. Addressing a press conference after the meeting, Mr Fadnavis said the Governor has accepted the recommendations of Shiv Sena, Nationalist Congress Party and other coalition partners of the Mahayuti and invited him to take oath tomorrow. The swearing-in ceremony is scheduled for 5.30 pm at Azad Maidan and will be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with numerous other dignitaries and close to forty thousand public members. Mr. Fadnavis said he along with Mr. Eknath Shinde and Mr. Ajit

Pawar will work together and take Maharashtra towards new heights of development. He added that all the assurances and promises made



in the poll manifesto will be fulfilled. Also addressing the press, Mr Shinde said he is fortunate to suggest the name of Mr Devendra Fadnavis as the new Chief Minister. Thanking voters for the unprecedented victory, Mr Shinde said the public has shown their appreciation for all the developmental-related works and the welfare schemes that were implemented in their previous tenure. He said the motto of the Mahayuti Government has been public welfare and

not personal gains and the same will continue to ensure the state's prosperity. Meanwhile, NCP Chief Ajit Pawar refuted media reports

that he had gone to Delhi to meet BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Mr. Pawar informed the press that he had gone to Delhi for personal work related to the

inspection of the bungalow allotted to his wife and Rajya Sabha MP Sunetra Pawar besides meeting with lawyers with respect to various legal cases related to the allotment of party symbol. Reiterating that the BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP will continue to work as a team, Mr Pawar said with the Central Government's backing, Maharashtra will soon regain its distinct identity as an innovative and development-oriented state. GNR

## KOLKATA

## Padmini Dutta Sharma Felicitated



Our Correspondent  
Kolkata, December 04, 2024 : LIONS CLUB OF KOLKATA MAGNATES, aligned with LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL District 322B1, had

felicitated LION Padmini Dutta Sharma as an OUTSTANDING SOCIAL INFLUENCER. Padmini D.S. is a celebrity author, life coach, motivational mentor and Human Rights Activist, especially working for holistic development of LGBTQ community and Men's Rights. During a recent event, Padmini Dutta Sharma, who is also the DIRECTOR of LIONS MAGNATES, was felicitated by a host of dignitaries, informed Asish Basak, Charter President of LIONS MAGNATES.

## Launch of INTERNATIONAL MEDIA GUILD in Kolkata

Our Correspondent  
Kolkata, December 04, 2024 : IN-

TARY CLUB OF KASBA. INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

GUILD was launched by IMG Founder social influencer Asish



TERNATIONAL MEDIA GUILD was formally launched at Pragyan Bhawan, Kolkata by a host of dignitaries representing various sectors of society. INTERNATIONAL MEDIA GUILD is endorsed by LIONS CLUB OF KOLKATA MAGNATES and supported by RO-

GUILD aims to promote all talents and it will propagate all forms of news. IMG Chairperson Asish Basak announced the tagline -- "CONNECTING ALL". During a holistic therapy session, conducted by acclaimed healer Dr. Suresh Agarwal, INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

Basak, in the presence of IMG West Bengal President Kaustoo Majumdar, IMG Advisors LION MAGNATE Poonam Begum and Rotary Kasba's Basu Deo Agarwal, Rtn. Debasish Chowdhury, LCSF members Chitra Basu & Swapna Pramanik, Anisha, Ujwal and others.

# Under-19 Asia Cup: India wins against UAE by 10 wickets

New Delhi, December 04, 2024 : In the Under-19 Asia Cup today, India qualified for the semi-finals winning the last Group A ODI match against the hosts United Arab Emirates (UAE) by 10 wickets at Sharjah Cricket Stadium. UAE set a target of 138 runs after winning the toss and elected to bat. They were all out in 44 overs, chasing the target, India scored 143 runs without loss in just 16.1 overs. India will lock horns with Sri Lanka in the



Semifinal on Friday at Sharjah Cricket Stadium. In another semifinal to be played on Friday, Pakistan and Bangladesh will be in action at Dubai International

Cricket Stadium. Today, Pakistan won by 180 runs against Japan. Chasing the target of 244 runs, Japan were all out scoring just 63 runs in the 29th over. GNR

# WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP: fifth draw in a row

New Delhi, December 04, 2024 : India's D Gukesh and China's Ding Liren today played out a draw in the eighth round of the FIDE World Chess Championship 2024 at the Resorts World Sentosa in Singapore. This is the fifth consecutive draw between the two players, leaving them level on points. Both players tied with four points each, having won one game each and drawn six. Each needs 3.5 more points to claim the title in rest six matches of the Championship. GNR



# SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant organises open School Chess Tournament-2024



**Our Correspondent**  
Rourkela, December 04, 2024 : The RSP Open School Chess Tournament-2024 organised by the Sports Unit of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) at Biju Pattnaik Hockey Stadium concluded on 30th November. P K Swain, CGM In-

Charge (Town Administration and CSR) presided over the closing ceremony and handed over the awards to the winners of the tournament. Present on the occasion were Asim Sabat, GM (Town Services) and other officers, students, parents and guardians. Speaking on the

occasion Mr. Swain congratulated the winners and commended the efforts of the other participants taking part in the tournament. Asim Sabat delivered the welcome address while R N Padhi, Deputy Manager (Sports) proposed a formal vote of thanks. Anil Mallick of SSM was the

masters of the ceremony. The First prize winners under different categories in the Boy's section were Siddhartha Sambit Jena of St Paul's School in Under-5, Yugal Gupta of St. Paul's School in Under -7, Sahil Kumar Behera of Ispat English Medium School in Under - 9, Subhashish

Barik of MGM in Under-11, Raul Kasyap of Chinmaya Vidyalaya in Under - 13 and Diptesh Kumar Tanty of DEMS. in Under - 15 category. In the Girl's section the First prize winners under different categories were Kamakhya Bahubalendruni of St. Paul's School in Under-9,

Tanmayee Sahoo of Deepika English Medium School in Under - 11, Nirlipta Dhal of Delhi Public School in Under-13 and Sanoja Xess of St. Paul's School in Under - 15 category. Notably, 212 students from more than 20 different schools took part in the championship.

## Rajya Sabha clears bill to replace 100 years old Boiler Act

New Delhi, December 04, 2024 : The Rajya Sabha has passed the Boilers Bill 2024. It repeals the Boilers Act, 1923. Specific provisions have been made in the Bill to ensure the safety of persons working inside a boiler and the repair of boilers undertaken by qualified and competent persons. For Ease of Doing Business, the Bill will benefit boiler users including those in the MSME sector as provisions related to the decriminalization have been incorporated in the Bill. Replying to a debate on the bill, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said the government is revisiting all the laws of the pre-independence era. He said, Boilers Bill seeks to make the



country safe. He said the bill has focused on higher standards of safety for the workers, accountability, flexibility and efficiency. Initiating the discussion, Brij Lal of BJP welcomed the bill saying it is intended for the safety of workers in industries. He said the Modi Government has focused on ease of doing business and safety is an important part of it.

Neeraj Dangi of Congress said the provision in the Boilers Bill allows the exclusion of certain areas from the operation of the Act. He questioned how it would ensure safety. Dr. John Brittas of CPI (M) said the Boilers Bill does not have substance. He said it was old wine in a new bottle. Mausam Noor of Trinamool Congress said the Boiler Bill 2024 is

only symbolic as many provisions are the same as the previous one. Sulata Deo of BJD said officers in factories and industries do not inspect the boilers properly which results in accidents and blasts. Dr Fauzia Khan of NCP(SP) said the Boilers Bill does not include adequate provisions pertaining to sustainability and the environment. She said that the penalties for mechanical malfunctioning in the Bill are not sufficient. M. Thambidurai of AIADMK, PP Suneer of CPI, A P Selvarasu of DMK, Golla Baburao of YSRCP and BJP's Sambhu Sharan Patel, Dinesh Sharma, Seema Dwivedi and Samik Bhattacharya took part in the discussion among others. GNR

## CBIC rejects media reports on GoM's GST rate recommendations as speculative



New Delhi, December 04, 2024 : The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has rejected media reports regarding the Group of Ministers (GoM) recommendations on GST rate changes on various goods and services saying that such reports are premature and speculative. The CBIC said that the GST council has not received any recommendations from the Group of Ministers and no GST rate

changes have been deliberated. It added that the GST Council is chaired by the Finance Minister and Ministers of all the States and Union Territories that can recommend GST rates and changes. At the same time, GoM is only a recommendatory body. The GoM comprises Ministers from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Karnataka and Kerala with the Chief Minister of Bihar as the Convenor. GNR

## Prez's native place lacks edu in Santali

Our Correspondent  
Rairangpur, December 04, 2024 : The All-Odisha Santali PG Students Association has intensified its campaign to address the lack of Santali language education in the Bamanghati Subdivision, famously known as the birthplace of President Droupadi Murmu. Under the

leadership of President Bikram Beshra, the association submitted memorandums to various educational institutions, advocating for the introduction of Santali as a mother language at the intermediate level and as elective and honours courses at the graduation level. In the latest phase of the campaign, memo-

randums were submitted to Rairangpur Degree College, Principal Sunil Kumar Jena, Gorumahisani Degree College, Principal Subrat Kumar Giri, Dhirajlal College, Bahalda, Principal Motilal Mohanta, Govt. Science Higher Secondary School, Tiring, Principal Meton Ulaka, Gorumahisani Higher

Secondary School Principal Pradeep Kumar Sahu, Gouri Shankar Higher Secondary School, Khadiasole, Principal Ramkrishna Das, Kalinga Degree College, Manada, Principal Bhupati Kumar Mohanta, Rajanikanta Higher Secondary School, Luhasila, Principal Kabi Sangram Satpathy, Janaki Balava Higher Secondary

School, Hatbadra, Principal Bhaba Sankar Parida, Badampahar College, Principal Bhupati Bhusan Giri, Badampahar Higher Secondary School, Principal Dillip Kumar Giri, Govt. SSD Higher Secondary School, Badampahar, Principal Dr Bibhuti Bhusan Sahu, among others. Community leaders, activists, and

members of ASECA (Adivasi Socio-Educational and Cultural Association) participated in the drive. The campaign highlights the urgent need to include Santali in educational curricula to preserve the language and culture of the tribal community while empowering the region's youths.

## In Odisha; 403 migrant workers die in 10 yaers

Our Correspondent  
Bhubaneswar, December 04, 2024 : Labour and Employees' State Insurance Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia informed the State Assembly on Tuesday that 403 migrant labourers from Odisha died while working outside the State during the last 10 years. Replying to a query of BJP member Tankadhar Tripathy, the minister said the deaths took place

during 2015 to 2024 (till November 27). The highest 59 migrant workers from Ganjam district died outside the State during the period. It was followed by Kalahandi district with 39 migrant workers' death in other States. Balangir, another migration-prone district of Odisha, recorded the death of 35 migrant workers outside the State since 2015. Among other districts, 32 such death

cases were reported from Kandhamal, 28 from Rayagada, 18 each from Boudh and Nuapada, 17 from Khordha and 16 from Nabarangpur, the minister stated. Singkhuntia informed that the government has issued 388 licences as per provision made under the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, for migration of 26,397

workers from Odisha in 2014. In 2024 (till October), 883 licences were issued for migration of 60,683 workers from Odisha, he stated. The minister said the government has set up a high-level taskforce under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo to address the issue of distress migration in the State. The taskforce is functioning through the Panchayati Raj Department.

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