

# WOMAN GANG-RAPED IN LODGE, 3 ARRESTED

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR

THREE persons were arrested in connection with the gang-rape of a woman, who was a Facebook friend of one of them, in Bhubaneswar, said a police official on Sunday. The accused persons were identified as Chandan Kumar Hati alias Chandu (25), Prasanna Kumar Acharya (37) of Chasikhanda village under Biridi police station and Rajesh Kumar Das (32) under Jagatsinghpur Town police station in Jagatsinghpur district.

Police sources said the 23-year-old victim came into contact with the prime accused, Chandan, through the popular social media platform Facebook. Subsequently, the two developed



a romantic relationship through their interactions on Facebook. During their frequent interactions, Chandan allegedly promised to help the victim meet a music composer and get a chance as a singer.

Chandan, in connivance with other accused persons, hatched a plan and called her to a lodge on the pre-



text of a photo shoot. As per the complaint lodged by the survivor's sister, trusting the promise made by her accused boyfriend, the victim, on September 10, left her house to meet music composer. Later, the accused persons, Chandan and Prasanna, took the victim to a lodge located in Chandrasekharpur area of the city, where prime accused Chan-



dan's friend, Rajesh, works as a caretaker.

The victim's sister, in her complaint, alleged that the accused persons sexually abused the woman with the help of the accused caretaker at the lodge. Based on the complaint, police started an investigation into the matter after registering a case in this regard on September 11.

"During the investiga-

tion, it came to light that the accused had lured the victim under false pretext of helping her meet a music composer. They made her consume some drug-spiked food items in the lodge. They forcibly confined her in a room of the lodge, where she was subsequently sexually abused by the accused persons. Rajesh, the caretaker of the lodge, facilitated the accused in committing the crime," said a senior police official.

The police said following reliable information, all three accused persons were arrested on Saturday and they confessed to their crimes during interrogation. They were produced before the court which sent them to judicial custody.

# RTI applicant barred from making queries for one year

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR

THE Odisha State Information Commission on Saturday barred an applicant from Puri district from filing new applications under the RTI Act for one year, citing "abuse of the RTI process". The order was delivered by State Information Commissioner Susanta Kumar Mohanty after finding that the applicant, identified as Chittaranjan Sethy of Satapuri village, had made 61 applications seeking information from Meiteipur gram panchayat and Nimapara block office, demanding month-wise and year-wise details of income, expenditure and development works.

The panel noted that despite receiving responses and opportunities to inspect documents, Sethy continued filing repetitive applications. Therefore, the order said: "The 61 cases filed by the appellant/complainant are hereby dismissed."

"Given the above facts, the commission concludes that the applicant's conduct is an abuse of RTI process. His act is a clear indication of misuse. No doubt the applicant, being a citizen of



India, has the right to get the information under the RTI Act, 2005, but he/she is also duty-bound to obey the law of the land and procedure. Keeping in view the facts mentioned above, the applicant deserves to be dealt in a strict manner," the order said.

While putting a ban on the applicant on filing new RTI applications for one year, the State Information Commission put a cap on queries allowing 12 RTI applications per year across all public authorities and ordered mandatory affidavits disclosing the number of applications filed annually.

The order also said that by using BPL card, the applicant filed applications indiscriminately.

Hence, the Collector and District Magistrate, Puri, is directed to verify the genuineness/status of his BPL card and take appropriate action accordingly. A State-wide advisory to departments be issued to reject repetitive or burdensome queries from him under Section 7(9) of the RTI Act, it said.

"No institution dedicated to democracy can agree to the disproportionate/uncontrolled use of such a sacred Act," the order said.

## 75 lakh saplings to be planted on Modi's 75th birthday: CM



HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR

CHIEF Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Saturday appealed to the people of Odisha to join 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'- 2 campaign and help the State to plant 75 lakh saplings on the 75th birth anniversary of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 17.

Majhi, in a video message, appealed to the people and said in the second edition of this campaign, the State government has set a target to plant a total of 7.5 crore trees this year. The campaign, which started on June 5, will end on September 30.

On Modi's 75th birthday on September 17, Majhi said 75 lakh saplings will be planted across the State as a mark of gift to the Prime Minister. "Modi ji's leadership in building a strong and developed India has earned praise all over the world today. Modi ji has a special focus on the development of Odisha. In honour of his dedication to the development of Odisha, 75 lakh saplings will be planted on that day. This will be a gift from the people of Odisha to Modi ji," Majhi said.

Stating that the greatest blessing in the world is 'Mother', the Chief Minister said all should plant a tree as a mark of respect to their mother. "Therefore, I request all people, students, youth, SHG members and voluntary organisations to join hands in this great work of tree plantation and make it a success," the Chief Minister said.

"Come, let us all join this campaign. Let us show respect to our mother and plant a tree to protect Mother Earth. Let us help in building a green and beautiful world for the future generations," he said.

# Let go of futile baggage, be at ease with life

DR ACHYUTA SAMANTA

IN life, we strive for success, peace and happiness. We aim to achieve stability and comfort, both external and internal. But very often, we miss the one fundamental truth and that is the less luggage we carry, the more comfort we experience. This isn't just about physical luggage.

It is about emotional, mental, spiritual and material luggage. The lighter our load, the smoother our journey. This principle applies to every stage of life. We just need to pause, reflect and recognise how unnecessary weight, whether physical or guilt, ego, regrets or attachments slows us down, drains our energy and clouds our vision.

Let us begin with what we watch every day. The school-going kid! When children begin their academic journey, they are full of curiosity, innocence and joy. But soon, the weight of the school bag increases and also the expectations and pressure on the child. A nursery child carries only essentials like books, colours and playful things. But as they progress to higher grades, their bags become heavier, symbolising how life burdens them with more than what is necessary. When children carry less, they feel freer. They walk faster.

They think clearly. They enjoy their journey. But when they are weighed down, their enthusiasm wanes, their back hurts and their joy fades. The same principle applies to adults, professionals, leaders and everyone walking the path of life.

Whenever we travel, we realise how much easier it is to move when we carry a few things. More luggage, more pain. Those who travel light reach faster, adapt better and are less worried about what they might lose. Similarly, in life, we are all travellers moving from one place to another, one phase to another. Some shift homes.

Others shift jobs. Some change cities and some transition from one relationship to another. In every transition, those who carry less emotional and mental baggage adjust better. When we cling to past mistakes, broken relation-



ships, grudges, or past glories, we prevent ourselves from embracing the present or preparing for the future. Philosopher Seneca said, "He who is everywhere is nowhere." A person divided between past hurts and future fears never lives fully in the present. Forgiveness, therefore, becomes the greatest baggage remover towards others and ourselves. When we forgive, we drop the unnecessary. We free ourselves.

The idea of less baggage is central to almost all religious traditions. In the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna tells Arjuna to act without attachment, ego and expectation. In Buddhism, the path to enlightenment requires letting go of desires and attachments. In Jainism, renunciation and minimalism are means to spiritual progress.

In Islam, Prophet Muhammad said, "Detach from the world, and Allah will love you." The spiritual path in Islam values simplicity (zuhd), humility and trust in divine providence over attachment to possessions or status. Even in the Christian tradition, the teachings of the Desert Fathers and mystics emphasise inner silence, solitude and detachment from worldly distractions.

In each tradition, the path to spiritual progress requires us to drop something and not accumulate more. Mahatma Gandhi embodied this philosophy

in his daily life.

His belief in non-possession was not merely about material goods. It was about renouncing ego, pride and greed. He famously said, "The world has enough for everyone's need, but not enough for everyone's greed."

**What do we mean when we talk of baggage in this context?**

- **Emotional :** Resentment, anger, unresolved trauma.
- **Mental :** Overthinking, guilt, self-doubt.
- **Material :** Hoarding, unnecessary possessions.
- **Spiritual:** Ego, pride, judgment, righteousness.

The more of these we carry, the farther we are from peace. A person who learns to let go becomes lighter, freer and more at ease with life and its uncertainties.

I have lived a life filled with struggle, responsibility and challenges. From my childhood to my journey in public service, I have seen both extreme poverty and the heights of success. But through it all, I have held on to a simple philosophy of carrying less, giving more.

Even today, despite heading large institutions and organisations, I strive to keep my personal life simple by having less or no baggage. I avoid unnecessary materialism. I forgive quickly and I try not to dwell too long on setbacks.

That is my path to more comfort. It is about mental peace. It is about being able to sleep peacefully and maintain a natural glow in the skin. It is about having clarity in decision-making. When your heart is not clouded with anger or jealousy, and your mind is not heavy with doubt or overanalysis, you work better, lead better and live better.

In today's world, success is often equated with accumulation of wealth, status, recognition, even followers. But true success lies in simplification.

The more we accumulate, the more we fear losing. The more we fear, the more anxious we become. Covid taught us this truth in a harsh but clear way. When everything shut down, we realised how little we actually needed to survive. It was not our wardrobes or luxury cars or TV screens that gave us peace.

It was health, family and inner strength. In leadership too, the most effective ones are those who delegate, trust and keep their egos in check. They create teams, empower others and release control. That is less luggage.

The journey of life is between birth and death. Everything in between is movement - constant, unpredictable and temporary. We come into this world empty-handed. We leave the same way. Whatever we gather is only temporary luggage.

What remains is how we lived. Did we live joyfully? Did we forgive? Did we release what no longer served us? Did we lighten our load? If yes, then our journey was comfortable. Peaceful Spiritual.

Today, I encourage every reader, not as a moral instruction, but as a heartfelt invitation to examine these questions. You may find that the path becomes clearer.

And your heart finally feels at ease. It is the key to peace, the root of forgiveness and the secret to a life well-lived. Let us all strive, in our own ways, to carry less, so we may live more.

(Author is a former MP and founder of Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology and Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences in Bhubaneswar)

## PM lays stone for health projects in Assam



MANGALDOI (ASSAM)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday laid the foundation stones for health and infrastructure projects worth Rs 6,300 crore at Mangaldoi in Assam's Darrang district. He launched the construction of Darrang Medical College and Hospital, along with a nursing college and a GNM school. The combined investment in these healthcare projects is worth Rs 570 crore.

The Prime Minister also

laid the foundation stones for the 2.9 km-long Narengi-Kuruwa bridge with an estimated cost of Rs 1,200 crore and the 118.5 km-long Guwahati Ring Road project, connecting Kamrup and Darrang districts in Assam and Ri Bhoi in Meghalaya. The cost for the Ring Road project was estimated at Rs 4,530 crore. Modi had arrived in Assam on Saturday evening and attended Bharat Ratna awardee Bhupen Hazarika's birth centenary celebrations.

## Venugopal slams BJP over Indo-Pak match



BHUBANESWAR: SENIOR Congress leader K C Venugopal on Sunday criticised the BJP over the India-Pakistan match in Dubai, alleging that its leaders indulge in creating "fake narratives" on patriotism. Venugopal was speaking to reporters in Bhubaneswar as India faced off with Pakistan in an Asia Cup fixture, the first match between the two sides since the military conflict in May.

"These (BJP) people talk about patriotism, and now they are doing this (allowing the Indian team to play against Pakistan)," he said.

# CM launches 'Zero Accident Day'



HANS NEWS SERVICE  
KEONJHAR

IN a bid to create awareness among people about road safety, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Saturday launched the 'Zero Accident Day' campaign in Keonjhar, his native district. Organised by the Commerce and Transport department, the initiative seeks to make Odisha an accident-free State. "Safety is a collective duty of every individual, it is not just the government's

responsibility," Majhi said while flagging off the campaign in all 13 blocks of Keonjhar district. The Chief Minister stressed the importance of collective responsibility in ensuring road safety, particularly in mining belts like Keonjhar, where hundreds of heavy vehicles ply everyday, transporting minerals.

With support from IIT-Madras, the 14-day programme will provide guidance on preventing accidents and promoting road safety in the district.

# Inscription sheds light on divine kinship

SUNIL MOHAN PATNAIK  
BERHAMPUR

THE rare discovery of a 15th-century inscription of Gajapati Kapilendra Deva, unearthed at Bishnupur village in Nimapada block, holds immense historical and cultural importance. Unlike conventional royal

depictions, the inscription portrays the mighty Suryavanshi monarch in a reposeful, human-like posture, yet worshipped with the grandeur of a deity thus offering profound insight into how Odisha's rulers were elevated to divine stature within Utkal's cultural ethos.

Found on a statue preserved in the museum near Somnath temple, the inscription was first identified by cultural researcher Prateek Pattnayak and later deciphered by epigraphist Bishnu Mohan Adhikari of Paralakhemundi. It reads "Ethara thakure abakasa bije kari achanti". This is

translated as "Here the lord is seated taking rest." Surrounding the king are 22 attendants engaged in ceremonial services, from holding parasols to offering betel leaves, reflecting a ritualised veneration of the monarch even in moments of leisure.

Historians say the find-

ing reinforces the Gajapati tradition of kingship deeply intertwined with spirituality, where rulers were treated as living embodiment of the divine order. The Somnath temple, originally built in the 14th century by the Eastern Ganga dynasty, later flourished under the patronage

of the Gajapatis, providing the backdrop for this remarkable find.

With this, the tally of Kapilendra Deva's inscriptions from Puri district has risen to six, making Bishnupur's discovery a valuable addition to the corpus of Odishan history and epigraphy.

