

KOSAL HORIZON

Awating a new dawn

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Less said Better !

“Kosal Horizon will prioritise Kosal Issues.”

INSIDE



Vedanta - A Silver Line for Kalahandi's sustainable and inclusive growth.

Wagon Factory - A victim of regional politics.

Stories for Children, Entertainment Horizon and A Bit of Health Plus.

KKD'S QUIT KOSAL MEGA RALLY A defining moment : Protagonists

(Special Correspondent)

Bolangir : That the kosal state demand under Kosal Kranti Dal (KKD) banner is gaining momentum was evident at Bolangir on February 26. The mass demonstration before the

collector's office after an hour long rally amidst traditional drum beat of tribals and chanting of 'Jai Kosal' slogan by thousands of youth and women workers of the Party sent a thrilling signal to the

government of the state and the centre that the defining moment is about to arrive. The rally was unique in the sense that KKD activists from all the 10 districts participated in large numbers. It was momentous.

KKD President Pramod Mishra was in his usual fire brand style when he addressed the rally in a thundering voice. He said the people of kosalanchal would no longer accept the coastal administration which was colonial in nature. Those who came from outside and domiciled in Kosalanchala will have to support the genuine demand of separate state by 2014. Or else the ab-origins of kosalanchal will send them

packing to their homeland. He questioned the local administration as to how the name of 'Kosal Tihar' was changed to that of Bolangir Mohotsav. He alleged that this was at the behest of the politicians belonging to the ruling party and warned that the insult will not be swallowed so easily. Alleging this to be an act of criminal conspiracy to sabotage the Kosal movement, he warned grave consequence for those responsible in denigrating the name of kosal. KKD's Secretary General Baidyanath Mishra advocated for launching a civil disobedience movement and resort to economic blockade. An all Kosal Bandh Call is our next immediate agenda, he said.

Former Mao Leader - turned environmental activist Sajjan Kumar pleaded for small State movement from better governance

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Jagate Thiba Jatedina Volume II Released



Dhenkanal, March 13: The volume II of audio CD of Dr. Mrinal Chatterjee's highly acclaimed novel 'Jagate Thiba Jatedina' has been released here on Sunday during a literary function jointly organized by Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Dhenkanal and Dhenkanal District Writers' Forum. The Audio CD, which is based on Dr. Chatterjee's compilation of selected columns published in the weekly *Samaj* has been released by eminent writer and poet, Jadunath Sahu during a poem recitation programme, *Shabdanjali* attended by noted poets, novelists and writers of the district. It was held in the IIMC,

Dhenkanal campus. Jagate Thiba Jatedina, a satirical piece dealing with contemporary issues and events was published in February 2010. Its digital versions including audio CD and E-book have been released subsequently in the same year. Produced by Sephali Communication, the first volume of audio CD of the novel has gained immense popularity among the readers in Odisha.

One minute of silence was observed in respect to the victims of the tsunami in Japan and noted Oriya children's book writer Jagannath Mohanty, who passed away in Bhubaneswar on March 13 this year.

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Sustenance of Our Samskar by our employees with their unlimited potential

OUR PRIDE
A culture that fosters Dignity and encourages Transparency, Trust and Togetherness

OUR OBJECTIVE
Achieving Total Safety, Perfect Quality, Optimum Costs and Maximum Productivity in a Harmonious Environment

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INDIAN DEMOCRACY AT CROSS ROADS

Democracy since independence of our country has faced several challenges. It has passed through numerous acid tests to prove its strength. Besides having stood the test of time things are different today. The four pillars on which its edifice is built should have been strong enough with years of nursing. But as it seems, they are gradually being weakened from inside as if an ogre has cast his shadow and waiting eagerly to swallow. The ogre symbolises corruption. Whatever may be, there is little doubt that Indian democracy is at cross roads today and unless put into mainstream, there are enough apprehensions it may collapse.

We got independence in 1947. A nation after several years of bondage became free. But the freedom obtained in the midnight of August 14 remained a dream for many. Today, it is alleged, the Govt. does not work unless slapped and kicked. The Supreme Court slaps, Govt. acts, a clear sign of judicial anguish! But the contradiction is that judiciary has not been able to cover itself well. The former Chief Justice of Supreme Court is under a cloud. His kin have amassed questionable amount of wealth. He is yet to come out clean before the mass. Despite all this, this pillar has remained as the strongest of the four. The second in order will probably be the fourth estate. We may not have enough to write home about on this but people's faith on fourth estate has not dwindled so far. A series of scandals like the 2G spectrum, Common Wealth Games and the Adarsh Society scam in recent past have gone well in favour of the media in which people have reposed confidence. About other two pillars, the less you speak is better. The legislature and the Executive are hand in gloves at least on one account - corruption.

The cardinal principle of democracy is empowerment to people in the lowest rung of the society. There the democracy has failed. It is not percolating down stream because of the bottlenecks put mid way by the effluents and the middle class. Creation of a civil society, represented by all corners of the nation is yet to emerge and till then the democratic experiments will have to continue. The present leadership is not courageous enough to meet the challenge and that is how it is not in safe hands. There is a deficit in governance. But the mockery of the 21st century is that we dream to become a world super power for which we may have to work persistently to lay a rock solid foundation.

- Editor

MESSAGE FROM ABROAD



It gives me immense pleasure and happiness that 'Kosal Horizon' has taken a new initiative promising a leading role towards highlighting the interest of Western Odisha, also known as Koshal region, in the form of a popular weekly (English) newspaper. The much desired and requirement of politically marginalized Koshal region would get another pillar to support its struggle for an inclusive growth of the region. I hope 'Kosal Horizon' will act as a catalyst and thread to bind whole Kosal region and its people culturally, socially, politically, economically and emotionally for the development of this

rich region and its heritage.

On this occasion, I wish to send my heartiest congratulations to its editor Sri Mishra and all the involved persons who have taken pioneering role to make this *dream come true experience* happen. Indeed all the people of Kosal region are thankful to them. I also wish every success of 'Kosal Horizon' for the future and pray Maa Manikeswari to give more energy and enthusiasm to make *Kosal Horizon* one of the leading English newspapers in the region.

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A peep into the past.....

THE MAGIC FIGURE OF 18 LAKH !

Since its formation four year's back Kosal Kranti Dal always enjoyed a win-win situation. Prior to its formation Kosli Ekta Manch, said to be a conglomeration of 72 identical organisations, was almost in a declining stage. It had members belonging to various political parties. There was unity among them when the question of separate Kosal State or constitutional recognition to Kosli language. But the going was tough. The manch at times resorted to Dharnas, demonstrations, rail roko etc. in fits and starts. Not only in Odisha, members of the Manch organised demonstration, black day etc also in Delhi to draw the attention of the central government. But the impact never reached the desired level.

Memoranda were submitted before the President of India, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Home Affairs and copies were given to almost all MPs of Odisha irrespective of their party line. But response was a farcry. Nobody bothered and the Kosal issue continued to be kept in the cold storage. It never came up for discussion in the parliament nor in the state Assembly. The situation changed after the formation of Kosal Kranti Dal and its registration with the Election Commission of India. Soon after, the new outfit had to face the Assembly as well as the parliament election. Lack of finance, treachery by some prominent members of the Party and the symbol crisis had its toll on the election performance. The result was well known. The total polling in favour of KKD was average 2,500 for eighteen Assembly segments and 10,000 for the three parliamentary constituencies where party candidates were in fray. The total was around 75,000. After the election when a review was made, the party claimed direct support of 1,50,000 voters assuming a contest in all the 36 Assembly and Six Parliamentary segments. Even this figure is taken into account the percentage of vote comes to around one and a half per cent of the total votes polled on the whole in Odisha. Around 18 lakh votes would have taken the party to recognition level and a permanent symbol. When nothing of that sort happened, the party is working on a new strategy till the next election in 2014.

Meanwhile Party President Promod Mishra has given 'Quit Kosal' call in the line of Mahatma Gandhi's Quit India Call. Now who are to Quit Kosal? Party Secretary General Baidyanath Mishra explains : The call is meant for the Govt. of Odisha. Since they have failed to dispense socio economic justice for the people of Kosalanchal which merged with Odisha in 1948, they should handover the administration to the people of Kosalanchal. Secondly, people who came from outside and settled here with their children going to school or engaged in jobs, must be prepared to return to their homeland if they do not support the genuine demand of separate Kosal state. The support must be demonstrated by way of sharing one percent of their income for the success of the movement, 10 percent of their physical involvement and 100 percent of mind. Otherwise the aborigines will send them packing. Similarly the Industries have been warned to close their business if they do not subscribe to local recruitment, check pollution or do not spend at least 10 percent of their profit on periphery development. Most of the industries say these are imbedded in their policy document, hiding the implementation part.

The party centrally organised Quit Kosal rallies in Sambalpur and Jharsuguda and encouraged by its success in both these places, a mega rally was organised at Bolangir recently. Participation of villagers, the tribals, students and women in large numbers was in the special feature of the rally. Party activists believe that the rally has given a solid foundation to the ongoing Kosal Movement. Protagonists of the movement say "the Party's Right from its inception has enjoyed a win-win situation. The support base of the Party is expanding day by day and if right cards are played, the next election will see at least a couple of MLAs in the state Assembly. The magic figure of 18 lakh is also touchable for the shake of recognition and permanent symbol" will it happen? Only time will speak.

MESSAGE FROM A CORPORATE GIANT

"Publication of English Dailies / Weeklies from Orissa in general and the western part of Odisha in particular is far and few between. As such a weekly newspaper titled 'KOSAL HORIZON' will perhaps fill up the void. Coming from the steel city, inhabited by persons from various states, this paper, I hope, will not only cater to the needs of the Rourkelites but also reach beyond its purview and serve the people of Odisha as a whole.

I extend my good wishes to the publisher and those associated with the new venture.

Manager (PR)
MCL, Burla, Sambalpur

It is astonishing how Kalahandi, a backward region in Koshal has become victim of politics in any new establishment sanctioned for the region. It was for an engineering college in 1980s, then for a central university in 2000s and now for a Wagon Factory in 2010s.

Based on geography and accessibility Kalahandi region deserves a University since a long time. Late Biju Panaiik had once promised to consider for a University in Kalahandi in due time.

The distance between Utkal University and Berhampur University is much shorter and better accessible than the distance between Bhawanipatna and any other University in the state including recently established Central University of Orissa at Koraput in KBK.

In last few months both the Higher Education Minister Dr Mishra and Chief Minister of Odisha Mr Patnaik separately visited Khallikote College and announced to make it a University soon.

Although Chief Minister Mr. Patnaik visited recently to Govt. Autonomous College Bhawanipatna on Feb 28, 2011, he did not announce to upgrade it to a State University despite there was a strong local speculation and expectation from the students.

The higher education task force in its report has recommended for up gradation of Govt. Autonomous College Bhawanipatna (GACB) to a state (affiliated) University and Khallikote College (KC) to a Unitary University. In the page 68 of the report it has also mentioned to finance up gradation of GACB in the year 2010-11 whereas in page 66 it mentions to start financing Khallikote College in the year 2012-2017. Thus, GACB should be made University before KC.

Besides as per the convenience of students and faculties, affiliated University in KBK is more urgent than a Unitary University for an Autonomous College in a stone throw distance from an existing state University.

GACB has got Potential Center of Excellence by UGC much before than KC.

Unfortunately, politics is spoiling the chance of Kalahandi's development every time as there is no rationality in state Government judgment for the above.

A big question is why the state

POLITICS OF WAGON FACTORY AND STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Digambara Patra

Government has sent the proposal for Wagon Factory in Ganjam instead of Kalahandi if there was no ill motivation when railway budget 2010-11 clearly mentions Bhubaneswar /Kalahandi for the same?

As per the news report Wagon Factory proposal in Kulti near Asansol in Bardhaman of West Bengal needs just 20-30 acres of land. Privately railway ministry has also mentioned requirement

forest and unused land near to railway lines in Kalahandi. In fact there are many sites where 500 acres of land can be allotted. If state Government was serious for the site in Kalahandi, the land requirement could be easily fulfilled. As per information, the district administration in Kalahandi was never asked to find out the land requirement for the proposed Wagon Factory, than how could the land in

Mamata proposes Navin disposes

of 30-40 acres of land for the same. Why 500 acres of land in Ganjam is being proposed by the state Government and sent to Railway minister?

Was it just to divert the attention to favour a particular region, so that once site is identified by using 500 acres of land tag, it could be easily established in 50 acres in Ganjam?

There is plenty of sites having 30 -50 acres of Government non-

Ganjam be identified before that?

When state Government is diverting forest land for mining and other industries against the local people's will, it is strange why such thing is not possible in Kalahandi for a public sector less polluting Wagon Factory. More so when local people are very much interested.

To our knowledge there are plenty of lands, more than 500 acres each, in Narla, Kesinga,

Lanjigarh road, Jaring etc near the railway tracks. Some of this lands are by name shake forest land as in reality they no longer enjoy the status of forests, which can be easily used for establishing such a factory. More than 180 acres of non-forest Government unused land is also available near Sardar Medical College in Jaring adjacent to railway track.

On the other hand state Govt. is directly encouraging forest land having dense trees for Vedanta in the same Kalahandi district. Whether forest or non-forest land, if the Government was serious for Kalahandi, land could be easily found and it is absolutely illogical to say land can not be found for Wagon Factory in Kalahandi.

Railway ministry is even kind enough to express in the parliament on March 3, 2011 (Samaja, March 4, 2011) that if land is allotted in Kalahandi by the state Government, then it may establish the second Wagon Factory of the state in Kalahandi.

In this respect if state Government does not send a new proposal for Kalahandi, the ill motive of the state Government against Kalahandi will clearly be exposed and that may become a brewing ground for agitation against the govt. It is essential therefore that the govt. take immediate measures for a wagon building factory in Kalahandi and save the situation from becoming worse.

Let the Project do not become a victim of regional politics.

KKD'S QUIT KOSAL MEGA RALLY... from page 1

point of view. Empowerment to people in the lowest rung is the cardinal principle of democracy and since that is not happening divide the state into small units for better management, he said. Gorekhnath Sahu, Chairman of Kosli Ekta Manch appealed for encoding Kosli as their mother tongue in the ongoing census. General Secretary Purna Chandra Naik also addressed the rally. Loka Kabiratna Haladhar Nag rendered a Kosal Bandana that moved the mass into tears.

A memorandum addressed to Prime Minister was handed over to the Collector, Bolangir. ADM Julius Lakra received the memorandum as the collector was out of station.

Around ten thousand people from Rourkela, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Bargarh, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Subarnapur, Boudh and Athamallik participated in the rally which commenced from Kosal



Kalamandal ground and terminated before the Collector's office. Sagar Singh Mankee, Working President, Jagannath Mund, Narayan Mohapatra and Abdul Jamal Khan, Vice Presidents, General Secretary Purna Chandra Naik, Narendra Hota, Nirmal Das, Student leader Swadin Mishra, Dolamani Pradhan, Youth Leader Priyabrata Sahu, Niladri Panda, Bharat Prusti, President Bolangir District Committee, leaders of the women wing Sarojinee Patel and Chandramani Sandil led the rally with KKD flags, placards and

colorful banners. Presented with pomp and pageantry the rally left a mark of uniqueness in the district headquarter town of Bolangir and defined the role of the new outfit in whole of Kosalanchal. That the party had a point to prove was well demonstrated through the rally. "This will etch in our memory for a long time to come at least upto the election to the local body," said an observer. That the district administration allowed the KKD leadership to organise the rally in its own style speak of their tacit support to the movement.

Vedanta - A silver line for Kalahandi's sustainable and inclusive growth

Report by Horizon Bureau

From business point of view VEDANTA has many success stories to write home about. But what make it happier is the socio-economic initiatives which have shown a new approach to life for the people of Orissa and particularly the most disadvantaged people like tribals in Kalahandi and Rayagada districts. Vedanta has succeeded in bringing smile on their faces and prosperity to their lives. If empowerment of the common man is the cardinal principle of democracy, Vedanta has made a good beginning and there are lots in it for future.

A Glimpse of Vedanta :

Vedanta Aluminium Limited (VAL), a subsidiary of Vedanta Resource plc, has set up a Greenfield Alumina Refinery at Lanjigarh with a capacity of 1 million tons per annum along with a 0.5 MTPA Aluminum Smelter, 1215 MW Captive Power Plant at Jharsuguda. The Group Company Sterlite Energy Limited has also set up a 2400 MW independent Power Plant at Jharsuguda. VAL is one of the world's premier alumina refining complex in terms of its technology, human resources and high quality infrastructure. It has employed benchmarked technology with best operational practices and superior environment management practices in order to develop the Alumina Refinery as one of the world's premier Alumina refinery complex. VAL has built a high caliber team which is passionately contributing to the growth and efficiency of the organization and community at large. Today, VAL at Lanjigarh is the first Alumina refinery in the country to adopt successfully the 'Zero Discharge System' making the refinery as one of the model refinery in the world.

To create partnerships with stakeholders, VAL-Lanjigarh under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has taken up initiatives on four-focused areas—Education, Health & Sanitation, Sustainable Livelihood and Infrastructure Development. The purpose of the CSR is to bring qualitative improvements in the lives of the community residing in the vicinity. In addition to this, VAL focused on sports and youth development programmes, environment protection drives and executes infrastructure development projects.

Apart from this, Lanjigarh Project Area Development

Foundation (LPADF) was formed to undertake developmental activities around Lanjigarh. LPADF is a special purpose vehicle formed—as per Supreme Court's Order—by Government of Orissa, Sterlite Industries India Limited (SIIL) and Orissa Mining Corporation (OMC). The LPADF would dedicatedly take up development project in 50 km radius

focus area are as follows:

Education:

In order to spark the desire for children's education in the rural community, VAL has set up Child Care Centers (CCC) under its Education initiative. Children of the age group between two and half year to five years undergo pre-school education in these centers besides regular health check up and

education. My children are now studying at Vedanta DAV International School", says Dasarath Majhi of Niyamagiri Vedanta Nagar.

Also, Vedanta under its Public Private Partnership has adopted 400 Anganwadi Centres in Kalahandi district and 1192 in Rayagada district. Vedanta has taken up this initiative to strengthen pre-school education in the Anganwadi Centres and to provide children with additional nutritious food with regular health check up to combat malnutrition and de-worming among the children. The initiative has received applaud by the district administration and the community for the difference it has created in bringing quality to the centres. The project has created employment opportunity for the educated youths in all the blocks of Kalahandi district. The vision is to promote meritorious students to aspire for higher studies so that they may contribute to the development of the district.

In a small step towards this, VAL has introduced Vedanta Gyanashree Award in the year 2008. The award has been given to the meritorious students of Kalahandi district by providing students with computer sets along with cash prize. VAL has taken up an ambitious Adult Literacy Programme at Rehabilitation Colony to educate the illiterate adults of the Rehab Colony. The

Vedanta's experiment in the tribal dominated green belt of Kalahandi provides a silver line for sustainable growth. With flora and fauna unruffled, rivers and rivulets full with water of life, rare species enjoying their age old home amidst the din and bustle of a campaign of vilification and propaganda, necessities of life and livelihood at doorstep, Education, Health and Sanitation added to much awaited infrastructure development - life comes to a full circle at Vedanta. While an innocently soft and cool ethnic ambiance keep on attracting the metro dwellers to start a new life at Lanjigarh, Industrialisation in a no-industry district like Kalahandi has become a victim of nasty politics.

around Vedanta Alumina Refinery Project at Lanjigarh. Sterlite Industries will deposit 5% of the profit or Rs. 10 Crore - whichever is higher - from the project for local area development with this special purpose vehicle. VAL has already contributed more than Rs.30 cr for various projects to be undertaken.

However, the activities being undertaken by CSR under each

nutritious food. VAL has opened fifty (50) Child Care Centers in the tribal area of Kalahandi and Rayagada districts wherein more than 1500 children are enrolled and getting opportunity for all-round development. Student's attendance rate at VAL's intervened centers enhanced by 90%. "I am grateful to Child Care Centers which helped my children get quality pre-school



objective is to create awareness among the adults towards education and will cover 118 adults.

Vedanta DAV International School at Lanjigarh is the only English Medium School in this region equipped with latest teaching aids. The enrollment has increased to more than 350 where one third of the students come from economically weaker sections of the society. Today it is serving to nearly 25 Km area covering Muniguda, Ambodala in Rayagada and surrounding villages of Lanjigarh like Biswanathpur, Champedipur, Trilochanpur, Lanjigarh etc. Dedicated transport services are provided in all the areas.

Very soon, Vedanta will come up with a Degree Science College at Lanjigarh, looking at the unavailability of any such colleges in nearby areas. This initiative has been appreciated by the intellectual mass of the Kalahandi district.

Health & Sanitation:

Vedanta has gone deep into the health care facility in and around Lanjigarh. One instance is state-of-the-art Vedanta Hospital. The hospital has facilities like 24x7 emergency services, free consultancy, Ultrasound, X-Ray, specialist consultancy etc. The sole purpose is to benefit the tribal people in and around Lanjigarh.

With a view to facilitating the community people to maintain better health status VAL runs dispensary at the Rehabilitation Colony i.e. Niyamgiri Vedanta Nagar. VAL provides Health services through Mobile Health Unit at the door steps to more than 115 villages under its Health & Sanitation Initiative. Villagers get overwhelmed when they get medical service at the door steps. One villager Dhan Majhi of Balabhadrapur says, "My son was suffering from high fever, Malaria. No doctor, no medicine, I had almost lost my son. In the night my friend came to my house on a Health Jeep with a doctor and medicine, my son was saved. Later, I came to know this Jeep was

Mobile Health Van of Vedanta".

Health Camps, Awareness Camp, Malaria Control Drive, Sanitation Drive and Family Planning Operation Camp are organized on regular basis. VAL also supports for the sanitation work of District Hospital, Bhawanipatna. VAL intervention has reduced the incidence of malarial cases from 80% to 20% particularly in Lanjigarh area. MMR rate has reduced from 1.1 % to 0.8%.

Vedanta has started a 10 bedded Hospital at its Rehabilitation Colony to provide round the clock health services for its displaced as well as surrounding villages. Besides, Vedanta has signed a MOU to run Lanjigarh Hospital under Public Private Partnership mode to provide better health care system in this most back ward area of Kalahandi.

Recently, LPADF donated three fully operational ambulances to the district administration to operate in the tribal areas. Vedanta has also donated Trauma Ambulance to Police Commission-erate at Bhubaneswar to take care of road accidents in twin city besides Ambulance to Satya Sai Society at Ambodala.

Livelihood:

Hundreds of farmers have benefitted after opting for alternate farming i.e. 'Commercial Vegetable' in their lands. "Unlike previous days, I have started double cropping along with vegetable cultivation in a large scale. My land remains green throughout the year. Now I earn about Rs. 80,000/- a year," such is the reaction of a villager of Chhatrapur who never got a 2 square meal even after a hard working day on his barren land.

This became possible after Vedanta started 'Sasya Silpa Abhijan' an initiative of Commercial Vegetable Cultivation, run in collaboration with the 'Asian Institute of Sustainable Development' to give a boost to agriculture in the area by forming Self Help Group. Till now, Agricultural Working Days



increased from 120 to 250 days and Surface Irrigation increased by 35% through intervention of VAL.

Looking into the backwardness of Dongria Kandha dominated areas, Vedanta has taken initiatives to start some livelihood programmes in those areas like leaf plate making, pineapple and bamboo farming, safe drinking water etc so that their dependency on shifting cultivation can be minimized and forests can be saved which are getting depleted due to the practice of shifting cultivation.

Infrastructure Development:

It is well realized that development of infrastructures provides base to any development program for achieving its objective. So VAL executed infrastructure development projects such as development of concrete drains, installation of hand pumps for clean and safe drinking water, installation of street lights, construction of temples, the Dharani Ghars, construction of school buildings, high level bridges, black top roads etc. There is a huge increase in accessibility to basic facilities like school, college, hospital, market etc. because of the infrastructure development initiative of VAL. Till date, VAL has developed more than 50 km of roads in various areas besides providing internal concrete road and community hall in large

number of villages. It has also provided electricity to around 15 villages and solar electrical systems in some of the tribal villages. VAL is providing support for various cultural programmes like Rayagada Mohatsav, Kalahandi Mohatsav, Nuapada Mohatsav, Gopalpur Festival besides sponsoring number of festivals, schools annual functions, sports meets etc to promote sports and cultural development in the area.

Growth - Sustainable and inclusive:

VAL along with Nandi Foundation has set up a Centralized Kitchen at Lanjigarh to provide Mid-Day Meals to more than 15000 children covering around 300 schools in Lanjigarh block. The centre was inaugurated by former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam last year. In addition to the activities already undertaken, VAL is taking up more activities to provide a better quality of life to the people of Kalahandi and Rayagada. Under its Livelihood initiative, Wadi & Watershed project in association with NABARD and BAIF is being taken up to provide a better Sustainable livelihood to the people of this area. In the field of Education, VAL aims to take up 'Computer Education Programme' in 80 Government School of Kalahandi and Rayagada.

Vedanta's experiment in the tribal dominated green belt of Kalahandi provides a silver line for sustainable growth. With flora and fauna unruffled, rivers and rivulets full with water of life, rare species enjoying their age old home amidst the din and bustle of a campaign of vilification and propaganda, necessities of life and livelihood at doorstep, Education, Health and Sanitation added to much awaited infrastructure development - life comes to a full circle at Vedanta. While the vibrance of ethnic ambiance keep on attracting the metro dwellers to start a new life at Lanjigarh, Industrialisation in a no-industry district like Kalahandi has become a victim of nasty politics.



HEALTH PLUS

Bananas have been the alltime favorite and perennial fruit for hundreds of years now. It has many curative properties. This fruit is affordable by anyone and is available in plenty in India. All the varieties available are beneficial in their own way.

Banana is rich in fiber content and also contains natural sugars like sucrose, fructose and glucose. Research has proven that just two bananas provide enough energy for a strenuous 90-minute workout. No wonder the banana is the number one fruit with the world's leading athletes. It can also help overcome or prevent a substantial number of illnesses and conditions, making it a must to add to our daily diet.

Depression: According to a recent survey undertaken by MIND amongst people suffering from depression, many felt much better after eating a banana. This is because bananas contain tryptophan, a type of protein that the body converts into serotonin, known to make you relax, improve your mood and generally make you feel happier.

PMS: Forget the pills -- eat a banana. The vitamin B6 it contains regulates blood glucose levels, which can affect your mood.

Anemia: High in iron, bananas can stimulate the production of hemoglobin in the blood and so helps in cases of anemia.

Blood Pressure: This unique tropical fruit is extremely high in potassium yet low in salt, making it the perfect way to beat blood pressure. So much so, the US Food and Drug Administration has just allowed the banana industry to make official claims for the fruit's ability to reduce the risk of blood pressure and stroke.

Brain Power: 200 students at a Twickenham (Middlesex) school were helped through their exams this year by eating bananas at breakfast, break, and lunch in a bid to boost their brain power. Research has shown that the potassium-packed fruit can assist learning by making pupils more alert.

Constipation: High in fiber, including bananas in the diet can help restore normal bowel action, helping to overcome the problem without resorting to laxatives.

Heartburn: Bananas have a natural antacid effect in the body, so if you suffer from heartburn, try eating a banana for soothing relief.

Morning Sickness: Snacking on bananas between meals helps to keep blood sugar levels up and avoid morning sickness.

Mosquito bites: Before reaching for the insect bite cream, try rubbing the affected area with the inside of a banana skin. Many people find it amazingly successful at reducing swelling and irritation.

Nerves: Bananas are high in B vitamins that help calm the nervous system.

Overweight and at work?

Studies at the Institute of Psychology in Austria found pressure at work leads to gorging on comfort food like chocolate and chips. Looking at 5,000 hospital patients, researchers found the most obese were more likely to be in high-pressure jobs. The report concluded that, to avoid panic-induced food cravings, we need to control our blood sugar levels by snacking on high carbohydrate foods every two hours to keep levels steady.

Ulcers: The banana is used as the dietary food against intestinal disorders because of its soft texture and smoothness. It is the only raw fruit that can be eaten without distress in over-chronicler cases. It also neutralizes over-acidity and reduces irritation by coating the lining of the stomach.

Temperature control: Many other cultures see bananas as a "cooling" fruit that can lower both the physical and emotional temperature of expectant mothers. In Thailand, for example, pregnant women eat bananas to ensure their baby is born with a cool temperature.

Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD): Bananas can help SAD sufferers because they contain the natural mood enhancer tryptophan.

Smoking: Bananas can also help people trying to give up smoking. The B6, B12 they contain, as well as the potassium and magnesium found in them, help the body recover from the effects of nicotine withdrawal.

Stress: Potassium is a vital mineral, which helps normalize the heartbeat, sends oxygen to the brain and regulates your body's water balance.

When we are stressed, our metabolic rate rises, thereby reducing our potassium levels. These can be rebalanced with the help of a high-potassium banana snack.

Strokes: According to research in "The New England Journal of Medicine," eating bananas as part of a regular diet can cut the risk of death by strokes by as much as 40%!



Bio-diversity - NEAC theme for 2011



Sambalpur, March 22 - On the eve of World Forestry Day on 21 March, 'BISWA' organized a massive awareness programme in Khairpali village of Jujomura Block to educate the people regarding the environmental issues and to encourage involvement of PRI members to fight against the exploitation of Biodiversity. The campaign was formally launched at Khairpali by 'BISWA' with a vast rally involving the school students followed by a meeting where students spoke on the need for plantation programme for restricting the degradation of Mother Earth. Speaking on the occasion Ashutosh Nanda, District Manager of 'BISWA' said: "Any place including our villages are not free from the adverse effect of the Climate Change. So all should plant as much tree as possible to make the planet green and free from environmental hazards. Once the

villagers learn the basic principles of conserving the Biodiversity and realize it, the programme will definitely bring positive impact on the environment, explained, Sandeep Patnaik Manager (NRM) of 'BISWA'.

On this occasion, a plantation programme was organized at Hatibari Health Home run by 'BISWA' and villagers in good numbers voluntarily involved themselves in plantation of many medicinal as well as herbal plant species. The campaign was formally closed with an oath for protecting the environment and conserving Biodiversity. It needs mention that National Environmental Awareness Campaign (NEAC) was launched in 1986 by Ministry of Environment and Forest with an objective of creating environmental awareness at national level. Like every year, the focal theme of NEAC 2011 is "Bio-diversity".



Check and Mate

Ramendra Kumar

Vikas woke up with a start. He looked at the clock. It was 4 p.m. He could hear voices in the living room. "When did you come back from Kolkota, Nizam? Vikas' father Suresh was asking his best friend Nizam Hussain. "Just an hour back and you know what, Irfan bagged three gold medals in the under-12 category." "Wow! That's fantastic news. You should celebrate - throw a party. No,

wait. Why should you? I'll throw one. After all I am Irfan's favorite uncle and he my favorite nephew."

Irfan, Nizam Uncle's son was a swimming champ. He had gone for the inter-state swimming championship to Kolkota. "He won gold medals in 100 metres free style, 200 metres free style and relay," Nizam said. "He is a born champ Nizam, though I wonder where he got his genes from."

"Certainly not from me."

"That's what I am saying. You were so hopeless in sports."

"And you were the ultimate champion," Nizam said thumping his friend on his back. "You know something Suresh, I ran into our sports teacher Sunny David. He was telling me your 100 metres sports records is still not broken." "Really! I can't believe it. I ran that race 24 years ago when I was in class ten."

"You should really be proud of yourself." "I would have been even more proud if Vikas had carried forward my legacy. When he was born I had declared that I would make him the next Carl Lewis but..." "I understand your feelings Suresh, but you should never let Vikas know or it will destroy him." Vikas sat up and removed the bed sheet that was covering his leg. In place of his left leg was a wooden stump. He had lost his leg in an accident five years back when he was seven.

Vikas was sitting on a platform under the shade of a Peepal tree watching his friends playing football. His father's words, the disappointment in his voice, were haunting Vikas every waking moment. "Come Vikas, how about a game of chess?" Vikas looked up. It was Sreenivasan Sir, his math teacher. He was holding a box in his hand. Sreenivasan Sir was very fond of Vikas not only because he was very good in math but also because Vikas was sincere and hardworking. "But Sir, I can't play chess." "So what? I can, and I'll teach you. In a couple of games you'll get the hang of it. Your powers of observation and concentration are very good and I am sure you'll pick up the game in no time." And so the teacher and his favorite student started playing. In the beginning Vikas found it very difficult to even understand the basic moves. But gradually he got into the rhythm. Soon a game of chess with Sreenivasan Sir became a regular practice. Vikas really started looking forward to that one hour of P.T. when he could match his skills with those of the brilliant Sreenivasan Sir. Six months went by. Sreenivasan Sir and Vikas were playing chess in their usual spot. "Check and mate," Vikas said and looked expectantly at his mentor. Sreenivasan Sir studied the move for sometime and then exclaimed, "Fantastic move Vikas, you trapped me. Well done, I am proud of you," he held out his hand. A beaming Vikas shook his teacher's hand. He was thrilled to bits. This was the first time he had beaten Sreenivasan Sir. Next day when they met for their regular game of chess Sreenivasan Sir told Vikas, "Vikas the leading daily of our State - News Today will be hosting a Chess Tournament for school students from 12th to 15th November. It will be called 'News Today Chess Olympiad' and will be held at Hari Singh Indoor Stadium. I want you to take part in that." "M..me. B..but Sir, I can hardly play." "Vikas you are being too modest. . Don't forget you beat me yesterday. And let me tell you during my college days I was the University champ." "But Sir..." "No, but," Sreenivasan cut him short. "You are going to take part. You have six months to practice. I'll get you a few good books on chess. Do you have a computer at home?" "Yes." "Good. Then I'll also get you a couple of chess programmes on a floppy. Playing chess with the computer will really sharpen your skills." "But Sir...I...I feel -" "I told you, no buts. If you feel your parents will object I can talk to them." "No, Sir, I'll take my parents' permission."

"Okay then are we ready to start preparing for the Olympiad?"

"Yes, Sir," Vikas said, a faint smile appearing on his anxious face.

Vikas told his mother Pramila but he asked her not to tell his father.

"Why son?"

"Please Ma, I want to surprise Papa. He doesn't even know I know chess. Even if I reach the second round he will be thrilled."

Chess became Vikas' obsession. In school, during P.T. period; at home after his homework, Vikas would get busy playing chess, reading about it, matching his skills with the computer and even dreaming about different moves. He cut out the games which appeared in the newspaper columns, studied the various strategies used and discussed them with Sreenivasan Sir.

Two months later when he was waiting under the shade of the Peepal tree he found Sreenivasan Sir walking towards him accompanied by a tall, thin, man with grey hair.

"Vikas this is my friend and Guru, R.K. Murthy. He retired as a Physics Teacher from Government College. During the seventies he had won the State Chess Championship for a record nine times. He lives nearby and he will walk down and play every day with you during P.T. period."

Vikas folded his hands in a namaste and Mr. Murthy patted him on his head. "So young man, shall we begin? I am eager to match my old wits with that of a talented member of the Generation X."

Vikas found that playing with Mr. Vishwanath was altogether a different experience. He sometimes felt he was a complete novice playing for the first time. Vishwanath taught him many fresh openings, several new moves. He also pointed out many of his follies. With each game Vikas felt he was learning something new. Suresh was the Marketing Manager of a leading pharmaceutical company and was frequently out on tour. On 7th November when he was leaving for Chennai Vikas told him, "Papa you should come back definitely by 12th." Why son? Is there a function in your school?" "No, Papa. But there is a surprise for you. I don't want you to miss it. Suresh patted Vikas on his head, "Okay, son." Suresh forgot about the promise he had made to his son. On 12th he rang up Pramila and told her he had got stuck and would be reaching on 15th morning. The train was late and by the time he reached home it was 11. "Maaji and bhaiya have gone to Hari Singh stadium and have asked you to join them," the maid servant informed Suresh. Puzzled Suresh took a bath, grabbed a quick bite and drove down to the stadium, which was three kilometres from his house. When he reached the stadium he saw a huge banner at the gate. "News Today Chess Olympiad." Puzzled he parked the car and went inside. There was a pin drop silence in the stadium, which was packed. Right in the middle was a raised platform. People were sitting all around watching a game of chess in progress. One of the players looked familiar. Suresh stared unable to believe his eyes. It was his son Vikas! But Vikas and Chess? He wasn't even aware Vikas knew how to play the game. And here his son was participating in a championship! He felt a familiar hand on his shoulder. He turned, it was Nizam "What are you doing here?" Suresh asked. "I have come here for the same purpose as you - to watch Vikas play." "B...but I didn't even know he could play chess -" "He wanted to surprise you. Now, come with me. There is a seat reserved for you right in front from where you can watch the action." Nizam led him to an empty seat next to which Pramila was sitting. "You know Suresh, Vikas is in the finals - and this is the final game. If he wins he will be the State Champion."

Suresh shook his head. "This all seems like a dream. It is too good to be true. When did he learn to play chess? Who taught him? And how come I don't know a thing about it." "Have patience, all your questions will be answered in good time. But right now let us concentrate on Vikas' game." Suresh watched mesmerized as his son, a picture of concentration, waited for his opponent Harish to play. Harish made his move. Vikas quietly moved his queen two steps and said very calmly - "Check and Mate." For a few second there was absolute silence. Harish looked at the board and then threw his hands up. There was a thunderous applause and the entire stadium was on its feet cheering and clapping. Vikas got up with the help of his crutches and bowed. His eyes rested on the beaming face of this father. Suresh was clapping with joy, shaking hands with Nizam and shouting - all at the same time, like an excited five year old. Later after he had received the glittering trophy Vikas was given the mike. "I would like to thank my math teacher and inspiration Sreenivasan Sir, the wizard who taught me, Mr. Murthy, my Uncle Nizam and my mother. To my Papa I only want to say, "I know I can never become a Carl Lewis, but you can help me become a Vishwanathan Anand." The stadium once again erupted in cheers and Suresh was seen wiping his eyes.



Entertainment Horizon

OLLYWOOD News

Bobby's first film as solo hero



The recently released Tate Bhala Pauchi Boli is running with packed audiences. This is Bobby's first film as a solo lead. His acting is praiseworthy, and surely it is going to kick start his career. Co-actor Debasish is new find for the industry.

Actor Bobby will be seen in a negative role in that movie Tate Bhala Pauchi Boli. He is paired opposite Bengali beauty Koel mukherjee. This his third film. The first two films were Jai Sriram and Premrogi.

The first two films were Jai Sriram and Premrogi.

Sidhanta hurts finger while shooting



Sidhanta hurt his finger while giving a

jumping stunt from a 40ft high building in his Upcoming film "Mate Bohu Kari Nei Jaa". The scene was supposed be done by stunt specialist , but he insisted doing it by himself. The films shooting is being done in bangkok.

Kuni Ganesha will hit the silver screen



After the commercial success of 'Hanuman', 'Little Ganesha' and 'My Friend Ganesha', a team of animation artists in Orissa have come up with almost similar theme which is scheduled to hit the small screen this week. For the first time in Oriya movie and television industry such an animated series is to be aired on national television. The TV series 'Kuni Ganesh' crafted by Media Pixels aims at its target audience — kids and kid at heart. "This is the first animated series in Orissa. This will take a big leap in Orissa. We appeal the viewers to watch the series," Kuni Ganesh Producer Gouri Shankar Singh said.

The Media Pixels team expects the animated series to be an outright success as it is the first cartoon series in Oriya. "It is especially targeted for kids. Here, Ganesha is portrayed as a super hero who helps the kids in difficult times," Kuni Ganesh Director Jyoti Ranjan Swain said. Earlier, the team had produced an animated album 'Neelpari' which gathered many accolades. The series revolves around how little Ganesha bails out kids from difficult times. Like other Ganesha series, 'Kuni Ganesha' also accommodates Ganesha in day to day life where the savior acts as a friend, philosopher and guide.

BOLLYWOOD News

Malaika Arora Makes Melbourne City Dance To Her Tunes - Creates A World Record



The Munni mania seems to be far from over. After creating mass hysteria all over, the chartbuster from Dabangg- 'Munni Badnaam Hui' now finds its way to the coveted Guinness Book of World Records. Wondering how and why? Well here's the story...

Producer Arbaaz Khan, who is currently in Australia, spoke exclusively to Bollywood Hungama giving us details on this achievement. He said, "Over 1200 people danced non-stop to 'Munni Badnaam' at Melbourne park beating the earlier record which was set in Singapore when 1008 people danced publicly to a song. The Guinness Book adjudicators were present and so it qualifies as a record. We now enter the Guinness Book for this distinction."

With this achievement Munni's popularity has gone well beyond the seven seas.

'Dum Maaro Dum' Music Launch At India Vs South Africa Match

The much-hyped title track of Abhishek Bachchan starrer 'Dum Maaro Dum' was launched at the India-South Africa World Cup tie on March 12.

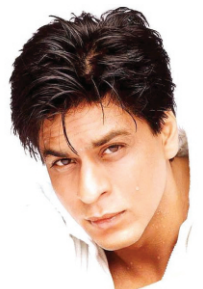
The track, which is being hailed as the next hit item number what with actress Deepika Padukone grooving to it, is the remixed version of the evergreen song from the 1971 film 'Hare Rama Hare Krishna' starring Dev Anand.

Abhishek and Deepika alongwith the rest of the starcast of the movie, including Bipasha Basu, Prateik Babbar and Rana Daggubati, attended the launch during the day-night match.

The city has been chosen to kick-start the film promotion since it is in the centre of cine business activities in Central Province and Berar (CP & Berar) circuit.

Top 3 highest paid Bollywood actors

3. Shahrukh Khan: The baadshah of Bollywood is known to deliver certain hits and hence gets paid royally for that. With umpteen ads and television shows, times are good for him. He charges a cool 12 crores for a movie.



2. Aamir Khan: The perfectionist of Bollywood has the highest delivery rate. Usually doing a movie a year, all his movies turn out to be blockbusters. With Ghajini breaking all records, Aamir has once again proven his might. And for that, he charges about 13-14 crores a movie.



1. Akshay Kumar: Tadaa! His rise to the top has certainly been one to chart. Silently but slowly overtaking the Khan brigade, Akki has consistently delivered hits. He has proven to be the king of mindless comedies and producers rush to him for any comic role. He takes home a whopping 15 crores per movie, the highest ever paid to a Bollywood actor.

