

Strife-torn Gambhari gives peace a chance

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Sept 21: Aiming to restore peace to an area scarred by years of violent conflict, a peace meet was organised in strife-torn Gambhari village on World Peace Day Sunday.

The village was in the news for all the wrong reasons due to frequent incidents of bombings, shootings and pitched battles. Several gruesome murders were reported from here.

The peace meet was attended by Tathagata Satpathy, editor of **Dharitri** and **Orissa POST**, as chief guest. The event was jointly organised by Rotary Club, Inner Wheel Club and Gambhari Village Peace Committee.

Before addressing the gathering, Satpathy interacted with senior citizens of the village to ascertain the possible reasons behind the recurrence of such violent clashes.

"The village was once known for bombings and gunfire. However, the atmosphere is changing, and now it is possible to restore peace and brotherhood to the village. The villagers have embarked on a peace movement and though it will take some time, they will be successful," Satpathy said.

The villagers have seen far too much violence in their lifetime, for which they have come forward to re-



Lok Sabha MP Tathagata Satpathy inaugurating the peace meet

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store peace in the area, he added.

Addressing the meeting, Puri collector Arabind Agarwal said, "I had heard a lot about violence-prone Gambhari village during my last stint as collector in 2011. Several lives were lost in the violence. However, I've recently heard of villagers spearheading the peace movement and bringing an end to the violence - this was possible not because of the administra-

tion but due to people's efforts."

Puri superintendent of police Ashis Singh said ushering in peace in the village has been possible due to the locals' efforts, and this is a message for the entire state to follow.

Rotarians Yugabrat Kar, Bhimsen Patra, Bibhuprasad Tripathy and Shibabrata Das, and Rotary Club Puri president Debiprasanna Mohanty attended the meeting.