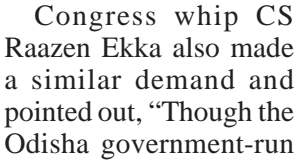


## GPLF Mission Shakti Workers Stage Protest In Bhubaneswar Demanding Release Of Pending Salary

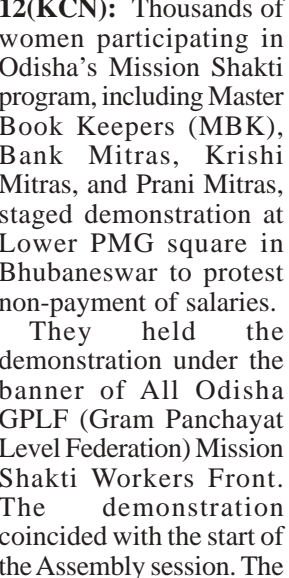
Demanding a judicial probe into it, Kadam said, "The then government had purchased green power from Adani Group at a higher price,



## The Congress MLAs

Kadam alleged, "Above all, the people of the state have been cheated, as there was a secret deal between the company and some

Adani group founder and chairman Gautam Adani and his nephew Sagar have been summoned to explain their stand on the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) allegation of paying \$265 million (Rs 2,200 crore) in bribes to unidentified officials of some state governments including Odisha to buy expensive solar power, potentially earning more than \$2 billion profit over 20 years. The document also stated that central government entity Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI), which originally awarded the solar manufacturing linked power tender, entered into the sale agreements with Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu between July 2011 and December 2021.



March, ranging from Rs 6,250 to Rs 10,750 per month, the women have not received their due wages. The previous BJD government owes them three months' pay, while the current Mohan Majhi-led government

They further alleged that they are yet to receive the pending salaries despite assurances from Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida. We had discussed with our department heads, but unfortunately, they have done precious little to facilitate the release of our pending salaries. We now place our hope in the Deputy Chief Minister, urging him to take note of our grievances and address our concerns,” said a woman at the protest site.

This development follows another significant move by the BJP in Odisha, where senior Kudumi leader Mamata Mohanta, formerly of the BJD, also transitioned to the BJP and was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Malhotra's appointment as the 26th RBI Governor, succeeding Shaktikanta Das, whose current term is set to conclude on December 10. Das has served as the RBI Governor for longer than the typical five-year maximum established in recent decades (since the 1960s). Sanjay Malhotra is a 1990-batch Indian



finance and taxation, information technology, and mines. Prior to his role as Secretary (Revenue) in the Ministry of Finance, he served as Secretary in the Department of Financial Services under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

Malhotra possesses extensive expertise in finance taxation at the State and Central Government levels.

Mahaling said Central government organisations like the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) have established a medical college in Sundargarh district, while the National Aluminium Company Ltd (NALCO) set up a medical college at Talcher in Angul. Besides, another medical college at Keonjhar has been set up with funding from the District Mineral Foundation (DMF). "I want to assure the House that we will keep the promise made in our manifesto to open new medical colleges with funding from both the Centre and state, so that every district can have at least one such institute," the minister said.

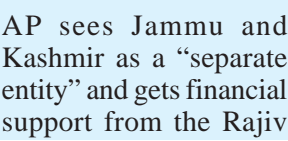
A petition was filed in the Supreme Court by a social activist from Punjab who sought directions to the Centre

Farmers under the banner of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (non-political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha have been at Shambhu and Khanauri border points between Punjab and

The protesting farmers planned to enter Delhi on December 6 but suspended their march after tear gas firing by police. The 'Dilli chalo' protest march resumed on Sunday, December 8 and was halted again due to the same reason.

In Rajya Sabha Monday, soon after a brief first adjournment during Zero Hour, Leader of the House J P Nadda said BJP members were agitated over an issue that involved Congress leaders and wanted a discussion.

“The link between Forum of Democratic Leaders in the Asia-Pacific (FDL-AP) and George Soros is a matter of



G a n d h i Foundation.As Chairman  
Dhankhar sought to know  
why the ruling party  
members were protesting,  
many BJP MPs alleged  
that the top Congress  
leadership has links with  
George Soros. They  
demanded that the issue be  
discussed in the House as  
it is connected to national  
security.  
Several MPs of the BJP  
and NDA allies demanded

an immediate discussion on it while Congress members claimed this was being done to divert attention from the Adani issue.

Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Mallikarjun Kharge and other Congress leaders like Jairam Ramesh and Pramod Tiwari asked how the chairman was allowing the ruling party members to raise the issue when he had rejected their notices.

in this regard.BJP's Laxmikant Bajpayee was given the floor to raise his Zero Hour mention and he started speaking on the issue of national security.Ramesh objected to his remarks, saying when the Chair has rejected notices under Rule 267, then the issues mentioned therein should not be allowed to be raised.



# One-Day Skill Development Program Held at Fakir Mohan University : 50 teachers participated

**Balasore, 09-12 (Krushna Kumar Mohanty):** A one-day program titled "Guidance on Preparing Research Papers" was organized at Fakir Mohan University for college teachers. This skill development program, focusing on "How to Guide Research Paper Preparation," was jointly conducted by the Human Resource Development Centre, Fakir Mohan University, and the Odisha Economic Association. Over fifty teachers from affiliated colleges of the university participated in the event.

Under the patronage of the university's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Santosh Kumar Tripathy, the program saw participation from eminent academics, including the Chairperson of the Postgraduate Council, Professor Bhaskar Behera. Speaking on the occasion, Professor Behera highlighted the significance of this workshop in the context of the National Education Policy 2020, which places a strong emphasis on research. Professor Ranindra Kumar Nayak, Director of the Human Resource Development Centre, delivered the



welcome address and explained the objectives of the program. The program coordinator, Professor Sunil Kumar Padhy, introduced the

guests and expressed his hopes for the successful implementation of the program. Dr. Amarendra Das,

Secretary of the Odisha Economic Association, emphasized the importance of establishing a strong research foundation at

the college level and noted that teachers must be well-versed in the principles and guidelines for preparing research papers. He

deemed the one-day program as highly relevant in this regard. Professor Ravi Narayan Patra, President of the Odisha Economic Association, stated that prioritizing qualitative research and study led to the organization of this skill development program, which would contribute significantly to enhancing the intellectual capacities of the participating teachers. The program was conducted by Dr. Rajashree Dutta, a member of the Human Resource Development Centre, while the vote of thanks was delivered

by Deputy Director Dr. Debadatta Das. Other members of the Human Resource Development Centre, including Dr. Sachita Nanda Sahoo, Mr. Arun Kumar Nayak, and Dr. Prahlad Khila, actively contributed to the organization and smooth execution of the program. The program also featured subject matter experts, such as Professor Jaladhar Pradhan from NIT Rourkela, Professor Himanshu S. Raut from Utkal University, and Dr. Madhusmita Das from IIT Bhubaneswar, who conducted various technical sessions.

## Discussion Organized by the Odia Bhasha Vikas Andolan

**Balasore, 9/12 (Krushna Kumar Mohanty):** A discussion on Kalidas Sookhtaya, authored by poet Radhanath Ray, was held at the office of the Odia Bhasha Bikash Andolan (Odia Language Development Movement) located in Padhuanpada. The event was presided over by Dr. Lakshmikanta Tripathy. Scholars such as Pandit Sanjay Kumar Panda, Pandit Niranjana Sahu, and retired professor Dr. Kshitishwar Dash participated as speakers, offering insightful discussions on the topic.



The editor of the event, Nibarana Jena, provided information regarding the program, while the organizational editor, Tapan Ray, delivered the opening

address. Other attendees included Kamalakanta Dash, Pitambar Das, Dr. Bhagabat Prasad Das, Mamata Mahanti, Aruna Ray, Debashish Singh,

Truptirani Patra, and Kalyani Nanda. The program concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Subrata Mahanty.

## Raja Baikunthanath Deb Was a Visionary Leader, Says Guest Discussion Forum Organized for the First Time by Fakir Mohan Sahitya Parishad

**Balasore, 09/12 (Krushna Kumar Mahanty):** On the occasion of Raja Baikunthanath Deb's death anniversary, Fakir Mohan Sahitya Parishad organized a discussion forum titled "Raja Baikunthanath Deb's Contributions to the Development of Odia Language and Literature" at the sacred grounds of Kavirtirtha Shantikanan for the first time. The discussion was chaired by Dr. Subas Chandra Patra, the president of Parishad. The speakers included Dr. Harischandra



Behera, editor of 'Akshansha', and Dr. Lakshmikanta Tripathy, former president of the Parishad. They highlighted Raja Baikunthanath's unparalleled contributions to the overall development of Balasore. Despite protest from his father Shyamanda, Baikunthanath established a girls' school

and authored a book titled 'Balika Patha' (Girls study) to promote women's education. In the forum, Raja Baikunthanath's great-grandson and social worker Sujit Deb spoke about his contributions, such as the reconstruction of Gundicha Temple, the establishment of Jhadeshwar Temple, and the construction of Town

Hall, along with his numerous efforts for the promotion of the Odia language. He proposed that the Parishad should start an event on Raja Baikunthanath's birth anniversary every year on March 10. The secretary of Parishad, Dr. Ratnakar Singh, delivered the introductory remarks, while joint secretary Rajesh Giri invited the guests to the stage. Another joint secretary, Kalyani Nanda, offered the vote of thanks. The event was attended by several literary figures and intellectuals from the city.

## Odisha State Food Commission reviews various activities under NFSA 2013, Sambalpur



**New Delhi (KCN):** A review meeting was held at the SSA Conference Hall, Sambalpur, under the chairmanship of Odisha State Food Commission Chairman E. Abanikant Sahu. Additional District Collector Sucharu Kumar Bala, Chief Development Officer

Prasanna Kumar Patra and other executive officers were present in the meeting. The meeting discussed various activities for best implementation as per Odisha State Food Commission Rules 2020. It discussed issues like allocation of cards and beneficiary

posts under the National Food Security Act, holding programs with government welfare institutions and identifying and supporting the poor under the Community Nutrition Scheme and the status of hot cooked food. The meeting also

discussed various other issues such as e-KYC verification, status of Mamata beneficiaries, progress of kitchens and nutri gardens at Anganwadi centers, mid-day meals and the Anemia Free Mission, in which rice distribution was discussed in detail.



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# Sripuram Golden Temple, Spiritual Oasis

Dr. Ravi Chaturvedi



As one embarks upon the journey of spiritual enlightenment, they often find themselves amidst the tumultuous cacophony of world chaos. The pilgrimage to the Golden Temple of Sripuram offers a transformative experience, guiding individuals towards a deeper understanding of their existence and instilling belief in the profound joy inherent in life. This sacred site bestows inner peace and illuminates new perspectives, serving as a beacon of spiritual guidance amidst life's uncertainties. The prayers uttered within their sanctified walls provide a compass for navigating life's complexities. The architectural marvel of the temple, rooted in tradition, culture, faith and hope, stands resolute against the forces of negativity and toxicity. Within its hallowed confines, one discovers a profound serenity, finding

solace and self-reflection amidst the sacred rituals of worship. Those who grasp the eternal blessings emanating from the Golden Temple of Sripuram recognize the unparalleled value of spiritual devotion. They understand that no sacrifice is too great, no burden too heavy, and no obstacle too insurmountable in the pursuit of divine grace. The spiritual journey, as preached by the Divine Narayani, Sri Sakthi Amma transcends mere hope and fear, urging individuals to venture into uncharted territories with unwavering love in their hearts. Having been a devotee of the Divine Narayani incarnate, Sri Sakthi Amma since 2006, bidding farewell to Sripuram for the first time evoked profound emotions within the scribe's heart. As he turned to depart, he solemnly reflected, "The time has come to ignite my heart into a temple of fervent devotion." Even as the car whisked him away towards Chennai's Kamaraj Airport, his thoughts lingered, resonating with the lingering echoes of temple bells and the fragrant offerings adorning the divine sanctum. To put in perspective the

essence of the teachings of the Divine Narayani, the scribe falls back on ancient Greek mythology. The Greeks were so committed to ideas as supernatural forces that they created an entire group of goddesses (not one but nine) to represent creative power; the opening lines of both The Iliad and The Odyssey begin with calls to them. These nine goddesses, or muses, were the recipients of prayers from writers, engineers, and musicians. Even the great minds of the time, like Socrates, Plato and Aristotle, built shrines and visited temples dedicated to their muses. Right now, under our very secular noses, we honor these beliefs in our language, as the etymology of words like museum ("place of the muses") and music ("art of the muses") come from the Greek heritage of ideas as superhuman forces. Similarly, the spiritual oasis of Sripuram, conceived by the Divine Narayani in the tranquil hamlet of Thirumalaikodi, stands as a testament to the enduring power of devotion. The pilgrimage to this sacred abode is imbued with divine grace, inviting individuals



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Sri Sakthi Amma & Dr. M. Saravathi, Director, Sripuram Golden Temple



Sri Sakthi Amma, Vellore & Dr. M. Saravathi, Director, Sripuram Golden Temple

of all backgrounds to take part in its spiritual nourishment. The Sri Lakshmi Narayani Golden Temple, nestled amidst the verdant hills of Malaikodi, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, stands as a testament to human devotion and ingenuity. Consecrated on 24th August 2007, this architectural marvel, adorned with pure gold, serves as a beacon of spiritual enlightenment for devotees of all faiths.

The striking feature of Sripuram is the Lakshmi Narayani temple whose Vimanam and Ardha Mandapam is covered with pure gold, housing the deity Sri Lakshmi Narayani (wife of Vishnu Narayana). The temple is located on 40 hectares (100 acres) of land and has been constructed by the Vellore-based charitable trust, Sri Narayani Peedam, headed by its spiritual leader Sri Sakthi Amma. The meticulous

craftsmanship adorning the temple, executed by skilled artisans versed in ancient temple art, speaks to a profound reverence for tradition and scripture. Every facet of its design, from the intricate gold foil work to the celestial motifs inspired by Vedic lore, reflects a harmonious fusion of artistry and spirituality. The star-shaped path winding through Sripuram's spiritual landscape, spanning over

1.8 kilometers, serves as a conduit for divine revelation. As pilgrims traverse its hallowed grounds, they are enveloped in a tapestry of celestial messages, guiding them towards inner enlightenment and spiritual awakening. Since its inception in 2007, Sripuram Golden Temple has attracted devotees from all walks of life, from dignitaries to commoners, drawn by its transcendent allure. The prominent political leaders who have made beeline to the Malaikodi located a unique and supreme place of worship are Prime Minister Narendra Modi, from small township of Vadnagar; Ram Nath Kovind, former President from Paraunkh village in the Kanpur Dehat district of Uttar Pradesh; Venkaiah Naidu, from Chavatapalem village, Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh; K Karunanidhi from village Thirukkuvalai in Tamil Nadu; Surjit Singh Barnala from Begpur Village in Ateli Tehsil, Haryana, Banwarilal Purohit from Nagpur, K Stalin from Chennai, Jagdish Mukhi from Daajal, Jampur district of Pakistan & then Janak Puri of Delhi, Ravindra Narayana Ravi, from Patna, and other political

leaders from the adjoining states have been coming to Sripuram over the years. Former President Ram Nath Kovind, has paid homage to the sacred abode of Narayani Amma, attesting to its universal appeal. Ram Nath Kovind, deeply moved by his visit to Sripuram, honored the sacred site by inaugurating essential medical facilities at the Sri Narayani Hospital & Research Centre. His reverence for Narayani Amma was further evidenced by his presence at the January 3, 2024, celebrations, underscoring the enduring impact of Sripuram's spiritual legacy. In the hearts and minds of those who visit Sripuram, a profound realization dawns: the path to alleviating suffering begins with cultivating compassion and kindness within one's own heart. These men of reckoning came to Sripuram with reverence to bow reverentially to holy Narayani and left pondering, "If one wishes suffering not to happen to the people and the earth, it begins with a kind of heart."

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# India and English Language

Bijaya Kumar Parhi



India is a vast and diverse country with a cornucopia of languages, dialects and mother tongues. But the constitution of India recognizes 22 languages in 8th schedule. The Official Languages Act of 1963 designated both Hindi and English official languages. Prior to that English language was a part of Indian education system during the colonial regime. Macaulay introduced English education system in India in the year 1835 with the patronage of Lord William Bentick, the then Governor-General of India. The nexus with English language of Indians is more than two hundred years. When India got the hard-fought independence, there was a demand from several quarters that English language should be banished from our land. The pertinent logic was that

it was a language of rulers and, therefore, a painful reminder of slavery and the colonial subjugation. However, with the passage of time people of India became less intolerant. It's now, being the second language of Indian administration, the greatest window for Indians to look at the world outside. It's a language which embraces within its happy fold all the priceless treasures of science and technology, art and literature. 'The two English came to India' mentioned by the first Prime minister of independent India, Jawaharlal Nehru in the famous book The Discovery of India in 1946. He wrote – "Which of the two England came to India?" ..... The England of barbaric penal code, brutal behavior..... or the England of Shakespeare and Milton?". The British ruled India for more than two hundred years. English language became a part and parcel of Indian education even after the colonial dominion was got rid of. Since then, English is treated

as the language of global communication, the language of international commerce and trade, the language of examinations, interviews, seminars, symposiums and consequently the lingua franca. Even when the Indians were demanding a complete 'Purna Swaraj' the pioneer social reformer Raja Rammohan Ray, popularly known as the father of Indian Renaissance father proposed Lord William Bentick to impart education to Indian students through English language. Hence the subjects like philosophy, law, science and literature were taught through the medium of English Language. As a result, the great phenomenal and illustrious personalities like Swami Vivekananda, Sri Aurobindo, C. Rajagopalachari, B.R. Ambedkar, Sardar Patel and J.B. Kripalani etc. appeared in the social and political scenario of India whose idealism took the spirit of independence to a different height. In the year 1893 at Chicago religion conference

swami Vivekananda started the speech in five English letters- "Sisters and brothers of America" which received the applause from near about five thousand delegates present in the assembly. In his concise speech he termed Hindu religion 'universal religion'. The whole world came to know the cultural significance of India. Had he not spoken in English language, the westerners couldn't have been aware about the glorious culture and tradition of India. Punjab Keshari Lala Lajpat Rai would challenge the obnoxious remarks on Indian life, culture and civilization hurled by the western countries in his book 'Unhappy India'. Gandhiji's principles, thoughts and aspirations were all published in the book 'Young India'. Long before that Gandhiji himself was deeply influenced by John Ruskin's novel 'Unto the Last'. If Mohandas Karamchand had not read that novel written in English language, India could not have got a Mahatma like him. Chakravarty Rajagopalachari was

effusive in his praise for English language and viewed it as the gift of Maa Saraswati, the Goddess of learning, knowledge, arts, speech, poetry and music etc. In fact, English language spoken by the people of Indian subcontinent is called Indian English which has a its own significance like Australian, Canadian and American. The words like avatar, bungalow, chutney, guru, moksha and nirvana are Indians' contribution to English lexicon. Science and technology is developing very fast and without the language of English, Indian students would not find it easy to keep themselves abreast of the latest trends and discoveries. Experience has taught us that English is as much as our language as that of the English. In literature, the translations from English have enriched our literature. Even many great works of Indian literature have been translated to English, by which Indian literature has been glorified across the globe. R.N. Tagore, the only

Nobel laureate in literature of India wrote 'The Gitanjali' in Bengali language. If the poems in the anthology had not been translated into English Language, winning the Nobel would have remained elusive so far. South Korean Han Kang won Nobel prize for literature this year 2024 for his magnum opus 'The Vegetarian'. When this novel written in the writer's mother tongue got translated to English, the reders across the world acclaimed the writer's best artistic creation. Moreover, booker prize considers only the works written in English language. During the British rule in India Sir William Jones translated the poetry and grammar of Sanskrit language into English. The wester pundits realized the greatness of Indian poems and grammar. The two great epics of our country The Ramayan and The Mahabharat have also been translated in to English for which the characters of Lord Sriram and Lord Krishna are the universal figures. Without reservations

it's explicit that one's mother tongue is critically important for one's cognitive, psychological and personality development. But there is no harm if someone is bilingual or multilingual. NEP-2020 gives top priority to the learning of mother tongue, but doesn't oppose to any language acquisition. Children can learn any language, but certainly not at the expense of mother tongue. Renowned Psychologist opine that creativity is the best in the language one has heard since its birth. NEP strongly recommends the teaching learning process in mother tongue especially for primary classes, but it aims to implement three language formula keeping the improved communication skills, cultural sensitivity and other prospects in view. While the knowledge of any language is lauded, not for nothing, English language remains at the center of communication. In Shakesperean era Latin language was the culture and sign of civility and the language of elite classes. Today English language enjoys the similar status in the

post-colonial India. The language of the English is more than a status symbol and is treated as an added flavor to one's communication and the yard stick of a personality. Every language spoken in the world represents a special culture, music, philosophy and social milieu. But the learning of a foreign language, especially English opens new avenues promoting open minds and better understanding of others. The knowledge of English and a deft command of it has definite an upper hand in the multicultural, diverse and competitive global order. Parents, teachers and educationists must understand that knowledge of English and mother tongue should go hand in hand. Adopting English culture is detrimental to Indian society and the aping of it leads to erosion of ethics and values, but in a globalized and intricately connected world English language is the sine qua non.

**(Views are Personal)**  
**Teacher of English Ph- 7894153578**



# Chheligada Irrigation Project: A Chronicle of Delays and Displacement



The Chheligada Dam Project, initiated in 2003 in Gajapati district, Odisha, aimed at improving irrigation and water supply by constructing a 160m-long and 36m-high concrete dam on the Badajore River, is a tributary of the Vamsadhara. Despite its ambitious goals, including irrigating 3,800 hectares, connecting the Chheligada reservoir to the Ghodahada River via a 1.13 km tunnel, and ensuring water supply to Berhampur, the project has faced significant setbacks. Although the estimated cost escalated from ₹52.96 crore in 1999 to ₹207.01 crore by 2007, no irrigation potential was achieved until March 2011. Tragically, the affected population, predominantly tribal, faced displacement from villages like Sugua, ShyamsundarPalli, Bhimapurapalli, and others, with no proper rehabilitation or compensation. These communities, deeply

connected to their ancestral lands, were forced into precarious conditions, losing their homes, livelihoods, and cultural heritage. The absence of resettlement measures exacerbated their plight, leaving them marginalized and struggling for survival amidst unfulfilled promises of development. The Chheligada medium irrigation project envisioned as a transformative venture for Odisha's Gajapati and Ganjam districts, remains mired in delays, mismanagement, and socio-economic challenges. Conceptualized to irrigate 1,320 hectares of agricultural land, supply 86.4 sq ft of water daily to Berhampur city, and contribute to power generation, the project has made minimal headway since its commissioning in 2005. Despite its ambitious goals, the project's sluggish progress underscores systemic inefficiencies and the unresolved plight of displaced tribal populations. Rehabilitation and resettlement, a cornerstone of responsible developmental planning, have been the primary impediments. Coupled

with workforce shortages and alleged governmental apathy, these challenges have turned the Chheligada project into a symbol of unmet promises. A reply to a Right to Information (RTI) query filed by BJP leader Srikant Padhy has shed light on the project's grim status. Out of the 329.78 hectares of private land earmarked for acquisition, compensation has been disbursed for only 246.7 hectares, a mere 74.8%. The slow pace of land acquisition highlights bureaucratic inertia and the government's failure to address local grievances effectively. Only 24 of the 175 families displaced by the project have been rehabilitated. These statistics reflect a severe gap in the execution of rehabilitation and resettlement plans, exacerbating the socio-economic vulnerabilities of affected communities. Many displaced families, primarily from tribal backgrounds, are left in limbo, grappling with the loss of their ancestral lands and livelihoods. The state government has reported some progress in rehabilitation efforts. In the resettlement colony at Santarapur, 24 houses

have been completed, and families have shifted in. Fourteen more houses are nearing completion, while 37 remain under construction. Additionally, 20 families have initiated agricultural activities for sustenance. A second rehabilitation colony at Babulibandha is under development, signalling some attention to the needs of the displaced population. However, the pace of these efforts could be more adequate. Displaced families often encounter hurdles such as insufficient livelihood opportunities, lack of basic amenities, and psychological trauma stemming from displacement. Initially estimated at ₹52.96 crore in 1999, the project's cost had skyrocketed to ₹381.94 crore by 2012, reflecting significant overruns. According to the RTI reply, a staggering ₹16,887.70 crore has already been spent on the project across various heads from 2005-06 to 2020-21. Despite these expenditures, critical components such as the dam and spillway still need to be completed. While the design and drawings have been received from the GWC, New Delhi, the project's structural execution

continues to lag. Tunnel work has been outsourced to the Odisha Construction Corporation Limited (OCCL), and a high-level bridge has been constructed at Kuanpada to improve connectivity. Yet, these developments pale in comparison to the scale of pending tasks. The StayeeBikasha Lakshya (SBL) an NGO has taken a commendable initiative by adopting several villages, including Sugua, ShyamsundarPalli, Bhimapurapalli, and others, for health and holistic development. These villages, predominantly inhabited by tribal communities, have faced longstanding socio-economic challenges, including inadequate healthcare, limited access to education, and lack of sustainable livelihood opportunities. As an initial step, SBL will conduct a comprehensive preliminary survey to assess the socio-economic conditions and identify the specific needs of these communities. This survey will provide critical insights into the challenges faced by the villagers, enabling SBL to design and implement tailored, need-based development programs. These interventions will improve healthcare access, enhance

educational infrastructure, and promote sustainable livelihoods. SBL's commitment to fostering inclusive development and uplifting marginalized communities represents a significant step toward creating self-reliant, empowered villages that sustain long-term socio-economic growth. The project's protracted timeline and cost escalation have drawn sharp criticism from opposition leaders and the public. Padhy criticized the ruling government for "hoodwinking" the people, citing the failure to meet initial deadlines and growing public resentment as a primary concern ahead of panchayat elections. The project's foundation stone, laid in 2005 by then-Irrigation Minister Rabi Narayan Nanda, was assured of completion by 2019. Despite subsequent revisions to the timeline and a finalized tender in 2015 targeting completion by 2017, the project has remained largely stagnant. The current deadline has been pushed to 2024-25, adding to the perception of governmental negligence. The Chheligada project's delays are emblematic of broader issues plaguing large-scale infrastructure projects in India. Displacement-induced marginalization,

bureaucratic delays, and cost overruns are recurring challenges that undermine the socio-economic objectives of such initiatives. For the displaced tribal populations, the project represents a loss of land and a rupture in cultural and social continuity. Tribal communities, deeply connected to their ancestral lands, face unique challenges in resettlement. Policies focused on rehabilitation must go beyond monetary compensation, emphasizing skill development, education, and access to healthcare to facilitate sustainable livelihoods. To revive the Chheligada project, concerted efforts are required on multiple fronts: The government must expedite compensation for pending land acquisitions and complete the construction of resettlement colonies. Providing displaced families with livelihood support and essential services is critical to ensuring a dignified transition. Resolving workforce shortages and deploying adequate technical expertise will help overcome construction and infrastructure development delays. Active participation of

affected communities in decision-making processes can foster trust and collaboration, mitigating resistance to the project. Regular public updates on the project's progress and expenditures can enhance accountability and rebuild public confidence. Streamlining land acquisition laws and strengthening the legal framework for rehabilitation can prevent similar issues in future projects. The Chheligada medium irrigation project, with its potential to transform agricultural productivity, water supply, and power generation in Gajapati and Ganjam districts, stands at a crossroads. For the state government, this is an opportunity to complete a vital infrastructure project and set a precedent for ethical and efficient governance. However, the project's success hinges on resolving the unresolved challenges of displacement, rehabilitation, and project execution.

**Former Professor of Economics, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, currently at Berhampur, Odisha**

# Fights over places of worship

When will the violence against our cultural practices in the name of secularism stop?

-Dr. Satyawan Saurabh



The petition filed in Sambhal is similar to the petitions filed for the Gyanvapi Mosque in Varanasi and the Shahi Idgah in Mathura. The main issue is how the law—the Places of Worship Act, 1991—is interpreted. The district court in Sambhal ordered a survey of the Shahi Jama Masjid based on a petition claiming it was built on a Hindu temple site. The order led to protests by local Muslim residents who saw it as an attack on their religious rights and heritage. The protests turned violent when large crowds gathered to oppose the survey. Reports suggest that protesters clashed with police, resulting in injuries and deaths of both protesters and law enforcement officers. Ongoing disputes over religious sites in India, particularly

those involving claims of historical conversions, have heightened communal sensitivities. Similar cases in Varanasi and Mathura have set precedents that contribute to public unrest when surveys or legal actions are seen as threatening the status quo of religious sites. The dispute over the Jama Masjid of Sambhal has increased amidst the ongoing cases in Ayodhya, Kashi and Mathura. The Hindu side claims that the Jama Masjid was built by demolishing the Harihar temple. The Muslim side rejects the claims of the Hindu side regarding the Jama Masjid. The recent battle is being fought legally, in which work is being done on the survey order of the mosque received from the court.

A case was filed in the court of Civil Judge of Sambhal on behalf of Vishnu Shankar Jain regarding Jama Masjid. There are 8 plaintiffs including Supreme Court lawyer Harishankar Jain and Mahant

Rishiraj Giri of Kela Devi Temple. The plaintiffs have made the Government of India, the Government of Uttar Pradesh and the Sambhal Jama Masjid Committee a party in

Masjid is built, there used to be a Harihar temple.' The Muslim side also believes that the Jama Masjid was built by Babar and till date Muslims have been offering prayers in it. However, the

the Muslim side claims its right over the Jama Masjid of Sambhal and has described the claims of the Hindu side and any other judicial proceedings as a disregard of the law. What does the law

character of a place of worship is barred under the Places of Worship Act, 1991. The Act aims to maintain the status quo of places of religious worship as they existed on August 15, 1947.

another sect or denomination. Section 4 states that any legal proceedings in respect of the change in the religious character of a place are terminated (abettid) on that date, so that no new suits can be filed in respect of such conversions. Notably, the Act does not apply to disputes already pending at the time of its enactment, such as the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi case, which has complicated its application to contemporary disputes.

How have the courts allowed these title suits? Despite the provisions of the Places of Worship Act, courts have allowed title suits relating to places such as Gyanvapi and Mathura to be maintained. An important observation by the Supreme Court indicated that while changing the religious nature of a place is prohibited under the Act, examining its historical character may still be permissible. This interpretation has

provided district courts with a basis to entertain such petitions without directly violating the intent of the Act. In the case of Sambhal, the Court ordered a survey before determining whether a civil suit was maintainable. This ex parte decision (without hearing both sides) has led to further controversies about its legality and fairness. Courts should uphold the intent of the 1991 Act by ensuring that disputes challenging the religious character of sites dating back to August 15, 1947, are dismissed, avoiding unnecessary surveys or proceedings that may escalate communal tensions. Governments and local authorities should facilitate inter-religious discussions to peacefully address historical grievances and promote mutual understanding, reduce the risk of violent clashes, and promote communal harmony.

**Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, Radio and TV panelist, 333, Fairy Garden, Kaushalya Bhawan, Barwa (Siwani) Bhiwani, Haryana – 127045, Mobile 9466526148, 01255281381**

*Ongoing disputes over religious sites in India, particularly those involving claims of historical conversions, have heightened communal sensitivities. Similar cases in Varanasi and Mathura have set precedents that contribute to public unrest when surveys or legal actions are seen as threatening the status quo of religious sites. The dispute over the Jama Masjid in Sambhal has escalated amid ongoing cases in Ayodhya, Kashi and Mathura. The Hindu side claims that the Jama Masjid was built by demolishing the Harihar temple. The Muslim side rejects the Hindu side's claims to the Jama Masjid. The recent battle is being fought legally, with the court ordering a survey of the mosque.*

the dispute. The petition said- 'The mosque was originally a Harihar temple, which was converted into a mosque in 1529. The temple was demolished by the Mughal emperor Babar in 1529. It is mentioned in the book Baburnama and Ain-e-Akbari that the place where the Jama

Muslim side registers its protest in the legal dispute on the basis of the 1991 order of the Supreme Court, in which the court had said that whatever religious places are in whatever condition since 15 August 1947, they will remain at their places. The Supreme Court had also emphasized on this during the Ayodhya verdict. Through this,

say about the petitioners' claim? The petitioners filed a civil suit to establish their claim to the mosque site. In civil suits, initial claims are usually accepted at face value (prima facie), with further evidence being produced later if the suit is deemed to be triable. However, any claim that seeks to change the religious

What does the Places of Worship Act, 1991 say? The Act prohibits any conversion of places of worship and mandates that their religious character must remain as it was on August 15, 1947. Specifically, Section 3 prohibits the conversion of any place of worship, either wholly or in part, into a place of worship of



# A Developed India is No Longer a Dream, It is Our Goal: Vice-President Dhankhar

**Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), December 9** – Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar said that a developed India is no longer a dream but a goal. To achieve this, we must adopt the concentration and determination of Arjuna, as he focused solely on his goal, just as we must focus solely on our target to succeed, he said.

The Vice President, who on Sunday visited Haryana to attend the International Gita Jayanti Mahotsav (IGM)-2024 said that the state sets an exemplary example in terms of its glorious history and vision for development. While the birthplace of the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita is spreading the light of knowledge worldwide, the developmental achievements of the present state Government are giving the state an unparalleled identity among the leading states

of the country. The Vice President said that for more than a decade, India has been making history. After six decades, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has had the privilege of becoming the charioteer of the nation. He said that India has seen unprecedented economic progress and institutional advancement in the last ten years, and now India is on the path to becoming a developed nation.

Dhankhar said that the Five Principles of the Bhagavad Gita are Panchamrit. The Vice President spoke about five important principles from the Bhagavad Gita, which he presented as "Panchamrit". These principles are essential for social order, peace, development, brotherhood, progress, and happiness, he said.

The Vice President said that the first principle is 'Sarthaak Samvad', where he emphasized



that discussions should not be for personal gain but for the welfare of society and the nation. The second principle is 'Vyaktigat Suchita', which is crucial for everyone, especially those in positions of power. The third principle is 'Niswarth Yagya Bhav', encouraging

everyone to contribute to the collective goal of a developed India by 2047. The fourth principle is 'Karuna', which India has demonstrated in various forms, such as providing vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic. The fifth principle is 'Praspar Bhav', where

competition should exist but not lead to conflict. The Vice President also planted a Kadamba sapling in memory of his late mother, Kesari Devi, while his wife Dr. Sudesh Dhankhar planted a Rudraksha sapling in memory of her late mother, Bhagwati Devi. Later, the Vice President,

along with his wife Dr. Sudesh Dhankhar visited the Progressive Haryana Exhibition at Brahma Sarovar, along with the stalls of various departments and the Haryana Pavilion. The Vice President expressed that he and his wife share a profound connection with

Haryana. He said that visiting this sacred land, where Lord Krishna delivered his timeless teachings to Arjuna, is an experience he will always cherish. Dhankhar emphasized that the message from the birthplace of the Bhagavad Gita, Dharma Kshetra - Kurukshetra, is that the nation is supreme. Patriotism should be pure and absolute.

The Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini, welcomed the Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar on behalf of the people of the state at the International Gita Mahotsav (IGM)-2024. He said that the visit of the Vice President to Dharma Kshetra - Kurukshetra for the IGM stands as a testament to his deep interest in spirituality, his unwavering faith in the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita, and his

special bond with Haryana. Describing the Bhagavad Gita as a cornerstone of Indian philosophy and a guide for all humanity, the Chief Minister said that the Bhagavad Gita is not just a sacred text; it is a way of life and a beacon of hope for humanity. In today's world, fraught with stress and conflict, the teachings of the Gita are essential to sustain humanity and foster global harmony, said Nayab Singh Saini.

The Chief Minister emphasized that the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita are vital in addressing the stresses and challenges of modern life. The teachings of Bhagavad Gita offer solutions to humanity's inner conflicts and guide us toward peace and understanding. By following its teachings, we can realize the dream of global harmony and serve the nation's best interests, he said.

## Dharambeer Gokhool is new President of Mauritius



**Kolkata, (PARTHA ROY):** Mr Dharambeer Gokhool and Mr J.Y. Robert Hungley sworn in as President and Vice-President of Republic of Mauritius. Mr Dharambeer Gokhool and Mr Jean Yvan Robert Hungley sworn in as President and Vice-President of the Republic of Mauritius respectively, at the State House in Réduit, after their election by National Assembly on 06 December 2024. Newly

appointed President took the oath of Allegiance and oath of Office of the pursuant to Section 30(b) of the Constitution before the Chief Justice, Ms Rehana Bibi Mungly-Gulbul. As for the Vice-President, he took the oath of Allegiance and oath of Office of the pursuant to Section 30(b) of the Constitution before the President, Mr Dharambeer Gokhool. The swearing-in ceremony was held in the presence of the Prime

Minister, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam; Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Paul Raymond Bérenger; the Speaker of the National Assembly, Mrs Shirin Aumeeruddy-Cziffra; Cabinet Ministers; and other eminent personalities. Mauritius is a parliamentary republic, and the president functions as a ceremonial Head of State elected by National Assembly as per Constitution of Mauritius.

## Air India Places Order For 100 Aircraft, All To France's Airbus

**New Delhi(KCN):** The phenomenal pace of Indian aviation is reflected not only in the growing number of passengers flown, but also by the order book of the three big airlines - IndiGo, Air India, and Akasa Air.

The number of aircraft that are on order to the two largest manufacturers, Boeing and Airbus, is truly staggering with Air India's latest order of 100 aircraft, all to France's Airbus.

Air India has placed an order for 570 aircraft since 2023. These include 300 A320neo family aircraft, 50 A350, 190 Boeing 737 MAX, 10 Boeing 777X, and 20 Boeing 787.

IndiGo placed orders for 1,260 aircraft since 2011. Akasa Air placed orders for 226 aircraft since 2021. Airlines and manufacturers don't like to spell out the exact price of deals, but the larger the order, the deeper the discount.

## Pope Francis made George Jacob Koovakad from India a Cardinal of Roman Catholic Church



**Kolkata, (PARTHA ROY):** His Holiness Pope Francis has made His Eminence George Jacob Koovakad from India a Cardinal of Roman Catholic Church. His Eminence George

Jacob Koovakad has devoted his life in service of humanity as an ardent follower of Lord Jesus Christ. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi expressed his happiness & delight on the

appointment of His Eminence George Jacob Koovakad as Cardinal of Roman Catholic Church. It is a matter of great joy and pride for India. PM Modi had greeted Cardinal George Jacob Koovakad.

## PM Modi Inaugurates Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit in Jaipur

**Jaipur, 9/12(ENS):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday inaugurated the Rising Global Investment Summit 2024 and Rajasthan Global Business Expo in Jaipur. The Prime Minister emphasized that establishing a substantial "manufacturing base" in India is crucial for the economy to function effectively even amidst significant crises.

"Today, the world requires an economy that remains robust even during the most severe crises. It should not be disrupted. For this, is essential to a large 'manufacturing base' in India," he stated addressing the inaugural session of the three-day Rising Rajasthan Global Investors Summit 2024 at the Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Centre (CC).

Modi noted that every global expert investor is enthusiastic, as the sector in the country embodies the development of

"Reform, Perform, and Transform." The Prime Minister highlighted that India has demonstrated to the world the true power of 'democracy, demography, data,' and how the democratization of digital technology is benefiting every class.

Modi said that his pleasure in witnessing the ancient traditions of India is being upheld by the youth of the nation. He is prioritizing the dual goals of development and heritage, with Rajasthan being one of the beneficiaries.

Modi also criticized previous governments, particularly in the post-independence era, for allegedly neglecting the development of the country and its heritage, during which also faced challenges.

Following the opening of the summit, Prime Minister Modi inspected various pavilion exhibitions at the venue, accompanied by

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Deputy Minister Di Kumari, and Industries Colonel Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, who provided him with briefings on different aspects of the event. The was attended by Governor Haribhau Bagade along with prominent businessmen such as Gautam Adani, Karan Adani, Anil Agarwal, Anand Mahindra, and Kumar Mangalam Birla, others. A total of at least 32 countries participating in the summit, with several designated as 'partner countries,' including Denmark, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Switzerland, Malaysia, Spain, Cuba, Venezuela, Morocco, Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Nepal, Oman, Poland, and Thailand. Several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) have already been signed for investment proposals totalling Rs 30 lakh crore prior to the summit.

## India Emerges Victorious in Bilateral ODI Deaf Cricket Series against Sri Lanka.

**Delhi(KCN):** The Indian Deaf Cricket Team clinched a major victory against Sri Lanka in the 5-match bilateral ODI deaf cricket series held in New Delhi. The Indian squad defeated the visiting Sri Lankan team 5-0 at the DDA Roshanara Club to win the series held between 02nd December to 08th December 2024. The bilateral series was hosted by the Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA) – a member of the Deaf International Cricket Council (DICC), which works closely with International Cricket Council (ICC) for promotion of cricket amongst the hearing-impaired athletes all over the world. Players from both the teams leveraged the unique opportunity to showcase their talents and they proved their mettle in each match of the series. The Indian squad was led by Captain – Mr. Virendra Singh and included 15 players from across India. Sri Lanka Captain was Mr. Gimandu Malkam, he led the team ably and played well.

Highlighting the relevance of the deaf cricket series, President of IDCA, Mr. Sumit Jain, mentioned, "I would like to congratulate players



from both the teams for showcasing their exemplary talents during the series. Bilateral series like this are the perfect platform for the teams to hone their talents and get ready for larger platforms in the future. IDCA looks forwards to keep organizing more series like this to promote and keep appreciating the special athletic talent of our hearing-impaired players."

On this occasion, IDCA Hon. Director Mr. Santosh Kumar Rai hailed the performance of Indian Team and congratulated both the Teams for the wonderful display of great game. He further thanked all support partners for their continuous support and requested all to keep supporting our team so that they can keep performing well as they belong to very marginalized society.

The ODI Deaf Cricket Series between India and Sri Lanka concluded on

an exhilarating note, with the Indian Deaf Cricket Team securing a victory by 13 runs. India posted a total of 289/10 in 49.5 overs, while Sri Lanka was all out for 276 in 48.4 overs, marking a thrilling end to the series. The grand success of the Indian deaf cricket team in the bilateral series comes after extensive training and practice sessions under the expert guidance of coach Mr. Dev Dutt and assistant coach Mr. Susheel Gupta. The players were trained in Delhi from November 25 to December 1. Mr. Sai Akash of Indian Deaf Cricket Team bagged the Man of the Match title, while Mr. Alanrose Kalep from Sri Lankan Deaf Cricket Team became the Man of the Series. Mr. Alanrose Kalep was the maximum wicket-taker in the series with 12 wickets in 4 innings, while Mr. Santosh Kumar Mahapatra from Indian

Team was adjudged best batter who score 325 runs in 5 matches at an average of 65 runs, including one century and 2 half centuries. The prize distribution ceremony was graced by the presence of Mr. Jaswinder Narang, CEO - Viloo Poonawalla Foundation, Mr. Vinod Pillai, (GM – Finance & Accounts) - Shoppers Stop Limited, Mr. Vinod Sodha, (Sr.GM – Institutional Business) - Shoppers Stop Limited, Mr. Pratik Puri, Head of Cricket Academies – Delhi Capitals. Mr. Jaswinder Narang and Mr. Pratik Puri presented the runners up and winner's trophies. Appreciating the talents of both teams, Mr. Jaswinder Narang, CEO - Viloo Poonawalla Foundation, said, "The intense battle between the two teams is a testament of the perseverance and skills of the specially-abled players. The role of

IDCA in organizing the bilateral series, to help the players build their confidence and perform even better, is really appreciable. The win of Team India clearly depicts how the players hold the capability to compete and succeed at the highest levels of the sport."

Mr. Pratik Puri, Head of Cricket Academies – Delhi commented, "Watching the Deaf cricketers from India and Sri Lanka compete in Delhi was an absolute thrill. Their skill and sportsmanship left a lasting impression on me."

Key personalities who wholeheartedly extended support to make this tournament a success and truly memorable included Mr. Kundan Kumar, IAS, Resident Commissioner, Bihar Bhawan and Chairman, Bihar Foundation, Mr. Sandeep Gahlot, IRTS, Dy. Commissioner, MCD, Keshavpuram Zone, Vinay Jindal, ADM, West Delhi, Mr. Alok Kumar, SDM Kotwali, Central District, Mr. Mayur, IAS Private Secretary to Union Minister for Telecommunications, Govt of India, Mr. Sunil Kumar, Owner and Director, CLC Group and Mr. Nisar Ahmad, National Secretary, JDU.



# Nagavali changes course as illegal sand mining grows

**Rayagada(KCN):** A concerning development has emerged in Rayagada district where the Nagavali river has reached dangerously close to human settlements after rapidly changing its course due to years of excessive illegal sand mining from the riverbed.

According to reports, the illegal extraction of sand has widened the river and significantly reduced its water levels, with grave repercussions for the local ecosystem and groundwater resources. Illegal sand mining has not only affected the course of Nagavali river, but also the Vamsadhara River. It is alleged that massive quantities of sand are being illegally

mined and later transported to the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh right under the nose of enforcement authorities. The unauthorised extraction of sand has also led to a significant decline in groundwater levels in the areas. The sand mafia uses heavy machinery such as Poclain and Hitachi excavators, alongside

JCB earthmovers, to extract sand from the riverbed. At prominent sites like the Badahansa sand ghat in Rayagada tehsil, these activities are conducted openly in violation of the National Green Tribunal norms. After extraction, sand is stockpiled and loaded into tipper trucks, with hundreds of vehicles



ferrying the material across state borders. Villagers living near the riverbanks face increasing risks as the Nagavali river widens and edges come closer to their homes and farmlands. This was prominently evident during the devastating floods of July 2017,

which severely affected Kalyansinghpur, Kolnara, and Rayagada blocks.

Despite the lessons from this calamity, illegal mining operations have only escalated. Villagers alleged that the illegal activities continue unabated due to collusion between the

mining mafia and corrupt officials. They said while the mafia pockets millions daily by transporting the illegally mined sand to Andhra Pradesh, the District Mining Officer, or other mining officials, are yet to form an enforcement team to crack down on illegal sand mining and

the sand smugglers. Nagavali River's Badahansa sand mining lease was granted to one Bominayani Raghuram November 19, 2020. The lease permits excavation over an area of 4.856 hectare. However, there is no approval for the use of machinery and equipment for mining in the riverbed. For the financial year 2024-25, permission was granted to mine 3,200 cubic meters (CM) of sand. The mining department states that 2,600 CM of sand has been mined so far. However, villagers alleged that the leaseholder has illegally transported thousand of CMs of sand beyond the approved limits. Additionally, sand is

being sold separately in local areas using tractors. In the Sesakhala police limits, extensive unauthorised sand mining has been reported at multiple locations. Sources said villagers who protest the goings on are faced with intimidation and harassment. Moreover, illegal sand mining and smuggling have also led to growing rivalries among operators involved in the trade. On November 1, some miscreants set fire to a Poclain earthmover used for sand mining. Police suspect the incident stemmed from business rivalry. Illegal sand extraction is rampant from the

upper reaches of Kalyansinghpur block to the lower parts of Rayagada block. Meanwhile, when contacted, District Mining Officer Parshuram Pradhan said the department investigates complaints when received. "The present allegations would also be thoroughly examined," he said while claiming that staff shortages hinder enforcement efforts. Sources said that the persistent lack of enforcement and oversight is not only undermining environmental guidelines but also causing substantial financial losses to the state government.

## Tourism tag eludes Punjisil waterfall



**Koraput(KCN):** Punjisil waterfall in Koraput district continues to captivate visitors with its natural beauty, though it is yet to get official recognition as a tourist destination. Located in Mungaj panchayat of Dasmantpur block, about 23km from the district headquarters, the waterfall has great potential to be a major tourist hub. However, it remains underdeveloped due to a lack of political will and administrative focus. The district hosts several popular tourist spots, including Deomali, Galigabadar in Pottangi block, Rani Duduma, and Kolab Dam in Nandapur block, Duduma in

Lamtaput block, and Gupteshwar in Boipariguda block. Punjisil waterfall, which flows over a massive rock, offers a stunning view and is a popular destination for tourists, with many visitors engaging in water activities. Despite the beauty of the site, the area suffers from poor infrastructure and maintenance. Although the district administration has used funds from the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) to build community toilets and restrooms, these facilities are often unusable due to a lack of water supply, and the restrooms remain locked and poorly

maintained. The two platforms constructed for tourists to sit and eat are often littered with waste, discouraging visitors from using them. Moreover, the water from the tube well installed there has been found to be contaminated, forcing tourists to seek other sources of clean water. The onset of winter has seen an influx of visitors from within and outside the state. However, some have been dissuaded by the poor state of the facilities. Residents, including Binda Badanayak, Dara Badanayak, Lochan Badanayak and Bhima Badanayak, have expressed concern and urged the government for

immediate improvement of the site. They demanded that a local self-help group should take responsibility for maintaining the site and a committee formed to oversee its development. This, they argue, would ensure a safer and cleaner environment for visitors. Talina Pradhan, district tourism officer, expressed hope that the site would be recognised as a tourist destination by next year. Koraput Sub-Collector Benudhar Sabar acknowledged the poor condition of the roads leading to the site. He has instructed Dasmantpur block development officer to focus on improving infrastructure and ancillary facilities at the site.

## Focus on Mahseer fish conservation

**Tentulikhunti(KCN):** Close on the heels of discovery of two species of Mahseer fish in Indravati river of Nabarangpur district, researchers have emphasised their conservation and artificial breeding. According to sources, Mahseer fish (Tor tor and Tor putitora) species belong to Cyprinidae family, characterised by their large size and elongated bodies, often referred to as the 'king of Indian rivers'. Mahseer is considered one of the world's top 20 large freshwater fish species whose natural habitats include fast-flowing hilly rivers, and cold, clear mountain streams. Indravati reservoir spans 110 km, suggesting immense potential for fish research and aquaculture



development due to the discovery of these new species. Utilising this resource could benefit local communities, support scientific research, and enhance fish production, contributing to regional economic growth. According to sources, the discovery was led by researchers Alok Kumar Nayak and Anirban Mahata under the guidance of Professor Sarat Kumar Palita,

Dean of Biodiversity and Conservation of Natural Resources (SBCNR) at Central University, Koraput. Narayan Patra, a local intellectual, suggested naming the fish after Indravati region to highlight its origin. Professor Palita emphasised that genetic analysis of Mahseer species is nearing completion, necessitating immediate steps for their conservation and

artificial breeding. The discovery of 'Tor putitora' is not only significant for southern Odisha but also establishes a new record for the Godavari river basin in India. Currently, nine Mahseer species are found in India, with four species (Tor tor, Tor Mahnadicus, Tor putitora, and Tor khudree Mahaseer) recorded in Odisha. These species, which thrive in fast-flowing mountain rivers, are now struggling to survive in the stagnant waters caused by dams. To prevent their extinction, stakeholders are calling for the establishment of artificial breeding centres, which would significantly boost fish production and elevate the status of southern Odisha in fisheries research and aquaculture.



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## Capri Global Appoints Coaching Beyond as Consultant for UAE ILT20 League

**Mumbai:** Capri Global has announced an association with Coaching Beyond, a premier cricket coaching institute, as a consultant for the franchise team of the UAE ILT20 League. The institution will assist Capri Global in appointment of coaching staff and matters related to cricket operations. R Sridhar, former fielding coach of the Indian Cricket Team and one of the founding members of Coaching Beyond, will be the Director of Cricket for Capri Global during the UAE ILT20 League. Capri Global intends to strengthen the cricket ecosystem on the global platform by engaging the right sporting talent and nurturing them. The company aims to play a vital role as an enabler by empowering deserving talent to showcase their sporting strength to the globe. Speaking on the association, Mr. Rajesh Sharma, Director, Capri Global, said, "Capri Global aims to reinforce the visibility and

popularity of sports nationally and globally and popularize homegrown sports to create opportunities for aspiring talent. We are pleased to associate with Coaching Beyond, a brainchild of sports stalwarts who will assist us in evaluating the deserving talent and offer state-of-the-art sports training infrastructure, world-class technology, and training to sportspeople. Mr. Sridhar's experience as a player and coach is almost unrivaled and his strategic insights, coaching approach, and collaborative style will be invaluable for our franchise team. We see great synergy coming through this alliance, including a host of exciting moments that are set to elevate the cricketing experience for the Indian audience on the global platform." Coaching Beyond is a premier cricket coaching institute in India that provides performance-driven cricket coaching,

training, and education to individuals, teams, and coaches from the grassroots to various experience levels. It has recently launched its first high-performance cricket academy in Hyderabad and is on track to launch its second project in Chennai by August. R Sridhar, Co-Founder of Coaching Beyond, said, "We are delighted to announce our partnership with Capri Global for the upcoming UAE ILT20 League. It is an exciting opportunity to work and do justice to the enormous cricketing talent and add value to the international platform. With a focused team effort, inclusive vision, and holistic approach, we can achieve consistent success during the tournament. We are confident that the League will be a grand success and are looking forward to a successful season".

## MAJOR YARD RESTRUCTURING WORK AT BHADRAK RAILWAY STATION



**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):**As part of Indian Railways' grand plan to upgrade and modernize key Stations across the country, significant yard restructuring work is being undertaken at Bhadrak Railway Station. This project aims to enhance operational efficiency and improve train management at this crucial station, a key hub in the railway network of the East Coast Railway (ECOR) zone. Bhadrak Railway Station plays a pivotal role in regional logistics and passenger transport, being one of the critical stations under the East Coast Railway zone. This modernization project will not only increase the station's handling capacity but will also ensure a more streamlined, efficient rail service for passengers and goods traffic alike. Once completed, passengers can expect smoother train operations, reduced waiting times and enhanced overall service quality. 3rd Line construction

work is going on in Bhadrak-Ranital Railway Section. Non-Interlocking work will be done for smooth passing of trains at Bhadrak Railway Station. Apart from this, other ongoing works like comprehensive yard remodeling will involve shifting the Bay Line, Loco Reversal Line and Inspection Carriage Siding. The Bay Line will also be extended to a full-length platform as part of this modernization work. The project is expected to take few days. Indian Railways remains committed to upgrading infrastructure in line with increasing passenger demand, regional development, and national logistics requirements. Key Aspects of the Restructuring Work: Interlocking to all Platforms: All the platforms at Bhadrak Railway Station will be interlocked with third line and additional loop lines, extending the station's capacity to handle more trains and passengers. Extra Lines for Smooth Operations:

Additional lines are being added to facilitate the easy movement and control of trains, reducing delays and enhancing punctuality. Improved Train Movement: Once completed, trains will be able to enter Bhadrak Station smoothly, without detentions at nearby stations. In view of the above, it has been decided to cancel, divert and partially cancel some of the train on temporary basis for a period of 10 days which will provide more benefits in future. The trains to be cancelled includes 04 pairs of Regular Mail/Express Trains, 05 pairs of Regular Local Passenger/MEMU Trains, 11 pairs of weekly trains and 03 pairs of bi-weekly trains. Two pairs of trains will be partially cancelled. The affected trains are mentioned in the annexure for reference. Passengers are also requested to cooperate Railways for this modernization work for smooth train operation in future.

## Ministry of Railways Sanctions Rs.509 Crore for Construction of Railway Flyovers in Cuttack and Rayagada Districts of Odisha



**Cuttack, (KCN):**In a significant move to boost the operational efficiency of Indian Railways, the Ministry of Railways has sanctioned ₹509 crore for the construction of two major Railway Flyovers in the Cuttack and Rayagada districts of Odisha. This initiative is part of the broader Energy, Mineral & Cement Corridor Scheme of Indian Railways, aimed at improving train movements and alleviating traffic congestion across key railway lines. Hon'ble Minister of Railways, I&B and Electronics & IT in his recent visit to Odisha had also mentioned about the sanction of above Rail Infra projects in Odisha. Key Highlights of the Project: 10.89 Km Long Rail Flyover in Cuttack District: The project includes the construction of a 10.89 km rail flyover,

connecting Rajathgarh, Radhakishorepur, and Machhapur Railway Stations in Cuttack district. This infrastructure will enhance operational capabilities by facilitating simultaneous train movements without the delays caused by cross-traffic. The total cost for this project is ₹268.92 crore. 5.50 Km Long Rail Flyover in Rayagada District: A 5.50 km rail flyover will be constructed at Singapur Road Station in Rayagada district, addressing traffic congestion on the Raipur-Vizianagaram Rail Line. This development will allow for uninterrupted train movements in and out of the station, avoiding delays caused by cross-traffic. The estimated cost of this project is ₹239.83 crore. Benefits of the Rail Flyovers: Simultaneous Train Movements:

The new flyovers will allow for the simultaneous movement of trains from multiple directions, improving the efficiency of train operations across the region. Elimination of Operational Inefficiencies: The flyovers will address existing operational challenges by eliminating cross-traffic, which currently leads to significant delays and inefficiencies at key junctions like Singapur Road Station, Rajathgarh, Radhakishorepur, and Machhapur. Reduction in Congestion: The projects will ease congestion in the Nergundi-Cuttack-Barang-Rajathgarh area and the Rayagada-Singapur Road corridor, ensuring smoother train operations and faster travel times. Improved Passenger Experience: With reduced delays and enhanced operational

flow, the new rail flyovers will improve the overall travel experience for passengers traveling through these regions. Addressing Existing Traffic Constraints: Currently, major junctions in the Khurda Road and Waltair divisions experience traffic bottlenecks due to cross-movements at Singapur Road and Rajathgarh-Radhakishorepur-Machhapur stations. These constraints cause significant delays, as up and down trains often have to wait for cross-traffic clearance. The new flyovers will remove these obstacles by creating dedicated paths for trains from various directions, ensuring uninterrupted movements. The Flyover Projects: Cuttack District: 10.89 km flyover between Rajathgarh, Radhakishorepur and Machhapur. Rayagada District: 5.50

km flyover at Singapur Road Station. These developments, with a combined cost of ₹508.75 crore, are crucial for improving the operational efficiency of Indian Railways, boosting train movement capacity, and reducing delays. A Step Towards Better Infrastructure: Indian Railways continues to prioritize infrastructure improvements across the country to meet the growing demands of train traffic. The rail flyovers in Cuttack and Rayagada will play a pivotal role in reducing congestion, improving train mobility, and providing a smoother, more efficient travel experience for passengers. These projects also underline the Ministry's commitment to modernizing and expanding the railway network to keep pace with the ever-increasing demand for transportation.

## Unacademy produces 178 Rankers for UPSC CSE

**Bhubaneswar:** Unacademy, India's largest learning platform\*, today announced that 178 out of 685 rank holders of UPSC CSE 2021 are Unacademy Learners. Among the top rankers from the Unacademy platform are Gamini Singla (AIR - 3), Aishwarya Verma (AIR - 4), Utkarsh Dwivedi (AIR - 5) and Yaksh Chaudhary (AIR - 6). 3 Learners have secured ranks between 1-5, 32 have secured ranks from 6-100 and 143 have secured AIRs from 101-685. From the 178 Rankers, 45 Learners were Unacademy's Plus/ Iconic subscribers guided by India's Top Educators. The other rankers were guided by Unacademy's Last Mile Programme for UPSC CSE 2021 Interview. Last Mile Programme is an interview guidance program for the last stage of the UPSC CSE exam that helps Learners who have qualified the Mains exam to crack the Personal Interview stage. The questions are asked by retired bureaucrats, former UPSC members and Top Educators in a mock set-up. In last year's Unacademy's Interview Guidance Program 170+ Rankers qualified the Interview stage by securing AIR 2.

## Blue Dart signs the UNFCCC Climate Neutral Now Pledge

**Bhubaneswar:** Blue Dart, South Asia's premier express air and integrated transportation & distribution company and a part of the Deutsche Post DHL (DPDHL) Group has signed the 'Climate Neutral Now' (CNN) pledge by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The pledge highlights the organisation's commitment

to ambitious CO2 reduction targets. Deutsche Post DHL Group has adopted a package of measures worth up to ₹7 billion to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in line with the Paris Climate Agreement, primarily to expand the use of sustainable technologies and fuels in its fleets and buildings. Its long term goal is to reduce GHG emissions to net zero by

2050. The Climate Neutral Now Initiative encourages and supports interested stakeholders to act now in order to achieve a climate neutral world by 2050 as enshrined in the Paris Agreement. The initiative is a tool to promote voluntary action on climate change. Blue Dart has already invested extensively in remaining a Sustainable Provider of Choice by being the first

in the industry to set quantified carbon-reduction targets. The organisation, as a part of the Deutsche Post DHL Group aimed to increase their CO2 efficiency by 10% by the year 2012 and 30% by the year 2020. Against the 30% target, Blue Dart achieved a 34% CO2 efficiency in 2021. Pablo Ciano, EVP Corporate Development, DPDHL Group says, "As a Group, we have

developed a Sustainability Roadmap that supports the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. We are constantly working towards introducing innovative green logistics solutions that improve our carbon footprint. I am delighted to share that representing the DHL eCommerce Solutions Division in India, Blue Dart has been delivering high on its sustainability initiatives.

## India to see largest increase in energy demand worldwide over the next 20 years, says Infomercs

New Delhi, India faces the twin dilemma of co-existence of shortage and abundance in several parts of its energy system. While the provision of electricity has increased significantly over the years, weak institutions and utility governance hamper the power sector's financial performance with issues of accountability, operational efficiency, customer service, and transmission to state-level transmission institutions. The sector takes a huge and grossly unacceptable hit due to extensive losses, leakages and pilferages, and the cost recovery

from tariffs. These are some major findings of a report titled Power Sector in India: New Emerging Opportunities and Challenges released by Infomercs Valuation and Rating Pvt Ltd., the well-known SEBI-registered and RBI-accredited financial services credit rating company. The report explores the opportunities and challenges ahead for India as it seeks to ensure reliable, affordable and sustainable energy for a growing population. During FY20 and FY19, the growth of electricity generation was lower than in the previous financial years because

of the impact of COVID-19. The report quotes the International Energy Agency (IEA) stating that during FY21 recovery in electricity demand from the COVID-19 pandemic was faster and stronger in India than in EU countries. India is the third-largest producer and the third-largest consumer of electricity in the world. With the increasing population, electricity demand is rising at a fast clip and India has improved its power generation capacity over the years. India has added more than 500 billion units until FY22 from FY10.



