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## PRESS RELEASE

**Bhubaneswar 23/12/2020,**

- Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri Naveen Patnaik paid humble tributes to former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh on his birth anniversary, celebrated as National Farmers Day-"Kisan Diwas", for his efforts to empower farmers. Farmers feed the world and they are the backbone of a nation, Hon'ble Chief Minister said.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister paid rich tributes to Kabichandra Kalicharan Pattanaik, pioneering personality of Odia theatre and 'Bharatmuni' of modern Odia treatise on drama. Stating that his contribution in the field of Odia play-writing and literature is beyond comparison, Hon'ble Chief Minister said that he will be remembered for ever for his notable creations like 'Bhata', 'Abhijana', 'Raktamati', 'Haranchal' etc.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister while reviewing loan disbursal programme with District Magistrates and banks said that farmers, Mission Shakti Groups and MSMEs are our entrepreneurs. He stressed that the provision of loan is a priority to rebuild COVID-19 affected economy and help entrepreneurs become self-dependent.
  - Hon'ble Chief Minister praised well performing districts and banks for successfully lending loans to farmers and advised poor performing districts to expedite lending process. He hoped all districts and banks would meet lending targets by end of last quarter of current fiscal year.
  - Hon'ble Chief Minister while expressing that lending to Mission Shakti Groups is Government's priority said that Sambalpur, Kandhamal, Nuapada and Baleswar have done well in this regard. Hon'ble Chief Minister announced that Finance Minister, India would be informed about banks performing well and would be rewarded at end of financial year.
- Hon'ble Chief Minister approved the proposal of renaming "North Orissa University" as "Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University" honouring

**"WEAR MASK, STAY SAFE"**

Maharaja's immense contribution towards the development of Odisha, on his 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary. In addition to this, Hon'ble Chief Minister directed for development of Sriram Chandra Library.

- Hon'ble Chief Minister congratulated District Administration, Cuttack on winning the national SKOCH Group Gold Award-2020 for its initiative, "Mission Zero-F". The initiative aims to improve the performance of Government School students in HSC Exam through innovative teaching, mentoring and counselling, he said.
- From 22<sup>nd</sup> December to 23rd December morning, 2 cases have been registered while 19 people arrested, 576 vehicles seized and fine of Rs. 19,36,500/- has been collected by the Odisha Police in the state for violation of different regulations and guidelines related to COVID-19.

### **Health Update**

- Up to midnight of 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 67,00,524 samples have been tested.
- Number of Positive Cases stands 3,27,279.
- 3,22,344 persons have already recovered/ discharged.
- No. of Death case 1846.
- No of active cases are 3,036.
- 3,036 persons are in Hospital isolation.

Pathani Rout  
Information Officer

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