ମହିଳା ସଶକ୍ତିକରଣ ପାଇଁ ଯୁଗାନ୍ତକାରୀ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ

ସୁଭଦ୍ରା

ଏହି ଯୋଜନା ଅଧୀନରେ ସମସ୍ତ ଯୋଗ୍ୟ ମହିଳାମାନଙ୍କୁ ପ୍ରତି ବର୍ଷ ୧୦ ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କାର ସହାୟତା ରାଶି

୫ ବର୍ଷରେ ପାଇବେ ମୋଟ ୫୦ ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କା

ଧନ୍ୟବାଦ, ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ ଜୀ

ମାନ୍ୟବର ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ
ଶ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ

ମାନ୍ୟବର ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ
ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ

▶ ଉପକୃତ ହେବେ ୧ କୋଟିରୁ ଊର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ମହିଳା
▶ ପାଞ୍ଚ ବର୍ଷରେ ବ୍ୟୟ ହେବ ୫୫ ହଜାର ୮୨୫ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କା

ପ୍ରମୁଖ ବିଶେଷତା

୨୧ ବର୍ଷ କିମ୍ବା ତଦୂର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ଏବଂ ୬୦ ବର୍ଷରୁ କମ୍ ବୟସର ସମସ୍ତ ଯୋଗ୍ୟ ମହିଳା ହେବେ ଉପକୃତ

ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ଗ୍ରାମ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତ ଓ ସହରାଞ୍ଚଳରେ ସର୍ବାଧିକ ପରିମାଣର ଡିଜିଟାଲ କାରବାର କରୁଥିବା ୧୦୦ ଜଣ ହିତାଧିକାରୀଙ୍କୁ ଅତିରିକ୍ତ ୫୦୦ ଟଙ୍କା ପ୍ରୋତ୍ସାହନ ରାଶି

ବାର୍ଷିକ ଦୁଇଟି କିସ୍ତିରେ ୧୦,୦୦୦ ଟଙ୍କା ଅର୍ଥରାଶି ପ୍ରଦାନ

ରାଖୀ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣିମା ଏବଂ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଜାତୀୟ ମହିଳା ଦିବସ (ମାର୍ଚ୍ଚ ୮ ତାରିଖ)ରେ ୫,୦୦୦ ଟଙ୍କା ଲେଖାଏଁ ପ୍ରଦାନ

ଆଧାର ପେମେଣ୍ଟ ବ୍ରିଜ୍ ସିଷ୍ଟମ୍ (APBS) ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ହିତାଧିକାରୀଙ୍କ ଆଧାର ସଂଯୋଜିତ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କ ଖାତାକୁ ସିଧାସଳଖ ଅର୍ଥରାଶି ପ୍ରଦାନ

ମହିଳା ଓ ଶିଶୁ ବିକାଶ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

Viksit Industry for Viksit Odisha

Pradeep Kumar Panda, Economist, Bhubaneswar

Odisha is one of the fastest growing economy of the country. Odisha has transitioned to middle income category states in terms of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). Odisha is on course to become USD 1 trillion economy by 2030. Odisha has over 5,30,000 units and 113 industrial estates. Industry sector contributes around 41 per cent of GSDP. Odisha has received over Rs. 20 lakh crore of letter of intent of investment in previous investment conclaves. The state has become favourite destination for investment and industrialisation. Viksit Industry will be growth engine of Viksit Odisha. Viksit Odisha will growth engine of Viksit Bharat.

Odisha is endowed with vast resources of a variety of minerals and occupies a prominent place in the country as a mineral rich State. Abundant reserves of high-grade Iron ore, Bauxite, Chromite, Manganese ore along with other minerals such as Coal, Limestone, Dolomite, Tin, Nickel, Vanadium, Lead, Graphite, Gold, Gemstone, Diamond, Dimension & Decorative Stone etc. are

extensively available in the State. This has opened up immense possibilities for locating mineral based industries for manufacture of Steel, Ferro-alloys, Cement, Alumina/Aluminum, Refractories, Thermal Power etc., along with setting up other auxiliary and ancillary downstream industries.

Odisha is one of the most mineral rich states in India. Key minerals found in the state are iron, coal, bauxite, manganese, nickel, chromite, limestone, dolomite, graphite, decorative stones, beach sand, China clay, tin ore, etc. For the record, Odisha has about 28% of India's iron ore, 24% of coal, 59% of bauxite and 98% of chromite.

Odisha accounts for over 59% of India's bauxite reserves, making it an ideal location for setting up aluminium and aluminium-based companies. The state ranks first in the country in terms of both production capacity and actual output of aluminium.

Odisha is one of the favoured investment destinations for domestic and international iron and steel players as well as one of the largest producers of iron and steel in India. The total production of iron ore in Odisha was recorded to be 80.87 million tonnes during 2015-16. Between 2004-05 and 2015-16, Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) expanded at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10.25% to over US$ 100 billion in 2023-24.

In the energy sector, independent power producers (IPPs) have invested Rs. 32,991 crore on coal-fired projects after entering into MoUs with the state government. Among the 28 power companies, only three – Sesa Sterlite, Jindal India Thermal Power and GMR Kamalanga Energy Ltd – have commenced commercial production in the last 15 years. The IPPs have a combined capacity of 37,000 MW.

In the steel sector, out of Rs 222,862.63 crore investment proposed in 50 projects, Rs. 109,638.90 crore has been invested till today, said Mishra. Then, Rs.66,444 crore has been proposed in the aluminium sector by three companies – Vedanta, Aditya Aluminium and RSB Metaltech.

Odisha is amongst the top ten states accounting for the highest number of MSME enterprises. Odisha government also launched its startup policy 2016 that aims to create 1,000 startups in the state by 2020. The policy will aim at providing incentives, support and assistance to start ups at all stages of development including idea or prototype stage, commercialization stage as well as the marketing stage.

The state has sector-specific policies for IT and micro, small and medium enterprises. The state government has constituted "Team Odisha" to help with investment promotion. The Odisha Industry is going places with excellent industrial infrastructure and presence of top national and international companies. The state has witnessed an industrial upsurge due to the favorable industrial atmosphere in the state. The state government of Odisha has invited major industrial houses of the country and abroad to invest in the state. It has achieved a considerable amount of success and several prime companies have set up their plants in the state. The industrial structure of Odisha mainly consists of four categories: Medium industries, Cottage industries, Large scale heavy industries and Large scale industries.

Mineral Based Industries

Occupying an important position on the country's map, Odisha's rich mineral reserves constitute 28% Iron ore, 24% coal, 59% Bauxite and 98% Chromite of India's total deposits. The state's comparative advantage on this account has attracted the attention of many mining and metallurgical companies. In Odisha, industrialization started shortly after independence. The oldest mines in the state were coalmines at Talcher and Ib valley. After nationalization of coal in 1975 and the national policy on energy sector, many power plants have come up in the state. Major industries in Odisha at the moment include an integrated steel plants at Rourkela, Kalinga Nagar, Jharsuguda and Angul NALCO (National Aluminium Company Ltd.) with its Alumina Plant at Damanjodi & Aluminium smelting complex at Angul; Thermal power plants Talcher & Ib valley area etc. in addition to Fertilizer plants, Pulp and paper industries, Ferro alloys plants, cement plants etc. elsewhere in the state. The industrial growth in the state has mostly taken place in the areas where raw materials, water and power are available. The state can be divided into twelve industrially active zones / areas based on minerals namely:

- Rajgangpur Area (Iron & Steel, Sponge Iron, Cement, Secondary steel. Melting and rolling mill & refractories and chemicals).
- Ib valley area (Thermal power, Sponge iron, refractories, and coal mines)
- Hirakud area (Aluminum & rolling mills)
- Talcher-Angul area (Thermal power, Aluminum, Coal washeries, Ferro alloys, Coal mines).
- Choudwar area (Ferro alloys, Thermal power, pulp and paper, coke oven)
- Balasore area (pulp and paper, ferro alloys, rubber industries)
- Chandikhol (stone crusher, coke oven)
- Duburi (Integrated steel, ferro alloys, rubber industries)
- Paradeep area (fertilizer, sea food processing, petroleum coke)
- Khurda Tapang area (stone crusher)
- Joda Barbil area (iron, sponge iron, ferro alloys, iron ore crusher, mineral processing).
- Rayagada area (pulp and paper, ferro alloys).

Keonjhar is one of the premier minerals producing districts in Odisha. The district occupies a prominent place in the mineral map of the Country. Iron ore formations occupy most part of the district which can be traced from the Bihar boarder in the north to the Jajpur boarder in the South. Extensive deposits of Manganese ore are found in Thakurani and Joda East hills of Barbil. The two important mineral based industries in the district are the "Kalinga Iron Works" Barbil and the "Ferro-Manganese Plant", Joda. Good deposits of Chromite, an important and strategic mineral are found in Boula area near village Nuasahi of Anandapur

subdivision. There are also some other mineral deposits in the district such as Quartzite, Bauxite, Gold, Pyrophillite and Lime stone.

Kalinga Iron Works, Barbil: The Kalinga Iron Works was initially named as the Kalinga Industries in the private sector with technical collaboration of M/S. Fried Crupp of West Germany having one low shaft furnace with a capacity to produce 30000 M.T. of pig iron per annum. It was taken over by the Industrial Development Corporation of the Government of Odisha on 01st April 1963. It has since been named as "Kalinga Iron Works". Presently the Kalinga Iron Works produces 100000 M.T. of foundry grade pig iron by three low shaft furnaces. Besides, it has a power generating plant of its own which supplies power to the GRIDCO, Odisha to the extent of 2.3 M.W. This industry was running with a capital investment of Rs.1,011.27 lakh in 1985. At present 1,320 persons (both skilled and unskilled) are working in the unit. Under the diversification programme Kalinga Iron Works is also giving to undertake the production of Ductite Iron Spun pipes in close collaboration with TOR-STEEL and MECON. Ductite Iron Spun pipes have a tremendous marketing potential in foreign countries.
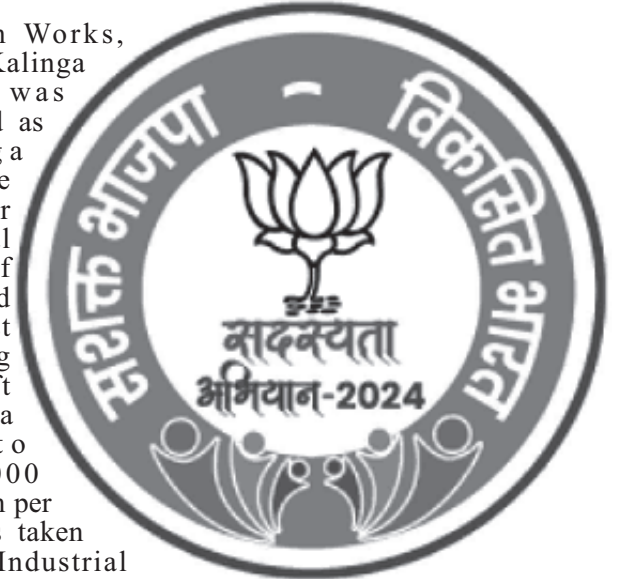
Ferro-Manganese Plant, Joda: The Ferro-Manganese plant at Joda was taken over by the Tata Iron And Steel CoLtd. in December 1957. It was established with a capital investment of Rs.3000 lakhs in 1985. At present 391 employees are working in the unit. The plant is primarily meant for supplying Ferro-Manganese for TISCO's own plant at Jamshedpur.

Besides the reserves of major minerals like chromite, nickel, bauxite, iron-ore and coal; other minerals like china clay, fire clay, limestone, quartz, precious and semi precious stones, copper, manganese, graphite, vanadium etc. are also available in the state. Iron ore is abundantly available in the districts of Mayurbhanj,

Sundargarh, Keonjhar and Jajpur. While chromite is confined to Jajpur, Dhenkanal and Keonjhar districts, manganese deposits are available in Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Rayagada and Balangir districts and Dolomite is available plently only in the district of

Sundargarh. There are two major coal bearing area in the state which are currently being exploited namely Talcher and the Ib valley.

Aluminium industries

Odisha is the highest producer of aluminium in the country today. To further enhance the production of aluminium, NALCO has planned to expand its aluminium smelter in Angul district by 0.5 MMTPA at an estimated investment of INR 10,000 crore. Besides, it is also expanding its alumina refinery at Damanjodi from 2.275 MMTPA to 3.275 MMTPA with an investment of more than INR4,000 crore. The State also has seen private sector large scale investments from large companies in the sector including Hindalco and Vedanta. Hindalco Industries Limited is setting up a 0.375 MMTPA Aluminium Flat Rolled Product plant at Lapanga with an investment of INR5,000 crore. Similarly, Vedanta is expanding its alumina refinery capacity by 5 MMTPA at Kalahandi and its aluminium smelter capacity by 0.2 MMTPA at Jharsuguda with an investment of INR 7,500 crore which will create employment for about 7,700 people. To promote downstream and ancillary industries, NALCO has committed 50,000 tonnes of hot metal to the Aluminium Park at Angul, which has been established in Joint Venture (JV) mode with IDCO. The Park is one-of-its-kind facility in the sub-continent.
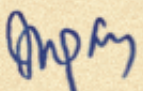
ନୂଆଁଖାଇ–୨୦୨୪ ଅବସରରେ
ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳଙ୍କ
ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

ସୁଖ, ଶାନ୍ତି, ମୈତ୍ରୀ ଓ ଆନନ୍ଦର ପବିତ୍ର ପରମ୍ପରା ଓ ପର୍ବ ''ନୂଆଁଖାଇ'' ପାଳନ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି । ଏହା ଏକ କୃଷିଭିତ୍ତିକ ପର୍ବ । ଏହି ପରିପ୍ରେକ୍ଷୀରେ ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟର କୃଷକ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କର ସୁଖ ଓ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି କାମନା କରିବା ସହ କୃଷିକ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାକୁ ଏକ ଅଗ୍ରଣୀ ଓ ପ୍ରଗତିଶୀଲ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ପରିଣତ କରିବାକୁ ଆହ୍ୱାନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।

(ରଘୁବର ଦାସ)

ମହାପୁରୁଷ ମହମ୍ମଦଙ୍କ ଜୟନ୍ତୀ ଅବସରରେ
ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳଙ୍କ
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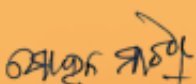
ଆଜି ମହାପୁରୁଷ ମହମ୍ମଦଙ୍କ ପବିତ୍ର ଜନ୍ମତିଥି ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟର ସମସ୍ତ ମୁସଲମାନ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।

(ରଘୁବର ଦାସ)

ମହାପୁରୁଷ ମହମ୍ମଦଙ୍କ ଜୟନ୍ତୀ ଅବସରରେ
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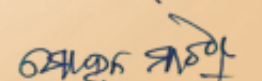
ମହାପୁରୁଷ ମହମ୍ମଦଙ୍କ ପବିତ୍ର ଜୟନ୍ତୀ ଅବସରରେ ମୁସଲମାନ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀ ମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା କଣାଉଛି ଏବଂ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ସୁଖ, ଶାନ୍ତି ଓ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

(ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ)
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ନୂଆଁଖାଇ ତିହାର୍ ଲାଗି
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କର ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ୍

ପଶ୍ଚିମ୍ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ବଡ଼ଖା ତିହାର ନୂଆଁଖାଇ ଲାଗି ସମକୁ ମୋର ନୂଆଁଖାଇ ଜୁହାର, ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଆର ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ । ମାଁ ସମଲେଇଙ୍କର ଅପାର କୃପାନୁ ଧରତୀ ମାଁ ଶସ୍ୟ ଶ୍ୟାମଲା ହଉ । ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର ଜୀବନ୍ ସୁଖ, ଶାନ୍ତି ଆର ସମୃଦ୍ଧିଥ ଭରିଯାଉ, ଇଟା ହିଁ ମୋର କାମ୍ନା ।

(ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ)
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

NATION

From Devotion to Debate: The Tirupati Ladoo Ghee Scandal Unfolds

The Tirupati Ladoos, famous for their taste and spiritual significance, have recently become embroiled in a

controversy that has captured public attention and sparked a heated debate among politicians, actors, and citizens alike. This article delves into the details of the controversy, the key players involved, and the broader implications for politics, religion, and society in India.

Tirupati Ladoos are not just a popular sweet; they are a symbol of devotion for millions of devotees who visit the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) temple in Andhra Pradesh. The Ladoos are offered as "prasadam" to devotees and are believed to carry blessings from Lord Venkateswara. Traditionally made with ghee, sugar, and chickpea flour, the integrity of these offerings is of utmost importance to the temple administration and its followers.

The Initial Allegations

The controversy ignited when actor-politician Pawan Kalyan raised concerns over the quality of ghee used in making the Ladoos. He alleged that the ghee had been adulterated with animal fats, including fish oil, pork fat, and beef fat. These allegations struck a chord with many devotees who view the sanctity

of temple offerings as paramount. Kalyan called into question the practices of the TTD Board, which operates under the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government, demanding accountability and transparency.

In a passionate social media post, Kalyan suggested forming a "Sanatana Dharma Rakshana Board" to address the various issues surrounding temples across India. He emphasized the need for a national dialogue among policymakers, religious leaders, and citizens to preserve the sanctity of Hindu traditions. "We all should come together to put an end to the desecration of 'Sanatana Dharma' in any form," he asserted, appealing for unity in a time of perceived crisis.

Prakash Raj's Counterargument

In response to Kalyan's claims, fellow actor Prakash Raj criticized him for elevating a regional issue into a national controversy. Raj urged Kalyan to focus on local investigations rather than exacerbating communal tensions. His remarks pointed to the dangers of politicizing religious sentiments, suggesting that Kalyan's actions could lead to unnecessary divisions among communities.

Raj's response highlighted a critical aspect of the controversy:

the intersection of politics and religion. In India, where religion often plays a significant role in political discourse, such allegations can easily escalate into broader societal issues.

The TTD's Confirmation

As the debate unfolded, the TTD confirmed that laboratory tests on the ghee used for the Ladoos indeed showed the presence of animal fat. This revelation intensified the controversy, as it validated Kalyan's claims and raised questions about the temple administration's oversight. In light of the findings, the TTD blacklisted the supplier of the adulterated ghee and initiated legal proceedings to hold those responsible accountable.

This confirmation served to amplify Kalyan's concerns while putting pressure on the YSRCP government to respond effectively. The sanctity of the Ladoos, a symbol of devotion for countless Hindus, was now under scrutiny.

Political Ramifications

The controversy quickly turned into a political battleground. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu seized the opportunity to criticize the previous YSRCP regime, accusing it of compromising the integrity of the Tirupati Ladoos by allowing adulterated ghee to

be used. Naidu announced that his government would replace the ghee supplier with Karnataka's Nandini brand, known for its quality, in an effort to restore the Ladoos' purity.

Naidu's actions not only sought to regain public trust but also aimed to position his party favorably among the Hindu electorate, who are particularly sensitive to issues surrounding religious practices and offerings.

YSRCP's Defense

In response to the mounting criticism, YSRCP president Jagan Mohan Reddy dismissed the allegations as "diversion politics." He accused Naidu of fabricating the controversy to distract from his government's shortcomings during its first 100 days in power. This counter-narrative aimed to undermine the credibility of the accusations and redirect public attention toward the achievements of the YSRCP government.

Reddy's remarks highlighted the increasingly partisan nature of the discourse surrounding the controversy, with both sides seeking to gain political capital from the situation.

The Central Government's Involvement

The central government took notice of the unfolding situation, with Union Health Minister JP Nadda requesting a detailed report from the Andhra Pradesh government regarding the allegations. Food Minister Pralhad Joshi also called for an investigation into the claims of adulteration. The involvement of the central government underscored the significance of the issue, extending its implications beyond state politics.

This attention also signified the importance of food safety and quality, particularly in relation to religious offerings. The incident

raised critical questions about regulatory oversight and the need for stringent quality control measures in the production of religious products.

Broader Implications

The Tirupati Ladoo ghee controversy serves as a microcosm of broader societal tensions in India. It underscores the fragile interplay between religion and politics, as well as the potential for local issues to escalate into national debates. The responses from Kalyan and Raj exemplify the divergent approaches to handling sensitive subjects that touch upon cultural and religious identities.

Additionally, the controversy sheds light on the importance of food safety and quality assurance in religious practices. With increasing consumer awareness, there is a growing expectation for transparency and accountability, especially concerning products tied to religious significance.

As the controversy continues to unfold, it remains to be seen how the various stakeholders will navigate the complex landscape of public opinion, political maneuvering, and religious sentiment. The Tirupati Ladoos, once solely a symbol of devotion, have now become a focal point for larger discussions on integrity, governance, and the interplay of faith and politics in India.

Moving forward, it is essential for all parties involved to approach the situation with a sense of responsibility, prioritizing the sanctity of religious practices while also ensuring accountability and transparency in governance. The outcome of this controversy may well set a precedent for how similar issues are handled in the future, highlighting the need for a balanced approach that respects both religious sentiments and the principles of good governance.

POLITICS

Jammu and Kashmir Elections Mark Historic Shift Away from Nationalism

At last, the long-awaited moment has arrived. A new chapter in democracy has begun in Jammu and Kashmir, marking the start of voting for 24 seats in the first phase of the assembly elections.

The second phase is scheduled for September 25, followed by the final phase on October 1. This election is distinct from previous ones and promises to reshape the political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. For the first time since 1987, a renewed sense of enthusiasm and excitement is palpable, particularly in the Kashmir Valley.

A Shift Away from Nationalism and Separatism

Notably, there is no mention of Pakistan or separatism in this electoral process. For the first time in 37 years, the choice to participate or abstain from voting is not a matter of life and death. The election's focus has shifted away from the historical struggle between nationalism and separatism, instead centering on the vision of a developed Jammu and Kashmir.

Key issues such as development, employment, corruption, and local identity have taken precedence. These assembly elections mark the first in nearly a decade and the first since Jammu and Kashmir became a Union Territory. Since 1987, the electoral process in the valley has been mar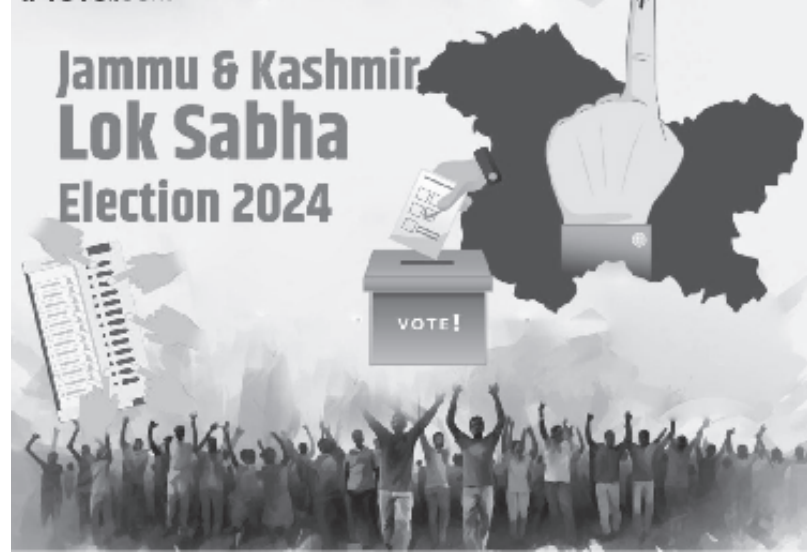red by a culture of boycott, where participation was often seen as an invitation to violence, leading many civil servants to avoid election duties. The record turnout in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections signaled a changing environment in Kashmir, a sentiment echoed by candidates campaigning for assembly seats. Historically, regional parties have held sway in the region, but the boycott by separatists has previously led many leaders, candidates, and supporters from national parties to refrain from participation, with Congress, BJP, and LJP being notable exceptions. Now,

in this altered landscape, the number of independent candidates has surged alongside regional and national party representatives.

The banned Jamaat-e-Islami is openly supporting numerous independent candidates, effectively re-entering the electoral fray indirectly. Meanwhile, MP Engineer Rashid's Awami Ittehad Party, previously accused of terror funding, is also challenging long-held beliefs in Kashmir. As polling staff head to their booths for the first phase of voting, key issues such as development, employment, and corruption dominate the discourse.

Political Survival at Stake for Prominent Leaders

This election presents a critical moment for prominent political families, including the Abdullahs, Lones, and Muftis, who now face an existential challenge. Consequently, Omar Abdullah and Sajjad Gani Lone are contesting in two constituencies each. Additionally, Iltija Mufti, daughter of the PDP president, is running from her traditional seat in Bijbehara to enhance her chances of success.

Conversely, the BJP is approaching the elections in Kashmir with newfound seriousness, extending its efforts beyond the Jammu division. While its candidates have previously contested in Kashmir, they are now entering the race with a genuine intention to secure victories.

The political landscape has undoubtedly shifted. Kashmir affairs expert Imran Mir asserts that these assembly elections signal the dawn of a new era in Jammu and Kashmir. While the outcomes will only be determined post-counting, the involvement of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami and Engineer Rashid adds an intriguing dynamic to this electoral contest.

Kejriwal's Release Weakens Congress in Haryana, Boosts BJP's Prospects

The release of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener Arvind Kejriwal on bail could significantly enhance his party's campaign in the Haryana elections. Kejriwal's active participation may pose a political threat to the Congress and prove advantageous for the ruling BJP.

Previously, a potential alliance between Congress and AAP might have consolidated votes against the BJP; however, the current division between these two parties could work to the BJP's benefit. While Kejriwal was incarcerated, his wife, Sunita Kejriwal, alongside Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, spearheaded the campaign in Haryana.

Kejriwal faces several challenges ahead. His supporters, including Rajya Sabha member Dr. Sandeep Pathak and Sanjay Singh, have rallied for him. AAP has organized events across all 90 assembly constituencies in the state, where figures like Sunita Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, Bhagwant Mann, and others have sought to energize the party's base, though they have struggled to ignite enthusiasm among party workers.

One of Kejriwal's significant challenges lies in his ambiguous stance on the longstanding SYL canal dispute between Haryana and Punjab. While he advocates for Punjab's interests in that state, he also acknowledges the water needs of Haryana, presenting himself as a son of the region. This inconsistency may not resonate well with the electorate in Haryana.

In the 2024 elections, AAP has nominated candidates for all 90 seats. Although Sunita Kejriwal and Bhagwant Mann have criticized both the central and state BJP administrations for the lack of SYL water during their rallies, they have yet to provide a clear party stance on the issue. AAP has granted tickets to nine defectors from the BJP and Congress, alongside candidates who previously faced defeat in the 2019 assembly elections.

To capitalize on dissent among those denied tickets by the BJP and Congress, AAP has strategically awarded nominations to five BJP defectors, three from Congress, and one from INLD.

Dr. Sushil Gupta, the Haryana president of AAP, remarked that Kejriwal's bail serves as a significant blow to the BJP, asserting that it reveals the fragility of the BJP's narrative. He expressed confidence that AAP will achieve a decisive victory in the upcoming Haryana elections.

Focus Sectors of Odisha Government

The Government of Odisha has recognised six sectors as its focus sectors for sustainable growth of industries and economy. Of these, five are manufacturing sectors, as indicated below. These sectors were highlighted during the Make in Odisha Conclave 2018. Three of these six sectors are labour intensive in nature and are expected to generate large employment opportunities in the State.

Agro Food Processing including Seafood: To support these agro-based industries, the State government has established Mega Food Parks at Rayagada and Khurda and a sea food park at Deras.

Textiles including technical textiles: Odisha is a leader in skilled and quality workforce for the textile sector, with immense opportunity to invest in this field. Dedicated apparel parks have been established at Ramdaspur and Chhatabar.

Ancillary and Downstream Industries in Metal Sector: Odisha is the mineral hub of India and the largest aluminium, steel and stainless-steel producer in the country. To facilitate growth of ancillary and downstream sectors, a National Investment and Manufacturing Zone has been set up at Kalinganagar along with downstream park at Angul and Jharsuguda.

Chemicals, Plastics and Petrochemicals: One of the four Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Regions (PCPIR) in India has been established at Paradip. The PCPIR is anchored by a 15 MMTPA refinery set up by IOCL.

Electronics Manufacturing: To enhance electronic manufacturing in the State, a dedicated electronics manufacturing cluster has been established near Bhubaneswar. A revised special incentive package has also been introduced to facilitate investments in the sector

.Odisha is one of the fastest growing economy of the country. Odisha has transitioned to middle income category states in terms of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). Odisha is on course to become USD 1 trillion economy by 2030. The state has become favourite destination for investment and industrialisation. Viksit Industry will be growth engine of Viksit Odisha. Viksit Odisha will growth engine of Viksit Bharat.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Solid-State Battery

Er Mayadhar Swain

Most of the electronic equipment, now-a-days use lithium-ion batteries. We can find them in our laptops, mobile phones, cars and even electronic toys. Most importantly, these are now used in motor vehicles. The conventional internal combustion engine driven vehicles use petroleum oil, a fossil fuel and emit toxic gases causing air pollution. These vehicles also emit carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas which causes global warming and climate change. Hence, electric vehicles are being introduced in almost all countries. The technology for this battery is well-developed and no other battery compares with it in term of energy density.

The lithium-ion batteries have some problems. It uses flammable substances which sometimes explode. Further the metals such as lithium, nickel and cobalt used for its different components are available only in a few countries and they are creating monopoly for this. For example, now China controls 60 percent of world batter supply and the rest being South Korea (22 per cent) and Japan (8 per cent) . Hence, scientists searched for a sustainable and renewable alternative and found "Solid-State Battery" as one of the prospectives.

Solid-State Battery

The lithium-ion batteries have a liquid electrolyte, through which ions flow in one direction to charge the battery and the other direction when it is being drained. Solid-state batteries, as the name suggests, replace this liquid with a solid material. A lithium-ion battery will typically have a graphite electrode, a metal oxide electrode and an electrolyte of lithium salt dissolved in some sort of solvent. In solid-state batteries, you might find one of a whole host of promising materials replacing the lithium, including ceramics and sulphides.

A solid-state battery is a type of battery that uses a solid electrolyte (typically made out of ceramic or a polymer mix) to move ions from one electrode to another, instead of one made of liquid or gel, which is the case for traditional lithium-ion batteries. This design tweak creates an energy-dense power source that's safer, compact and can last twice as long.
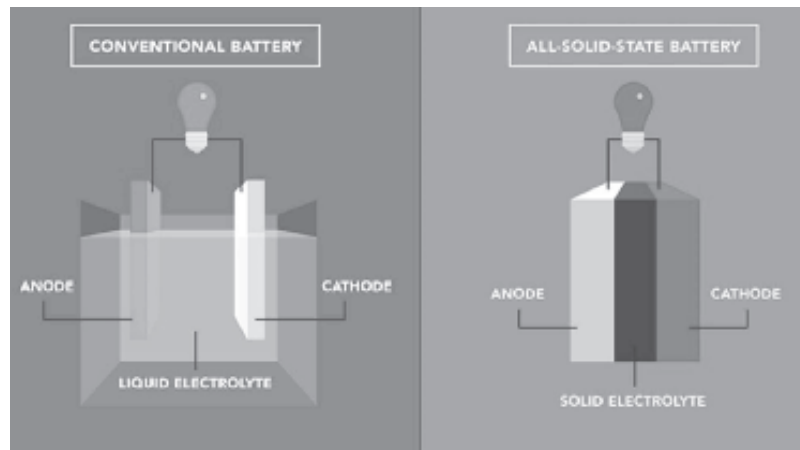
Working of Solid-State Batteries

A solid-state battery uses a solid electrolyte — as opposed to a liquid electrolyte, which is what a standard lithium-ion battery uses — to move ions from one electrode to another. Inside of solid-state batteries, lithium ions generally move between two electrodes, the anode and cathode, to generate and store power. In this case, a solid electrolyte — often made of ceramic, polymer or glass materials — facilitates the transport of ions from one pole to the other during charge and discharge cycles.

As a battery charges, lithium ions migrate from the cathode (made of a mix-metal oxides or phosphates) through the solid electrolyte to the anode (often composed of graphite, silicon or lithium metal), where they are stored. During discharge, the ions travel back to the cathode. This movement generates the electrical current that powers connected devices.

Different materials deliver different results. Toyota's prototypes feature a sulfur-based electrolyte, while Samsung experiments with silver-carbon anodes. Other systems, like QuantumScape's lithium-metal models, are built without an anode component entirely. Instead, it's formed on the battery's first charge, which "dramatically simplifies battery design.

The solid electrolyte's role is crucial. It not only conducts lithium ions, it also acts as a separator that prevents direct contact between the anode and cathode — of positive and negative charges, respectively — thereby eliminating the risk of short circuits, providing a more stable and uniform ionic pathway.

Difference Between Solid-State Battery and Lithium-ion Battery

Both solid-state batteries and lithium-ion batteries operate on the same principle. They take energy in, store it, then release it to whatever electronic device they're inside of — from TV remotes to watches to cars.

What differentiates solid-state batteries from traditional lithium-ion batteries is the materials inside.

- Lithium-ion batteries use a liquid or gel electrolyte that's essentially a lithium-salt solution dissolved in an organic solvent. While it allows for efficient ionic transfer, it carries notable risks. These materials are heavy, highly flammable and prone to leakage.

- Solid-state batteries use a solid electrolyte made of non-flammable, inorganic materials. This change also makes it possible to graduate from standard graphite-based anodes to those made of lithium metal, because of their exceptional energy capacity and low electrochemical potential. This makes for safe, long-lasting batteries in smaller, lighter packages. Lithium is the lightest metal on the planet and is nearly ten times more energy dense than the graphite that's used in today's batteries, enabling it to store more energy in the same volume.

Advantages of Solid-State Batteries

Solid-state batteries are widely considered to be the next big thing in energy storage due to the following advantages.

Enhanced Safety

Safety is the primary benefit ascribed to solid-state batteries. They are made out of thermally stable, inorganic materials, which virtually eliminates the risk of leaks, fires and explosions compared to their highly flammable, liquid-based counterparts. This allows them to withstand temperatures up to 1,000 degree Celsius, making them a great asset in the production of electric vehicles, aerospace systems and industrial equipment where they may be exposed to extreme environments.

Higher Energy Density

Solid-state batteries are about 2.5 times more energy dense than lithium-ion batteries. That means solid-state batteries can store more energy in less space, maximizing energy capacity and prolonging battery life. Longer-lasting power enables electric vehicles to drive further distances on a single charge without increasing battery size or weight, and enhances the performance of portable electronics, with extended usage time and a reduced need for frequent recharging.

Lightweight, Compact Designs

Solid-state batteries use less materials and lighter materials than their liquid-based counterparts. This weight reduction means battery packs can be thin and sleek, increasing the mobility of a device or electric-powered vehicle. Without a liquid electrolyte, a solid-state battery simplifies sealing and eliminates the need for any additional cooling systems in large-scale equipment.

Faster Charge

By making it easier for lithium ions to oscillate from one side of the battery to the other, solid-state batteries can support rapid charging times compared to today's standard. The solid-state, lithium-ion batteries being developed for electric vehicles by QuantumScape, for example, can charge from 10 to 80 percent in less than 15 minutes, according to Holme, the company's chief technology officer.

High Degree of Freedom in Shape

Solid-state batteries are not bound to the structural limitations of liquid-based batteries, which are designed to prevent leakage. They're smaller and thinner, and can be bent, shaped, fit to overlap one another and even directly sintered into a part.

Disadvantages of Solid-State Batteries

The followings are the disadvantages of solid-state batteries.

High Cost

Solid-state batteries have not reached a level for mass production. The materials that they're made out of are difficult to scale, with low-throughput manufacturing processes driving up the cost further. It is estimated the best-case scenario, where solid-state batteries reached mass production at $140 per kilowatt hour by 2028. But certain obstacles could inflate costs to $175 per kilowatt hour between 2032 and 2033, delaying commercial production by five years.

Materials Still Being Studied

Finding the right materials to actually build a solid-state battery proves to be tricky. Oxide-based electrolytes, for example, are porous enough to allow ions to pass through, but are often too brittle to break if bended. Those made out of sulfides are soft and perfectly deformable, but become chemically unstable when exposed to moisture. Switching a battery's anode from graphite to lithium metal is the ultimate goal. So even when promising materials are discovered, they still face challenges with scalability and manufacturing, hindering their practical use in commercial batteries.

Manufacturing Challenges

The cost of solid-state batteries at present is well beyond $100 per kilowatt hour, and it has everything to do with manufacturing hang-ups. Solid-state batteries require particular temperature and pressure conditions that are specific to each build and unique set of materials, complicating mass-scale production. But with each modification comes overall added costs, impeding their commercial viability.

Interface Issues

When a solid lies on top of another solid, the two surfaces rarely make full contact due to interfacial gaps and irregularities between them. Sometimes, this is only detectable under a microscope. Cracks and crevices between a solid electrolyte and an electrode result in sluggish ionic transfer — or no transfer at all — creating electrical resistance and poor conductivity. Over time, the lack of proper contact may degrade that hardens post-application to maintain a "true" solid composition in a solid-state battery.

Conclusion

Solid-state batteries are potentially useful in pacemakers, Radio-frequency identification (RFID), wearable devices, and electric vehicles. The greatest advantage of solid-state battery over lithium-ion battery for electric vehicles is its less charging time which along with its lighter weight will make the electric vehicles more popular. Recently, a team of scientists at Harvard University developed a solid-state battery that can charge in the time it takes to fill up a petrol tank with a battery lifespan that lasts three-to-six times longer than the typical EV battery.

While new innovations accumulate, solid-state batteries remain held up in research labs and on factory floors. They're still too expensive to produce and challenging to manufacture at scale, making them commercially nonviable. But with the advancement of technology, the difficulties will gradually be reduced and large scale manufacturing can be done with affordable cost. If successful, solid-state batteries will provide us the best hope to get to safe, truly affordable, long-range electric cars that double in mileage

SCIENTIFIC FACTS

"Massive Energy Jets from Distant Black Hole Stun Astronomers"

Astronomers have detected two massive beams of energy shooting out from a supermassive black hole in a distant galaxy, marking the largest such jets ever found. These jets extend about 140 times the size of our Milky Way galaxy, making them an incredible discovery.

The black hole is located at the center of a galaxy roughly 7.5 billion light-years away from Earth. To give some perspective, a light-year is the distance light travels in one year – about 5.9 trillion miles (9.5 trillion kilometers). Since we are seeing the light from this black hole billions of years later, it's like looking back in time to when the universe was much younger.

Black holes are extremely dense objects with gravity so powerful that even light cannot escape. Most galaxies, including our Milky Way, have a supermassive
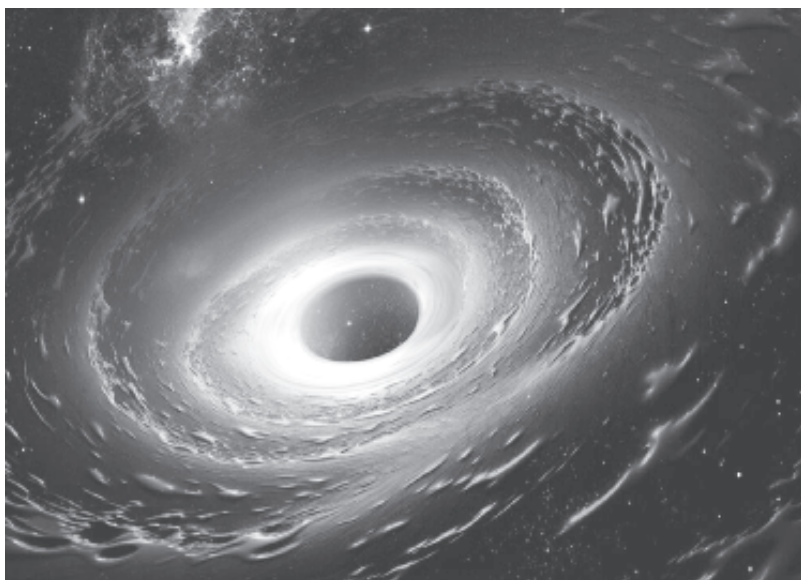
black hole at their core. Some of these black holes release jets of high-energy particles and magnetic fields from their poles as they pull in material like gas, dust, and stars.

In this case, the jets were studied

using a special radio telescope network called LOFAR, based in the Netherlands. These jets stretch an astonishing 23 million light-years from one end to the other. They are made up of high-speed subatomic particles called

electrons and positrons, as well as magnetic fields. The researchers have named these jets "Porphyrion" after a giant from Greek mythology.

Porphyrion's jets are about 30% longer than the previous record-holders and are among the most energetic events seen in the universe since the Big Bang, said Martijn Oei, an astrophysicist from Caltech and the lead author of the study. These jets are

powered by material falling onto the black hole and can last for billions of years.

The jets shoot far beyond their home galaxy and release energy equivalent to trillions of stars. This energy output is similar to

what happens when galaxy clusters collide. What's more, these jets could help scientists understand how magnetic fields in the universe work. They may also heat up gas in space, preventing the formation of new stars and potentially harming planets in their path.

Our own Milky Way's black hole is currently quiet and doesn't have jets like these. However, this discovery shows that black holes can influence areas far beyond their home galaxy. As Oei pointed out, under the right conditions, black hole jets can grow as large as the universe's biggest cosmic structures, reaching out into galaxy clusters, filaments, and voids.

From Page 02 (Visit Industry for...)

Textiles and Apparel

Apparel, being a high employment generating sector, is a focus sector of the State. A dedicated Apparel policy has been promulgated by the State for the development of the sector. As a result of investor friendly policy in this sector, the State has seen significant investments from apparel sector companies in recent times. Shahi Exports has setup an apparel manufacturing unit at Khordha with an annual capacity of 3.6 million pieces. Aditya Birla Fashion has received approval for setting up an apparel manufacturing unit at Rayagada. Besides, a textile park is being developed at Bhadrak. This park is expected to generate significant employment in the sector through development of an ecosystem for synthetic fibres in the State. Due to pro-industrial Policy of the State and investor friendly eco-system created by the state, the industry sector has shown tremendous growth. As per latest data released by CSO, in 2017-18 (P), number of factories in manufacturing and wearing apparels has risen by 33.33% from previous year. Growth of Fixed Capital, Workers and emoluments are increased by 1890.72% (2nd highest), 613.07% (4th highest) and 409.32% (3rd highest) respectively in comparison to previous year.

Chemicals, Plastics and Petrochemicals

Chemicals and Petrochemicals is also one of the identified focus sectors of the State. Indian Oil Corporation is operating a 15 MMTPA refinery at Paradip and is planning to further expand its capacity. Besides, it has also commenced commercial production from Polypropylene unit which will supply raw material to the Plastic Park at Paradip Mono-Ethylene Glycol (MEG) unit and Paraxylene-PTA units which are at different stages of implementation and will help create a large downstream ecosystem for chemicals and textiles sector in the State. The State has also received investment intent from various other national and international companies in the sector.

Food processing including sea food

The State is blessed with ten agro-climatic zones and more than 60 lakh hectares of cultivated land. It is one of the largest producers of rice, vegetables, fruits, sea food, spices, oil seeds and various other crops in the country. Keeping this in consideration, the State has also promulgated an exclusive Food Processing Policy 2016, providing competitive incentives to units setting up in the State. The State has also a conducive ecosystem for investments in the sector in the form of food parks at Khordha and Rayagada and a dedicated sea food park at Deras.As a result, the Gross

Value Added in manufacture of food products has increased from INR 49,089 lakhs in 2016-17 to INR 1,48,100 lakhs in 2017-18. Further this has resulted in creation of additional employment of 2,623 number in 2017-18 over 2016-17.

Electronics Manufacturing

A 215 acres ready-to-use dedicated Electronic Manufacturing Cluster has been developed close to Bhubaneswar. An attractive incentive framework of Special Package Incentive Scheme over and above the m-SIPS Programme of Government of India has been promulgated to facilitate investments in this sector. Odisha is emerging as a manufacturing hub of the east as occupies significant place in the mineral map of India producing mineral costs of INR78,754 crore (up to February, 2020), produced more than 50% aluminium in India, major Steel producing state contributing half of steel production in India.

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)

The Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) contributes significantly to value addition, employment generation, export promotion and overall growth & development of States' economy. Next to agriculture this sector generates maximum employment with minimum investment. Therefore, the State Government creates adequate space for MSME development in IPR-2015 and also in MSME Policy 2016.

During 2019-20, around 57,651 MSME units were set up with an investment of INR 2659.69 crore, leading to employment generation for 1.63 lakh persons. Altogether 4,49,352 MSMEs have been established with an investment of INR 21,801.51 crore and employment of 16,92,298 persons till March 2020.

Sector-wise disaggregation indicates that repairing services account for the majority share in MSMEs, with almost 62 % share of total MSMEs setup in the State and generating 49 % of the total employment opportunities created through MSME units (Table 3.23). A possible reason for the high concentration of MSMEs in the repairing services can be attributed to challenges related to literacy, skills, opportunities, marketing, credit facility etc., pushing young entrepreneurs to engage themselves in repairing services units. Food and Allied sectors follow the Repairing services in terms of units, investment and employment generation.

Major Government initiatives in MSME Sector

1,77,503 MSME Enterprises have 'gone into production' with total investment of INR 8181.28 crore and employment to 5.05 lakh persons in the last three years. Thus, altogether 4,49,379 MSMEs have gone into production with an investment of INR 21,816.75 crore and employment to

16.92 persons till March, 2020. 35,219 youth have been provided Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) in 1135 batches during last three (3) years including 11773 youth during 2019-20. In order to boost systematic development of MSMEs, Food Processing industry and Start-ups, Odisha MSME Development Policy, Odisha Food Processing Policy and Odisha Start-up Policy have been operationalized since 2016.1,021 MSMEs have been provided financial assistance of INR 129.20 crore under Govt. Policies from 2017-18 to 2019-20. As regards food processing sector, MIITs Mega Food Park at Rayagada has already become operational, Infrastructure Development in Marine Food Park at Deras is at advance stage of development. 9 MSME Multi-product Parks in Sambalpur, Sundargarh, Angul, Cuttack and Khordha districts have been approved to provide land with developed infrastructure to MSMEs.Similarly, new Food Parks in Bargarh, Bolangir, Ganjam, Kalahandi & Nabarangpur have been taken up through IDCO.

Odisha Steel

Odisha Steel is an emerging sector that will supplement the industrial sphere of Odisha. The developing industries producing steel will dominate the economy of the state. The presence of raw materials in abundance in the region has resulted in attracting the big investors to the region. The large scale steel enterprises have opted to invest in the state of Odisha. The reasons behind the sudden interest of the steel plants like TATA Steel and Ruia's Essar Steel are the large iron ore deposits in the districts of Keojhar. The state mines 58 percent of iron ore which is an important raw material for making steel. The state also has a ready market for the steel products. Labor and electricity in the state are cheap which account for a low cost of production. The infrastructure of the state is also well developed that facilitates the industrial sector. These factors have lured the reputed steel companies of the country to the state. With the global demand for steel growing, the Union Cabinet recently unveiled a new steel policy that seeks to shore up the per annum steel production from 38 million tonnes to 100 million tonnes by 2019-20. But going by the current rush for iron ore in Odisha, the country may achieve the target well before the deadline. The State Government assigned 49 MoUs with various domestic and foreign companies for production of more than 75 million tonnes of steel in the state thereby bringning investment to the tune of 198,149 crore rupees. Similier MoUs have been signed by the state Government for alumina-aluminium and cement projects in the state.

EXPLAINER

Indo-Pacific Focus: PM Modi in U.S. for High-Stakes Quad Summit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi departed today (September 21) for a three-day official visit to the United States, during which he is

Originally, India was scheduled to host this Quad meeting, but the venue was changed to the United States at the request of the Biden

almost a decade, primarily due to Australia's concerns about the potential negative reaction from China.

scheduled to participate in the sixth Quad Summit. This summit, set to take place in Wilmington, Delaware, is also expected to include meetings with U.S. President Joe Biden.

"Today, I begin a three-day visit to the United States to attend the Quad Summit, hosted by President Biden in his hometown of Wilmington, and to address the Summit of the Future at the UN General Assembly in New York," Modi said in a statement just before his departure.

During this trip, Modi expressed his eagerness to meet with U.S. President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida as part of the Quad Summit. Highlighting the forum's significance, Modi emphasized how the Quad has evolved into a critical platform for like-minded nations, working together to promote peace, development, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.

administration. According to India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, India is now expected to host the next Quad meeting in 2025.

The sixth Quad Summit will be unique in that it will be hosted at President Biden's personal residence in Wilmington.

What is the Quad?

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, commonly known as the Quad, is a strategic alliance that includes India, the United States, Japan, and Australia. Its main goal is to ensure an "open, stable, and prosperous" Indo-Pacific region. The origins of the Quad date back to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami when these four nations collaborated on disaster relief operations. At that point, the grouping was more of an informal coalition.

In 2007, the Quad was officially established under the leadership of Japan's then-Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. However, the alliance remained dormant for

In 2017, the Quad was revitalized as the participating nations became increasingly wary of China's growing influence in the
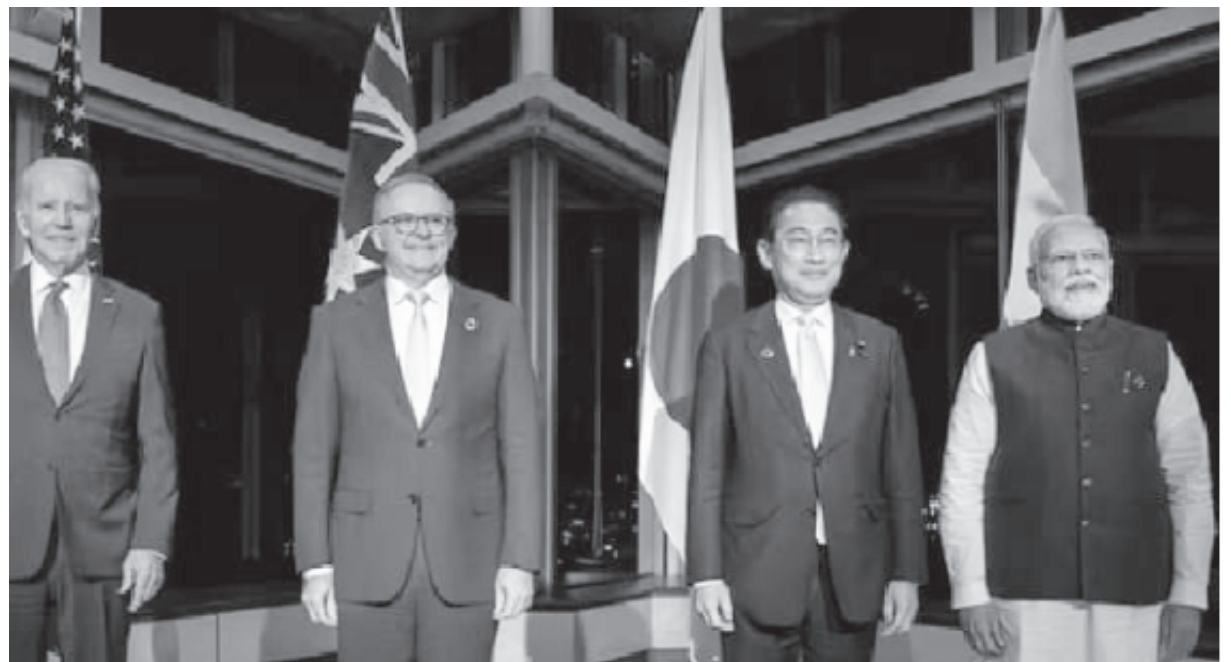
region. Unlike NATO's Article 5, which mandates collective defense in the event of an attack on one member, the Quad has no similar security clause. Rather,

its strength lies in diplomatic cooperation and joint military exercises, which serve to demonstrate the unity of the group.

Despite its non-military nature, China has voiced its opposition to the Quad, describing it as an "Asian NATO" that could pose a threat to its regional dominance.

The Evolution of the Quad

The Quad experienced significant growth in 2021 when it was elevated to the level of a leaders' summit. The first such summit took place virtually on March 12, 2021. The second summit, which marked the first in-person meeting of Quad leaders, was held on September 24, 2021, in Washington, D.C.

At the 2021 summit, leaders announced the creation of three working groups focusing on infrastructure, space, and cyber issues. Following this, the third Quad leaders' summit, conducted virtually on March 3, 2022, addressed the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and its broader

implications for the Indo-Pacific region.

The fourth Quad summit, which was the second in-person meeting, took place on May 24, 2022, in Japan. A key outcome of this meeting was the launch of the Quad Satellite Data Portal. This initiative aims to provide countries in the region with access to space-based data, aiding in climate forecasting, disaster relief, and sustainable management of marine resources.

The fifth Quad summit, held on May 20, 2023, in Hiroshima, Japan, saw the release of a vision statement reaffirming the Quad's commitment to a "free, open, and resilient Indo-Pacific." The statement emphasized the importance of sovereignty, peace, prosperity, and security in the region, while rejecting intimidation and coercion. Disputes in the region, the

leaders asserted, should be resolved in accordance with international law.

A joint statement from the summit, titled "Enduring Partners for the Indo-Pacific," further elaborated on the Quad's long-term vision for the region, one that is peaceful, inclusive, and respectful of national sovereignty.

Quad Foreign Ministers' Meetings

The Quad leaders' summits are grounded in regular meetings of the Quad foreign ministers, who focus on strategic challenges and opportunities for cooperation. Topics discussed in these meetings typically include maritime security, counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and countering disinformation.

To date, the foreign ministers have met eight times, with their most recent meeting taking place in Tokyo on July 29, 2024. The ministers issued a statement reaffirming their commitment to

upholding international principles for the greater global good.

In addition to these annual gatherings, the Quad ministers continue to work on practical initiatives to strengthen the alliance and ensure that it remains responsive to evolving geopolitical challenges.

Looking Forward: The Future of the Quad

As the Quad continues to evolve, it is likely to play an increasingly prominent role in shaping the Indo-Pacific region's future. While the group remains a diplomatic and cooperative platform, its emphasis on maintaining a free and open region has garnered both regional and global attention. The next Quad summit, to be hosted by India in 2025, will be closely watched as the grouping looks to further solidify its standing as a key player in international affairs.

WOMEN

Rise in Crime Against Women in India

Pradeep Kumar Panda, Economist, Bhubaneswar

According to the Crime in India 2022: Statistics Volume 1, the annual report by the National Crime Records Bureau, there was a 4% rise in the registered crimes against women in 2022, compared to the previous year. In absolute numbers, the total
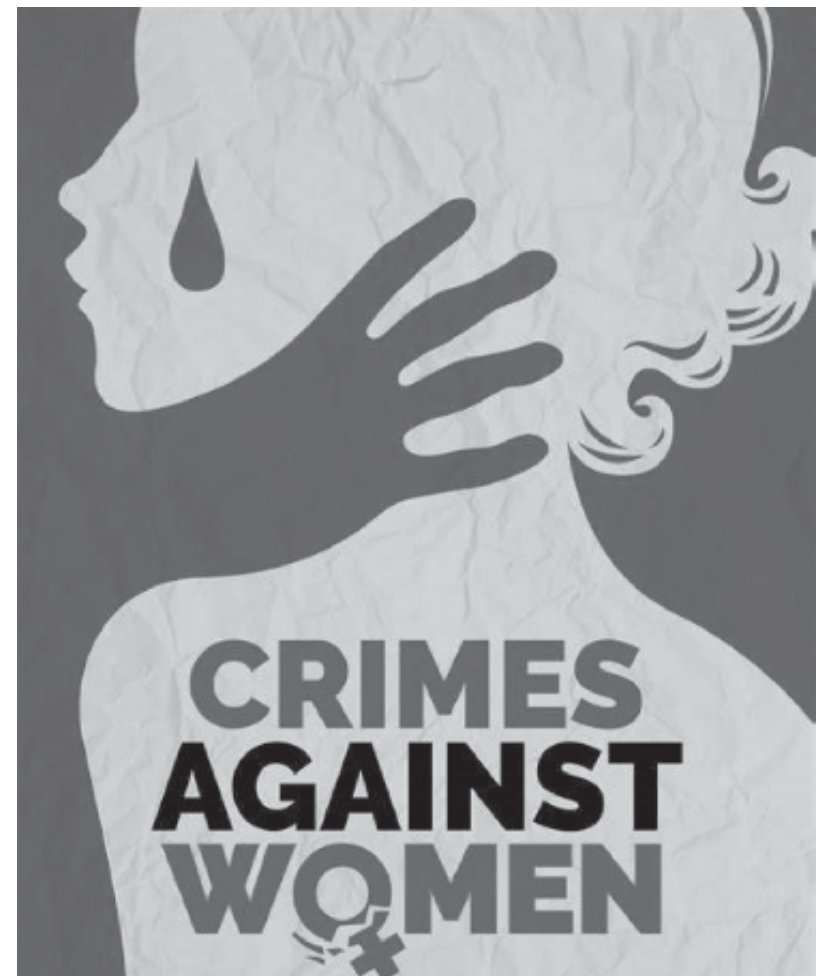

number of registered crimes against women was 4,45,256 cases in 2022. Of these, 31.4% were registered under "cruelty by husband or his relatives," 19.2% were "kidnapping and abduction of women," 18.7% were of "assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty," and 7% were cases under "rape." Similarly, there was a significant rise of 8.7% in crimes against children in 2022, which amounts to 1,62,449 registered cases. Among these, 45.7% of cases constituted of "kidnapping and abduction" and 39.7% of cases were under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012. The rise in crime rates registered is higher in the metropolitan cities. It is important to note, as the report also cautions, that these are just the cases registered with the police. There could be a vast gap between the actual crimes committed and those reported.

A time-bound justice and sensitive judiciary are fundamental to fight back this grim reality and restore the sense of trust in society. Despite the efforts from civil society and the legal community for judicial reforms, the ground reality is dismal and it hardly comes under media scrutiny. The study by the Supreme Court, titled the State of the Judiciary: A Report on Infrastructure, Budgeting, Human Resources and ICT (2023), states that there are over five crore pending cases in India dealt with by 20,580 judges across the Supreme Court, high courts, and district courts. The report found that more than 42.9% of courtrooms have been under construction for over three years. There are a staggering number of issues plaguing the judiciary when it comes to having a basic infrastructure in place. Some of these are serious shortages of judicial support staff, vacancies of judges, non-compliance with the recruitment timelines and extreme delays, lack of courtrooms, washrooms, poor representation, limited digitisation, e-filing facilities and videoconferencing facilities and so on. A strong and sound judiciary is not simply "strong punishment" or a "strong law" but the whole mechanism of the justice delivery system. Additionally, there are challenges of pronouncing judgments fearlessly without the threats of mobs, media trials, or political pressures.

In the last decade or so, all discussions on social justice, socio-economic issues, and human rights have disappeared from the mainstream media. Today, any attempt at critique is seen as "anti-religion," "anti-national" or "anti-establishment." The government's focus on women's empowerment through schemes, cash transfers, or nutritional programmes, though important, becomes the dominant national and regional narrative of change. And hence, when incidents like the release of convicted gang rapists in the Bilkis Bano case, abuse of a large number of women in Manipur in the ongoing conflict, and the battle by women wrestlers against the ex-chief of the Wrestling Federation of India happens, the media-created bubble of good governance and toxic positivity bursts. The public outrage derails this image-management wagon dragged on for too long by the divisive media.

On 9 August 2024, the nation was shocked, yet again, when the news of a woman doctor's brutal rape and murder in a hospital in Kolkata hit the headlines. As the details of the gruesome nature of the crime and the working conditions of doctors were reported in the media, the citizens and resident doctors across the country erupted in protest. They were right in doing so. Their colleague, a fellow citizen, was assaulted and killed in the most dehumanising manner. A civic police volunteer was arrested immediately as a suspect. For many years now, doctors have been demanding greater safety measures in hospitals as they are often subjected to violent attacks, while on duty. But what happened on 9 August 2024 was a moment of a complete breakdown of their patience. There are now more resident doctors speaking up against the abusive work environments where ragging, bullying, and harassment by colleagues, seniors, professors and patient's relatives, are rampant. The issue today, however, is not limited to the poor working conditions alone but the persistence of structural abuse faced by women and children all over the country.

Two equally brutal cases of sexual abuse, and in one case murder of Dalit children, were reported in the week following the Kolkata case. In Muzaffarpur, Bihar, a 14-year-old Dalit girl child was abducted, allegedly raped and murdered by the middle-aged prime accused who had threatened the victim's family for turning down his marriage proposal. In Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh, an assistant development officer of the agriculture department raped a 10-year-old Dalit child in her own house. As we read in utter shock and write about more such cases, parents in Badlapur, Maharashtra, have hit the streets in protest against the sexual abuse of two children on their own school premises.

A hospital, a home, a neighbourhood, a school, or a workplace, all these are supposed

to be sites of care, safety, shelter and growth, surrounded by the "known" people. The knee-jerk reaction of the institutions and governments is to restrict the movement of women at certain times and spaces. The subject of sensitisation across genders against patriarchal cultures and practices gets a footnote mention. There are, of course, efforts at the individual level towards gender sensitisation but they need to be supported by large-scale and consistent government, institutional and community interventions so that gender-sensitive education and culture become mainstream and are not restricted to a one-time workshop or a campaign. We have conveniently avoided the most important discussion about why these cases keep occurring and what measures have been taken to prevent them. How does the culture of impunity, selective outrage, and complete silence when the accused is a powerful person enable misogynist violence and exploitation? We will yet again focus all the attention on a few rotten apples when the problem lies in the whole poisoned orchard that needs uprooting.

The outbreak of the frustrated public emotion, as seen in Kolkata and Badlapur, is also a desperate need to break away from this media-created echo chamber that people knew did not represent their reality, their experiences, and their worst fears.

Safety and freedom to live as fearless citizens is a collective effort; no one can be excluded from it. This can only be shaped by a larger philosophical commitment against patriarchy and all kinds of violence rooted in the idea of superior–inferior or dominant–subordinate. It requires a humanitarian vision and action and not a majoritarian impulse that bullies the vulnerable and marginalised people into further silence.

When politics is reduced to gathering crowds of followers on non-issues, display of eloquent rhetoric, whipping up emotions through provocative speeches or indulging in huge expenditures, it translates into precarious living conditions for the citizens. The real progressive politics of development involves the hard work of transforming the unequal and oppressive social order. This work is slow, gets no instant validation, and involves no high-decibel arguments but listening and questioning through conversations; it has no theatrics and spectacle but gradual conscientisation. It is a daily routine work informed by a dramatic vision and radical commitment for a just, democratic society.

HEALTH

India Bans 156 Fixed-Dose Combination Drugs Over Safety Concerns

In August 2024, the Indian government took action by banning 156 fixed-dose combination (FDC) drugs, which included painkillers, multivitamins, and antibiotics typically used for treating ailments like fever and the common cold. This isn't the first time the authorities have acted against FDCs—back in 2016, the Ministry of Health restricted the sale of 344 FDC drugs. However, after legal challenges from pharmaceutical companies, only 14 of those drugs remained banned. Over the years, FDCs have been increasingly criticized

for being harmful and scientifically unsound, posing a growing risk to public health in India.

What Are Fixed-Dose Combination Drugs?

Fixed-Dose Combination (FDC) drugs consist of two or more active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) combined in a single dose. According to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), FDC drugs are formulations designed to treat specific conditions by combining multiple active ingredients in one dose. FDCs are often used to make treatment plans simpler, enhance patient compliance, and address several health issues at once, such as in managing HIV, tuberculosis, or hypertension.

By reducing the number of pills a patient needs to take, FDCs improve adherence to medical treatments. When used appropriately, they can enhance the efficacy of medicines, allowing them to work in synergy while reducing the dosage required compared to when taken separately. For example, an FDC that combines metformin and glyburide has been shown to effectively manage diabetes with lower doses compared to using the drugs individually. This can help improve patient outcomes and minimize potential side effects.

Why Are Some FDCs Being Banned?

Despite the potential benefits, the government has banned certain FDCs due to concerns regarding their safety, efficacy, and misuse. Some combinations may include drugs that are incompatible, leading to ineffective treatment or serious side effects. Many of these FDCs have not undergone the necessary clinical trials to establish their safety or effectiveness, raising significant health concerns.

Dr. Pawan Gupta, a senior consultant in pulmonary medicine at BLK-MAX Super Speciality Hospital, New Delhi, points out that some of these combinations can result in adverse effects such as arrhythmia, tachypnea, hypotension, or even life-threatening allergic reactions. Meanwhile, Dr. Narender Saini, former Honorary President of the Indian Medical Association, highlights that many of the banned FDCs consist of antibiotics, painkillers, and anti-allergic mixtures, which offer little therapeutic benefit but come with increased risks of side effects.

In India, the widespread use of FDCs was initially driven by their affordability and convenience. However, concerns arose over their irrational use, as many were approved at the state level without proper oversight from central regulatory bodies. This led to a 2018 Supreme Court order that banned 328 FDCs due to the associated health risks.

The Growing Threat of FDCs

Though FDCs can make it easier for patients to manage multiple medications, they can also increase health risks. One issue is that if a patient needs to adjust the dosage of just one component of the FDC, they would have to change the entire combination, potentially leading to under-treatment or over-treatment. Additionally, combining multiple active ingredients increases the likelihood of adverse effects, making it harder to pinpoint which ingredient is responsible for the side effects.

In the case of antibiotics, FDCs may contribute to antimicrobial

resistance if some of the components are ineffective against the target infection. As India faces growing concerns over antimicrobial resistance, the decision to ban several FDCs could help curb the misuse and over-the-counter sale of these drugs. Dr. Vibhu Kawatra, a pulmonologist and allergy specialist, notes that this move could be crucial in addressing the rising threat of drug-resistant infections.

A new Steel Directorate was set up on 15th of July 2016 as a composite Directorate under the administrative control of Steel and Mines Department. The Directorate will focus on Iron Ore based Industries located in Odisha with following key activities.

- To coordinate with the steel industries in the state to assist in addressing the issues relating to such investments, in coordination with the IPICOL

- To monitor the implementation of MoUs signed steel industries for expediting the investments.

- To regularly interact with the existing steel units with a view to identifying the problems and issues relating to optimal capacity utilization.

- To maintain a database on investments, production, employment etc. of Iron ore base industries in Odisha.

- To monitor the availability of assured supply of raw material to the steel industries.

- To assist the Department in policy matters relating to steel industry.

Industrial Promotion & Investment Corporation of Odisha Ltd (IPICOL) has constantly and consistently increased the visibility of the State in National & International level by participating and organizing events, seminar and workshops across the globe. The brand "Invest Odisha" is being promoted as the best Investment destination through various modes. Make in Odisha is the flagship biennial event organized in Bhubaneswar to showcase the prowess of Industrial ecosystem in the state.

The Government organized the first conclave in 2016 which attract 84 proposals worth Rs. 2.03 lakh crores of Investment. 50 out of those proposals were approved, 29 of those projects are under construction. 6 out of those projects have already started production. The second edition of the conclave was organized in 2018 which attract Rs. 4.23 lakh crores of investment across 17 diversified sectors. 202 investment intents were received during the event and 100 proposals were approved. 58 of those projects have already started construction and 5 have already started production. The third edition of the conclave was organized in 2022 which attract Rs. 10.17 lakh crores of investment across 22 diversified sectors.

Major initiatives taken by the government to promote Odisha as an investment destination:

The Government of Odisha unveiled a strategic action plan for the implementation of the 'Vision 2025' which lays a road map for industrial growth in the state over the next decade during the recently concluded Odisha Investors meet in Bengaluru. The state has identified five focus sectors that include agro and food processing, chemicals and petrochemicals, textiles and apparel, downstream and ancillary industries in metal sector and electronic system design and manufacturing and IT/ITeS. The plan covers policy, infrastructure, investment promotion and skilling interventions that the state government plans to undertake for industrial development in these focus sectors.

The state government also launched an advance version of its industrial portal for land use and services i.e, GOPLUS. The GOPLUS Version 2.0 provides information about the entire land bank available in the state for industrial use and works as a onestop portal to provide information about all land related queries of an investor. Using the portal, an investor can get information about availability of land parcel in the vicinity of preferred infrastructure utilities such as airport, port etc.

Odisha government also launched its startup policy 2016 that aims to create 1,000 startups in the state by 2020.The policy will aim at providing incentives, support and assistance to start ups at all stages of development including idea or prototype stage, commercialization stage as well as the marketing stage. The Odisha government has also set up a startup capital infrastructure fund upto Rs 25 crore that will be used to support development of startup ecosystem in the state.

In order to increase the employment opportunities in the state, Odisha government has announced plans to invest US$ 28.69 billion in the manufacturing sector generating nearly three lakh job opportunities by 2020.

In June 2015, in an effort to increase the traffic of foreign airlines in the state, the state government exempted the Value Added Tax (VAT) imposed on aviation turbine fuel.

In July 2015, the state government announced plans to frame a rural Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) scheme under which subsidies are planned to be offered for establishing BPO units. In places where STPI (Software Technology Parks of India) stations are situated, employment opportunities are expected to be generated in the state. STPIs in the state are located in Bhubaneswar, Balasore, Rourkela and Berhampur.

As per budget 2016-17, US$ 39.71 million has been proposed by the state government for developing new railway projects such as the ongoing KhurdaBolangir line, new JayporeMalkangiri, Jaypore-Nabarangpur railway lines, etc. in the state through direct state funding. As per state budget 2016-17, the state government allocated US$ 1.52 million for development and enhancement of eco-tourism in Odisha. A biopharma IT park at Bhubaneswar is established under the public private partnership (PPP) model over a land area of 64.68 acres. A mega food park is established near Bhubaneswar over 282 acres through the PPP mode. Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) is the nodal agency for the establishment of this park. In order to strengthen the artisan-based enterprises in the handicrafts sector, 19 handicraft training centres are functioning in different districts.

POVERTY

Multidimensional Poverty in India: Some Recent Evidence

Pradeep Kumar Panda, Economist, Bhubaneswar

Poverty is pronounced deprivation in well-being. Poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere. Since independence, defining a poverty line has been a debatable issue. During1970s, first such poverty line concept in India was came into existence. Generally, poverty measures in India are money metric in nature and calculated according to a threshold level of MPCE. The connotation of poverty has changed over the years to adjust the measures of poverty line and poverty ratio. The constitution of a Working Group (1962), the Alagh Committee (1979), Lakdawala Committee (1989), Tendulkar Committee (2005), and Rangarajan Committee (2009) contributed to redefining poverty in the country, particularly those of the poor. Multidimensional poverty measures poverty from multiple perspective in terms of education, health, standard of living etc and also involves nonmetric measures in terms of access and deprivation of basic necessities of life (Alkire and Foster, 2011). The paper studies evolution of poverty and number of poor population since independence till date for India and compares with recent multidimensional poverty statistics of best performing states of India.

Poverty in India

All round growth of Indian Economy began in the 1947 and accelerated during the post-independence era in the 1950s, with the introduction of planned development. Balanced regional development helps in poverty alleviation as fruits of growth reaches to all the section of population and gap between rich and poor diminishes gradually. Tendulkar Committee Report (2005) and several subsequent national Sample Survey Organisations survey results outlines estimates of poverty for state and nation. Poverty is denoted in terms of poverty line and head count ratio. The poverty lines for the state are estimated at Rs.695 for rural and Rs.861 for urban area by 2011-12. 25.7% of rural population and 13.7% of rural population were below poverty line in India by

Table 1: Percentage of Rural and Urban poor in India

Year	India	
	Rural	Urban
1973-74	56.44	49.01
1977-78	53.07	45.24
1983-84	45.65	40.79
1987-88	39.09	38.2
1993-94	37.27	32.36
1999-00	27.09	23.62
2004-05	41.80	25.70
2011-12	25.70	13.70

Source: Planning Commission Reports

2011-12. It is worth noting that, India saw 15 percentage points poverty reduction and average annual decline in poverty for the country was 2.14 percentage points during the same period. Several welfare measures with targeted interventions have led to achievement of fastest poverty reduction and India is targeting to eliminate poverty by 2030 as per target of Sustainable Development Goal 1. Percentage of poor population in India (Rural and Urban) from 1973 to 2012 is given in Table 1.

In 1973-74, 56.44% of rural people were poor, which declined to 53.07% (1977-78), to 45.65% (1983), to 39.09% (1987-88), to 37.27% (1993-94) and further declined to 25.7% (2004-05). Similar trend is seen in case of urban poor. Several welfare measures with targeted interventions have led to achievement of fastest poverty reduction and country is targeting to eliminate poverty.

Multidimensional Poverty Index of India

Government of India's premier thinktank NITI Aayog, New Delhi has published 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index – A Progress Review 2023' in July 2023. India's first ever multidimensional poverty index measure based NFHS Round 4 data (2015-16) was published in November 2021. The progress review report is based NFHS Round 5 data (2019-21). The multidimensional poverty index is popularly employed non-money metric poverty index in the world. The index covers overlapping deprivations in health, education and basic standards of living. The non-money metric measures complements money-metric poverty measurements because it measures and compares deprivations directly on the basis of several aspects of development.

The Global Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development was signed on 25 September 2015 by 193 member nations of UN. The agenda established the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), 169 targets and 232 indicators. SDG 1 and Target 1.2 calls for Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere. The goal is multidimensional in its totality. Multidimensional poverty index has wide ranging application for any country in terms of development of schemes and targeted interventions which contribute towards elimination of poverty in all its form from everywhere in the world. The district-wise estimation of multidimensional poverty will help in identifying deprived districts based on these indicators and accordingly policies can be planned and implemented for reaching the goal of Left No One Behind by the year 2030.

NITI Aayog has prepared this index with consultation with Ministries of Union Government. The index has 3 equally weighted dimensions namely health, education and Basic Living Standard. These three dimensions are measured by 12 indicators namely Nutrition, Child and adolescent mortality, Maternal health, Years of schooling, School attendance, Cooking fuel, Sanitation, Drinking water, Electricity, Housing, Assets and Bank account.

As per the progress review report, the share of India's population who are multidimensionally poor has declined from 24.85% in 2015-16 to 14.96% in 2019-21. Among states, Kerala has lowest poverty (0.55%) and Bihar has highest poverty (33.76%). This review report is based on NFHS Round V data (2019-21). Percentage of population who are poor in these 12 indicators in all states and union territories of India is given in Table 2.

India has witnessed significant reduction in multidimensional

Table 2: State/UT Wise Multidimensional Poor Population in India (2019-21)

Sl No	State	Headcount Ratio (%)
1	Bihar	33.76
2	Jharkhand	28.81
3	Meghalaya	27.79
4	Uttar Pradesh	22.93
5	Madhya Pradesh	20.63
6	Assam	19.35
7	Chhattisgarh	16.37
8	Odisha	15.68
9	Nagaland	15.43
10	Rajasthan	15.31
11	Arunachal Pradesh	13.76
12	Tripura	13.11
13	West Bengal	11.89
14	Gujarat	11.66
15	Uttarakhand	9.67
16	Manipur	8.10
17	Maharashtra	7.81
18	Karnataka	7.58
19	Haryana	7.07
20	Andhra Pradesh	6.06
21	Telangana	5.88
22	Mizoram	5.30
23	Himachal Pradesh	4.93
24	Punjab	4.75
25	Sikkim	2.60
26	Tamil Nadu	2.20
27	Goa	0.84
28	Kerala	0.55
	Union Territory	
1	Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	9.21
2	Jammu & Kashmir	4.80
3	Ladakh	3.53
4	Chandigarh	3.52
5	Delhi	3.43
6	Andaman & Nicober Islands	2.30
7	Lakshadweep	1.11
8	Puducherry	0.85
	India	**14.96**

Source: NITI Aayog National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023

poverty. Government of India is targeting to multidimensional reduce poverty to 7% by the end of 2025 and end multidimensional poverty by

Table 3: Reduction of Multidimensional Poverty in India (%)

Region	India		
Year	Headcount Ratio	Rural	Urban
2015-16	24.85	32.59	8.65
2019-21	14.96	19.28	5.27

Source: NITI Aayog National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023

Table 4: Reduction in Indicators of Multidimensional Poverty in India (%)
Part A: Health and Education

Indicator	Health			Education	
Year	Nutrition	Child & Adolescent Mortality	Maternal Health	Years of Schooling	School Attendance
2015-16	37.60	2.69	22.58	13.86	6.40
2019-21	31,52	2.06	19.17	11.40	5.27

Source: NITI Aayog National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023

Part B: Standard of Living

Indicator	Standard of Living						
Year	Cooking Fuel	Sanitation	Drinking Water	Electricity	Housing	Asset	Bank Account
2015-16	58.47	51.88	10.92	12.16	45.65	13.97	9.66
2019-21	43.90	30.13	7.32	3.27	41.37	10.16	3.69

Source: NITI Aayog National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023

2030 as per SDG Target 1.2. Government of India is adopting many pro-poor welfare measures and interventions like PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, Ujjwala, PM Awas Yojana, SWANIDHI, Jal Jeevan Mission, Atma Nirbhar Bharat, Smart City Mission, Make in India, Digital India, Skill India, etc. among others in this direction.

Among other accomplishment in SDG, the achievements of India is remarkable in the domain of elimination of poverty in last decade. Improvement in social sector indicators, elimination of all forms of poverty, hunger, malnutrition and provision of basic standards of living will lead to achievement of 2030 agenda of Sustainable Development in India.

If we analyse indicator score, it can be said that low nutrition, less access to safe cooking fuel, less sanitation coverage and less housing coverage are contributing towards high multidimensional poverty. However, in indicators like child & adolescent mortality, school attendance, and bank account are performing well in comparison to other indicators. Government of India is putting utmost focus and allocating significant fund in concerned areas. India has achieved significant reduction in infant mortality rate and maternal mortality ratio in the country. Data driven governance and real time monitoring of schemes and programmes will certainly be helpful in achieving required targets and objectives.

Recent Evidence on MPI

24.82 crore people escaped multidimensional poverty in last nine years. Findings of NITI Aayog's Discussion Paper 'Multidimensional Poverty in India since 2005-06' give credit for this remarkable achievement to significant initiatives of the government to address all dimensions of the poverty between 2013-14 to 2022-23.

According to the Discussion Paper, India has registered a significant decline in multidimensional poverty in India from 29.17% in 2013-14 to 11.28% in 2022-23 i.e. a reduction of 17.89 percentage points. Uttar Pradesh registered the largest decline in the number of poor with 5.94 crore people escaping multidimensional poverty during the last nine years followed by Bihar at 3.77 crore, Madhya Pradesh at 2.30 crore and Rajasthan at 1.87 crore.

SPORTS

India Dominates Bangladesh with Historic Test Win in Chennai

The Indian cricket team, led by Rohit Sharma, continued their strong performance at home by defeating Bangladesh with a massive 280-run win in the first Test at MA Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai. India posted a solid 376 runs in their first innings and then bowled Bangladesh out for just 149, gaining a significant lead of 227 runs. In their second innings, India added 287 more runs, setting Bangladesh a tough target of 515. Despite a brave effort from Bangladesh captain Najmul Hasan Shanto, who scored 82, his team was bowled out for 234, handing India a comfortable victory to start the Test series.

Bangladesh had a good start during the first two sessions of the match, but India turned the game around with the help of Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja. Jasprit Bumrah's impressive bowling gave India the upper hand after the first innings. In India's second innings, Rishabh Pant and Shubman Gill both scored centuries, further strengthening India's position. Ashwin and Jadeja then took key wickets in Bangladesh's second innings to secure the win.

Ravichandran Ashwin was named Player of the Match for his outstanding performance. He played a crucial role when India was struggling at 144 for 6 in their first innings. Ashwin partnered with Jadeja, and together they added 199 runs for the seventh wicket. Ashwin scored 113 runs, marking his 6th Test century. In Bangladesh's second innings, Ashwin took 6 wickets for 88 runs, helping India claim victory and take a 1-0 lead in the series.

Ravindra Jadeja also contributed significantly with both bat and ball. He scored 86 valuable runs in the first innings and took five wickets across both innings, further showcasing his all-round abilities. Jadeja is now just one wicket away from reaching 300 Test wickets.

Rishabh Pant and Shubman Gill's centuries in the second innings were a highlight of the match. Gill remained unbeaten with 119, while Pant scored an impressive stylish knock of 109, ensuring India set a high target for Bangladesh.

This Test victory marks a significant milestone for Indian cricket. For the first time in history, India has more Test wins than losses, with 179 wins and 178 defeats after 580 matches. This achievement highlights the team's growth and consistent performance over the years, cementing India's position as a dominant force in world cricket.

India Clinches Fifth Hero Men's Asian Champions Trophy with a Narrow Win Over China

Hulunbuir, China – In a thrilling final at the Moqi Hockey Training Base in Hulunbuir, the Indian men's hockey team clinched their fifth Hero Men's Asian Champions Trophy title by defeating China 1-0. The match's decisive moment came in the last quarter, with Jugraj Singh scoring the only goal of the game, securing India's hard-fought victory.

China, making their first-ever appearance in the final, put up a resolute defense, preventing India from breaking through until Jugraj's crucial goal. Despite their underdog status, China gave India a tense fight throughout the game. However, India, ranked fifth in the FIH rankings, showcased their dominance throughout the tournament, including in the high-stakes final.

Indian captain Harmanpreet Singh, who led the team with distinction, was named Player of the Tournament. He also finished as India's top goal-scorer, with seven goals to his name.

This win not only marked India's fifth title in the Asian Champions Trophy but also their sixth appearance in the final out of the eight editions of the tournament held so far. China, meanwhile, stunned the tournament by reaching their first final after defeating Pakistan in the semi-final.

India's victory solidifies their position as the most successful team in the history of the Hero Men's Asian Champions Trophy.

India's Historic Campaign at Paris Paralympics 2024

India made history at the Paris 2024 Paralympics with an outstanding performance by its para-athletes. The Indian contingent clinched an unprecedented 29 medals, comprising seven gold, nine silver, and 13 bronze. This remarkable achievement surpassed India's previous record of 19 medals at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics. The team, consisting of 84 para-athletes, showcased their talent across 12 disciplines during the event, which ran from August 28 to September 8. Notably, India made its debut in para-cycling, para-rowing, and blind judo at this edition of the Paralympic Games.

The Indian para-athletes not only secured medals but also left their mark by setting new records. Sumit Antil, in athletics, established a Paralympic record with an impressive javelin throw of 70.59m, while several others shattered Asian records in high jump, club throw, and shot put.

Additionally, Sheetal Devi, an archer, narrowly missed setting a new world record, and shooter Avani Lekhara set a new Paralympic record in the women's 10m air rifle SH1 event. Notably, 17-year-old Sheetal Devi became India's youngest Paralympic medallist, while 35-year-old Dharambir became the oldest Indian to clinch a gold medal. This exceptional campaign has undoubtedly ushered in a new era for Indian para-sports on the global stage.

Neeraj Chopra Finishes Second at Diamond League Final Narrowly Misses Title by One Centimetre

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WORLD

Hackers Use Telegram to Sell Sensitive Data from India's Largest Health Insurer

Private customer information from Star Health, India's largest health insurance provider, was recently found being shared

through chatbots on the messaging app Telegram. The data leak includes sensitive medical details, raising serious concerns about privacy and security. This comes just weeks after Telegram's founder, Pavel Durov, was accused of enabling illegal activities on the app.

A security researcher first noticed the leak and informed Reuters about it. The researcher found that the chatbots allowed anyone to access private information like medical records, personal IDs, and financial data. The hacker

behind the bot even claimed they had data on millions of people, offering a sample through the chatbot while selling the full database.

What Happened?

Star Health, which is valued at more than $4 billion, has confirmed it is aware of the situation. They've reported the issue to local authorities but said their initial checks showed no

major breach of customer data. The company maintains that its most sensitive customer data is still secure.

Despite this, Reuters was able to use the Telegram chatbots to access over 1,500 documents, including medical reports, IDs, addresses, and phone numbers. This data comes from the personal records of millions of customers and includes recent information from July 2024.

Telegram, which has around 900 million users globally, has faced criticism for its role in enabling criminal activity. Users can create automated chatbots on the platform, which can distribute content based on user requests. This feature has made it easier for hackers to share stolen information like the Star Health data.

The Hacker's Claim

The hacker, who goes by the alias "xenZen," claimed on a forum that they had 7.24 terabytes of data from Star Health, affecting over 31 million customers. They were offering the data in bulk for sale but allowed people to access

small portions of it for free through the chatbots.

UK-based researcher Jason Parker discovered the chatbots and said they had been active since at least August 6. He posed as a buyer on the hacker forum and learned that the data was available on Telegram for anyone to access.

Telegram's Response

When Reuters shared the details with Telegram, the company quickly took action. Within 24 hours, the chatbots were removed, and Telegram issued a statement saying it strictly forbids the sharing of private information. Telegram's spokesperson, Remi Vaughn, explained that the platform uses AI tools and user reports to take down harmful content. However, new chatbots offering Star Health data soon appeared on the platform.

Customer Concerns

The stolen data includes detailed medical records, such as those of a one-year-old girl who was treated in Kerala. Her father,

Sandeep TS, confirmed the authenticity of the documents and expressed concern over how this could affect his family. Another victim, Pankaj Subhash Malhotra, also verified that his medical information was leaked but said Star Health had not informed him of the breach.
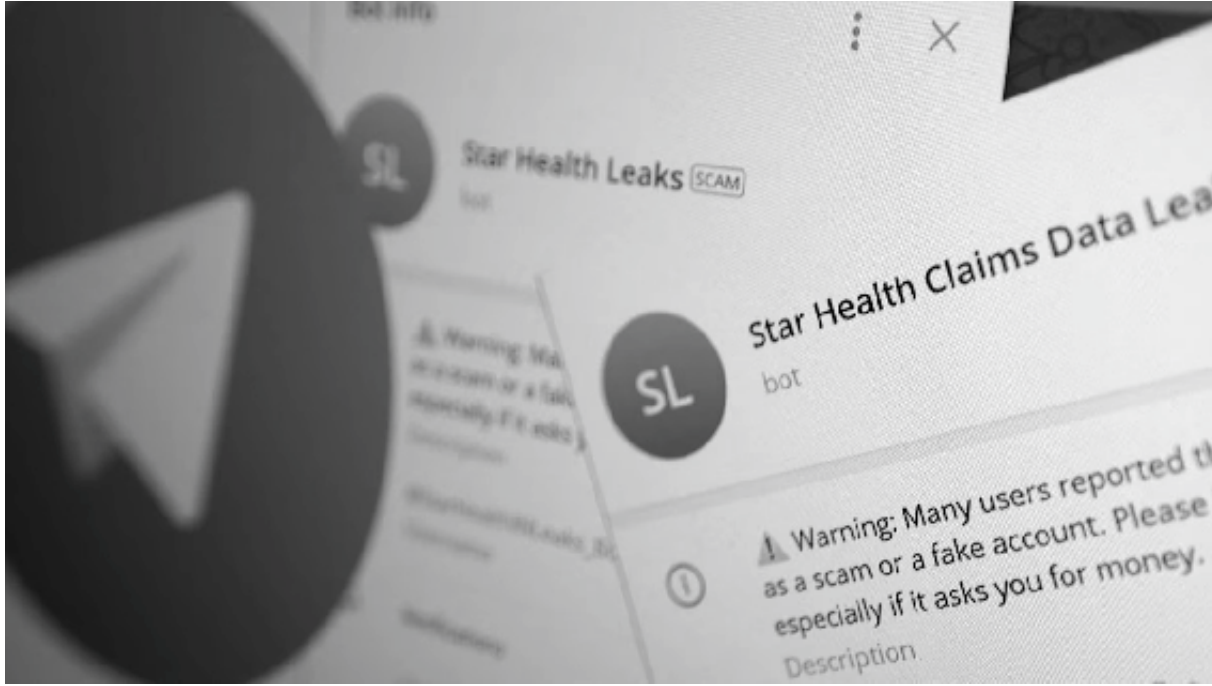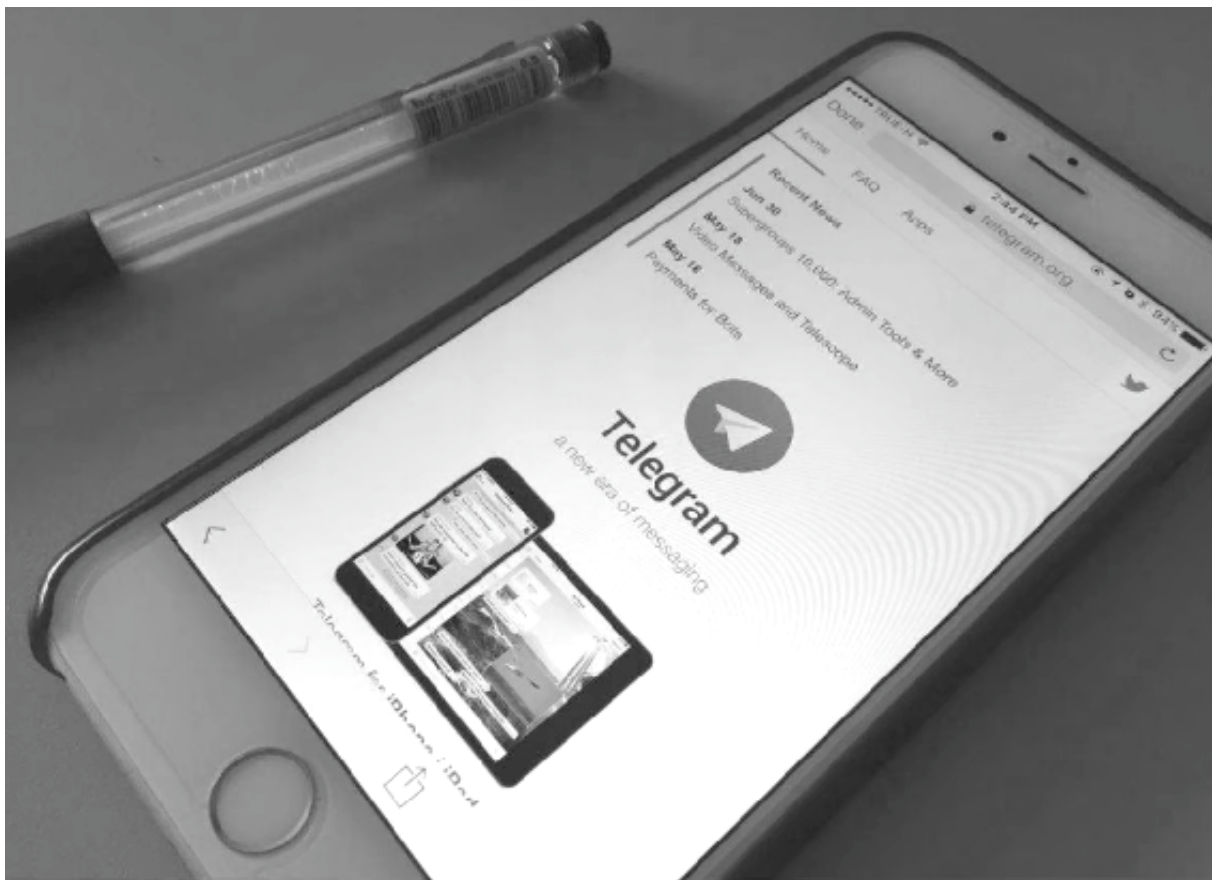
What's Being Done?

Star Health acknowledged that someone contacted them in August, claiming they had accessed the company's data. The company reported this to Tamil Nadu's cybercrime department and CERT-In, India's cybersecurity agency. However, representatives from these agencies have not commented on the situation.

A Growing Problem

This leak is part of a larger trend of hackers using Telegram to sell stolen data. A survey by NordVPN found that India had the largest number of victims, with 12% of all stolen data sold via chatbots coming from the country.

Cybersecurity experts say Telegram has become a convenient platform for criminals because it allows them to operate anonymously and store large amounts of data. Despite the platform's efforts to take down illegal activity, the challenge of preventing criminals from exploiting the technology remains significant.

From Page 11 (Multidimensional Poverty.....)

The paper also shows that the pace of decline in poverty headcount ratio using exponential method was much faster between 2015-16 to 2019-21 (10.66% annual rate of decline) compared to period 2005-06 to 2015-16 (7.69% annual rate of decline). All 12 indicators of MPI have recorded significant improvement during the entire study period. To assess the poverty levels in the year 2013-14 against the current scenario (i.e. for the year 2022-23), projected estimates have been used due to data limitations for these specific periods.

Significant initiatives covering all dimensions of poverty have led to 24.82 crore individuals escaping multidimensional poverty in the last 9 years. As a result, India is likely to achieve its SDG target of halving multidimensional poverty well before 2030. The Government's persistent dedication and resolute commitment to enhancing the lives of the most vulnerable and deprived have been instrumental in this accomplishment.

Government of India has made remarkable progress in improving the lives of people, aiming to reduce poverty in all dimensions. Noteworthy initiatives like Poshan Abhiyan and Anemia Mukt Bharat have significantly enhanced access to healthcare facilities, leading to a substantial decrease in deprivation. Operating one of the world's largest food security programs, the Targeted Public Distribution System under the National Food Security Act covers 81.35 crore beneficiaries, providing food grains to rural and urban populations. Recent decisions, such as extending free food grain distribution under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana for another five years, exemplify Government's commitment. Various programs addressing maternal health, clean cooking fuel distribution through Ujjwala Yojana, improved electricity coverage via Saubhagya, and transformative campaigns like Swachh Bharat Mission and Jal Jeevan Mission have collectively elevated living conditions and overall well-being of people. Additionally, flagship programs like Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana and PM Awas Yojana have played pivotal roles in financial inclusion and providing safe housing for the underprivileged.

While the performance of States varies, some States which were traditionally having high poverty have made remarkable progress in helping people escape poverty, thus reducing inter-state disparities in multidimensional poverty. With this, the fundamental problems in accessing basic services are getting resolved fast so that the country can look towards becoming a developed nation i.e. Viksit Bharat @2047.

Conclusion

NITI Aayog has published 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index – A Progress Review 2023'. As per the progress review report, the share of India's population who are multidimensionally poor has declined from 24.85% in 2015-16 to 14.96% in 2019-21. Among states, Kerala has lowest poverty (0.55%) and Bihar has highest poverty (33.76%). This index is based on the NFHS Round 5 data (2019-21 India has witnessed significant reduction in multidimensional poverty. Government of India is targeting to multidimensional reduce poverty to 7% by the end of 2025 and end multidimensional poverty by 2030 as per SDG Target 1.2. Government of India is adopting many pro-poor welfare measures and interventions like PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, Ujjwala, PM Awas Yojana, SWANIDHI, Jal Jeevan Mission, Atma Nirbhar Bharat, Smart City Mission, Make in India, Digital India, Skill India, etc. among others in this direction. Improvement in social sector indicators, elimination of all forms of poverty, hunger, malnutrition and provision of basic standards of living will lead to achievement of 2030 agenda of Sustainable Development in India. While the performance of States varies, some States which were traditionally having high poverty have made remarkable progress in helping people escape poverty, thus reducing inter-state disparities in multidimensional poverty. With this, the fundamental problems in accessing basic services are getting resolved fast so that the country can look towards becoming a developed nation i.e. Viksit Bharat @2047.

GENDER EQUALITY
Gender Budget in Odisha

Pradeep Kumar Panda, Economist, Bhubaneswar

Women and girls face numerous vulnerabilities, making gender budgeting essential for achieving gender equality and empowerment. This approach to budgeting leverages fiscal policy and administration to advance gender equality and support the development of girls and women. Gender budgeting also serves as a tool for gender mainstreaming, applying a gender perspective to the entire policy process. It involves gender-sensitive formulation, resource allocation, and continuous monitoring to address the vulnerabilities that women face throughout their life cycle.

Gender budgeting is crucial for addressing the specific vulnerabilities that women and girls face in various aspects of life. This approach to budgeting stimuluses fiscal policy and administration to advocate gender equality, supporting the progress of women and girls. In other words, gender budgeting is process and tool used to integrate a gender perspective into fiscal policies and budgetary decisions. It involves gender-sensitive formulation, identifying gender specific needs, resource allocation, enhancing transparency and accountability, continuous monitoring to ensures the efforts as well as the effectiveness to promote gender equality.

The principle of gender equality is integral to the Indian Constitution, encompassing the Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties, and Directive Principles of State Policy, Equality of Opportunity, and Non-Discrimination. It is not only recognised by the Indian Constitution, but also it has been widely covered under the comprehensive framework of rights and protections to ensuring its implementation.

A strategic approach known as Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) ensures that public finances contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment by integrating gender considerations into macro-level policies. GRB is a tool that has significant relevance in translating the gender commitments of the government into budgetary commitments. It ensures a fair distribution of resources between genders and supports equal opportunities for all. Importantly, the GRB does not prepare a separate budget for women and girls, but it aids the government in effectively streamlining the public expenditure in a gender-responsive way.

The Gender Budget Statement (GBS) in this context serves as a vital tool in promoting and monitoring the efforts on gender equality. It enables the way of progress towards gender-related iv goals and targets outlined in the United Nations' Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The GBS plays a crucial role in translating the government's gender commitments into effective budgetary allocations. It consolidates expenditure and allocation across sectors aimed at girls and women, thereby catalyzing sustainable and inclusive growth.

Overall well-being and empowerment of women are fundamental to achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Number 5 i.e. Gender Equality. These are integral to all dimensions of inclusive and sustainable development. The Goal 5 aims specifically to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, ensuring equal opportunities for leadership and participation in all spheres of life. Despite progress in many areas, gender inequality persists globally. Women and girls continue to face barriers to education, employment, healthcare, and political participation. Intersectional marginality, where gender intersects with other forms of discrimination such as race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and disability, further exacerbates these inequalities. It's important to recognize that achieving gender equality is not just a goal in itself but a catalyst for achieving all the other SDGs. When women are empowered and given equal opportunities, societies benefit from their contributions to economic growth, social development, and environmental sustainability.

In governance, Gender Budgeting is a way forward to promote gender equality through the budgeting process, by bringing into focus, various government policies that bolster gender equality. It involves integrating a gender perspective into the budgetary process, ensuring that government policies and expenditures promote gender equality and empower women. Gender budgeting makes it possible for the government to translate their gender commitments to budgetary obligations and to utilize the budget as a tool to influence the lives of girls and women. Moreover, gender budgeting transforms the budget from a technical document into a powerful tool for promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, ensuring that financial resources are effectively utilized to address gender disparities and create opportunities for all individuals to fully participate in and benefit from development processes.

The trajectory of the international action for gender equality can be traced back to the "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women" adopted in 1979 by the United Nations General Assembly. The CEDAW is often referred to as the International Bill of Rights for Women. It is a landmark international treaty that aims to achieve gender equality and eliminate discrimination against women in all spheres of life.

Successive to this was the "Beijing Declaration and Platform" for Action adopted by the UN in 1995 to promulgate a set of principles concerning the equality of men and women. It represents a significant global commitment to evolving gender equality and women's empowerment, setting out a comprehensive agenda with strategic objectives and actions in critical areas of concern, aiming to eliminate obstacles to women's full participation in all spheres of public and private life.

Gender responsive budgeting (GRB) has indeed gained significant traction in the 21st century as a strategic tool for advancing gender equality within public finance management. It has been regarded as an innovative fiscal tool in the drive towards gender equality. More than 80 countries have indeed adopted gender budgeting as part of their public finance management strategies. This adoption reflects a growing recognition of the importance of integrating gender considerations into budgetary processes to achieve gender equality and promote women's empowerment.

While the primary goal of the exercise in Gender Budget is to achieve tangible outcomes for women and girls, its benefits extend beyond their well-being, enhancing societal welfare as a whole. When strategically implemented, gender responsive fiscal policy serves as a powerful tool to allocate resources more equitably, promoting gender equality and fostering overall social and economic development.

The rationale for gender budgeting arises from recognition of the fact that national budgets impact men and women differently through the pattern of resource allocation. Women constitute 48% of India's population, but they lag behind men on many social indicators like health, education, economic opportunities, etc. At the state level, the Gender Budget Statement (GBS) helps the Government in highlighting the fiscal allocations made for women and girls under the state's financial plan. The Government of Odisha having introduced the GBS as part of their annual budgeting process in the FY 2012-13, has always been committed to advancing gender equality, and ensuring that political will and leadership are channelled towards achieving it.

Ensuring sustained policy commitment through budgetary measures is crucial for achieving gender mainstreaming. To effectively address gender-based disadvantages, rigorous fiscal analysis is essential, and a major obstacle to policy commitment can be overcome by compiling sex-disaggregated fiscal data. Recognizing this, the state government is prioritizing the development of a comprehensive disaggregated demographic database. This initiative aims to enable efficient and equitable sectoral fiscal allocations that address the diverse and specific needs of girls and women.

The Odisha State Policy for Girls and Women, formulated by the Department of Women & Child Development and adopted in 2014, focuses on improving the status of girls and women in Odisha in areas including survival; health and nutrition; education; livelihood; asset ownership and decision making, participation and political representation; safety, security and protection; and girls and women with special needs through a life cycle approach. The policy aims to achieve its goals with a mission to create an enabling environment for girls and women that promotes equal opportunities, eliminates discrimination, ensures holistic development and empowerment, and enhances capacities.

The Government of Odisha took a significant step towards women empowerment by establishing the Department of Mission Shakti, a dedicated department focused on creating and supporting Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs). This initiative is designed to address the economic and livelihood challenges faced by women across the state by enhancing their capacities. Additionally, the integration of WSHG networks into the service delivery of various state welfare mechanisms through a convergence model has been a noteworthy advancement. This approach has facilitated women-led implementation efforts of schemes at the grassroots level, promoting greater participation and inclusion in the governance machinery.

Government of Odisha has carefully reassessed and integrated in its planning process, various socio-economic indicators such as poverty, health outcomes, child marriage, child mortality rates, maternal mortality ratio, child trafficking and so forth. GRB has been strengthened in congruity with the Odisha State Policy for Women and Girls which envisages this change by providing capacity building trainings to various line departments and key stakeholders on GRB. A Gender Budget Cell has also been constituted within several departments for overseeing their respective gender budgeting and mainstreaming - related interventions. Furthermore, in an effort to make the budgeting process more transparent and accountable, the Government of Odisha has moved a step further and made the budgetary process digital. Despite such positive measures, the gender gap that still exists in terms of various development indicators needs targeted and coordinated interventions from all relevant stakeholders. The Gender Budgeting exercise is thus, a step in this direction to structurally address such gender inequalities.

In 2024-25, a sum of Rs. 7562291.75 Lakh has been allocated in the Gender Budget (including Part A and Part B) for the development and well-being of Women and Girls in the state, which is 15.28 % higher as compared to Rs. 6183063.74 Lakh in 2023-24 BE.

Out of the total allocation, Rs. 5516467.28 (24.41 %) has been devoted to Gender-Specific (Part A) schemes and programmes, and Rs. 1781351.83 (75.59 %) to the Gender-Sensitive (Part B) components. In Part A, the Department of Women and Child Development (WCD), Health and Family Welfare (H&FW), and Mission Shakti (MS) Departments have 47, 17 and 09 schemes and programmes respectively.

Similarly, in Part B, WCD, H&FW and STSC&MBC departments are at the upper segment with 53, 42 and 36 schemes and programmes respectively. WCD with Rs. 1318316.82 Lakh, MS with Rs, 276152 Lakh and H&FW with Rs. 93525.51 Lakh, have lion's chunk of the Gender-specific budgetary allocation in 2024-25 BE. Likewise, PR&DW with Rs.1203285.41 Lakh, Works with Rs. 765014.99 Lakh, and SSEPD with Rs. 705129.62 Lakh have a larger share of allocation in current budget estimates.

In Part A, the share of Programme Expenditure (PE) is 98.68 % of the total allocation, while Administrative Expenditure (AE) constitutes 1.32 % of the total allocation on children under this umbrella, and the shares of these two in Part B are 90.55 % and 3. 07 % respectively, As per 2024-25 BE, Subhadra Yojana is the largest Gender-specific programme with allocation of Rs. 10000 Crore.

Odisha has demonstrated a strong commitment to addressing the challenges faced by girls and women in the state, including poverty, inequality, and violence. Here are key aspects of their approach. Odisha State Policy for Girl children and Women framed in the year 2014 serves as a guiding framework to promote the rights and entitlements of girls and women. It emphasizes the importance of equal access to resources and opportunities that enable them to live with dignity. The Gender Budget will help in identifying, prioritizing, and addressing gender concerns by formulating and implementing future gender policies, provisions and focus area programmes. It will also serve useful for UN agencies, civil societies, researchers, and other stakeholders in analysing schemes and programmes related to women in the State. The development of the GBS is not an end in itself but a starting point for a more gender transformative governance and administration.

ECONOMY

Crony Capitalism in Indian Economy

Pradeep Kumar Panda, Economist, Bhubaneswar

US-based Hindenburg Research has released another report. The earlier one in January 2023, exposed the extensive financial manipulations by the Adani group. This one though related to

the earlier one focuses on the possible nexus between the Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI's) chairperson, Madhabi Puri Buch, and the Adani group. It points out that while SEBI has issued it a show cause notice in June 2024, it has not investigated the wrongdoings of Adani group. The latest report gives a plausible reason for why this may be so, with whistleblower documentary evidence presented in the report to prove its point.

The SEBI board, some brokers, investors, lawyers and corporates, including Adani have come to the defence of the chairperson. She has presented her defence, suggesting that a) the money invested abroad was out of the savings from working abroad, b) she has not invested in Adani companies, c) she has been transparent about her financial dealings.

The ruling party, though not an accused, immediately came to her defence. This due to the closeness of the party leadership with industrialist Gautam Adani. If the SEBI chairperson gets implicated, then the matter of wrongdoing by Adani, which at present is dormant, would get reopened. The earlier accusations against the Adani group were buried after the Supreme Court pronouncements based on the clean chit by the expert committee it set up. To understand why even weak links in the financial world matter, it is necessary to appreciate the complexity and the secrecy involved in financial manipulations indulged in by businesses.

The suggestion of a possible link between Buch and the Adani group, however weak, points to a conflict of interest. This undermines the credibility of SEBI's actions in the Adani matter. The Supreme Court-appointed expert committee based its observations largely on the basis of SEBI's observations. Since they have come under doubt, the credibility of the expert committee's report also gets undermined. Buch should have revealed her link with the

Adani group to the Supreme Court as well as the public and recused herself from the case. Even if the link was in the past and in her personal capacity, before she joined SEBI, it was a reason for recusal.

After all, SEBI expects the financial institutions it supervises to follow strict norms. Following the dictum 'Caesar's wife has to be above suspicion', the SEBI chief had to be spotless. This is necessary because the world of finance designs complex systems to hide its trail of wrong doings. Innumerable ways are available for the purpose, like, hawala, shell companies, layering and more recently cryptos. In the world of finance, past, weak and obscure links point to relationships hidden behind a veil of secrecy which is used to hide the real financial status and any possible illegality.

International financial architecture has been created for opacity to thwart official investigations. Tax havens are used both for their low taxes and for the promise of secrecy. So, even if the returns are low, businessmen are assured that they will not be caught. Names of Indians holding money abroad have neither been revealed under the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAA) with 87 countries nor Tax Information Exchange (TIE) treaties with 37 nations. These have come from stolen data from tax havens. Like, from Liechtenstein, UBS Geneva, British Virgin Island, Paradise and Panama.

Nested companies in Bermuda or Mauritius are often a part of a chain for transfer of illegal funds. The SEBI chief and her husband, Dhaval Buch, putting their savings in a company that had Vinod Adani as a major depositor is suspicious. Such companies do the bidding of their major depositors and it being helmed by Dhaval Buch's friend is no guarantee of clean business. The deposit in such a company could have been with the motive of building links with powerful people for future benefits. In that case, the deposits being made prior to the appointment(s) in SEBI is immaterial. The links may have helped land key appointments in India. All this needs full investigation.

Top appointments neither in the

public nor in the private sector are based solely on merit. The pliability of the appointee and the knowledge that the person would not only do the bidding of those at the top but would not rock the boat when trouble arises, is crucial.

This is the case with public sector top appointments, especially in the financial sector. Chairpersons and directors are trusted people who should not have a straight spine. In fact, climbing the ladder, the smart imbibe the art of playing the system. Today, few have the integrity to give precedence to the rule of law over their self-interest. Such people are hard to find even in the bureaucracy and the judiciary which have considerable autonomy.

The Adani group of companies is a favourite of the current regime. This has enabled them to acquire profitable assets, easily obtain bank loans and crucially, their manipulations listed in the first Hindenburg report have gone un-investigated. Red flags had been raised six months earlier by some financial institutions.

Crony Capitalism, the nexus between businessmen and politicians, enables the former to have their people in key positions in financial institutions and the bureaucracy. This gives them protection.

The opposition has demanded both, an impartial enquiry and a Joint Parliamentary Committee probe into the matter. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has strongly opposed these demands. The opposition has even said that the Supreme Court should take suo motu note cognisance of the new exposés since the SEBI report may not have been fair if Buch had (even weak) links in the past with the Adani group. She neither mentioned this to the Supreme Court nor recused herself. Any number of judges recuse themselves from hearing cases if they had a link with one of the parties before they became a judge.

To divert attention from the allegations against Adani and his links with the leadership, the ruling party has said that foreign powers and the opposition are trying to derail India's rise as a world power. In this context they often name Hungarian-American billionaire George Soros.

The reality is that India is way behind the US and China in both world economic rankings and military power. We are heavily dependent on them for technology and trade. Further, the USA has been building a strategic partnership with India to thwart China. So, why would the US want Soros to destabilise India? Regarding China, the more damaging aspect is the $85 billion trade deficit with them which reflects our dependence on them. Clearly, if there is any

destabilisation, it is internal and not external.

If the stock market was impacted strongly by the revelations in January 2023, it was due to the expose of the ongoing manipulations. Short selling is a legitimate activity which helps bring down the stock prices from their stratospheric levels to their real value. This does not necessarily destabilise the market.

The overvaluation was apparent in the very high price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio of the Adani companies. For most companies this ratio is in the range of 15 to 25 but for some Adani companies this ratio was 100 and 200. Such high priced shares create the risk of a fall in share prices and the markets.

This extraordinary high value of Adani shares should have been

investigated by SEBI. Other exposes by Hindenburg were OF related party investments and public holding and funds coming from abroad. The subscription of the follow-on public offer (FPO) in January 2023 also points to manipulation. Why would investors subscribe to the FPO when the share was available at a lower price in the market, subsequent to the Hindenburg expose? The subscription by big businessmen on the last day of the FPO showed the clout of Adani group.

The recovery of the Adani stock prices after their steep decline in early 2023 is another example of financial clout. Funds could be arranged. Now, after the second report, the stock market was hardly impacted. Possibly, public financial institutions were told to cushion the fall.

It has been argued that the decline in the stock market leads to losses for investors and puts off foreign investors as the country's reputation suffers. But the unduly high valuations make the stock market into a casino and risky for small investors. The stock markets are controlled by less than 1% of the population. They are the big gainers and

losers when the markets rise and fall.

The undue rise in the stock market affects real investments in the economy and bank deposits. If a 20% return can be made quickly, why invest in real factories that take time to set up and turn a profit? For the same reason, bank deposits earning 7% become unattractive. As banks struggle to raise deposits, they slow down lending, especially to small investors.

Foreign direct investment in 2023-24 is variously estimated at 5-7% of the total investment and not that crucial to the macro economy. It is the internal investment that needs to increase but that is being set back by cronyism which is scaring away investors who worry about being forcibly acquired. Consequently, rather than investing they are

leaving the country.

The Hindenburg report pointed out that short selling in Adani stocks was due to cronyism and stock market manipulations. That is what is spoiling the investment climate, not the exposés by Hindenburg reports. The reports pointing to the illegalities are offering a chance to clean up and put the market on a healthy footing. This requires a clean slate and for that the SEBI chairperson should step aside, at least, for now.

Another court monitored enquiry would have the same limitation as last time. A JPC is needed to expose the manipulations due to the international financial architecture, cronyism and machinations in the stock markets.

The ruling party is unlikely to agree to a JPC unless the opposition presses hard both in parliament and outside. While the previous three JPCs had little impact, this one could be more successful if the public understands the link between Hindenburg reports and their issues of concern – unemployment, inflation and inequality.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

ONION & GARLIC – TOXIC EFFECT ON BODY & MIND

Prabhu Prasad Gadnayak

According to Ayurveda, India's classic medical science, foods are grouped into three categories - sattvic, rajasic and tamasic - foods in the modes of goodness, passion and ignorance. Onions and garlic, and the other alliaceous plants are classified as rajasic and tamasic, which means that they increase passion and ignorance. Rajasic and tamasic foods are also not used because they are detrimental to meditation and devotions. "Garlic and onions are both rajasic and tamasic, and are forbidden to yogis because they root the consciousness more firmly in the body".

Sri Sri Thakur Anukul Chandra told in His Message, **"Do never take fish and meat, do away with onion and garlic, taking non veg makes physical system excited and inadvertently agitated."**

Those that subscribe to pure **brahmana-style cooking of India** and Vaishnavas - followers of Lord Vishnu, Rama and Krishna - like to only cook with foods from the sattvic category. These foods include fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs, dairy products, grains (white rice) and legumes (moong dal), and so on. Specifically, Vaisnavas do not like to cook with rajasic or tamasic foods because they are unfit to offer to the Deity.

It should be pointed out that Garlic and onion are avoided by spiritual adherents because they stimulate the central nervous system, and can disturb vows of celibacy. Garlic is a natural aphrodisiac. Ayurveda suggests that it is a tonic for loss of sexual power from any cause, sexual debility, impotency from over-indulgence in sex and nervous exhaustion from dissipating sexual habits. It is said to be especially useful to old men of high nervous tension and diminishing sexual power.

The Taoists realized thousands of years ago that plants of the alliaceous family were detrimental to humans in their healthy state. In his writings, one sage Tsang-Tsze described the Alliums as the "five fragrant or spicy scented vegetables" - that each have a detrimental effect on one of the following five organs - liver, spleen, lungs, kidneys, and heart. Specifically, onions are harmful to the lungs, garlic to the heart, leeks to the spleen, chives to the liver and spring onions to the kidneys.

Tsang-Tsze said that these pungent vegetables contain five different kinds of enzymes which cause "reactions of repulsive breath, extra-foul odour from perspiration and bowel movements, and lead to lewd indulgences, enhance agitations, anxieties and aggressiveness," especially when eaten raw.

Similar things are described in Ayurveda. 'As well as producing offensive breath and body odour, these (alliaceous) plants induce aggravation, agitation, anxiety and aggression. Thus they are harmful physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually'.

Back in the 1980's, in his research on human brain function, Dr Robert [Bob] C. Beck, DSc. found that garlic has a detrimental effect on the brain. He found that in fact garlic is toxic to humans because its sulphone hydroxyl ions penetrate the blood-brain barrier and are poisonous to brain cells.

Dr. Beck explained that as far back as the 1950s it was known that garlic reduced reaction time by two to three times when consumed by pilots taking flight tests. This is because the toxic effects of garlic desynchronize brain waves. "The flight surgeon would come around every month

and remind all of us: "Don't you dare touch any garlic 72 hours before you fly one of our airplanes, because it'll double or triple your reaction time. You're three times slower than you would be if you'd [not] had a few drops of garlic."

For precisely the same reason the garlic family of plants has been widely recognized as being harmful to dogs. Even when garlic is used as food in Chinese culture it is considered harmful to the stomach, liver and eyes, and a cause of dizziness and scattered energy when consumed in immoderate amounts. Nor is garlic always seen as having entirely beneficial properties in Western cooking and medicine. The Roman poet Horace wrote of garlic that it is "more harmful than hemlock". Garlic in the raw state can carry harmful (potentially fatal) botulism bacteria. It is widely accepted among health care professionals that, as well as killing harmful bacteria, garlic also destroys beneficial bacteria, which are essential to the proper functioning of the digestive system. Garlic and onion can actually cause anemia within a week if you eat enough and have been shown to destroy red blood cells which carry oxygen throughout our bodies.

Reiki practitioners explain that garlic and onions are among the first substances to be expelled from a person's system – along with tobacco, alcohol and pharmaceutical medications. This makes it apparent that alliaceous plants have a negative effect on the human body and should be avoided for health reasons.

Homeopathic medicine comes to the same conclusion when it recognizes that red onion produces a dry cough, watery eyes, sneezing, runny nose and other familiar cold-related symptoms when consumed.

WHAT IS GARLIC? Garlic is the edible bulb from a plant in the lily family. Allium sativum, commonly known as garlic, is a species in the onion genus, Allium. Garlic, onions, leeks, scallions, shallots and chives are classified as members of the Allium genus. Thus, they are commonly described as Allium vegetables. Its nutrition facts of 1 tsp (2.8 g) of garlic are as follows: 0 g of total fat, 0 mg of cholesterol, 0 mg of sodium, 11 mg of potassium, 0.9 g of total carbohydrate. (Google, Nov., 2014) Because it is a source of potassium, it may benefit certain users at risk of hypertension. As garlic may reduce platelet aggregation, patients taking anticoagulant medication are cautioned about consuming garlic.

The sticky juice within the bulb cloves is used as an adhesive in mending glass and porcelain. An environmentally benign garlic-derived polysulfide product is approved for use in the European Union (under Annex 1 of 91/414) and the UK as a nematicide and insecticide, including for use for control of cabbage root fly and red mite in poultry.

Garlic along with cinnamon is used as a fish and meat preservative, and displays antimicrobial property at temperatures as high as 120 degree Celsius; the combination can also

be used to preserve fried and deep fried foods, and in the future might be used in an inner layer of plastic. Why is garlic not good for the budding Buddha brain? Because it

is a "brain toxin." Garlic is in particular not good medicine for your brain on meditation. According to both yogis and Ayurvedic doctors, garlic agitates and dulls the mind and the lower chakras (yes, what a crazy mind-body combination!) and is therefore not conducive to a contemplative lifestyle.

In addition to being vegetarians, the yogis of old also ate a sattvik or yogic diet specially devised for a contemplative lifestyle. The yogi diet consists of foods that improve mental clarity and energy.

The yogis divide the energy of foods into these three categories:

· Sattvik (pure, balanced) foods are great for both the body and the mind. Energetically they are pure, light, clear, calming, harmonizing and promote wakefulness. Such foods include most vegetables, grains, milk, ghee, beans, fruits, etc.

· Rajasik (energetic) foods are OK or good for the body, but may or may not be good for the mind, depending on the time of the day and the quantity taken. Rajasik foods are energetically cloudy, turbulent, agitated, and disturbs the emotions. Some yogis and ayurvedic doctors include garlic and onion in this category.

· Tamasik (dull) foods are generally not good for the body (or neutral) and not at all for the mind. Tamasik foods are dulling and create lethargy and heaviness. Meat, fish and eggs are classified as tamasik foods, and also garlic and onion. Overeating, even sattvik foods, would also be considered tamasik.

Satvik foods are healthy for both the body and the mind. Most hot spices, including garlic and onions are not conducive to meditation as they tend to overstimulate the mind and then crash it into low gear, making it dull and lethargic—giving us a kind of garlic rock and roll, then a garlic blues.

On an emotional level, you can read information in various eastern philosophies which indicate their belief that onion and garlic provoke anger and anxiety, and contribute to feelings of sadness. Ayurveda says that they lead to lust and ignorance. Serious Buddhist and Taoist meditators also avoid onion and garlic partly because they lead to feelings of passion and lustful urges. Seriously though, this focus on the lower and densest

centers of our being (the physical and emotional) distracts us from the spiritual.

Devout Hindus often avoid onions and garlic because they are considered unfit as an offering to Krishna. (Garlic and onions are both rajasic and tamasic, and are forbidden to yogis because they root the consciousness more firmly in the body), says well-known authority on Ayurveda, Dr. Robert E.Svoboda. They don't dispute the possible physical benefits of using these vegetables as medicine on occasion; rather they base their choice on the negative mental and spiritual effects of eating them.

From Puranas

palandu lasunam sigrum alambum

grjanam palam bhunkte

yo vai naro brahman vratam chandrayanam caret"

(Padma Purana, Brahma Khanda 19.10, spoken by Suta Gosvami)

O sages, one who eats garlic, onions, sigrum (a kind of plant), turnips, bottle gourd and meat, that person should observe a chandrayana fast.

"vrntakam jalisakam kusumbha smantakam tatha

palandu lasunam suklam niryasan caiva varjayet

grjanam kinsukan caiva kukundanca tathaiva ca

udumbaram alavun ca jagdhva patati vai dvijah"

(Hari Bhakti Vilasa 8.158,159, from Kurma Purana)

One should not eat egg plant, banana leaves, sunflower leaves and asmantaka leaves, onions, garlic. One should not eat sour gruel (a thin watery pouriage) or the juice of the tree. One should also give up turnips and beetroots, carrots, kinsuka, forest figs, and white pumpkin. If the twice born persons eat these things, they all become fallen.

"palandulasunadini jagddhva candrayanam caret

sraddhe devanpitrnprarcya khadanmamsah na dosabhak"

By eating garlic and onion one becomes sinful and as atonement one should perform Candrayana. (Garuda Purana 1.96.72)

Onion, stool-thriving pigs, Selu, garlic, Goplyusa (milk of a cow before the lapse of ten days from calving), Tanduliya (a grain growing in faecal rubbish) and mushrooms all these are to be avoided. (Skanda Purana 40.9)

The householder taking the rite shall avoid heavy indigestible pulses like Nispava, Masurika etc., stale food, defiled food, brinjals, gourds, cocoa-nuts, garlic, onion, intoxicating beverages and all kinds of meat. (Siva Purana 7.10-12)

ONION

Freshly cut onions often cause a stinging sensation in the eyes of people nearby, and often uncontrollable tears. This is caused by the release of a volatile gas, syn-propanethial-S-oxide, which stimulates nerves in the eye creating a stinging sensation.[5] This gas is produced by a chain of reactions which serve as a defense mechanism: chopping an onion causes damage to cells which

releases enzymes called alliinases. These break down amino acid sulfoxides and generate sulfenic acids. A specific sulfenic acid, 1-propenesulfenic acid, is rapidly acted on by a second enzyme, the lacrimatory factor synthase (LFS), producing the syn-propanethial-S-oxide. This gas diffuses through the air and soon reaches the eyes, where it activates sensory

The pungent juice of onions has been used as a moth repellent and can be rubbed on the skin to prevent insect bites. When applied to the scalp, it is said to promote growth of hair and on the face to reduce freckling. It has been used to polish glass and copperware and to prevent rust on iron. If boiling water is poured onto chopped onions and left to cool, the resulting liquid can be sprayed onto plants to increase their resistance to pests, and the onion plants when growing are reputed to keep away moles and insects. Onion skins have been used to produce a yellow-brown dye.

Adverse effects and toxicology:

Garlic is known to cause bad breath (halitosis) and body odor, described as a pungent "garlicky" smell to sweat. This is caused by allyl methyl sulfide (AMS). AMS is a volatile liquid which is absorbed into the blood during the metabolism of garlic-derived sulfur compounds; from the blood it travels to the lungs (and from there to the mouth, causing bad breath; and skin, where it is exuded through skin pores.

Possible side effects include gastrointestinal discomfort, sweating, dizziness, allergic reactions, bleeding, and menstrual irregularities. If higher-than-recommended doses of garlic are taken with anticoagulant medications, this can lead to a higher risk of bleeding. Garlic may interact with warfarin, antiplatelets, saquinavir, antihypertensives, calcium channel blockers, quinolone family of antibiotics such as ciprofloxacin, and hypoglycemic drugs, as well as other medications.

Spiritual and religious uses

Garlic has been regarded as a force for both good and evil. In Europe, many cultures have used garlic for protection or white magic, perhaps owing to its reputation as a potent preventative medicine. Central European folk beliefs considered garlic a powerful ward against demons, werewolves, and vampires. To ward off vampires, garlic could be worn, hung in windows, or rubbed on chimneys and keyholes.

In Islam, it is generally recommended not to eat raw garlic prior to going to the mosque, since the odor could distract other Muslims during their prayer.[60] Muhammad himself disliked eating garlic.

In both Hinduism and Jainism, garlic is thought to stimulate and warm the body and to increase one's desires. Followers of the Jain religion avoid eating garlic and onion on a daily basis.

In some Buddhist traditions, garlic – along with the other five "pungent spices" – is understood to stimulate sexual and aggressive drives to the detriment of meditation practice. In Mahayana Buddhism, monks and nuns are not allowed to consume garlic or other pungent spices such as chili, which are deemed as being "earthly pleasures" and are viewed as promoting aggression due to their spiciness and pungency.

A SCOPING REVIEW

Community engagement is crucial to pandemic preparedness and response

Pradeep Kumar Panda

Globally, the social, economic and health costs of Covid-19 were huge. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), over 7 million deaths resulted from Covid-19 globally, as of January 2024. The pandemic also has had devastating effects leading to disability and orphanhood. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the economic losses due to the pandemic will be close to US$ 13.8 trillion by 2024. Thus, Covid-19 has reinforced health and economic cases for investing in pandemic preparedness and response to help prevent, detect, and contain disease outbreaks. The World Bank and the WHO recently proposed that low- and middle-income governments and donor countries should invest $ 31.1 billion each year for pandemic preparedness and response. A recent study published in the medical journal Lancet found that measures of trust in the government and interpersonal trust had large, statistically significant association with lower Covid-19 standardised infection rate. These factors were also associated with higher Covid-19 vaccine coverage among middle-income and high-income countries where vaccine availability was more widespread. Thus, among other strategies, the study proposes that efforts to improve pandemic preparedness and response for next pandemic might benefit from two policy measures: (a) greater investment in risk communication and community engagement strategies to boost confidence that individuals have in public health guidance, and (b) level of trust is something that government can prepare for and earn in a crisis.

Pandemic preparedness refers to the ability to anticipate a pandemic before it strikes and to prepare for it. This includes (a) adequate mandates and legislation on who is responsible for what task in the event of a pandemic, (b) the capacity to anticipate and respond to risks (e.g., existing relationships and expertise facilitating a quick crisis response), and (c) material and knowledge readiness in critical sectors (e.g., existing and/ or lack of materials, infrastructure and knowledge to adequately respond to a crisis). Pandemic response refers to policies and actions aimed at minimising the impact of the pandemic on the population. This includes (a) economic, financial and human resources and support provided by the government to deal with the crisis , (b) a tailored response (e.g., contextualisation through targeted strategies for population groups that are not reached by the regular communication channels and routine interventions), and (c) decision-making (e.g., the effectiveness of measures undertaken, whether specific population groups were reached (tailored response) and whether

or not these measures need to be adapted (adaptation)).

Community engagement played a pivotal role in Covid-19 pandemic preparedness and response activities throughout the world. There are various pathways through which community engagement influences positive health outcomes. First, community engagement can improve communication between public health officials and community members. Second, it can facilitate mobilization of local resources. Third, it can promote behaviour change. Fourth, it can build a sustainable system. Communities, including vulnerable and marginalised groups, are well placed to identify solutions and devise collective responses as they know from their experiences what knowledge and rumours are circulating. In the context of Covid-19, community engagement (a) promoted the acceptance and adherence to lockdowns, physical distancing, and contact tracing, and (b) it helped to build trust with the government and promoted collaboration, including steps to be taken as countries ease restrictions. All these factors led to the reduction of the spread of Covid-19.

A country that generated international attention regarding the successful pandemic preparedness planning and response to Covid-19 was South Korea. Despite being one of the first countries to be affected by the Covid-19 and without resorting to harsh lockdowns, South Korea effectively managed the pandemic and maintained a remarkably low Covid-19 fatality rate of 0.07% during the initial phase of the outbreak. This is in stark contrast to the rates of 19.8% in the United Kingdom, 9.6% in Italy, 7.4% in France, and 6.4% in the United States. One of the cornerstones of such success was proactive and strong community engagement. Many factors contributed to strengthening the implementation of South Korea's Covid-19 response. First, the community engagement comprised of diverse stakeholders who contributed their expertise, shared responsibility, and meaningfully participated in effective pandemic response. Second, the government employed public hearings and online platforms to foster connections between the community and government and facilitated initiatives such as Public Mask App and Personal Safety Number. Third, the government actively engaged in public-private debates through various online and offline public hearings and policy briefings. It addressed concerns such as the challenges health care professionals faced in dealing with high patient volumes, persistent exposure to the virus, long working hours, inadequate resources and personnel, and

marginalised communities seeking essential services to meet their basic needs. Such debates fostered social inclusiveness in policy development, including provision of necessary goods and services to the community. Fourth, the whole-community collaboration comprising of charitable organisations, religious organisations, professional associations, educational institutions, and corporations actively contributed to pandemic mitigation measures such as (a) infection control and prevention protocol (e.g., promoting social distancing and travel restrictions, setting up hand hygiene stations, and supporting national Covid-19 immunisation campaign), (b) provision of resources to at-risk populations (e.g., donating money to provide food and supplies to vulnerable groups and medical staff), (c) participation in contact tracing (e.g., ensuring record management and monitoring movement activities) and provision of expertise to combat Covid-19 (e.g., free professional counselling services for Covid-19 depression and public policy suggestions on Covid-19 management).

A case study in India conducted by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS, Bengaluru) demonstrates how community participation could be effective during public health emergencies like Covid-19. Facing acute shortage of safety gear for healthcare professionals working at NIMHANS, during total lockdown and lack of transportation facilities from March 26, 2020 to May 31, 2020, the internal resource of the hospital (a tailoring Unit with 14 tailoring machines with Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services) transformed into a full-scale tailoring unit to cater to the demands of stitching safety gear kits such as personal protective equipment (PPE), masks, and face shields for healthcare professionals. A total of 83 participants, including 26 individuals (8 volunteers and 18 who received an honorarium), 2 boutiques (12 participants), and 1 government organization participated in the activity (45 participants), during March-May 2020. Four participants worked at Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services tailoring section, and

the remaining worked from their homes/organizations, with all the safety measures. A total of 1700 complete PPE kits and 13,000 masks were stitched during the 74 days. Both successfully running the tailoring unit and even on holidays during the lockdown period and producing desired number of health kits in limited period were informed by the underlying principles of community participation, such as (a) planning and preparation, (b) inclusion and demographic diversity, (c) collaboration and shared purpose, (d) openness and learning, (e) transparency and trust, and (f) sustained engagement and participatory culture. This case study demonstrates that the dual outcomes of gaining a sense of purpose through 'volunteering' and earning a small honorarium to support the family in the event of job loss and lockdown seemed to be the attractive aspect for the success of this community participation initiative. Additionally, this initiative improved the well-being of the participants as well, in terms of improving their self-esteem, self-confidence and sense of pride of contributing to a larger social cause.

In response to the pandemic, there are many such examples of community engagement/ participation in other parts of India and other countries, including the Chinese model of volunteerism and coproduction. A functioning community engagement structure is crucial for an effective response to disease outbreaks. Experience shows that countries that had health systems with strong ties with communities could respond quickly and effectively to

outbreaks. For instance, in Liberia, Thailand and Vietnam, community health workers were rapidly trained regarding identifying suspected cases, surveillance, contact tracing, referral protocols, and supporting patients in home isolation. After training, they were equipped and deployed to respond at the community level while being closely linked with healthcare facilities. These examples suggest that much can be learnt from the varied experiences of low- and middle-income countries in co-producing knowledge and working with communities to find feasible and acceptable solutions. Insights drawn from Covid-19 pandemic, innovative strategies for community participation and engagement should be developed and implemented alongside government action.

Despite the above-mentioned experiences of community engagement and the pivotal role it plays in pandemic preparedness and response, there are few empirical evidence regarding the best practices in community engagement. Specifically, strategies to engage communities and the facilitators and barriers to community engagement have been unexplored in low- and middle-income countries. To mount a more effective response to future pandemic threats, a comprehensive understanding of best practices in community engagement is crucial for evidence-based policy making.

The writer is a Professor and Dean (Public Health and Health Management), AIPH University, Bhubaneswar. Views are personal.

Although many humans enjoy the taste of garlic, these compounds are believed to have evolved as a defensive mechanism, deterring animals such as birds, insects, and worms from eating the plant. Because of this, people throughout history have used garlic to keep away insects such as mosquitoes and slugs.

Garlic produces a chemical called allicin. This is what seems to make garlic work for certain conditions. Allicin also makes garlic smell. Some products are made "odorless" by aging the garlic, but this process can also make the garlic less effective.

Conclusion:

Garlic is LIKELY SAFE for most people when taken by mouth appropriately. When taken by mouth, garlic can cause bad breath, a burning sensation in the mouth or stomach, heartburn, gas, nausea, vomiting, body odor, and diarrhea. These side effects are often worse with raw garlic. Garlic may also increase the risk of bleeding. There have been reports of bleeding after surgery in people who have taken garlic. Asthma has been reported in people working with garlic, and other allergic reactions are possible. RAW garlic is POSSIBLY UNSAFE when applied to the skin. Raw garlic might cause severe skin irritation when it is applied to the skin. All medicines may cause side effects of uses of garlic.

Though onion and garlic have a lot of qualities as mentioned in Ayurvedic Book. Yet it should be taken only during disease condition. As garlic and in some extent onion has lot of microbial qualities and also they are used when Blood Cholesterol rise in blood. Also these have some anti-clotting effect may be used during Arthritis, Asthma, Bronchitis, Common Cold, Cholera, Diabetic Miletus, Hormone Therapy, Jaundice, Malaria, RW Scurvy, Tuber Bacillus and Typhoid, Sexual disability, Impotency, Earaches, menstrual disorders, Chronic fatigue syndrome, exercise-induced muscle soreness and in different preparation can be used in bad breath odour.

In all disease condition mentioned above where garlic can be used, in the same disease condition we use modern allopathic medicine, antibiotics and other medicine to cure the disease. But we do not prescribe medicines for entire life. We prescribe medicine for certain period of time as and when necessary, otherwise body will be affected by the side effect of medicine. So, garlic and onion only can be taken for a certain period as and when necessary as medicine only, if anyone take it without any indication for life long it will produce its side effect on body and mind.

NEWS & VIEWS

Utkal University Faculty suspended after sexual harassment allegation by female student

Pradeep Kumar Panda, Economist, Bhubaneswar

An assistant professor at Odisha's Utkal University, a leading state-run institution, was suspended Wednesday following allegations of sexually harassing a female student in his office last month.

The suspension came after an internal complaints committee submitted a report based on the woman's complaint. The committee had been formed to investigate the allegations. The professor did not respond to calls or messages seeking comment, The Indian Express reported.

According to an order issued by the registrar on Wednesday: "In pursuance of the order dated September 18 of the Vice Chancellor, Utkal University, which follows the recommendation of the Internal Complaint Committee probing the alleged harassment of a girl student, (the professor) is hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect."

The committee, made up of university faculty and an external legal expert, held several meetings and gathered evidence before finalising its report. According to a senior university official, the report found prima facie evidence of molestation against the assistant professor. The professor has been suspended and ordered not to leave the campus without the Vice Chancellor's permission.

In her complaint to the department's sexual harassment cell, the student said the incident took place at around 2 pm on August 16. She had gone to collect a book with the assistant professor's permission when he allegedly molested her. She claimed he asked her to sit close to him, touched her inappropriately, and held her waist when she tried to resist. As she attempted to escape, she alleged he pulled her legs and made inappropriate comments, telling her not to disclose the incident.

The student said she was "mentally broken" after the incident and had not spoken to anyone about it, including her parents, as her mother was unwell. She requested the case be handled with "utmost confidentiality and empathy" and pledged full cooperation in the investigation.

On September 17, Odisha Governor Raghubar Das, the university's chancellor, intervened, directing the Vice Chancellor to submit a factual and action taken report.

According to the Crime in India 2022: Statistics Volume 1, the annual report by the National Crime Records Bureau, there was a 4% rise in the registered crimes against women in 2022, compared to the previous year. In absolute numbers, the total number of registered crimes against women was 4,45,256 cases in 2022. Of these, 31.4% were registered under "cruelty by husband or his relatives," 19.2% were "kidnapping and abduction of women," 18.7% were of "assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty," and 7% were cases under "rape." Similarly, there was a significant rise of 8.7% in crimes against children in 2022, which amounts to 1,62,449 registered cases. Among these, 45.7% of cases constituted of "kidnapping and abduction" and 39.7% of cases were under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012. The rise in crime rates registered is higher in the metropolitan cities. It is important to note, as the report also cautions, that these are just the cases registered with the police. There could be a vast gap between the actual crimes committed and those reported.

A time-bound justice and sensitive judiciary are fundamental to fight back this grim reality and restore the sense of trust in society. Despite the efforts from civil society and the legal community for judicial reforms, the ground reality is dismal and it hardly comes under media scrutiny. The study by the Supreme Court, titled the State of the Judiciary: A Report on Infrastructure, Budgeting, Human Resources and ICT (2023), states that there are over five crore pending cases in India dealt with by 20,580 judges across the Supreme Court, high courts, and district courts. The report found that more than 42.9% of courtrooms have been under construction for over three years. There are a staggering number of issues plaguing the judiciary when it comes to having a basic infrastructure in place. Some of these are serious shortages of judicial support staff, vacancies of judges, non-compliance with the recruitment timelines and extreme delays, lack of courtrooms, washrooms, poor representation, limited digitisation, e-filing facilities and videoconferencing facilities and so on. A strong and sound judiciary is not simply "strong punishment" or a "strong law" but the whole mechanism of the justice delivery system. Additionally, there are challenges of pronouncing judgments fearlessly without the threats of mobs, media trials, or political pressures.

In the last decade or so, all discussions on social justice, socio-economic issues, and human rights have disappeared from the mainstream media. Today, any attempt at critique is seen as "anti-religion," "anti-national" or "anti-establishment." The

government's focus on women's empowerment through schemes, cash transfers, or nutritional programmes, though important, becomes the dominant national and regional narrative of change. And hence, when incidents like the release of convicted gang rapists in the Bilkis Bano case, abuse of a large number of women in Manipur in the ongoing conflict, and the battle by women wrestlers against the ex-chief of the Wrestling Federation of India happens, the media-created bubble of good governance and toxic positivity bursts. The public outrage derails this image-management wagon dragged on for too long by the divisive media.

On 9 August 2024, the nation was shocked, yet again, when the news of a woman doctor's brutal rape and murder in a hospital in Kolkata hit the headlines. As the details of the gruesome nature of the crime and the working conditions of doctors were reported in the media, the citizens and resident doctors across the country erupted in protest. They were right in doing so. Their colleague, a fellow citizen, was assaulted and killed in the most dehumanising manner. A civic police volunteer was arrested immediately as a suspect. For many years now, doctors have been demanding greater safety measures in hospitals as they are often subjected to violent attacks, while on duty. But what happened on 9 August 2024 was a moment of a complete breakdown of their patience. There are now more resident doctors speaking up against the abusive work environments where ragging, bullying, and harassment by colleagues, seniors, professors and patient's relatives, are rampant. The issue today, however, is not limited to the poor working conditions alone but the persistence of structural abuse faced by women and children all over the country.

Two equally brutal cases of sexual abuse, and in one case murder of Dalit children, were reported in the week following the Kolkata case. In Muzaffarpur, Bihar, a 14-year-old Dalit girl child was abducted, allegedly raped and murdered by the middle-aged prime accused who had threatened the victim's family for turning down his marriage proposal. In Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh, an assistant development officer of the agriculture department raped a 10-year-old Dalit child in her own house. As we read in utter shock and write about more such cases, parents in Badlapur, Maharashtra, have hit the streets in protest against the sexual abuse of two children on their own school premises.

A hospital, a home, a neighbourhood, a school, or a workplace, all these are supposed to be sites of care, safety, shelter and growth, surrounded by the "known" people. The knee-jerk reaction of the institutions and governments is to restrict the movement of women at certain times and spaces. The subject of sensitisation across genders against patriarchal cultures and practices gets a footnote mention. There are, of course, efforts at the individual level towards gender sensitisation but they need to be supported by large-scale and consistent government, institutional and community interventions so that gender-sensitive education and culture become mainstream and are not restricted to a one-time workshop or a campaign. We have conveniently avoided the most important discussion about why these cases keep occurring and what measures have been taken to prevent them. How does the culture of impunity, selective outrage, and complete silence when the accused is a powerful person enable misogynist violence and exploitation? We will yet again focus all the attention on a few rotten apples when the problem lies in the whole poisoned orchard that needs uprooting.

The outbreak of the frustrated public emotion, as seen in Kolkata and Badlapur, is also a desperate need to break away from this media-created echo chamber that people knew did not represent their reality, their experiences, and their worst fears.

Safety and freedom to live as fearless citizens is a collective effort; no one can be excluded from it. This can only be shaped by a larger philosophical commitment against patriarchy and all kinds of violence rooted in the idea of superior–inferior or dominant–subordinate. It requires a humanitarian vision and action and not a majoritarian impulse that bullies the vulnerable and marginalised people into further silence.

When politics is reduced to gathering crowds of followers on non-issues, display of eloquent rhetoric, whipping up emotions through provocative speeches or indulging in huge expenditures, it translates into precarious living conditions for the citizens. The real progressive politics of development involves the hard work of transforming the unequal and oppressive social order. This work is slow, gets no instant validation, and involves no high-decibel arguments but listening and questioning through conversations; it has no theatrics and spectacle but gradual conscientisation. It is a daily routine work informed by a dramatic vision and radical commitment for a just, democratic society.

When a woman rises up in dignity, everything around her rises with her. In a world where discrimination against women is still rampant, it's important that we continue to raise our voice against such heinous crime. We should remind ourselves every day that we are human being, and that dignity of women should always be upheld.

No house, no society, no state, no country has ever progressed by ruining dignity of women. We can never progress as a society where crime against women is rampant and increasing day by day. Conviction rate in these crimes are abysmally low as perpetrator has nexus with administration and gets away even though everybody knows he has committed the crime. Such incident should be stopped. We as citizens should raise our voice and do not sit silent being mere spectator. Its time to act and raise strongest voice and stand in solidarity with victims.

ENTERTAINMENT

Kadha Innuvare: A Twisted End to Disconnected Love Stories

Vishnu Mohan's sophomore film Kadha Innuvare promises an elaborate act of deception at its core, yet the film fails to deliver the genuine surprise one expects from a well-crafted screenplay. Unlike other films that cleverly employ twists to surprise and engage the audience, Kadha Innuvare falls short, leaving viewers feeling deflated and disappointed by the final reveal.

The film, a remake of the critically acclaimed Telugu movie C/o Kancharapalem, weaves together four different love stories. However, despite borrowing from an already successful formula, it doesn't manage to capture the magic of the original. Interestingly, the fact that it is a remake is not explicitly acknowledged, with Vishnu Mohan—who previously directed Meppadiyan—also taking credit for the screenplay.

Lekshmi, a senior official who is also a single mother. Biju Menon and Methil Devika deliver sincere performances as the unlikely couple, but the story struggles with weak character development, especially in the portrayal of Lekshmi, whose lack of agency is troubling.

Alongside Ramchandran and Lekshmi's story, three other love stories unfold in parallel. The first is an innocent romance between two schoolchildren, capturing the youthful excitement of first love, though this subplot feels overly familiar and lacks originality. The second story focuses on a liquor shop employee (Hakkim Shajahan) and his romance with Nazeema (Anusree), a prostitute whose face is always covered. The final love story follows Joseph (Anu Mohan), a party worker, and Uma (Nikhila Vimal), a college student with a rebellious streak.

considering the film's ambitious narrative structure. The romance between Ramchandran and Lekshmi had the potential to be a highlight, given its mature perspective on love later in life.

woman, instead falling into regressive storytelling.

The story of the liquor shop employee and Nazeema feels equally perplexing. The male character is drawn to Nazeema purely because of her eyes, yet in one scene, he fails to recognize her when her face is fully revealed. This lack of continuity and depth leaves the audience scratching their heads rather than

sacrifices he made for her. The predictable way in which this story plays out feels forced and manipulative, reducing a potentially complex narrative into a mere vehicle for the film's ultimately disappointing climax.

A Manufactured Climax That Falls Flat

In the end, it becomes clear that all four stories are designed to build up to the film's final twist.

A Disjointed Collection of Love Stories

The film follows a hyperlink format, moving back and forth between four disparate love stories. The main plotline in the present centers on the blossoming romance between Ramchandran, a middle-aged peon at a government office, and

However, none of these stories manages to evoke the emotional depth or connection needed to engage the audience fully.

Weak Writing and Missed Opportunities

The writing and character development in Kadha Innuvare feel underwhelming, especially

Yet, Lekshmi's lack of independence—despite being financially secure—feels out of place in the modern context. Her character is reduced to pleading with her brother for permission to marry again, enduring his violent outbursts with little resistance. The film misses an opportunity to present a strong, empowered

feeling emotionally connected to the characters.

The subplot involving the schoolchildren is predictable, relying on tropes of childhood romance that have been overused in countless other films. While it may evoke nostalgia for some, it doesn't bring anything new or exciting to the table.

The most problematic story, however, is that of Joseph and Uma. The film seemingly introduces this subplot to raise concerns about religious conversion, a controversial issue. Uma, despite her otherwise rebellious nature, quickly succumbs to her father's guilt-tripping speech about the

However, the twist feels more like a last-minute effort to salvage a film that is otherwise lacking in emotional impact. Instead of leaving the audience exhilarated or moved, the manufactured climax feels contrived, and the religious undertones scattered throughout the film only add to the sense of artificiality.

The film also makes desperate attempts to inject religiosity into various events, which feels unnecessary and out of place. These attempts at adding depth only end up making the narrative feel more forced and disconnected from the emotional core of the stories. *Continued Page 20*

ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ ଦିଗପହଣ୍ଡି, ଗଞ୍ଜାମ
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N.A.C, Digapahandi, Gm.

୩୧ ଅଗଷ୍ଟ ୨୦୨୪ ପବିତ୍ର *ନିଖିଳ ଭାରତ ସାୟର ଶାସନ ଦିବସ* ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ଦିଗପହଣ୍ଡି ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦର ବରିଷ୍ଠ ନାଗରିକ, ଭୂମିକାବୀ, ଆୟକରଦାତା, ବ୍ୟବସାୟୀ, ସାମ୍ବାଦିକ ଏବଂ ଜନ ସାଧାରଣଙ୍କୁ ପରିଷଦ ତରଫରୁ ହାର୍ଦିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଓ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ।

୧. ଠିକ୍ ସମୟରେ ପରିଷଦର ସମସ୍ତ ଟିକସ � ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ ।
୨. ପଲିଥିନର ବ୍ୟବହାର ରୁ ନିବୃତ୍ତ ରୁହନ୍ତୁ ।
୩. ପରିଷଦର ବିନା ଅନୁମତିରେ ଦୁବର୍ଗ ଗୃହ ନିର୍ମାଣ କରନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ । ଗୃହ ନକ୍ସା (Building Plan) ଅନୁମୋଦନ କରି ଗୃହ ନିର୍ମାଣ କରନ୍ତୁ ।
ଗୃହ ନକ୍ସା (Building Plan), ସମ୍ପତ୍ତି ଟିକସ (Property Tax) ଟ୍ରେଡ ଲାଇସେନ୍ସ (Trade Licence), ବିବାହ ପଞ୍ଜିକରଣ (Marriage Registration),
ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ସେବା ପାଇଁ ଦିନର ମୁଲାପୋଟ www.sujog.odisha.gov.in ସାଧାରଣ ଆବେଦନ କରନ୍ତୁ ।
୪. ନାଳ ନର୍ଦମାରେ ଅଳିଆ ଆବର୍ଜନା ପକାନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ ଓ ପରିଷଦ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମକୁ ସହଯୋଗ କରନ୍ତୁ ।
୫. ଖୋଲା ସ୍ଥାନରେ ମଳ ତ୍ୟାଗ କରନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ ।
୬. ସାଳ ଠେକୁ ଓ ଗୃହପାଳିତ ପ୍ରାଣୀଙ୍କୁ ସର୍ବସାଧାରଣ ରାସ୍ତା କୁ ଛାଡନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ ।
୭. ଦିଗପହଣ୍ଡି ସହରର ପ୍ରତ୍ୟକ ବ୍ୟବସାୟୀଙ୍କୁ ଅନୁରୋଧ ସୁଜୋଗ ପୋର୍ଟାଲ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ଆବେଦନ କରି ନିଜର ଟ୍ରେଡ ଲାଇସେନ୍ସ କରାନ୍ତୁ ନିଅନ୍ତୁ ।
୮. ବୃକ୍ଷ ରୋପଣ କରନ୍ତୁ ଏବଂ ଏହାର ସଠିକ୍ ଭାବେ ଯତ୍ନ ନିଅନ୍ତୁ । ସ୍ବଚ୍ଛ, ସବୁଜ ସୁନ୍ଦର ପ୍ରଦୂଷଣ ମୁକ୍ତ ପରିବେଶ ଭାବେ ସହରକୁ କୁ ଗଢି ତୋଳିବାରେ ସହାୟକ ହୁଅନ୍ତୁ ।

" ଆମ ସାଭିମାନ " - ଆମ ସବୁଜ, ସବୁଳ ଏବଂ ସୁନ୍ଦର ସହର " ଦିଗପହଣ୍ଡି "

ଶ୍ରୀ ସଞ୍ଜୟ କୁମାର କର୍ଣ୍ଣ (I.A.S.)
କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ନିର୍ବାହୀ ଅଧିକାରୀ
ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ, ଦିଗପହଣ୍ଡି

ଶ୍ରୀଯୁକ୍ତ ପ୍ରଫୁଲ୍ଲ ପଣ୍ଡା
ଅଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷ
ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ ଦିଗପହଣ୍ଡି

ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ ସୋରଡ଼ା, ଗଞ୍ଜାମ
ପବିତ୍ର ନିଖିଳ ଭାରତ ସାୟର ଶାସନ ଦିବସର ହାର୍ଦିକ
ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ

୩୧ ଅଗଷ୍ଟ ୨୦୨୪ ପବିତ୍ର *ନିଖିଳ ଭାରତ ସାୟର ଶାସନ ଦିବସ* ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ସୋରଡ଼ା ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦର ବରିଷ୍ଠ ନାଗରିକ, ଭୂମିକାବୀ, ଆୟକରଦାତା, ବ୍ୟବସାୟୀ, ସାମ୍ବାଦିକ ଏବଂ ଜନ ସାଧାରଣଙ୍କୁ ପରିଷଦ ତରଫରୁ ହାର୍ଦିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ କଣାଇବା ସହ ସମସ୍ତ ବ୍ୟବସାୟୀ ବନ୍ଧୁ ଓ ସହରବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ସୋରଡ଼ା ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ ତରଫରୁ ନିବେଦନ କରାଯାଉଛି ଯେ,

- ସହରର ସମସ୍ତ ସାହି ଓ ରାସ୍ତା ସଫା ରଖିବା ସହ ପରିବେଶ ପରିଷ୍କାର ରଖନ୍ତୁ ।
- ଘରର ସମସ୍ତ ଓଦା ଓ ଶୁଖିଲା ଅଳିଆ କୁ ପୃଥକ ଭାବେ ପରିଷଦର ସଫା ବାହନ ଗାଡ଼ିରେ ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ ।
- ବାହ୍ୟ ମଳତ୍ୟାଗ କରନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ ।
- ପ୍ଲାଷ୍ଟିକ ଓ ପଲିଥିନ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ ।
- ଗଛଟିଏ ଲଗାନ୍ତୁ ଓ ପରିବେଶ କୁ ବଞ୍ଚାନ୍ତୁ ।
- ସ୍ବଚ୍ଛ ସୋରଡ଼ା ଓ ସୁସ୍ଥ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଗଠନରେ ସହାୟକ ହୁଅନ୍ତୁ ।

ଶ୍ରୀଯୁକ୍ତ ପ୍ରଫୁଲ୍ଲ କୁମାର ବିଶ୍ବାଳ
କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ନିର୍ବାହୀ ଅଧିକାରୀ
ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ ସୋରଡ଼ା

ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ଭାଗ୍ୟଲତା ତାରୁଆ
ଉପାଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷ
ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ ସୋରଡ଼ା

ଶ୍ରୀଯୁକ୍ତ ଶିବ ଶଙ୍କର ପଣ୍ଡା
ଅଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷ
ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ ସୋରଡ଼ା

ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ ଖଲ୍ଲିକୋଟ, ଗଞ୍ଜାମ
ପବିତ୍ର ନିଖିଳ ଭାରତ ସାୟର ଶାସନ ଦିବସର ହାର୍ଦିକ
ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ

NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL KHALLIKOTE (GM) Estd.1972

୩୧ ଅଗଷ୍ଟ ୨୦୨୪ ପବିତ୍ର *ନିଖିଳ ଭାରତ ସାୟର ଶାସନ ଦିବସ* ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ଖଲ୍ଲିକୋଟ ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦର ବରିଷ୍ଠ ନାଗରିକ, ଭୂମିକାବୀ, ଆୟକରଦାତା, ବ୍ୟବସାୟୀ, ସାମ୍ବାଦିକ ଏବଂ ଜନ ସାଧାରଣଙ୍କୁ ପରିଷଦ ତରଫରୁ ହାର୍ଦିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ କଣାଇବା ସହ ସମସ୍ତ ବ୍ୟବସାୟୀ ବନ୍ଧୁ ଓ ସହରବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ଖଲ୍ଲିକୋଟ ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ ତରଫରୁ ନିବେଦନ କରାଯାଉଛି ଯେ,

- ପରିଷଦର ବିନା ଅନୁମତିରେ, ବୋଲଡର ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ସମ୍ପଦରେ ଜମା କରିବା ସହ ବ୍ୟବସାୟ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠାନ ପଟିକରଣ କରାନ୍ତୁ ନିଅନ୍ତୁ ।
- ପରିଷଦର ଗୃହ ନକ୍ସା ମଞ୍ଜୁର ହେବା ପରେ ପରେ ଟିକସୀ କରନ୍ତୁ ଏବଂ ଟିକସୀ ହୋଇଯାଇଥିବା ଗୃହର ନକ୍ସା ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ କରନ୍ତୁ ନିଅନ୍ତୁ ।
- ଅଳିଆ ଆବର୍ଜନା (ରବିସମେତ) ୨ ପ୍ରକାର ରୁଖିବା ଅଳିଆ ଓ ଓଦା ଅଳିଆ ପୃଥକ ପୃଥକ କରି ରଖି ପରିଷଦ ତରଫରୁ ନିଯୁକ୍ତ ଜାହି ରେ ପକାନ୍ତୁ ଓ ସ୍ବଚ୍ଛ ଭାରତ ଅଭିଯାନରେ ମାନିକ ହୁଅନ୍ତୁ ।
- ରାସ୍ତା କଡ଼ାରେ ପଶୁ ଟିକସୀ କଣ୍ଟାଳ ପାଇ - ଗୋରୁ, ବାଛ, ଛେଳି ଓ ପେଣ୍ଟ ବାନ୍ଧିବେ କେମା କରନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ ।
- ଗୃହପାଳିତ ପଶୁ ପଶୁ - ଗାଧୋଇବାକୁ, ପୁଷ୍କରଣୀ ଇତ୍ୟାଦିରେ କୁ ଖୋଲାରେ ଛାଡନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ ।
- ପଲିଥିନ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ ଓ ପରିବେଶ ପ୍ରଦୂଷଣରୁ ବଞ୍ଚା ହୁଅନ୍ତୁ ।
- ବିଜୁଳି ପଥାୟକରଣ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରନ୍ତୁ ।
- ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ବାସିନ୍ଦା ବିଜ୍ଞାପି ଓ ବ୍ୟବସାୟ ୱହୁ ମାନେ ମେମାସନେ ଗୃହ ଓ ବ୍ୟବସାୟ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠାନ ୫ ମିଟର ପରିସୀମା ଅଳିଆ ସଫା ରଖନ୍ତୁ ।

ବିକାଶ ପଥରେ ଖଲ୍ଲିକୋଟ

ଶ୍ରୀ ସଞ୍ଜୟ କୁମାର କର୍ଣ୍ଣ, (ଆଇ.ଏ.ଏସ)
କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ନିର୍ବାହୀ ଅଧିକାରୀ
ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ ଖଲ୍ଲିକୋଟ

" ଆସନ୍ତୁ ଆମେ ସମସ୍ତେ ମିଶି ଆମ ସହରକୁ ସୁନ୍ଦର ଓ ସବୁଜ ଭାବରେ ଗଢ଼ି ତୋଳିବା "

ଜ. ମିଲନ୍ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ବେହେରା
ଅଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷ
ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ ଖଲ୍ଲିକୋଟ

Bharatpur Police Station Case :
Orissa HC orders not to reveal names of Army officer, partner

The Orissa High Court has issued an order prohibiting the media and social media platforms from disclosing the names of an Army officer and his fiancée, who were reportedly assaulted by the police at the Bharatpur police station in Bhubaneswar. This decision was made during a hearing on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) concerning the case. The court has chosen not to intervene in the investigation, as the state government has already initiated a judicial probe. Additionally, the Crime Branch is conducting its investigation, as confirmed by the Advocate General.

Furthermore, the court has instructed the ADG (Modernisation) of Odisha Police to provide a status report on the installation of CCTV cameras in all police stations across the state, noting that the Bharatpur police station did not have CCTV cameras at the time of the incident. The Odisha Chief Minister, Mohan Charan Majhi, has called for a judicial inquiry to be led by Justice Chitta Ranjan Dash, and the investigation report is expected to be submitted within 60 days.

The High Court has also been urged to expedite the Crime Branch investigation under its supervision. The incident occurred on September 15, around 2 AM, when the Army Major and his fiancée visited the Bharatpur police station to report a complaint after being harassed by some individuals. However, they were allegedly mistreated and assaulted by the police personnel at the station. The woman further alleged that the Inspector-in-Charge (IIC) attempted to sexually assault her at the police station. The Odisha Crime Branch has registered a case against five police officers based on the Army officer's complaint. The accused officers include former Bharatpur IIC, Sub Inspector, WASI and Constable.

Earlier, Odisha DGP YB Khurania had suspended the five accused police personnel.

From Page 19 (Kadha Innuvare:...)

Misses the Mark

While Kadha Innuvare had the potential to be a compelling exploration of love through multiple perspectives, the weak writing, poor character development, and a forced climax prevent it from reaching those heights. Vishnu Mohan's direction lacks the finesse needed to weave these stories together into a cohesive whole, and the emotional disconnect between the characters and the audience further weakens the film.

Ultimately, Kadha Innuvare fails to create the kind of impact one would expect from a film with such a rich premise. The elaborate deception at the heart of the story, which should have been the film's defining moment, instead becomes its biggest letdown. With none of the four love stories managing to form an emotional connection, Kadha Innuvare leaves the audience with little more than a sense of disappointment.

The human race has one really effective weapon, and that is laughter.