

**TODAY'S PAPER » NATIONAL » OTHER STATES**

BHUBANESWAR, April 16, 2013

## **Kendu leaf trade de-regulated**

Nabrangpur has become the first district and Odisha first State in the country where kendu leaf trade has been de-regulated, said State government here on Monday.

At a function marking de-control of kendu leaf trade held at Mandei in Nabrangpur on Monday, ST and SC Development Minister Lal Bihari Himirka said the government was committed to implement Forest Rights Act in the State and empower beneficiaries to take advantage of the forest produce.

“As per the decision, kendu leaf will not be controlled by the government organisations. Kendu leaf pluckers will be benefited socially and economically due to de-regulation. About 70,000 families in Nabarangpur will be benefited from the decision,” Mr. Himirka said.

Addressing the function, Panchayati Raj Minister Kalpataru Das said de-controlled kendu leaf trade would be carried out through gram sabhas and palli sabhas. Mr. Das said monetary gains to be accrued from de-control of kendu leaf trade would directly benefit tribal people and panchayats could directly spend the amount on their development.

Forest and Environment Minister Bijoyshree Routray, Nabrangpur Lok Sabha Member Pradip Kumar Majhi and others were present.