

# The Eastern Times

ESTD. 1949

FOUNDED BY Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab

Vol-XVII

No-6

Cuttack

February 01-07, 2008

16 Pages

Rs. 2.00

E-mail: [easterntimes@sify.com](mailto:easterntimes@sify.com)

## Woman enters unknown field, reaps success

**Bargarh:** As you reach Palibugbuga village, 10km from Atabira block in Bargarh district, you are struck by a patch of land with multi-coloured vegetation in the midst of vast paddy fields. That patch is Santosini Karna's labour of love — several varieties of medicinal plants and crops. The 36-year-old is Orissa's first woman farmer of such plants.

A few years ago, distress sale of paddy was rampant in Bargarh district, known as the 'rice bowl' of Orissa. The returns were very low and this forced farmers to sell their paddy at throwaway prices.

Santosini, a housewife in the village, was concerned by this. She read an article on cultivation of medicinal plants and got hooked to the idea.

Though there were several government schemes for cultivation of **• P 15**

## Orissa launches low cost housing scheme

*Mo Kudia: Naveen's latest offer*

**Bhubaneswar:** Accusing the Centre of depriving ten lakh families in Orissa of the benefits meant for the poor by insisting on listing BPL families in Orissa according to the 2002 list, the Orissa government has announced a low cost housing scheme to cover all those denied houses under the central programme, official sources said.

"Mo Kudia" (My Hut) scheme has been launched to provide houses to 10 lakh poor families who would be deprived of the benefits meant



for families living below the poverty line (bpl), Panchayati Raj Minister Raghunath Mohanty said.

The BPL families were entitled to get houses under

Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), ration cards and old age pensions.

"Mo Kudia" scheme was introduced after Biju Gram Jyoti Yojana for rural electri-

fication and Biju KBK Yojana meant to elevate living standard of the people in the backward KBK (Koraput-Balangir-Kalahandi) region.

All the three schemes were announced by the state government alleging that the Centre was "neglecting" the state even in welfare of the poor.

The decision to launch "Mo Kudia" scheme was taken at a high-level meeting presided over by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik here. The State had **• P 15**

## From Kapilas to Everest

**Cuttack:** Dhenkanal lawyer Kalpana Das's (41) next assignment may take her further from Orissa courts — into the base camps of the Himalayas.

Despite two failed attempts, the lawyer and mountaineer, is ready to tackle the 8,848-metre Mount Everest. In May 2004, the climber from Sariapara, a



nondescript village in Dhenkanal district, scaled 7,300metres without oxygen. Two years later she went up to 8,048 metres, entering the

death zone — an area marked by oxygen scarcity, sub-zero temperature and hurricane winds.

However, Kalpana's determination has not wavered from the dream that she has nursed since she was seven years old. This year she has set her sight on the highest peak in the world, yet again, as an individual, **• P 15**

## Orissa signs 3 fresh MoUs for setting up new units

**Bhubaneswar:** The steel sector in Orissa has got a further boost with the state government signing three fresh MoUs for setting up units, taking the total proposed capacity of output to 75.66 mtpa, involving a total investment of nearly Rs 2,00,000 crore, official sources said.

With this, the number of MoUs for establishment of steel units touched 49, including 11 for mega projects. Besides MoUs with the largest steel maker in the world Arcelor-Mittal and South Korean giant Posco, the government had signed agreements with domestic firms such as Jindal, Tata Steel and others for mega projects.

All the MoUs were signed during the last six years, they said, adding 26 steel projects had **• P 15**

## Cuttack's kite lovers revive tradition

**Cuttack:** Years ago flying kites was almost written off as a dying tradition in Cuttack — but a certain group of people were convinced that the romance was not over.

People of an old locality in Ganeshghat near the banks of Kathajodi decided to revive Cuttack's old passion through the Hare Krishna Das Memorial Kite Flying Tournament-2008 held on the sandy bed of the Kathajodi.

Late Hare Krishna Das of Sahibzada Bazaar was a

wrestler known for his ingenious kite-flying in the locality. He died in 1990.

"So we named our organisation and the tournament after him," said Subash Sharma, 52

The tournament, which was started in 1992, was the brainchild of Sharma.

This year the meet that concluded recently saw the



largest number of participants — more than 350 people. "When we started

over a decade ago there were hardly 40 participants and the meet lasted for some hours.

Over the years numbers rose. And this year the numbers went up to 350-and-above forcing us to stretch the meet over four days," said Subash Sharma,

the organising secretary of the Hare Krishna Das Memorial Kite Flying Tournament.

Some two decades ago kite flying was Cuttack's passion, especially during the winter and after Makar Sankranti children and men alike would pour into the dusty streets to fly kites. When interests started to wane the organisation comprising older members (between 40 and 50 years of age) took a stand.

## Letters to the Editor

### Welcome move

Sir, The BJP's decision to provide for 33 per cent reservation for women in organisational posts is a welcome move. The pronouncement is a landmark in Indian politics and may be a path-finder for other national parties. Women's empowerment is the need of the hour. It is a laudable move but it is unlikely to succeed until 33 per cent reservation for women is institutionalised through a constitutional amendment as similar promises have been made but have not succeeded. The BJP's move is a radical shift towards gender equality and political empowerment of women.

—**Badri Narayan Mohanty, Bhubaneswar**

### as they said it...

It is part of the British policy that in the reformed UN Security Council India must have a place.

—**British Prime Minister Gordon Brown**

A huge amount of creative freedom should be allowed in cinema. We should not have huge censorship.

—**Actor Shahrukh Khan**

I have won many awards and trophies but Padma Vibhushan is right at the top.

—**Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar**

In the past few months, we got sidetracked on Kashmir. But it is now on track.

—**Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf**

I would have been delighted to have accepted the honour from French officials in Delhi. I'll be happy if the certificate is couriered to Kolkata.

—**Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasreen**

Politics is not like an off and on switch. You win and you lose. It does not mean that you are in or out.

—**Congress leader Rahul Gandhi**

## Gospels from Eternity

The mantram AUM stands for the supreme state. Of Turiya, without parts, beyond birth And death, symbol of everlasting joy. Those who know AUM as the self become the Self: truly they become the Self.

—**The Mandukya Upanishads**

Whichever way one looks, one finds Ishwara, the Lord. None has won salvation without his grace.

—**The Vedas**

If you know you are alive, find the essence of life. Life is the sort of guest you don't meet twice.

—**Kabir**

## HERE & THERE

### 3 radicals held from hospital

**Bhubaneswar:** In a swift operation, police arrested three members of radical group CPI(ML) Janashakti from Kalinga Hospital here on Wednesday.

One of them is suspected to be Anna Reddy, leader of the outfit in the State, though police would not confirm. Unaware that Jajpur police was trailing them, the three were attending to a woman at the hospital. The woman, Nanika Jamuda, 21, was admitted on January 28 after a bout of cerebral malaria. She is believed to be Reddy's partner. The arrest, kept under wraps, has taken place exactly a year after CPI(ML) Janashakti cadres allegedly massacred three forest officials in Dhenkanal's Kankadahad forests. Police are hot on the trail of the radical group which is believed to be a major force in instigating violence at Kalinga Nagar where 13 tribals were killed in police firing in 2006. Though CPI(ML) Janashakti is a banned outfit in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa is yet to impose any restriction on it.

Police sources said a team of Jajpur police, led by SP D N Kutte, was in the city after getting intelligence inputs about these radicals. Police tracked them from their mobile phones. A senior IPS officer said: "Interrogation is still on. Their identity would be revealed only after we reach a conclusion."

### Man arrested for killing tusker

**Khurda:** Wildlife officials arrested a man in Khurda district

for killing a tusker, officials said.

Purnachandra Baliarsingh, 70, was held in his village near the Chandaka elephant reserve on charges of killing a 50-year-old elephant called Abhimanyu, Divisional Forest Officer A.K. Patnaik told. Abhimanyu had strayed from the reserve two days ago and according to Baliarsingh, the pachiderm entered Madhupur village, 30 km from here, and had allegedly destroyed Baliarsingh's paddy fields. Baliarsingh then shot the elephant, using his licensed gun. The villager, however, maintains that he was forced to kill the tusker in self-defence.

The elephant had been named Abhimanyu by residents of villages around the reserve as he frequented the area and never caused harm to humans.

### Maoists blast police officials' newly built houses in Orissa

**Malkangiri:** Maoists used landmines to blast newly built houses for police officials in Malkangiri district, a police official said. Guerrillas of the outlawed Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-Maoist) exploded landmines at the empty houses which are part of a jail complex being built in MV 79 village. A district police official said the Maoists ran into a nearby forest after destroying the houses. A police party has been sent to the spot.

### Poison kills family of 5

**Cuttack:** Orissa police has started investigations into the unnatural deaths of a woman and her four daughters — suspecting it to be a case of suicide.

Kuni Sethi (39), the wife of Kailash Chandra Sethi, and her daughters, aged between 18 and four years, were found dead at Patasundarpur village under Govindpur police station, 20km from here. The police arrived at the scene after being informed of the incident over the telephone by villagers around 4am. Preliminary probe has indicated that the mother had stopped cooking for the past three days, reportedly after she fought with her 45-year-old husband — a farmland labourer — who left his house for his "quota" of marijuana on Wednesday evening and returned about 11.30 pm.

About 12.30 am he called out to the neighbours to help him wake his wife and children, who were not opening the door for him. The villagers found the five, dead.

"There were always some quarrel in the family over Kailash's lifestyle. But she never seemed suicidal," said a shocked neighbour. "We suspect that she killed herself and her children by using poison," Sinha said. Police have registered a case of unnatural death and the bodies have been sent for post-mortem. The husband has been detained for interrogation.

## People-Society-Faith

### Purpose of incarnation

The forms that the Supreme Being assumes during His advents (Avatara) in this world are all divine and the most recent of them is His Krishnavatara. The important feature of this incarnation was His accessibility to one and all, and His divine nature was made explicit in the course of accomplishing the purpose of His descent. As though pointing to the nature of the age (Kali yuga) that was to follow in which there would be decline of Dharma, the Bhagavata Purana which was written by Vyasa exclusively to highlight the glory of Krishna and devotion to Him begins by stating the benefit of listening to His glory depicted in this Purana: "An inquiry concerning the story of Lord Vasudeva indeed purifies all these three persons, the narrator, the interlocutor and the audience." This Purana was composed for the purpose of listening and is in the form of Sage Suka's narration to King Pareekshit. The Purana begins its description of Krishnavatara with Mother Earth in the form of a disconsolate cow appealing to

the creator, Brahma, to alleviate her distress wrought by the misrule of arrogant kings. Brahma along with Lord Siva and other gods escorted her to the abode of Lord Vishnu. An ethereal voice then answered that He was aware of her plight and commanded the celestials to be born among the Yadus as part manifestation during Lord Vishnu's birth as Vasudeva's son. It also prophesied that the serpent-god Ananta (Balarama) would precede the Lord as His elder brother and His divine potency (Maya) would be born to aid the purpose of His descent.

Everything about Lord Krishna's birth proclaimed His divine nature. When Kamsa was escorting the marriage procession of his cousin Devaki after she was given in marriage to Vasudeva, an incorporeal voice warned Kamsa that Devaki's eighth-born son would slay him. Petrified he imprisoned the couple even though Vasudeva promised to hand over his children. When Krishna was born in the prison cell He blessed Vasudeva and Devaki with the vision of His divine form and they prayed to Him overwhelmed by their good fortune.

EDITED

Printed and

Published by

**Bhartruhari Mahtab**

on behalf of

Prajatantra Prachar Samity

at Prajatantra Press,

Prajatantra Buildings,

Cuttack- 753002.

Phone- 2607183

Fax- 2607111, 2608111

Gram- PRAJATANTR.

E-mail :

easterntimes@sify.com

E-edition:

easterntimes.wordpress.com

## THOUGHT TO TREASURE

*You shall judge of a man by his  
foes as well as by his friends.*

— JOSEPH CONRAD

The  
**Eastern Times**  
ESTD. 1949

Cuttack, February 01, 2008, Friday

## OVER AMBITIOUS APPROACH

The draft political resolution prepared by the CPM for the Party Congress at Coimbatore from March 29 to April 3 can only be described as over-ambitious. It has floated the idea of a third alternative, which will keep the "enemy No. 1" BJP and the "secular, bourgeois" Congress out of power. It is an open admission that the CPM is not happy with providing outside support to the United Progressive Alliance government at the Centre. During the last two and a half years, the CPM has succeeded in influencing government decisions like no other outside supporter has ever done. While it takes credit for some of the "progressive decisions", it wants to put the UPA in the dock for its "anti-people" policies. Logically, it has no basis in supporting the government. But to withdraw support is to invite elections, which the Left is not prepared to face at this juncture.

The strategy is, therefore, aimed at the next general election whenever it is held. The CPM is strong in only Kerala, West Bengal and Tripura and in these states its main rival is the Congress. It will, therefore, be suicidal to have an alliance with the Congress. The influence it enjoys in the corridors of power in Delhi is on account of the UPA's dependence on the Left. Having tasted power without responsibility - stalling the nuclear deal with the US and labour reforms, for instance - it does not want to be sulking on the national political sidelines after the next elections. By aligning with small parties, it thinks it will be able to provide a third alternative. Over-optimism will not lead a party anywhere. The CPM is not in a position to even draw up a list of political parties, which will be enthused by such an idea. The AIADMK's Jayalithaa developing cold feet soon after announcing her intention to field a third candidate to fight the presidential elections is too recent to be forgotten.

The potential allies of the CPM like the DMK, the Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Samajwadi Party have their own caste and regional agenda, which preclude them from becoming an adjunct of the Left. To assume that these parties will support the Left in fighting globalisation and sabotaging the India-US nuclear deal is tantamount to believing that the political agenda of the CPM would help it play a pivotal role in Indian politics. □ □

## Border dispute is litmus test for Sino-India ties

Kuldip Nayar

India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, went to the furthest to accommodate China. A CIA report of the Sixties, now available from the archives, says that he was so "afraid" of annoying China that he kept overlooking its intrusion into Indian territory. The report says that he would rather accommodate China than confront it. This is factually correct. Even when some Indian soldiers on patrol at the Aksai Chin road built forcibly by China, were killed by the Chinese, Nehru did not register any serious protest. He maintained that it was a clash of wills, not of arms.

Border violation reports which were forwarded to Nehru ended up in the home ministry which put them in what was called the "border file." The bureaucrats would laugh at Nehru's inaction, particularly in the home ministry where I worked as information officer. I too felt let down by my hero, Nehru. However, when I now analyse the events of those days I feel that Nehru, although disappointed over the behaviour of China which he projected to the world, wanted to go to the maximum limit to stay friendly with it. He could visualise the dangerous fallout if the two countries were to clash. He explained to the chief ministers: "It is a little naïve to think that the trouble with China was essentially due to a dispute over some territory. It had deeper reasons. Two of the largest countries in Asia confronted each other over a vast border. They differed in many ways. And the test was as to whether any one of them would have a more dominating position than the other on the border and in Asia itself. We do not desire to dominate any country and we are content to live peacefully with other countries provided they do not interfere with us or commit aggression. China, on the other hand, clearly did not like the idea of such a peaceful existence and wants to have a dominating position in Asia..."

Reports from China on the visit by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh were so full of clichés like "positive," "breakthrough" and "meeting of minds" that it was difficult to get the real picture. Both countries, giants in their own

way, follow different ideologies and have done well economically. But they are undoubtedly suspicious of each other. Has Manmohan Singh's trip allayed the distrust which the two have harboured for years? The success of the trip depends on the answer we have.

The cooperation in civil nuclear field, the 60 million-dollar mutual trade, the support for the Security Council's membership or the 11 bilateral documents are welcome. They indicate progress and the economic prowess which one is beginning to recognise in the other. The litmus test is how far China is willing to give in on the border dispute. Here the score is zero. In fact, China has resiled from the earlier understanding given to India. The formulation at Beijing this time was that both sides "seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable resolution" on the basis of the political parameters and guiding principles announced in the past." This is nothing more than a pious statement. The understanding given to New Delhi was that the line of demarcation would not go through populated areas. It meant that China had moved away from its claim on Arunachal in the Northeast. New Delhi reportedly wanted this in writing. But China talked in terms of small, medium and dense pockets. Another thing agreed upon earlier was the exchange of maps. There was not even a mention of that. It was no use getting euphoric over gestures like the private dinner given by the Chinese Premier to Manmohan Singh. The hype was bigger when Nehru visited China in 1954. One million people had turned out to welcome him on a 12-mile-long route from the airport. It was described as a "Roman triumph." We, who were following the visit, got equally involved emotionally like the media personnel covering Manmohan Singh's trip. We too refused to report odd border incidents that had cast a shadow on the sunlit mountaintops.

New Delhi will be committing the same mistake by minimising the dispute for the sake of good relations. The progress on the dispute has been dismal.

The meetings of different Indian Prime Ministers with their counterparts and the unending rounds of talks between the officials of the two countries have not made China withdraw even an inch from the Indian territories it nibbled at in the Fifties and occupied during the 1962 war.

India had proposed that both countries could have free trade and economic ties and not let the dispute on Kashmir come in the way. Islamabad said that unless the Kashmir issue was settled, there was no question of having business relations with India. The problem India faces with China is that the status quo on the border is 45 years old. What is de facto generally becomes de jure. I concede that all of India's claims cannot be fulfilled. There has to be a give-and-take policy. But China should at least implement the Colombo proposals to prove that it is willing to go beyond the status quo. By all means, we should move on and overcome the hurt of the past. Yet the aggression should be "a permanent piece of education," as Nehru said, lest emotions should make us one day write off the occupation of Indian territory.

Whatever distance we span with China and however close ties we develop with it — Manmohan Singh's trip has done that — we should never forget that at the height of Hindi-Chini bhai-bhai China crossed the international border to humiliate us. Nehru tried to give China a new vision. But China was at that time opposed to the path of "cooperation" for development and peace and had opted for "self-reliant detachment and confrontation."

Times have changed since China has now a stake in peace because it does not want any obstruction in its soaring growth rate. Manmohan Singh too has also given a vision: the two countries can dislodge the West as the centre of global economic gravity. But confrontation, as he said, has to be avoided. This may persuade China not to insist on India to accept the status quo. Beijing should realise that Manmohan Singh cannot sell the border as it exists. It has political overtones which can disturb the economic rhythm.

India, which has made impressive strides in area such as space exploration, information technology and stem cell research, is however, saddled with the problem of child malnutrition. Resulting in a poor track record of the country in human resources development.

In fact, a recent study by UNICEF highlights the fact that malnutrition among 35% of the children aged below 5 years and close to 9.4-million children outside the immunization network is the biggest challenge that India needs to overcome to achieve the millennium developmental goals.

Even as the under-5 mortality rate has shown a certain decrease, underweight births and neonatal mortality are some of the health issues that need to be tackled immediately, says a recent UNICEF study. The States with the highest number of underweight children are Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Bihar followed by Gujarat, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and Meghalaya.

Although, India has covered much ground in bringing down the child mortality rate, the average annual rate of reduction in under-5 mortality between 1990-2006 has been 2.6% which needs to be improved to 7.6% per year, in the next five years to realize the millennium developmental goal by 2015.

Posco-India is in a Catch-22 situation. While the Supreme Court's Central Empowered Committee has asked the South Korean steel giant to submit a composite forest diversion proposal for the entire project, including the mining component, the company maintains the procedure for getting a mining lease in India is such that it is impossible to present a composite FDP.

The company says the labyrinthine process for getting a mining lease will take a minimum of 3-4 years, before which it cannot submit an FDP. A Department of Mines official believes it is an optimistic assumption.

He thinks it could easily take five years since Posco's prospective mining area is huge (over 6,200 hectares).

This is how it works. The company first applies for a

## Child Malnutrition India leads in infant mortality

Radhakrishna Rao

As it stands, of the 19-million infants in the developing world with low birth weight, 8.3-million are in India. One of the biggest killers of infants in India is water-borne diseases thanks to the consumption of unsafe water. Here again, the failure of the Government agencies to make available safe, potable water to the entire population in the country has contributed in a big way to infant mortality. Presently, around 27% of the population is forced to make use of unsafe water.

Making matters worse, the prevailing poverty rate in the rural areas of States such as Orissa and Bihar is much higher than in African countries like Malawi or Ghana. Not surprisingly then, a recent UNDP document laments the fact that India has miserably failed to translate its impressive economic growth into developmental indexes at the grassroots level. In similar vein, the World Bank's Development Policy Review points out that the growth which took place post liberalization in the 1990s did not touch the poorest of the poor. Particularly, in the southern and western regions of the country.

"Some of India's southern States may be in the midst of a

technology boom, but one in every 11 children in the country die in the first 5 years for lack of low cost medical intervention", says the UNDP's Human Development Report. Shockingly, Karnataka known for its world class IT (Information Technology) and high-tech industrial enterprises, has 44% of its children below three years who are underweight and 37% who have stunted growth." Poor children are more prone to anemia due to the lack of calcium and other essential nutrients. Not only are they underweight but also end up contracting diseases like tuberculosis.

It is speculated that India's low per capita income making for a low purchasing capacity of the masses is a major factor behind the prevailing child malnutrition rate in the country. Surprisingly however, a number of countries in the sub-Saharan region who have lower levels of per capita income compared to India report a lower rate of child malnutrition. Bluntly, the poor state of public health services is a major contributor to child malnutrition in India.

Further, also affecting the

health and nutritional well being of the children is the limited reach of maternal health care services. Happily, Tamil Nadu has done an impressive job in drastically reducing the incidence of infant mortality and child malnutrition through well conceived schemes implemented with a high degree of commitment and accountability. There is no gainsaying, that reducing child malnutrition requires enhancing the women's health status and the promotion of gender equity. According to a development economist, A.K.Shivakumar, "India's high levels of child malnutrition reflect the continuing neglect of health care services, the inadequate reach and efficacy of health and child care services and the failure of the strategies to reach the new born children and those under the age of three. These deficiencies need to be addressed immediately". Even the rate of pre-natal mortality is quite high in the country --- 49 for every 1000 pregnancies. Such mortality has been found to be high in young mothers and in first pregnancies. Moreover, it is highest for the rural, poor and illiterate mothers. No matter that the infant mortality rate has been brought down to 68 deaths per 1,000 births. The

third National Family and Health Survey has revealed that 46% of the children are malnourished. Though the infant mortality rate has reduced by the introduction of various schemes, but it continues to be much higher than in other developing countries. This is compounded by the fact that less than half of all Indian women receive care after child birth and only 40% give birth in hospitals or public health care centres. Surveys also show that more than half of the children of less than 5 years of age in the country are anemic.

The most distressing ground reality responsible for infant and child malnutrition is the fact that one in every 5 Indians suffer from hunger or semi starvation. Indeed, India is a poignant case study of how food sufficiency at the aggregate level has not got translated into food security at the household level.

Scandalously, a staggeringly large number of undernourished --- about 214 million people --- are chronically food insecure in the country. And this has resulted in about half of the children suffering the symptoms of malnourishment with serious consequences for their physical well being and mental poise. What is more, over 20% children have a low birth weight and there is a high prevalence of anemia and other micro-nutritional deficiencies in children under 5 years of age. ---INFA

## Green laws turn hurdles for Posco

Latha Jishnu

prospecting licence and then begins prospecting.

This could take at least a couple of years. Then it prepares the mining development plan and applies for a mining lease in which the forest diversion areas are identified. Officials said the normal time lag for this would be 3-4 years and could at best be scrunched to two years.

"Right now, we are struggling to get the prospecting licence," points out Posco-India Chairman and Managing Director Soungsik Cho, who says the CEC recommendation simply does not make sense. The catch for Posco is that under the memorandum of understanding signed with Orissa, the Korean steel major has to award at least half the

orders for civil contracts and 20 per cent orders for the machinery before the state government approves its mining lease, which is granted by the Union steel and mines ministry.

"That means without making investments, we cannot get the mining lease and without the mining lease, we can't have an FDP," says an incensed Cho.

Environmentalists, however, insist that an integrated steel project like Posco should have a clear idea of the total forest land that would be needed. R Sreedhar, Director of the Delhi-based Academy of Mountain Environics who is a geologist by training, says the CEC has a top forest

official as one of its five members and has a sound rationale for its observations. The Supreme Court's decision on the CEC recommendation is expected shortly. For Posco, however, there are more legal pitfalls.

In the wake of a petition filed by the state-owned Kudremukh Iron Ore Corporation Ltd staking first claim on the Khandadhar mines, reserved for Posco, the Orissa mines department is scrutinising the 200 prospecting licence applications made before the South Koreans came into the picture.

KIOCL claims it has spent several crores prospecting the area. According to official sources, most of the scrutiny is over although 65 applicants have failed to

appear before the authorities.

The process has been stymied because one of the companies has got a stay from the Orissa High Court contending that the first batch of applications deserved priority. "In India, nothing happens smoothly because there are different interests at play," says a senior official in Bhubaneswar. "We are hopeful the legal complexities can be ironed out soon." Posco is unlikely to be deterred by these legal twists and turns.

The Pohang-based steel giant's CEO, Lee Ku-taek, was quoted as saying that the company would stay with the India project regardless of how long it took or how much effort it called for. The remarks were made to the CEO Forum in Seoul in early January. □

Hundreds of families in a remote region of Orissa remain homeless and without support after a wave of violence swept the region last month.

The minority Christian community in Kandhamal district, many of whom are forest tribal people and low-caste Dalit converts from Hinduism to Christianity, say they've been targeted by radical Hindu nationalist organisations seeking to put an end to the church and its activities in the region.

This is rejected by the Hindu groups who say the violence is the consequence of local issues unconnected with their presence in the area.

The district has remained under night-time curfew since the tensions erupted and has been largely inaccessible to foreign journalists until now.

#### Repeated pattern

Father Ravi Samasundar stands amid the burned out ruins of his church in the town of Bamunigan.

"They brought oil, and kerosene, piled everything they could find in the middle of the church and set fire to it. They destroyed or looted everything."

Across this remote region, deep in the highland forests, the pattern was repeated over and over.

Churches were ransacked, entire villages razed and their inhabitants forced to flee into the forests.

The violence, which began on Christmas Eve, has now largely abated, but the plight of the people has not.

Many are now living in the shells of their burned out homes, all their possessions lost.

The conflict has pitted Hindu against Christian, tribal against non-tribal.

All share some responsibility for what has happened, all have suffered. Years of

## What is behind Hindu-Christian violence

Dan Isaacs

When I met Mr Misra in his office, the front page of a recent addition of the paper lay on the desk between us.

It accused the 'Sons of Jesus' of attacking Hindus, and reported on a Christian mob brutally injuring the local Hindu leader Saraswati, an event which triggered much of the worst violence, and which subsequently turned out to be entirely false.

Was there, I asked, a campaign of conversion, or re-conversion of Christians to Hinduism in the area? "If those Hindus who converted to Christianity want to come back," he told me, "the door is now open to them."

#### Christian mob

No side is left blameless



Some of the displaced are in a refugee camp in the town of Bamunigan

relatively peaceful co-existence of these communities, living a fragile rural existence, has been shattered.

#### Seething

The Christian community blames the virulently anti-Christian rhetoric of Hindu nationalist organisations; and one person in particular, a revered local holy man, Lakhanananda Saraswati.

Father Ravi Samasundar seethes with anger at what has been happening.

"Saraswati speaks against Christianity, against the priests, against the nuns," he says.

Hindu activists accuse the local Christian community of stirring up trouble by making "unreasonable" demands - a reference to their attempts to be granted the same preferential access to jobs and education given to low-caste Hindus and tribal communities.

"Political parties or organisations have nothing to do with this. It is a clear social problem", says Jagabandhu Mishra, editor of Rashtra Deepa - a newspaper in the local Oriya language, which reflects the more extreme views of the Hindu nationalists.

of tribal Christians had descended on them, forcing them to flee into the forest, before destroying every shop and dwelling in the village.

For those now living in



A Hindu woman walks through her destroyed village

makeshift tents, or in the ruins of their old homes, aid from the state government has been limited: a few tents, some plastic sheeting, food and cooking utensils.

But far more is needed on a sustained basis.

Ministers from the Hindu nationalist BJP-controlled state government have toured the area, made promises, but pledged little constructive support for those in most need.

Perhaps more alarmingly, NGOs and church organisations have been banned from offering direct assistance. The official reason given is that by helping one community and not another, they may provoke further violence.

#### Interest rates

Church and other aid organisations, desperate to help their local communities see sinister motives at work.

"This conflict is fought in the name of religion," says NGO worker Kailash Chandra Dandpath, "but the real motives are economic and political.

"The business community here, with its links to the Hindu nationalist organisations, were once in complete control here. They'd lend money to the tribals and the Dalits at incredibly high rates of interest, up to 120% per year,

and then the debtor would have to sell his farm produce to the lender at a price controlled by the businessmen."

Mr Dandpath is describing the system still widely practiced in India, of bonded exploitation, where a family might well be indebted to the lender for generations.

"What's happening

now", says Mr Dandpath, "is that the farmers, the most marginalised of whom are from tribal and Christian communities, are being linked by the NGOs to local banks, lending at perhaps 10% interest a year - ten times less.

"This is clearly a threat to the businessmen. And they are trying to break this link, using religion as an excuse... in India, the easiest method of politics is to take religion to divide and rule."

The dynamics of conflict are rarely easy to dissect.

There are always eco-



This elderly Hindu woman lives with her adopted Christian son

nomic and social divisions within society to be exploited by those more rich and powerful, particularly when the existing order is threatened.

And there's no doubt that the diverse communities in Kandhamal district have suffered a terrible tragedy in recent weeks, which threatens to break down the existing delicate social order there forever. ▣



Lakhanananda Saraswati says he was attacked by a mob

*Gopalpur could be any seaside resort - except for the stray cows.*

**Stephen McClarence**  
*shuns the Golden Triangle for Orissa*

Sunday afternoon at the seaside. Waves crash on the beach, children build sandcastles, families stroll along the prom licking ice-creams. Quintessentially English - except that most of the women are wearing saris, stalls are selling curried snacks and stray cows are grazing piles of rubbish. This is Gopalpur-on-Sea, an unlikely outpost of Britain's seaside empire.

The town's name on maps of India has always intrigued me. A fishing village developed last century as a sort of Weston-super-Mare for the Raj, it is tucked away in the eastern state of Orissa. In its holiday heyday, as Jan Morris writes in *Stones of Empire*, its "27 authentic seaside boarding houses regretted that breakfast could not be served in bedrooms except in case of genuine sickness".

Gopalpur, with its grand views of sunrise over the Bay of Bengal, is the final destination of the week my wife Clare and I are spending in Orissa, one of India's least-visited states. It rises to densely forested hills from coastal paddy fields fringed with palm trees and ponds of hyacinths. It feels remote, but has good transport connections with Calcutta and Madras and would suit visitors ready to move on from the Indian "starter pack"

## Saris and sexgods in India



of Kerala and the Delhi-Agra-Jaipur Golden Triangle.

Its fame rests on its temples. As our train from Calcutta pulls in at Bhubaneswar, the state capital, I read that the city has about 500 of them. This is not necessarily good news. Over 15 Indian trips, many long afternoons of padding across warm temple floors have left me "temped out". So what a pleasant surprise Bhubaneswar's temples will turn out to be.

The city, with its broad avenues and plush hotels - notably the elegant Trident Hilton - has little of the hustle and bustle of a state capital. Its parks, gardens and languid cyclists give it the easygoing charm of small-town India. In two days, we see only three other Westerners.

We visit the State Museum, with its life-sized tableaux of many of the 62 tribes making up a quarter of Orissa's population. They are shown sifting grain, dancing and wrestling pythons. Each tribe is summed up by a caption. One points out that the Santal tribe "love tidiness".

Across town, at the top of a drive lined with marigolds, is a separate Tribal Museum, whose displays of necklaces, anklets, waist-chains and toe-rings show artistic skills honed to any anatomical challenge.

Surprised to have Western visitors, one of the

museum staff, Sadasiba Dash, takes us on a leisurely tour of re-created huts, pointing out trumpets made from bison horns, posts where the Kondh tribe sacrifice buffalo, and staring yellow faces painted on poles to ward off evil spirits.

From here, we visit the market, a place of unexpected calm and resplendent silk saris. We buy intricately woven baskets ... but it's no good, I'm going to have to face the temples sooner or later.

With 500 to go at, we settle for four, all small. We have most of them to ourselves and, with no would-be guides to distract, it's a delight to have the time and space to take in 1,000-year-old carvings of coquettish dancing girls, elephants snoozing under palm trees, monkeys de-nitting each other, and couples enjoying astonishingly athletic sex.

Forty miles (60km) down the road at Konark, it's a different story. Here is the great Sun Temple, a Unesco World Heritage Site. Designed like a war chariot, it attracts hordes of Indian coach parties. For all its stunning scale, however, its carvings are less well-preserved than those in Bhubaneswar and the experience is more diffuse, with hawkers selling plastic temple models and, enterprisingly, cucumbers ("Very cooling, sir").

Along the coast, Puri is

one of India's most sacred towns. Here the Jagannath temple, soaring over surrounding streets like a colossal chess piece, is closed to non-Hindus, who view it from a platform at the nearby Raghunandan Library.

The librarian, R.N. Das, leads us up a wooden staircase ("Beware - there may be monkeys") to the platform. Below, the main street is a clamour of priests, pilgrims, beggars and touts: the whole Chaucerian panoply of pilgrimage with an Indian slant. At festivals, 700,000 people gather here. "In your country, not so many people?" Mr Das says. We shake our heads. "Oh, very lonely," he says.

Puri has another side: as a holiday resort. The Brits once flocked here from Calcutta, staying at the South Eastern Railway Hotel, which now looks as long past its best as the hunting trophies still clinging to its walls.

These days, Bengali families throng the beach, clamber on to the fairground rides and nibble candyfloss. Flare-lit evenings are magical and, with a few more seagulls, it could be Brighton, though with deckchairs replaced by red plastic bucket chairs.

It seems a foretaste of Gopalpur-on-Sea. We drive down on a Sunday afternoon, overtaking bullock carts on National Highway 5, turn on

to a quiet road and are full of anticipation as we reach the outskirts of town: scattered shops and tea stalls, tailors with whirring sewing machines and adverts for Vishnu Cement - "God's Own Concrete".

It quickly transpires, however, that we're not in Gopalpur's outskirts, but in the town's centre. This may once have been an important trading port for Java and Sumatra, but it now seems a two-goat town. As such, of course, it's a perfect place to relax.

Raneshwar Rath, our hotel's helpful manager, takes us on an "orientation tour". He points out the Roman Catholic church, the lighthouse and the prawn factory, the gutted Victorian school and the handful of decaying British bungalows, creepers straggling their verandas. Here is Brighton Villa, there Mary Villa. "British foreigners are staying here until 1947, until independence," he says. "Nowadays not."

We seem to have found the ultimate backwater. But we turn a corner on to the seafront, and the place explodes with life. The beach is packed with day-trippers. Picnicking families sit cross-legged on blankets; rows of chairs are lined up facing the sea, as though in a cinema; children pester their parents to buy cheap souvenirs made from sea-shells.

By sunset, the crowds will have gone home to nearby towns, leaving just thousands of footprints on the deserted beach, but for the moment it feels like a bank holiday.

Rashmi Sarangi, a young insurance consultant, has biked 20 miles here with his wife and friends. Why have they come, I ask. He smiles. "For merrymaking only," he says. □

## Samples from Orissa test negative for bird flu

**Bhubaneswar:** Blood samples taken from poultry and people suspected to have been infected by bird flu in Orissa have tested negative, officials said.

"We had collected blood samples from thousands of birds from various parts of the state as well as from all suspected patients soon after getting the news of the bird flu outbreak in neighbouring West Bengal," Bishnupada Sethi, director of the fisheries and animal resource development department, told.

"The bloods samples were

sent to different laboratories of the country. We have received the test reports and all of them were found to be negative," he said.

The state government is, however, not taking any chances. It has sealed all the borders with West Bengal and Jharkhand and banned the import of poultry from these states. Apart from sealing borders, hundreds of veterinary officials have been deployed to check vehicles coming in from West Bengal, Sethi said.

"We have asked the collectors of all 30 districts

to remain alert and draw samples from birds that have flu-like symptoms," said Hrusikesh Panda, secretary of the fisheries and animal resource development department. "We have placed advertisements in all newspapers and television channels, asking people not to panic," he added.

The state government has also asked the central government to provide 500,000 doses of bird flu vaccines and declare that the villages bordering West Bengal and Jharkhand are free from the disease.

## Four Govt offices ransacked in Orissa

**Bhubaneswar:** Four government offices were ransacked as lawyers in southern and western Orissa stepped up their agitation demanding setting up of high court benches in their regions, official sources said.

The stir took a violent turn in Ganjam district when at least four government offices including sub-collector, Berhampur and Tehsil office as also a court hall were ransacked, they said adding

the entrance gate of the Revenue Divisional Commissioner's office was also damaged. "About 60 to 70 persons forcibly entered the chamber and started ransacking furniture and other things," said Govind Chandra Biswal, sub-collector, Berhampur. They also allegedly heckled some employees of the office, he added.

Ganjam Bar Association President S S Panda,

however, claimed that bar members were not involved in it. "We are not involved in any violent activities" though some members went to these offices to stop court work in support of the demand for a high court circuit bench at Berhampur, he said.

In Western Orissa districts like Sundergarh, Sambalpur, Balangir and Bargarh, court work was paralysed as lawyers began a three-day boycott.

## NREGS fund delay: CM sends SOS to Union Minister

**Bhubaneswar:** The State Government has taken strong objection to the delay in release of funds by the Rural Development Ministry under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS).

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik dashed off a letter to Union Minister for Rural Development Raghuvansha Prasad Singh recently demanding adequate funds.

"The Central allocation of funds has not only been delayed inordinately, but is extremely inadequate," the note said adding, NREGS fund in most of the gram panchayats and panchayat samitis of the State had exhausted.

Citing the example of Mayurbhanj district - the largest district of the State - the Chief Minister said NREGS fund in 178 out of 382 gram panchayats has been exhausted. Surprisingly, the

Ministry has not released any fund to Mayurbhanj district in 2007-08 despite compliance, he added.

"It is ascertained that the internal finance division in the Ministry has proposed to release Rs 2 crore to the district," he said and added that the recommendation of the IFD is based on the expenditure under the programme in 2006-07.

Mayurbhanj had received Rs 133 crore during last fiscal as against a demand of Rs 152 crore. The expenditure of the district during the financial year was Rs 108 crore.

Besides, other four backward districts of Rayagada, Boudh, Nuapada and Malkangiri recently received Rs 4 crore, Rs 3 crore, Rs 2 crore and Rs 1.5 crore respectively. The funds released are inadequate to meet even one month's requirement of these districts, he said.

## Poet Deepak Mishra dead

**Kendrapara:** Noted poet and president of Orissa Sahitya Akademi, Deepak Mishra (70), died of heart attack in government hospital here recently.

Last month he was honoured with the Central Sahitya Akademi award for his Oriya poem collection Sukha Sanghita.

Four years back, Mishra spurned the State's prestigious Sarala award in protest as he along with another short story writer and novelist Jagdish Mohanty were jointly chosen to receive the award.

In 1964 Mishra was awarded doctorate for his research on 'Lord Chaitanya and Orissa of his times' by Utkal University.

He was also honoured with Orissa Sahitya Akademi award in 1978 for his poems collection Burta (The Circle). Mishra is survived by his widow, a son and a daughter.



Political leaders of Cuttack including MP Sri Bhartruhari Mahtab and others pose for a photograph after paying floral tributes to a statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Press Chowk on Martyr's Day.

## Road row along border resurfaces

**Bargarh:** The row over road being constructed under PMGSY by Chhattisgarh Government to village Sankara through land belonging to Orissa has resurfaced with villagers of Bhainatora GP protesting the construction.

Tension gripped the area recently when villagers of Barangakot, Bhalutal and Beniapali staged a road blockade alleging that soil deposition along Hirakud Dam Reservoir is resulting in waterlogging in the villages. They demanded immediate cancellation of the construction work. Normalcy was restored after officials led by Bargarh Sub-collector B P Mishra and SDPO Prashant Kumar Bhoi rushed to the spot and paci-

fied the villagers. The villagers called off the road blockade after officials assured them of taking up the matter with the State Government and initiate necessary steps. The villagers of Bhainatora have been opposing construction of the road since beginning. It had even led to confrontation with the Chhattisgarh police and persons involved in the work after villagers detained earth-moving vehicles in May last year. Later, the issue was resolved on intervention of the respective district administrations and the team comprising executive engineer of the main dam and tehsildar of Bhatli submitting a report to the Bargarh collector on the issue.

## NABARD earmarks Rs 8,944 crore credit plans for Orissa

**Bhubaneswar:** NABARD has earmarked Rs 8,944 crore credit plans for Orissa during 2008-09 as against the previous year's plan of Rs 7,732.59 crore, official source said. The annual credit plan for the state was based on district-wise credit potential plans. Under the plan, Rs 4,493 crore was meant for farm loan and related activities, Rs 902 crore for non-farm sector. Remaining Rs 3,549 crore

would be spent on other priority lending purpose, the source said. While releasing the focus paper and addressing a brain storming session of Nabard officials, bank staff and state government officials, Chief Secretary Ajit Tripathy asked the authorities to stress on training and skill development of the people taking loans. He said as the state was poised for industrialisation, technical training of personnel

## House surgeons drop strike plan

**Berhampur:** The house surgeons of all three government medical colleges in Orissa have dropped their strike plan as the state government enhanced their monthly stipend from Rs 2850 to Rs 5000. The enhancement would be effected from November last, benefiting 307 house surgeons of the three medical colleges at Berhampur, Cuttack and Burla.

The last enhancement of the monthly stipend of the house surgeons in the state was made in 2003 last from Rs.1800 to Rs 2850 after a prolonged strike.

## Facelift for Bhubaneswar crematorium

**Bhubaneswar:** The capital city's electric crematorium is slated for a makeover, as Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has decided to shape up the previous one on a public-private partnership module.

Five years ago, the previous crematorium had stopped functioning after electric consumption soared exponentially. Ever since, the pillaged equipment have been lying around.

The faulty design of the previous crematorium drove the last nail. The crematorium ran into losses largely because the electric coil, of a substandard quality, would take hours to get heated and subsequently the process became a costly affair. Besides, rains flooded the crematorium and stagnating water resulted in problems. With poor patronage, the faults were not repaired.

The corporation has once again resolved to make the defunct crematorium

operational and has appointed a consultant for the same. "We will soon be inviting tenders from agencies, who will hopefully give us a proper model to execute the plan," said BMC commissioner Aparajita Sarangi. The BMC also plans to take up landscaping on the crematorium premises.

Elaborating on the strategy that the BMC is contemplating to put in place for the crematorium at Satya Nagar, Sarangi said the civic body was planning to utilise the surrounding area — around 2 acres — for development.

The crematorium is already in place alongside a more conventional yard. The building for the system is already in place with water supply system.

All that needs to be done is to set up an electric transformer and replace the electric plates. The environment-friendly facility, the only one in the city, will have two furnaces. The workers who perform the last

rites at the burial ground would be serving at the electric crematorium also, which would function from 8am to 6pm.

According to corporation officials, the furnaces could generate a maximum temperature of up to 1,100 Degree Celsius and the average time required for cremating a body would be 45 minutes (approximately). The family would be handed ashes after three hours. Relatives would be required to fill up forms to use the facility and in the case of unnatural deaths, copies of the police and post-mortem reports must be produced. The BMC would reportedly develop a skating track and a health club in the vacant space. The revenue to be generated from the units would thereafter supplement the funds required for running the electric crematorium. The corporation, it is learnt, would levy a fee of around Rs 1,000 for cremating a body, besides a refundable deposit of Rs 200.



## AIR Cuttack completes 60 years

**Cuttack:** It was an evening of celebration, of commemorating the diamond jubilee of the All India Radio Akashvani Cuttack - that has informed, educated and entertained the populace of the State for over 60 years.

Dance and music and fireworks filled the atmosphere at the Akashvani Kendra here with Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in audience. Depicting the progress of the Kendra here over the years, they traced the activities of the station from transmitting classical music, to folk to modern music and songs along social programmes like drama, educational, news and even sports commentary.

Addressing the gathering, Patnaik said that Akashvani Cuttack had impacted the people in a huge way and has played the pivotal role in promoting and popularising the culture and artistic heritage of the State. Its role in spreading social messages to create awareness and educate people of all sections through programmes like Nari

Mahal for women, Krushi Sansar for farmers and Yuva Vani for the youth have been unmatched. During natural calamities, AIR has been in the front taking lead in propagating news and information on the situation. Despite changes in mass media and onslaught of advanced technology in the contemporary times, it has held its sway over the people, the Chief Minister observed.

Naveen also felicitated several artistes on the occasion. Septuagenarian thespian, director and radio artiste Hemanta Kumar Das was given the lifetime achievement award.

The awards were also given to dramatist Ananda Chandra Padhi, radio artiste Braja Kishore Mohanty, writer and critic Baisnav Charan Samal, newsreader Debendranath Mishra, lyricist Gourahari Dalai, commentator Gopal Choudhury, singer Kalyani Bhattacharya, sound engineer Parsuram Bhuyan, announcer Radharani Sarkar, Daskathia artist Ramahari Padhi and lyricist Snehalata Mohanty.

## Gauge conversion work nearing completion

**Berhampur:** The long-cherished demand of the people of Paralakhemundi in Gajapati district is going to be fulfilled as gauge conversion of the 90-km-long Nuapada-Gunupur railway is to be finished," said A K Goyal, general manager, East Coast Railway here. The gauge conversion work was going on very rapidly and it would be completed by the end of March, he said. In 2007-08, the Railway Ministry has provided Rs 25 crore for this project. The ministry has targetted to extend the line up to Rayagada in the next phase.

The 118-year-old railway line was established by the then Maharaja of Paralakhemundi, Krushna Chandra Gajapati in 1889 for his personal use. Apart from the Nuapada-Gunupur line, the ministry has also targetted to complete the doubling of the railway lines in 15.3 km length Khurdha-Delang, a part of the Khurdha-Puri line, 12 km Cuttack-Barang and Titilagarh-Kesinga, a part of the 47-km long Lanjigarh-Titilagarh railway line by the end of march next, Goyal said.

## A bunch of different patriots Beggars celebrate Republic Day with high spirit

**Bhubaneswar:** It was a different scene altogether. A group people – who looked a neglected bunch – were celebrating the 58th anniversary of the country's Republic Day here.

The low temperature of 17.6 degree Celsius or the heavy rain accompanied by chilled wind failed to dampen their spirit. They hoisted the tricolour and sang Jana Gana Mana Adhinayak Jai Hai with full voice. Hundreds of people looked with curiosity such an unusual scene presented by the beggars and rickshaw-pullers just in front of the Bhubaneswar railway station here. The celebrating crowd had in it children, handicapped persons and elders above the age of 70. The beggars of Bhubaneswar have been observing Independence Day and Republic Day with full fervour since the past few years. Bhoomika, a Bhubaneswar based development organisation, which has been working for

the rehabilitation of beggars and rickshaw-pullers by providing them alternative livelihood, is reshaping the life of these people and their children by instilling in them spirit of humanity, patriotism and fellow-feeling.

"These people are very much like us. They need support and guidance to reshape their lives. We counsel them to go back to their home and organise for themselves alternative livelihoods," said Bhisma Rath, secretary of the organisation.

Kahnu Charan Behuria - the project director – said the continuous effort of the organization had resulted in decline in the number of beggars not only in Bhubaneswar, but also in other parts of the state. "Through interventions like family reunion, counseling, hand-holdings and escorting services, the organisation has succeeded to a great extent rehabilitating the beggars and rickshaw pullers," Mr Behuria said.

## Students lock GM College

**Sambalpur:** The students of GM (autonomous) College locked the college recently protesting vacancies in teaching and non-teaching posts in the college.

The impasse was broken after Sambalpur District Collector P K Pattnaik promised to look into their demands. The posts of principal and vice-principal have been lying vacant since long while the stand-in principal has no financial powers. The college has had no regular principal after the superannuation of Ramanarayan Mishra in August 2003. After him the college had six in-charge principals with Prasanna Kumar Mohapatra being the last one.

He retired on December 31, 2007. Although he had sought advice from the Department of Higher Education to whom he should hand over charge, he never got any reply. He handed over the charge to Hutasan Purohit, senior most teacher.



## World Bank names Orissa's 'corrupt' minister

**Bhubaneswar:** The World Bank has informed that Orissa's former health minister Bijoyshree Routray was the official involved in taking a bribe for showing undue favours to a firm, it was revealed here recently. The bank, in a report uncovering the corruption scandal, had said a state minister had taken a bribe of Rs.500,000 in return for favours to a particular firm. But the bank had not revealed the name so far.

The minister was named after the Orissa government put pressure on the World

Bank. "The bank has named Bijoyshree Routray who had allegedly taken the bribe when he was state health minister," Orissa Chief Secretary Ajit Kumar Tripathy said.

A World Bank team met the chief secretary in the secretariat Thursday. Routray was not available for comment. A detailed implementation review (DIR) report of the World Bank into the \$76.4 million Orissa Health System Development Project (OHSDP), launched in 1998

and completed in 2006, said that a health minister and some officials had taken Rs.5,00,000 in bribes to give undue favours to a particular firm. The state government had earlier formed a three-member panel headed by Tripathy to probe the corruption charges after the DIR report was published. The report gives details with documentary evidence about substandard construction works and fraud in procurement of instruments and fittings for hospitals covered under the project.

## Orissa tribals up in arms against government

**Balangir:** Anger is growing among the tribal people in Orissa against the state government's indifference towards their problems and sufferings. As such the tribals are at war with the government over displacement issues in different parts of the state and what has enraged them now is the fact that hundreds of non-tribals have cornered advantages and privileges that should have come to them. The issue is no longer limited to Kandhmal district which saw a massive ethnic conflict last month, now it is spreading to other districts as well.

The ethnic violence in Kandhmal last month has now spread to neighbouring Balangir, also a tribal-dominated district. Thousands of tribals, who participated in the

rally are angry over reports that many non-tribals have been cornering facilities available to Scheduled Tribes by producing fake documents. "Fake tribals occupying government jobs must be thrown out and genuine tribals be offered the posts. The land these people have bought or own must be returned and fake tribal students must be driven out of schools and colleges," said Satyanarayan Bhoi, president, Adivasi Kalayan Sangh. "We tribals have lost everything, our land, our homes, our identity because of these fake certificates. The government will listen to us only if we confront them unitedly," said a local resident. The state government cannot afford to antagonize

the tribals. They are a huge vote bank and are already unhappy over a number of issues including displacement due to industrial projects across the state. No wonder after sleeping over the matter for over a year, the government is now promising quick action.

"All the complaints should be sorted out by the concerned officials by the end of this year," said Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister of Orissa. Kui Samaj, a tribal group in Kandhmal has come out with a long list of people they allege have held government positions on the basis of fake certificates. That includes IAS and IPS officers. But any crackdown will invite a backlash from Dalits, especially Dalit Christians.

## State of the art : The Orissa Film Festival

**Bhubaneswar:** A festival of films on arts and artistes may not be a regular glamorous Bollywood affair, but the Orissa Film Festival gathered some A-listers as guests, even when it is held in a non-metro like Bhubaneswar.

The festival is only in its second year and is being held in a corner of the country that is not known for showbiz of any sort. And going by that, the presence of a galaxy of renowned filmmakers leaves one surprised. Organised by artist Jatin Das, the festival only focuses on short films based on performing art and artists including a tribute to

master artist Ram Kinkar Baij by Ritwik Ghatak, Shyam Bengal's documentary on Konark, a short film on Chetan Anand by his brother Ketan Anand.

The organiser Jatin Das said, "I've been away for 49 years, in Bombay and now in Delhi, I'm not returning here but I'm trying to shed baggage."

Filmmaker, Amol Palekar shared his view about the event, "I think it's very important that the event did not take place in main metros, as it is not a glamorous event and it would get over shadowed in metros."

## U.P.'s mafia don held in Orissa

**Bhubaneswar:** Brijesh Singh, one of the most wanted mafia dons of Uttar Pradesh, was nabbed by a Delhi police team here recently. The criminal was running an extortion racket across several States. He was living in Bhubaneswar for the past three years. Singh, who carried a reward of Rs. 5 lakh on his head, was caught near a prominent shopping mall. He was produced before a local court. The court granted a transit remand for five days. He was then taken to New Delhi in a private airline flight. Delhi police team that was following Singh for several days pounced on him as he was getting into his car.

## Republic Day celebrated in Orissa

**Bhubaneswar:** Amidst enthusiasm and fervour, the Republic Day was celebrated across Orissa with tight security cover, particularly in naxalite-affected areas in view of maoists' call to observe it as a 'Black Day'.

At the state-level function here, governor MC Bhandare unfurled the national tricolour and took salute from marching contingents and other participants.

Braving intermittent rains, a large number of people lined up on both sides of the barricades along the majestic Mahatma Gandhi Marg to have a glimpse of the march-past as the governor took salute. Altogether 61 groups including one platoon each from the 7th armed police battalion, territorial army, central reserve police force (crpf), central industrial security force (cisf), railway protection force (rpf),

## House panel on Railways seeks Rs 1,330 cr.

**Bhubaneswar:** The House Committee on Railways led by Speaker Maheswar Mohanty submitted a memorandum to Railway Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav in Delhi demanding an allocation of Rs 1,330 crore to the State in the railway budget of 2008-09.

The committee has given a proposal for allocation of Rs 655 crore for the six ongoing projects, Rs 50 crore for electrification of two sections, Rs 125 crore for gauge conversion and Rs 500 crore for doubling.

According to a release here, the committee requested the minister to sanction nine new railway lines for which survey has already been completed.

Lalu promised that sanction of viable projects will be processed for approval of the Planning Commission.

The committee also demanded introduction of new train services, extension of some existing services, increase in the frequency of popular trains, improving quality of onboard services and amenities at major railway

women recruit constables, national cadet corps (ncc), both boys and girls, took part.

However, the cynosure of all eyes were enthusiastic cadets from different schools and colleges in the city who marched past wearing colourful uniform to the tunes of military band. The multi-hued and rich cultural heritage of Orissa unfolded as some participants enthralled the viewers with delightful dance and music. Troupes from Kalahandi, Ganjam and Khurda performed Ghumura dance and there were blowing of dual conch shells and 'Paika Akhara' respectively.

Security was tightened as maoists had given a call to observe the day as Black Day in some areas. Ultras had posted black flags and blocked roads at Kalimela, Motu and MV-79 areas in Malkangiri by felling trees, the police said.

stations in the State.

The demand for allocation of funds for different projects are Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh- Rs 120 crore, Khurda Road- Balangir-Rs 150 crore, Haridaspur-Paradip-Rs 175 crore, Angul-Dubri- Sukinda Road-Rs 75 crore, Talcher-Bimalagarh-Rs 75 crore, Daitari-Banspani-Rs 60 crore.

Electrification of Kharagpur-Nimpura-Bhubaneswar and Bhubaneswar-Kottavalasa lines-Rs 50 crore, gauge conversion of Rupsa- Bangiriposi and Naupada- Gunupur lines-Rs 50 crore and Rs 75 crore respectively and doubling of Titlagarh- Lanjigarh Road-Rs 500 crore.

The minister promised that the demands raised by the committee would be considered positively.

On the Puri-Konark project, the Railway Minister suggested that if land can be provided by the State Government, the project can be taken up immediately by the Centre keeping in view the huge tourist potential of the area.

**An account by the Mahatma's great-grandson of the prelude to Gandhiji's assassination**

In 'Let's Kill Gandhi!' (LKG) Tushar Gandhi has sought to discuss the prelude to Mahatma Gandhi's assassination and put together some materials relating to the conspiracy, investigation and murder trial. This review confines itself largely to the extent to which this is able to add to barrister K. L. Gauba's Assassination of Mahatma Gandhi (AMG), and the report of the "J. L. Kapur Commission of Inquiry into the Conspiracy to Murder Mahatma Gandhi." (JLKC)

Like AMG, a large part of this book deals with the political background to the assassination. But it does so in six times as many pages. There was sufficient material before JLKC to show that the provocation for the murder was not merely the Partition or giving Rs. 55 crores to Pakistan as is made out by the Hindutva word-of-mouth narrative. In fact, as per Gauba, the conspiracy to kill Gandhiji was far advanced by the time the Rs. 55-crore question came up.

**Motive**

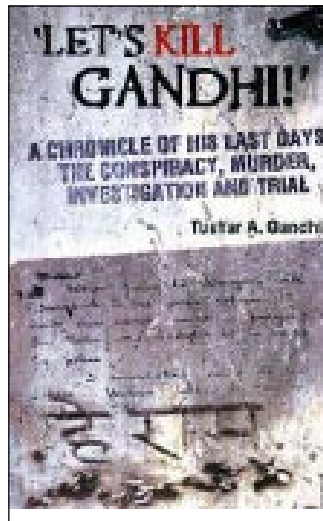
Although its own narratives on the Partition have provided grist to the Hindutva mill and were offered as an explanation for Gandhiji's assassination, AMG and LKG stress that it was the assassin Nathuram Godse's mentor V. D. Savarkar who first made the two-nation theory into the ideological basis of a political formation, the Hindu Mahasabha. The Muslim League formally adopted the

## From the pages of history

theory later. Gandhiji never. This is only one of the several issues on which the assassin's political statement at the trial is silent. There is also sufficient material to indicate a British strategic interest in the Partition. Clearly, if the assassin was out to enforce accountability for Partition, there were multiple directions in which he could have proceeded; and the starting point of his journey, at Savarkar Sadan in Bombay, was perhaps a more pertinent spot for his exertions.

LKG also interrogates the notion which visualises the assassination merely in the context of Hindu-Muslim, and later India-Pakistan relations. In view of earlier attempts to assassinate Gandhiji, Tushar Gandhi asks: "Was it Gandhiji's campaign to eradicate untouchability that offended the Hindu supremacists?"

This is better contextualised by Marxist socialist Narendra Deva's assertion that Gandhiji was "in no sense an orthodox Hindu...., he breaks almost every rule and practice enjoined by orthodox Hinduism." Socialist Ram Manohar Lohia wrote that the assassination "was not so much an episode of the Hindu-Muslim fight as of the war between the liberal and the fanatical in Hinduism. Never had a Hindu delivered greater blows on fanaticism in respect of caste, woman, property or tolerance. All the bitterness was accumulating. Once before, an attempt had been made on Gandhiji's life. It was then obviously and openly for the purpose of saving Hinduism in the sense of saving caste. The last and successful attempt was



**BOOK REVIEW**  
**'LET'S KILL GANDHI!'**  
— A Chronicle of His Last Days, the Conspiracy, Murder, Investigation and Trial  
by Tushar A. Gandhi  
Rupa & Co, 7/16, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002

outwardly made for the purpose of saving Hinduism in the sense of protecting it from Muslim engulfment, but... it was the greatest and the most heinous gamble that retreating fanaticism risked in its war on liberal Hinduism."

**Earlier attempts**

Some of the earlier attempts on Gandhiji's life are dealt with in the book including the bomb-throwing incident in Pune on June 25, 1934, during Gandhiji's anti-untouchability tour. JLKC did not go into this incident "because untouchability was a different topic altogether," adding however that "if the culprits then also were the Poona Hindu Mahasabha people that would be quite relevant." The attempt on Gandhiji 10 days before the assassination finds mention in LKG. As more or less the same group which carried out the

assassination was involved in the January 20 attempt, and one of the conspirators, Madanlal Pahwa, was actually apprehended, the failure to unravel the conspiracy in time has haunted students of the subject.

The trial court judgment became available in 1949 and was published the same year by an unknown compiler under the title "Gandhi Murder Trial". The trial itself was covered in some detail by Gauba in AMG, and in broad strokes by an Allahabad advocate, Tapan Ghosh, in The Gandhi Murder Trial, as also by Parchure's lawyer, P. L. Inamdar in The Story of the Red Fort Trial: 1948-49. Interestingly, LKG has referred to all but AMG.

The account of the appeal before the Punjab High Court in this book is based mainly on G. D. Khosla's book of legal and other reminiscences, Murder of the Mahatma. One of the three judges who heard this appeal, Khosla left a short account, The Crime of Nathuram Godse, which was included in these reminiscences. The Privy Council appeal by Godse is mentioned in LKG but there is still no detailed account of it. The appeal was dismissed in October 1949, a month-and-a-half before the Constitution of India was adopted.

**Locating Savarkar's role**

This relies largely on Pyarelal's Mahatma Gandhi: The Last Phase in delineating Savarkar's role. Savarkar's message to his confidantes in essence was: "If you want to establish a Hindu Rashtra, get rid of Gandhi and subvert the Congress." The approver, Badge, was also quite specific

on Savarkar's role. Gauba also concluded: "It is difficult to believe that Savarkar, though acquitted..., had no hand in the murder." JLKC reached a similar conclusion: "All these facts taken together were destructive of any theory other than the conspiracy to murder by Savarkar and his group..."

An important omission in this book seems to be Deputy Prime Minister Sardar Patel's letter dated February 27, 1948 to Prime Minister Nehru: "It was a fanatical wing of the Hindu Mahasabha directly under Savarkar that [hatched] the conspiracy and saw it through."

There are certain things connected with the assassination which, even if they may now fall outside the legal sphere, could still be subject of future academic work. The role of communal-sectarian organisations, and the part played by some lesser-known shadowy figures — some with deep pockets — require further research. That it was well financed is beyond doubt, with the conspirators travelling to and fro by air some 60 years ago. It was apparently a feudal-capitalist-religious sectarian alliance that organised the murder which possibly involved also some princely states.

LKG is not error-free. One cannot discount the possibility of the existence of a person called Phulwari Sharif; but it was from the place of that name that members of the Muslim League Relief Committee met Gandhiji on March 15, 1947. Sources also need better and specific identification, particularly in Book 2. The material in the rest of the book is more useful. The index, which needs to be exhaustive especially in a large work, is quite perfunctory.

## Gandhi sells: 200,000 experiments with truth sold a year

Sixty years after he was assassinated, Gandhi lives. Not just in textbooks and speeches but also through his autobiography "The Story of My Experiments with Truth" which continues to sell an incredible 200,000 copies a year.

As the world marked his 60th death anniversary and remembers the man who lived and died for his mantra of nonviolence, hundreds of thousands of people bought his autobiography to try and get an understanding of the man who went from becoming Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi to simply the Mahatma - or the great soul. "Love for Gandhi and his ideology has not faded even 60 years after his death. Every year we sell about 200,000 copies of his autobiography," said Jitendra Desai, managing trustee of Navajivan Trust, copyright owner of all his works. "His autobiography was a bestseller, is a bestseller

and will be a bestseller in the coming years," Desai told. Interestingly, Kerala accounts for nearly half of all the copies sold in India.

"Nearly 100,000 copies are sold only in Kerala every year, followed by Tamil Nadu. The credit goes to the high literacy rate as compared to north Indian states like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar," added Desai. The first edition of Gandhi's autobiography was rolled out by the trust in 1927 in Gujarati. It is now available in Assamese, Bengali, English, Hindi, Oriya, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Urdu and Punjabi. Indian language versions of the 452-page work are offered at Rs.30. The hardbound version costs Rs.120. The book is widely sold across the globe as well with various publishing houses possessing copyrights. China and Russia are among the exceptions, Desai said. The royalty from global sales goes to the

Navajivan Trust according to Gandhi's wishes.

"His family has not at all profited from the royalty. If they publish something regarding Gandhi they give the money to the trust," Desai said, adding that the Navajivan Trust gives 35 percent of royalty money to the Hari Sevak Sangh, which looks after the welfare of the underprivileged.

Given the enormous popularity of Gandhi's autobiography, it is evident that the youth are following Gandhism more than perhaps their elders did, say experts.

"The youth is finding Gandhi's principles more relevant today to combat modern day problems like violence. For instance, thousands of young boys and girls are working with me in spreading the message of peace," said Nirmala Deshpande, a noted Gandhian and a social activist.

Next to water, tea is decidedly the most popular natural beverage in the world. Each day, people sip around 3.5 billion cups of tea. In fact, the world tea consumption has been increasing at the rate of 3.5 per cent per annum and the rate may increase further because not only is the cost of a cup of tea the lowest compared to any other drink but also due to its positive attributes.

It is a healthy and stimulating beverage and might be a greater anti-oxidant than most fruit and vegetables. Drinking just one cup is equivalent to eating one portion of vegetables. It helps to maintain a proper fluid balance essential to the human body and the addition of sugar and milk provides it a certain amount of nutrition, especially when calorie intake in developing countries is lower than the minimum amount required for good health.

Besides, tea is not merely a cup that cheers, it also cures. While the American Health Foundation and the UK Tea Council feel that a cup of tea keeps the doctor away, scientific research in Japan and China which is centred on green tea, given that the two nations account for 25% consumption, assert that had the Japanese who are prone to peptic ulcer not been drinking tea their condition would have been worse.

With a growing consciousness of healthy life styles, scientists are disseminating evidence on the health benefits of drinking tea. Some of the encouraging findings linking tea with human health are: (i) Tea flavonoids demonstrate powerful antioxidant activities and protect against cardiovascular diseases; (ii) It provides

## Cup that keeps doctor away !

sufficient levels of fluoride to contribute to improved dental health, particularly in regions where fluoride is not added to water supply; (iii) It lowers blood cholesterol;

Tea pigments reduce the blood coagulability and increase fibrinolysis, (v) Tea, without milk and sugar, hardly contains any calories and may be used where a low calorie intake is desired, the message being that a cup of hot tea with meals will improve intestinal mobility and gastric emptying; (vi) It is a rich source of potassium, specially in diets which are low in this mineral; (vii) Black tea prevents against ulceration.

Apart from these, tea has also been identified as a chemopreventive agent against cancer. Studies show that certain constituents in tea protect against different types of cancer (skin, lung, duodenum, fore stomach, liver, colon etc). In fact, much of the cancer preventive effects of green tea are mediated by ECGC, the major polyphenolic constituent of green tea. And its consumption shows 90 per cent efficacy in preventing prostate cancer.

Besides, tea has a low caffeine content which varies from 2.5 and 5 per cent on a dry weight basis. Out of this, about 80 per cent is extracted when tea is brewed in hot water. A daily consumption of 5 cups of tea means a caffeine intake of 0.3 gm, which is well below the tolerable limit (of 0.65 gms) prescribed and is not harmful to health. Caffeine and its metabolites do not accumulate in the body but are demethylated, oxidized and excreted.

### Medicinal Benefits Of Tea

**Dhurjati Mukherjee**



over the past three decades, cancer of bowels, breasts, ovaries, bladder etc. has been linked to caffeine, there is no convincing evidence relating tea to any type of cancer.

In India, tea is not considered a health drink but a very popular beverage. The

moment there is addition of milk to tea, the actual effectiveness and originality of the tea is lost as also its medicinal effect. But though research on tea, specially analyzing the effectiveness of tea as a health drink has just been undertaken in the country, scientists and planters are eager to popularize tea as a health drink. But for this scientific studies have still to be taken up.

However, research has shown that black tea acts as a double-edged sword in the treatment of cancer by directly killing tumor cells via 'apoptosis' or 'programmed cell death' and protecting and potentiating the intrinsic defense machineries, including the immune system of the tumor-bearing host. Experiments conducted on mice

and human cancer cell lines e.g. breast cancer, prostate cancer, lung cancer etc. in which black tea and its polyphenols have shown promising results.

Black and green tea consumption was found to be effective in preventing diabetes. Black tea extracts also produced a concentration-dependent facilitation of muscle responses to nerve stimulation and antagonized different agents causing muscular paralysis. These experiments have indicated a stimulatory effect on the nerve-muscle transmission process by helping muscle contraction in general. It has further been established that tea had antibacterial properties and is effective against diarrhoea and cholera.

Needless to say, tea, science and human health are intrinsically linked and the consumer has to be made aware of this through sustained promotional campaigns. At a time when chronic diseases such as heart, hypertension and many types of cancer are increasing being linked to hectic lifestyles, the insufficient consumption of protective foods (fruits and vegetables) and beverages such as black or green tea, containing essential antioxidants, could be highly beneficial.

In sum, it is difficult to predict whether tea would become a potent weapon against chronic diseases in the near future, but it can be affirmed that tea research has been neglected. More funds have to be made available both by the Government and the industry, not just for exploring ways and means for increasing productivity through superior clones but also for experimenting on tea's medicinal values and its effect on human health. — INFA

### Cut down on caffeine to control diabetes

Eliminating caffeine from the diet might be a good way to control diabetes and manage blood sugar levels, a new research says. Daily consumption of caffeine in coffee, tea or soft drinks increases blood sugar levels for people with type II diabetes and might undermine efforts to control their disease, scientists at Duke University Medical Centre said.

Dr James Lane, a psychologist at Duke and the lead author of the study, tracked ten patients with established type II diabetes, who drank at least two cups of coffee daily and were trying to manage their disease through diet, exercise and oral medications, but no extra insulin.

Each had a tiny glucose monitor embedded under their abdominal skin that continuously monitored their glucose levels over a 72-hour period.

The researchers found that when the participants consumed caffeine, their average daily sugar levels went up 8 per cent.

Caffeine also exaggerated the rise in glucose after meals: increasing by 9 per cent after breakfast, 15 per cent after lunch and 26 per cent after dinner.

In fact, caffeine stimulates the brain and the nervous system. It is a natural sedative and allows the body to carry on without slowing down. The stimulating effect of caffeine results in discriminatory ability,

increased accuracy of sensations and sensitivity of taste and smell. High caffeine intake could, however, increase gastric activity but there is no evidence that this can happen with the intake of tea. Though

## Intimately Yours...



**My problem is that my penis is bent like an arc towards my right hand. Is this going to cause a problem in my sexual life?**

Whether your penis is bent or just angling towards the right. An angle towards the right is acceptable and should not cause any problem.

However, a bent in the penis is due to a condition called Peyroni's disease. However this condition is accompanied by other symptoms and isn't that common. I assume that you have a problem of an angle, which is fine.

**I've seen many penis enlargement pills information on the net which are approved by the FDP. Are any**

**such products available in India?**

There are no such pills available in India. Further, if these preparations are hormonal based, irrespective of where they're available; they can cause damage to the human body.

**I'm 33-years-old and I just married last month. I have problem in erection, before/during intercourse. However when I think of such activities, my penis gets erected properly. I'm frustrated.**

You suffer from performance anxiety. There are medicines available to help you overcome the crisis. Consult your doctor.

## Prank Post

It was little Johnny's first day in a new school, so his father looked up the teacher. He told her that little Johnny was a good kid but that he was an avid gambler. He warned her that little Johnny might win lunch money from the other kids if he was not watched closely. The teacher did not seem disturbed, assured the father that she had handled many such problems and was very capable of taking care of little Johnny's urge to gamble. Shortly after lunch, the father called the teacher and asked her how things were going. "Oh, everything is going very well." She said. "I think I may have cured little Johnny of his gambling habit." The father asked her what had happened. "The little tyke absolutely insisted on betting me ten dollars that I had a mole on my rear." She said. "I finally agreed to the bet and took him to the teacher's lounge to show him that I had no mole."

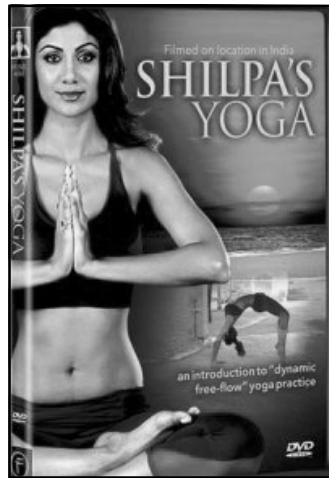
"Damn!" The father said. "He bet me fifty dollars this morning that he would see the teacher's ass before the day was over."

## Shilpa's Yoga Guide

She is ravishingly beautiful, has a great body, smiling-talking eyes, a decent actress and yes she has done India 'proud'. Of course we are talking about our latest export Shilpa Shetty who is making definite inroads in the western world after the acrimoniously famous 'Big Brother' victory. After launching her perfume S2, Diva Shetty has made another coup that is bound to go down well with the West and East alike. The DVD of *Shilpa's Yoga* guide is the brainwave of S2 Global Productions Pvt Ltd and has been presented by Firefly Entertainment UK. It's a methodical, detailed-yet-simply-put foray in the ancient practice that promises to "integrate" human mind, body and soul.

Before going into the details, let's start with something that startles once the Yoga video flows like the tranquil Kerala backwaters. It's obvious that Shilpa's glamorous appeal has been utilized to maximize the eyeballs. For when you watch gorgeous S2 moving that lithe body trapped in a skimpy top it's hard to take off the eyes away from the washboard abs and the slow sensuous moves. The burning austere lamps, decorated elephants walking languorously on a sea beach and pious music tinkering along softly are definite attempts at cashing in on the stereotypes associated with India.

To be fair to Shilpa, apart from capitalizing on the Oomph factor, she makes an extremely genuine attempt of helping you delve into the world of Yoga by giving personalized anecdotes from her own hectic life. Yoga, according to her is a



lifestyle choice and proved immensely valuable during outdoor shoots when she couldn't carry weights for exercising. It's perfectly scientific, safe and each asana aims at a specific body part. After a brief introduction, it's time for the **Workout**. Shilpa showcases the various asanas catering to various body parts while a voiceover (in a thick British accent) explains the dos and donts.

Now, while she shows you how it's done, there are twin advantages for you as a viewer. The first one is that if you wish to get a detailed guide to the techniques of Yoga, you don't need to look any further. And secondly the manner in which Shilpa performs the various asanas (almost in a slow motion) there's sexuality oozing out from all pores and it keeps you engaged even if Yoga doesn't fascinate you.

The DVD comes with a few other notable features as well. If you found the detailed workout a bit too lengthy then there's a **15 Minute Quick Fix** shot at various locations. The most engaging part of this bonus feature is Shilpa posing atop a boat amidst the peaceful Kerala Backwaters. In the **Meet Shilpa** section, *Cheeni Kum* child star Swini Khare gives a lowdown on

Shilpa's career. It's an interesting way of presenting Shilpa's Filmography for Swini vows to be a die hard Shilpa fan. **Shilpa's Stills** will hold attention for those who wish to perfume their desktops with the designer S2 pictures.

It's time to come to two of the most amusing features of this DVD. The **Behind the Scenes** and the **Bloopers**... While the Behind the Scenes finds director Manish Jha playing SRK pranks, Shilpa showing off the disco steps, the fast paced windy conditions causing problems on the outdoor, the camera grueling along on the trolley, the numerous look-downs on the monitor and the tiring painful moments of doing the same shot again-n-again. The Bloopers are an opportunity for Shilpa to laugh at her own expense. Be it the tongue twisting script or a posture gone sour, Shetty good-naturedly breaks into a hearty laughter nevertheless and you just can't help but smile unabashedly.

*Shilpa's Yoga* an introduction to "dynamic free-flow" yoga practice is high on production quality (the camerawork is excellent) and as we have stated earlier it successfully merges Shilpa Shetty's immense global appeal with one of India's most well known 'Way-of-Life' Yoga. This DVD has a far greater commercial viability than Shilpa's perfume for its market is extremely wide and encompasses both Indian as well as Western clientele. If Yoga fascinates you (also get sexy Shilpa Shetty as a bonus) then go for it today!

## Theme song and cool uniform for SRK's team

By now its common knowledge to one and all, that King Khan is all excited about bagging the ownership of the Kolkata team in the BCCI's Indian Premier League (IPL) tournament.



There were even talks of how SRK wanted none other than the Prince of Kolkota, Sourav Ganguly, to lead his team, but all that will be finalized only when Dada returns home this week from the long Australian tour.

Meanwhile, not one to waste any time, SRK is going all guns blazing to see that his team gets all the right support required to make an impact in the inaugural edition of the tournament. In fact, the buzz is that Khan has even spoken to music composers Vishal-Shekhar and given them the task of composing a rocking theme song for his team.

What's more with the owners of the teams, being given the task of determining the look of their teams, SRK it seems is leaving no stone unturned and is working in full swing on deciding the right gear for his Kolkata team. In fact, one of SRK's favorite designers, Anahita Shroff, is apparently in the lead to design the look for the team. Well, at the rate at which he is going all out to support his team, you never know the Baadshah of Bollywood may soon end up being the Baadshah of even the cricketing world.

## Govinda gives away title to comedy

A lot is being written and said about Govinda persuading writer-director Neeraj Vora to change the title of his comedy *Run Bhola Run* to *Do Lucky*. But no one knows that the alternative title belonged to Govinda.

"That's right," laughs the actor on Tuesday morning, bright and early, as he prepares to leave for his shoot. "*Do Lucky* was a title registered with my production company *Govinda Entertainment*. I suggested it to Neeraj in place of *Run Bhola Run* and he gladly accepted it. See, *Run Bhola Run* sounded too much like a sequel to *Bhagam Bhag*. I told Neeraj he might as well call his film *Bhagam Bhag 2*. Just because you put two 'runs' in the title it

doesn't mean the film will run," jokes Govinda.

In fact, the title for Ravi Chopra's *Banda Yeh Bindaas Hai* was also suggested by Govinda. "They had some problems with the other title *Pappu Paas Ho Gaya*. I thought



*Banda Yeh Bindaas Hai* is far more appropriate."

Govinda has also been accused of stalling the shooting while a numerologist was summoned on the sets of Neeraj Vora's film to change the title. "Why would I summon anyone else?" reasons Govinda. "I'm a very good numerologist myself. In fact, many years ago when I started my career I changed my name from Govind to Govinda and it worked."



Vijay Anand's evergreen classics TEESRI MANZIL and JEWEL THIEF have been inspirations for many a film-maker over the decades. A number of films have borrowed from these two classics that are rightfully acknowledged as textbooks in film-making. Director Rohit Shetty also seems like a big fan of TEESRI MANZIL, since the script of his third outing SUNDAY is structured on those lines. But, in actuality, SUNDAY is inspired by the Telugu film ANUKOKUNDA OKA ROJU [2005].

A lady is murdered at the very outset and the pieces of the jigsaw puzzle are fixed in an interesting and stylish way. Any whodunit works if and only if the needle of suspicion points at the various assorted characters all through the narrative. And SUNDAY has that quality, it keeps you guessing!

As a storyteller, Shetty whitewashes his previous highly competitive works [ZAMEEN, GOLMAAL] and comes up with his most watchable experience so far. Oh yes, there are glitches [in the second hour specifically] and Shetty should've taken care of them, but let's not fuss over trivial matters.

To sum up, SUNDAY strikes the right balance between the two diverse genres [suspense, comedy]. It's a film that holds appeal more for the aam junta, not for the hard-nosed critics. SUNDAY can be summed up in four words: Engaging,

engrossing, entertaining and enjoyable!

A dead body found floating in a lake... Unexplained scratch marks on her neck... Supari killers out to kill her... A taxi driver who yells 'bhoot, bhoot' every time he sees her...

Sehar's [Ayesha Takia] world turns topsy-turvy

when she gets a clue about the missing Sunday of her life, which points to a possible violent attack on her. A.C.P. Rajveer

[Ajay Devgan] takes up the case to sort out the complicated and jumbled up threads of Sehar's life.

In the process of solving Sehar's case, it comes to light that on Sunday, different people interacted with her and amongst them, one could be the accused. The lot included Ballu [Arshad Warsi], the taxi driver and his friend Kumar [Irrfan Khan], a struggling actor, Ritu [Anjana Sukhani], Sehar's close friend, a scary and suspicious character [Murli Sharma], who resides in Sehar's society and the group whom she had come across while partying at the discotheque.

Rajveer is convinced that Sehar is innocent, but he is also equally sure that she is

## Movie Review : Sunday

linked to everything. Is Sehar really as innocent as she claims to be?

Even though the two genres [suspense, comedy] move concurrently, the suspense element isn't heavy on your mind and nor are the comic portions of the nonsensical variety that one laughs at the spur of the moment and forgets all about them the very next moment. The funda is clear: Make a wholesome entertainer that works for an avid moviegoer.

Although the story isn't path-breaking, the screenplay [K. Subhaash, Robin Bhatt and Tushar



Hiranandani] holds your attention all through the first hour. The writing is highly competent in this hour. It's only in the second half that things slow down. Reason? There's an unwanted song ['Pyaar To Hona Hi Hai'] and an unrequired, long-drawn chase [with cars somersaulting in the air], that tapers the impact. Even the climax should've been more convincing. The shock-value — so vital when the murderer's identity is unveiled — is missing in the end. Also, a more prominent actor would've only enhanced the impact.

The screenplay writers should've worked harder on the second hour, since that's the most important aspect of any whodunit. Yet, all said



and done, director Rohit Shetty steers the film through turbulent waters with his expert execution.

The songs — by various music composers — give the film a varied sound. 'Kashmakash' [Shibani Kashyap] is the best of the lot. Filmed on Esha Deol [excellent], the song boasts

of an imaginative picturization. 'Manzar' [Raghav Sachar] is another winner. This one's filmed on Tushar [dances very well]; it has a catchy beat

and an equally arresting choreography. The stunts [Jai Singh] are stylishly executed. Aseem Bajaj's cinematography is topnotch. He proves yet again that he's amongst the best in the business. Dialogues [Sajid-Farhad] are admirable; very much in sync with the mood of the film. The sets, especially in the Esha Deol track, are awesome.

The performances are

likable! Known for intense roles, Ajay Devgan shows a flair for comic moments and gets it right. SUNDAY would only multiply his fan-following since the actor has started deviating into areas that he seldom visited as an actor. As always, Arshad Warsi is in terrific form. It's a treat to watch him essay his role with such precision. Irrfan is another actor who surprises you all the while. In fact, this combo — Arshad and Irrfan — compliment each other very well. Ayesha Takia is a complete natural. The best thing about her is, she never makes you feel she's acting. She just slips into her role so well. Her introduction — her dubbing for an animation film — is excellent. Anjana Sukhani doesn't get any scope. Mukesh Tiwari is first-rate. Murli Sharma, Vrajesh Hirjee and Ali Asgar are alright.

On the whole, SUNDAY is a well-made entertainer that has the potential to click with moviegoers. It also has the advantage of having open weeks ahead, with no major opposition till 15th February. Should end the drought that the industry is facing after a flurry of flops.

## John - Neil teamed?

What's Kabir Khan up to these days? Post KABUL EXPRESS, one kept hearing that Kabir's working on his next film. Well, the cat is out of the bag. The director has had successful meetings with John Abraham and Neil Nitin Mukesh for his new venture. "I keep talking to John regularly. Even when I wasn't working on the new film, I'd still talk to him about various things. Our conversations aren't work-specific. As for Neil, he's part of the Yash Raj family, so I keep bumping into him all the while. But, let me clarify, I haven't discussed work with either John or Neil," Kabir informs me.

CHENNAI: Introducing deserving youngsters to the big stage is never a bad idea, that too at a time when India finds itself at a crossroads.

With the Olympic qualifier — a bigger stage — looming large, new talents, who can take on the extra burden are always welcome.

Indian coach Joaquim Carvalho decided to include Diwakar Ram and Samir Baxla into the India XI in the fourth hockey Test against Belgium on Wednesday.

Both did justify their presence. Diwakar lived up to the expectation as India eked out a 2-1 victory at the SDAT-Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium and clinched the five-match series 3-0.

The fifth and final Test is slated for Thursday.

Diwakar was outstanding in the field and delivered in a position where India is desperately trying to find the best man — drag flick.

Melbourne: Terming the Indian cricket board's threat to pull out of the tri-series in Australia if it does not get a favourable verdict in Harbhajan Singh racism row as a "most nakedly aggressive action," columnist Peter Roebuck has lambasted the BCCI for putting a "price on justice."

In a hard hitting column for *Sydney Morning Herald*, Roebuck, who created quite a stir in Australia by calling for Ricky Ponting's sacking for his team's lack of sportsmanship during the controversial Sydney Test, said India's "abominable" act had set a dreadful precedent in the world of cricket.

"India's performance in chartering a plane to take the players back home in the event of an independent judge finding against them in the Harbhajan Singh case counted amongst the most

## Impressive India clinches series



**DELIGHTFUL DUO:** Rajpal Singh (right) and Diwakar (left) who scored a goal each helped India clinch the series against Belgium in the fourth Test in Chennai.

### Lightning goal

Even before the spectators could settle down, India struck. Diwakar's shot off the team's first penalty corner rebounded off goalkeeper Cedric De Greve's pads straight to

Ignace Tirkey, who ran to the top of the circle. His drive found Rajpal Singh, who tapped it home, much to the delight of the modest gathering.

Belgium was struggling to find its rhythm. The

forward line and midfield found it difficult to coordinate. The visitor was content with long passes and inconsequential sallies. It did not look like the team playing to stage a fight-back. All of a sudden, the equaliser

emerged out of nowhere. It was not a planned execution and looked like a freakish goal. Truyens Jerome, in a melee, scooped one over custodian Baljit Singh. What was missing from the Indian arsenal was its effective frontline. There were no surging moves. Shivender Singh couldn't force the pace.

However, in the midfield, Ignace Tirkey was always there to help the frontline with neat passes. He cleared quite a goal-bound balls (so did goalkeeper Baljit) in penalty corners of which Belgium had six in total.

India surged ahead in the 28th minute. Substitute Raghunath did a dummy, and gave it to Diwakar whose shot was immaculate for its precision and angle. Ahead by a goal in the first session, India barely managed to attack even as Belgium forced five corners in the second session.

*The results:*

*India (Rajpal Singh, Diwakar Ram) bt Belgium 1 (Truyens Jerome).*

## Putting a price on justice: Roebuck

nakedly aggressive actions taken in the history of a notoriously fractious game," Roebuck wrote.

"It is high time the elders of the game in that proud country stopped playing to the gallery and considered the game's wider interests.

"Brinkmanship or not, threatening to take their bat and ball home in the event of a resented verdict being allowed to stand was an abomination. It sets a dreadful precedent. What price justice now?" he wrote.

### Muscle-flexing

Roebuck said India's flexing of muscles using its enormous clout in world cricket has dented its reputation of being a country which plays the game with fair means. "Over the years, India have often been represented by gentlemen with high principles and a

strong sense of sportsmanship. Australia have not been so fortunate. But it seems that power has corrupted.

"It was not an implied threat to the justice system. It was a direct challenge to it. India took part in the creation of the legal framework they disregarded. If the Indians had packed their bags, Australia should have refused to appear in India next season. "India's conduct was deplorable. That the Australians have been carrying on like pork chops for years was no excuse. India had every right to stand against them, but not to undermine the rule of law. Posturing has cost them the high ground," the respected columnist wrote.

### Expected ruling

Roebuck, however, said the handing of a lesser punishment on Harbhajan by

ICC-appointed judge John Hansen was expected as there was no concrete evidence.

"Once the microphones and umpires could not back up the charges, the case was doomed. That does not make Harbhajan a hero. It is high time his seniors took him in hand. He has become a hothead with an unpleasant tongue," he wrote.

The former Somerset captain also had a dig at former India captain Sunil Gavaskar for criticising match referee Mike Procter who had handed a three-match ban on Harbhajan, a decision which India had appealed against and won.

"Procter is a cricketing man not versed in the intricacies of evidence and may not understand the difference between a balance of probabilities and reasonable doubt. That does not mean he deserves the venom directed at him by Sunil Gavaskar, also an employee of the ICC."

## Zaheer, Yuvraj and R.P. Singh bag Cricinfo awards

New Delhi: Zaheer Khan, Yuvraj Singh and R.P. Singh were among the six cricketers who were named winners of the inaugural Cricinfo awards for their outstanding performance in three different formats of the game.

Apart from the Indian trio, the Sri Lankan duo of Kumar Sangakkara and Lasith Malinga and Australia's retiring hero Adam Gilchrist were also the winners.

The winners were selected by a jury comprising Geoffrey Boycott, Ian Chappell, Daryll Cullinan, Tony Greig, Michael Holding, David Lloyd, Sanjay Manjrekar, Rameez Raja and Ravi Shastri.

Sangakkara won the Test batting prize for his 192 against Australia in Hobart, while Zaheer bagged the Test bowling award for his five for 75 in the second Test against England at Trent Bridge.

## OSL to have larger presence in Eastern India

**Kolkata, Puri, Bhubaneswar, Gopalpur and Guwahati on the cards**

Orissa Stevedors Ltd (OSL) plans to bring more hotels into Eastern India, under the brand names Country Inn & Suites (CIS) and Radisson. After its five star properties in Paradeep, Bhubaneswar and Orissa, the group is now taking up projects in Kolkata, Puri, Bhubaneswar, Gopalpur and Guwahati.

On the Kolkata project, Suvodip Rai Choudhury, Manager, Sales and Marketing, OSL, comments, "A twin property is coming up at Rajarhat, Kolkata by the end of 2009. Two five star hotels will be accommodated here in the same complex. We have already approved the affiliation of CIS with one property, while another one is yet to get affiliated with Radisson. Although there has

been no official declaration as yet, these two projects are slated to get the respective affiliations. It will be announced once the construction is complete." OSL is also associated with the first state-of-the-art 50 room hotel in Puri, which is expected to be operational by 2009. The 80 room property in Bhubaneswar and 75 room Gopalpur property are slated to start in 2010. The group is yet to decide on the affiliations of the Bhubaneswar and Puri properties (from CIS or Radisson).

On the projects in Orissa, Choudhury claims that the company is getting far better responses in this state. The

hospitality scenario is changing fast with adequate support from the ministry. After being promoted at events like TTF Kolkata, OSL has started catering to huge numbers of luxury tourists, other than the regular business crowd. OSL employs Country Development Management Service (CDMS) for both operational and management purposes in these properties. On the challenges faced, Rai Choudhury says, "Acquiring quality staff poses as the greatest problem. Moreover, most of our properties have been classified as four star properties despite having all the possible facilities. This is because they do not meet the requisite number of rooms for a five star rating."

## Russia keen to set up aluminium plant in Orissa

Close on the heels of the world's largest steel maker Arcelor-Mittal and South Korean steel major POSCO turning to Orissa, the Russian government has expressed desire to set up industries in the coastal part of the state.

Russia had another plan for setting up a nuclear power station in Tamil Nadu, the country's envoy to India, Vyacheslav I Trubnikov told reporters on the sidelines of signing of joint venture agreement between his government and Saraf Agencies for a titanium project

*The Russian government has held discussions with the state government about their interest in bauxite mining and a proposal to set up an aluminium plant*

in the state. The envoy earlier apprised Orissa Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik of his country's interest in mining and allied sectors.

"We have already held discussions with the state government about Russia's interest in bauxite mining and a proposal to set up an aluminium

plant here," Trubnikov said. To a query, the Russian envoy said his country was interested in the steel sector and also power generation in the state. "While we have spoken to the Chief Minister regarding the proposed aluminium plant, talks will be held on other projects," he said describing the Titanium project as a pilot one for future investment from the Russian side. He said both the countries had experienced ups and downs on the economic front which perhaps worked in a way to bolster economic relations in the backdrop of a liberalised economy.

## Reliance Fresh on Orissa govt watch list

Reliance Fresh could be headed for an Uttar Pradesh-like situation in Orissa with the state government learnt to have assured an India FDI Watch delegation that it will re-scrutinise the permission given to Reliance Fresh for opening outlets in Orissa.

"We have been assured by a senior state government official that all possible steps would be taken for the rehabilitation of roadside vendors. The permission given to Reliance Fresh for opening outlets would also be scrutinised," India FDI Watch director Dharmendra Kumar told. India FDI Watch is a national association of small traders that is opposing big and foreign retail players. The Orissa government has,

meanwhile, also offered a helping hand to the roadside vendors, notifying specific zones for them across the state.

To start with, 15 such vending zones will be opened in the Cuttack district of Orissa, aimed at rehabilitating roadside vendors, whose business has reportedly suffered major losses due to entry of organised retail players.

Reliance Fresh has had a difficult time operating in the state. Even its launch in September last year was marred by violent protests from local traders and the company had to close down its Bhubaneswar store for a couple of hours on the day of the launch itself.

The state government had also refused to extend any preferential treatment or additional security to the corporate giant. Quite understandably, the Naveen Patnaik government did not want to antagonise the local trading community, which is not only a big votebank but also considered powerful as a pressure group.

Assembly elections in Orissa are lined up for early next year. Following protests, the company decided not to sell fruit and vegetables in most Reliance Fresh stores in the state. Last August, the UP government ordered the closure of all standalone organised retail outlets selling vegetables, fruit and groceries in the state.

## Woman enters.... (From Page 1)

medicinal plants, farmers did not venture into it because of an uncertain future. However, for Santosini it was a risk worth taking. She read up about cultivating medical plants and visited some agro-based farms in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. After this, she started cultivating safed musli in her 3.5 acres by investing Rs 3 lakh. She sold the harvest at a very good price. Encouraged, she took a loan of Rs 35 lakh from Andhra Bank and started cultivating medicinal plants in another 15 acres taken on lease from other farmers. Her repertoire included safed musli, jatropa, vanilla, stevia, bacha, pipli aloe vera, datura metal and calotropis procera.

She repayed Rs 20 lakh just after a year. "I achieved a good harvest by using traditional fertilisers like cow dung, chicken wastes and neem," she said. Santosini's success prompted many farmers in Bargarh and other districts of Orissa to follow suit. "Many farmers from as far as Jagatsingpur district visited my farm and went back, promising to start their own. It gives me satisfaction that I have come up with something new." Santosini's farm now employs more than 50 persons. Besides, she has started another venture, a herbal trading and consulting firm. Obviously, husband Fakira is full of admiration. "You never know what she will start next," he said with pride.

## Orissa signs 3 fresh MoUs... (From Page 1)

already become partially operational while the mega ones were facing land acquisition problem. The production capacity so far achieved by these companies was 3.96 mtpa in sponge iron, 0.45 mtpa of pig iron and 3.32 mtpa of steel, besides 308 mw captive power plant. Chief Secretary Ajit Tripathy who presided over the MoUs signing function recently, said the three companies would produce one million tonne of steel per annum.

The companies which signed MoUs are Pradhan Steel and Power Private Limited, Atha Mines Private Limited and Tecton Ispat Private Limited.

## Orissa launches... (From Page 1)

already launched Madhubabu pension scheme, an old age pension scheme of its own to cover all the old age persons likely to be dropped from the existing BPL list.

Mohanty said the state government had decided to give Rs 25,000 to each BPL family denied a house.

He said nearly 10 lakh people living below poverty line would be deleted from the list, if the state government accepted the fresh list prepared in 2002. According to a survey of poor people in 1997, nearly 44 lakh families were identified as BPL. But the statistics changed in 2002 when the number of BPL families in the state was reduced to 34 lakh.

## From Kapilas... (From Page 1)

and not as a part of an expedition. To do that she has been practising dawn-to-dusk every day on the 785-metre Kapilas Hill, 22km from her village.

"A recent training session under Bachendri Pal helped me to prepare myself for the expedition," said Kalpana Das.

"It is commendable that she is determined to become the second Indian woman to scale Mount Everest. And she would be the first climber from Orissa to attempt such a thing," said Girija Bhusan Patnaik, the general-secretary of The Universe, a socio-cultural organisation that felicitated her for her expedition christened Kalinga Everest-2008, slated to start on March 23.

Guide Lahakda Rangdu Sherpa, too, gives the climber a thumbs up. "Her dedication to her training, her strength, tenacity and endurance makes her Everest material," he said.

Pursuing her dream, however, has not been an easy task for the Dhenkanal-based lawyer. For those hailing from a middle-class family, scaling the Mount Everest is an expensive proposition, especially if there are no sponsors.

A climber has to raise at least \$ 62,000 to tackle Everest.

ArcelorMittal Group's executive vice-president Sudhir Maheswari presented a Rs 5-lakh cheque to Kalpana in the presence of chief secretary Ajit Kumar Tripathy at the Secretariat.

## Radio waves to hit Ravenshaw varsity

**Cuttack:** Ravenshaw University here is coming up with Orissa's first campus-based FM radio station to provide students an interactive platform to reach out to each other, discuss issues of common interest and develop talent.

"Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited has undertaken the turnkey execution of the project. While work on the studio facility is already underway, the entire process of setting up the community radio station is targeted to be completed within the next five months," said Satyakam Mishra, the university registrar.

"If all goes well, the FM

transmission — 96.0 Ravenshaw Radio — will hit airwaves by June before the start of the next academic session," he said.

To be run by students, the radio station's programming mix would include education and entertainment-based programmes. The service will initially cover a 7km area.

"The FM transmission initiative is aimed at enabling the university to provide radio coverage within the campus and to serve the cause of the students by involving students. "The radio station is expected to make them more involved in what happens within the campus in the areas of education, health,

sports, entertainment, university debates, seminars, workshops and cultural events," said Mishra.

"Besides, students of the institution will gain hands-on experience of running a radio station," he added. Official sources said the university plans to have a radio station of middle module with a separate production studio with recording, editing and storage devices in addition to the on-air studio and programme production studio at a cost of Rs 20 lakh.

"The production studio can also serve the purpose of income generation by renting out on demand," he said.

## Land gift for Orissa sportspersons

**Bhubaneswar:** The sportspersons of the state who represented the country in international meets would henceforth get land as gift.

The plots would be a gift from the government and its area would be of 2,400sqft if located in the capital. On its outskirts, the players would be entitled to get 6,000sqft of land. "Any player who has participated in international meets such as the Olympics, Commonwealth Games, Asiad or South Asian Federation (SAF) games, Tests and ODIs would be entitled for the plot," said P.K. Mohanty, the state's director of estates.

The issue of honouring sportspersons was discussed at a meeting convened re-

cently by development commissioner R.N. Bohidar. The norms and modalities for the same were also discussed. The sports department has been asked to prepare a list of eligible players. Most of the players apply for a plot of land as soon as they retire from the international arena. The number of applicants is already almost 50. As of now only former Indian hockey team captain Dilip Tirkey and footballer Shradhanjali Samantray have been provided a plot.

While Samantray has been gifted 2,400sqft of land in Chandrashekharpur, Tirkey has been given a 4,800-sqft plot on the same campus.

While the government de-

cidated to help players out, chief minister Naveen Patnaik directed officials to take action against those enjoying benefits meant for Scheduled Tribe or Scheduled Caste members by furnishing false information. The directive was issued at a meeting chaired by the chief minister at the Secretariat recently. The tribals in Khandhamal and Bolangir have been agitating against the alleged move by non-tribals to get ST certificate issued in their favour. The tribals had organised a massive rally at Bolangir demanding stern action against the officials and the recipients of ST certificates through fraudulent means.

## Orissa to keep 15.75 % seats vacant for SEBC

**Bhubaneswar:** Stung by criticism from different political parties and organizations, Orissa government said it will bring a bill in the ensuing session of the assembly for increasing quota for the socially and economically backward caste (SEBC) people, official sources said.

The government had been criticised in different quarters for reducing the quota for the SEBC people from 27 per cent to 11.25 per cent. Explaining the rationale behind the reduction, an official release said the state government was forced to reduce the quota for the SEBC in the wake of the judgements of Supreme Court, Orissa High Court and Orissa Administrative Tribunal as all the courts had directed to contain the total ratio of reservation within 50 per cent. The re-

lease said the state cabinet in a resolution on December 29 decided to bring a special bill in the assembly where the next session will commence on February 13. According to the existing reservation formula while 22.5 per cent of seats are reserved for Scheduled Tribes, 16.25 seats go to Scheduled Castes. The SEBC people were entitled to get 27 per cent of seats in government jobs till the government had decided to bring down it to 11.15 per cent in view of the orders. The release clarified that it would not make any appointment in 15.75 per cent of posts till the amendment was made in the constitution to the quota for the SEBC on the lines of Tamil Nadu. The formula of keeping 15.75 posts vacant for the SEBC would be applied in the state civil service examinations, it said.

## Beauty Is Truth



## Gardener Raghu remembered on Martyr's Day

**Kendrapara:** Residents of a remote village in this part of the state kept alive their tradition and observed the martyr's day by paying tribute to Mahatma and Raghu Nayak. People of Jagulaipada village are proud of the fact that late Raghunath Nayak, a local, had tried to save the father of the nation from the assassin's bullets. He had grappled with Nathuram Goe on the fateful January 30, 1948 in the prayer hall of the Birla House. But he failed as Godse eliminated the Apostle of Peace and non-violence.

In a simple function held at the village school, about three hundred villagers including school children paid floral tribute to Mahatma and Raghu, the son of the soil. Speakers that included the Sarpanch and Rajkanika Tehsildar remembered Raghu's association with Mahatma. Raghunath Nayak worked as a gardener in Birla House. Nayak had grappled with and pinned down Nathuram Godse after the later had fired lethal shots at him. It's pertinent to note here that the German automobile giants Daimner and

Chaisler - had installed busts of Mahatma and Raghu in the village on January 30, 2004 according recognition the heroic deed of Raghu.

But the villagers continue to treasure his memory, though history has completely written off the Oriya man's feat. We, some of the villagers, have formed a committee to observe Gandhi Jayanti and martyr's day by holding prayer meeting and garlanding portraits of both Mahatma and Raghu, said a villager.

It's a fitting tribute to the son of the soil on at least two solemn occasions in a year. Observance is simple and symbolic affair that has won the appreciation of one and all, said Subhransu Sutar, an active member of the committee, said.

The then President of India, Rajendra Prasad's letter dated February two, 1955 to the gardener appreciating his act of valiance is still treasured by his family members. Raghu's act of heroism even finds mention in Mahatma Gandhi-the last phase, a biography of Mahatma Gandhi written by his private secretary, Pyarelal, told Sutar.