

Govt stops mining ops of 3 firms, slaps a total fine of 96 lacks



Joda : After continuous exposure to massive corruption in iron ore mining, the Odisha Government has suspended the mining operation of Murgabeda Iron Ore Mines of DR Pattanaik over 15.378 hectares (ha), Jaribahal Mine of Kashvi International over 107.440 ha, and Deojhar Mines (P-7)

HAPPY NEW YEAR GREETINGS

THE INDUSTRY &
MINES OBSERVER
WISHES HAPPY NEW
YEAR-2021 TO ALL
IT'S READERS.



Sirish C. Mohanty
Editor



ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳଙ୍କ
ବାର୍ତ୍ତା



DADLS-67

ପବିତ୍ର ବଡ଼ଦିନ ପର୍ବ ହେଉଛି ଶାନ୍ତି, ମୌଜୁତା ଓ ମାନବତାବାଦର ପର୍ବ । ଏ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ବିଶେଷତଃ ଶ୍ରୀକ୍ଷିଆନ୍ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଇବା ସହ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର ଶ୍ରୀ, ଶାନ୍ତି ଓ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

ଶଶିଶ୍ୟାମାଳି
(ଗଣେଶୀ ଲାଲ)

ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

OIPR- 15001/13/0110/2021



ପବିତ୍ର ବଡ଼ଦିନ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ
ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

DADLS-67

ପବିତ୍ର ବଡ଼ଦିନ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ମୁଁ ସମସ୍ତ ଓଡ଼ିଶାବାସୀ ବିଶେଷକରି ଶ୍ରୀକ୍ଷିଆନ୍ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।

ସଂପ୍ରତି ଓ ଭାଇଚାରାର ଭାବ ରଖି ଆସନ୍ତୁ ପ୍ରଭୁ ଯୀଶୁଙ୍କର ଧରାବତରଣକୁ କୋଭିଡ଼ କଟକଣା ଅନୁପାଳନ ସହ ଆନନ୍ଦ ଭଲ୍ଲାସରେ ପାଳନ କରିବା ।

(ରମେଶ୍ୱର ଦାସ)
ଜଳସଂପଦ, ସ୍ୱଚ୍ଛତା ଓ ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

OIPR- 15001/13/0110/2021



ବଡ଼ ଦିନ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ

ମାନ୍ୟବର ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଶ୍ରୀ ନବୀନ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକଙ୍କ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା

DADLS-67

ପବିତ୍ର ବଡ଼ ଦିନ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି ଏବଂ ଏକ ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଗଠନରେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ସହଯୋଗ କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

ରାଜ୍ୟରେ କୋଭିଡ଼ ପରିସ୍ଥିତିରେ ଅନେକ ପରିମାଣରେ ଉନ୍ନତି ଆସିଲେ ମଧ୍ୟ ସତର୍କ ନରହିଲେ ବିପଦ ବଢ଼ିବାର ସମ୍ଭାବନା ରହିଛି । ତେଣୁ କୋଭିଡ଼ ନିୟମାବଳୀର ଅନୁପାଳନ ସହିତ ସମସ୍ତ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ମୁଁ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ଅନୁରୋଧ କରୁଛି ।

ନବୀନ ଟଙ୍କନାୟକ
(ନବୀନ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ)

ମାନ୍ୟବର ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

OIPR- 15001/13/0110/2021

Tata Steel Foundation renovates School building and dedicates a new community center at Deojhar



Samiti Member, Joda block.

While the 'Community Centre' will cater to the cultural and religious events of the community, the renovated School building will serve the educational needs of the students from the community. Among others present on the occasion were Mr Rahul Kishore, Head

(Mining Operations), Katamati Iron Mine (OMQ Division), Tata Steel, MsBilasini Naik, Ward Member, Deojhar, MrJanardan Naik, Ex Sarpanch, Deojhar, MsRebati Naik, Ex Vice Chairman, Joda block, Mr Bira Naik, Ex Zilla Parishad member, Keonjhar, Mr Dushmanta Naik, Mr Gadadhara Mahakud, Mr Benumadhaba Naik, Mr Jagannath Behera and Ms Meena Ghana and Mr Ramachandra Naik along with officials of Tata Steel Foundation.

Joda, : To provide better infrastructure to the residents of Deojhar Panchayat under Joda block of Keonjhar district, Tata Steel Foundation dedicated a 'Community Centre' and a renovated 3-room School building to the community on Saturday.

The renovated 3-room building of Dhableswar Government High School, Deojhar was inaugurated by MrAtul Kumar Bhatnagar, General Manager (OMQ Division), Tata Steel in the presence of MrMangal

Munda, Sarpanch, Deojhar Gram Panchayat, MrJudhister Palei, Panchayat Samiti Member, Joda block and MrHrusikesh Mahanta, Principal, Dhableswar Govt High School.

In a similar event, a 'Community Centre' was jointly inaugurated at Deojhar by Mr Ram Prakash Mali, Chief, Noamundi (OMQ Division), Tata Steel along with MrMangal Munda, Sarpanch, Deojhar Gram Panchayat and MrJudhister Palei, Panchayat

IMFA Reached the Person with Disability

IMFA -Therubali has extended its reaching hand to the differently-abled person of its peripheral area. A sum of Rupees One Lakh Support was extended to Sri. Satyam, an elderly PWD rickshaw puller of Rayagada town which includes the construction of a Shop, one fridge, and Rs.15000/- in shape of cash as working capital in presence of the District Social Security Officer under the guidance of Sri.K.V.Rao, Vice President of the company.

Sri Pratap Chandra Pradhan, Sub-Collector of Rayagada has handed over the full-pledged Kirana Shop to Sri A.Satyaraju. On this occasion, on behalf of the CSR arm of IMFA, the Sub-Collector has extended financial support to the tune of Rs.10000/- each to another two PWD namely



Sri. Maghanada Garadia of Rayagada & Sri Rakesh Himirika of Bahatapur in Bassam Cuttack Block to start their micro livelihood projects at their place.

Sri Adipati Kanhar, DSSO, Sri Basant Kumar Pradhan, DIPRO, Sri Amarendranath, Secretary, Sri Kallol Kumar Nayak, DGM(P&A), Sri Sakti Prasad Panigrahi, Sr. Manager(PR) were graced by the occasion. Every year IMFA through its

CSR Arm extending financial support of Rs.10000/- to the PWDs of the Local Area.

These noble efforts of IMFA towards elevating the livelihood conditions of the PWDs are lauded by the citizenry of Rayagada and recipients have extended their sincere gratitude to the District Administration and Authorities of IMFA as well.

The State Government's Move To Benefit EPF Pensioners

Odisha CM Writes To Centre For Hike In Monthly Pension of EPF Pensioners

Bhubaneswar : Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday urged the Centre to hike the monthly pension of EPF pensioners who are running from pillar to post to get their grievances redressed.

In a letter, Patnaik has requested the Union Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar to take necessary steps to protect EPF Pensioners with reasonable

financial and social security.

"Around 1.62 lakh EPF pensioners of Odisha, who with a paltry monthly pension after their retirement are facing much hardship in their advanced age. Time and again these EPS-95 Pensioners' Association are putting forth their grievances for revision of minimum pension by the Government of India and giving their memorandum also at the



state level for redressing their cause," Wrote Patnaik in his letter.

According to Patnaik, the Pensioners' Association are also

citing a recommendation by the Petition Committee under the chairmanship of Bhagat Singh Koshyari, MP, Rajya Sabha made

during 2013 for enhancement of monthly pension of EPS-95 pensioners, which they understand to be pending at the Government of India level for consideration.

"The grievances of these pensioners deserve sympathetic consideration at your end as they had contributed to the nation-building at their prime age. And now they should be protected by

the State with reasonable financial and social security. This can be ensured by re-casting their pension structure for which they have been pursuing at every level. I look forward to a favorable action by the Government of India in resolving the above pension issue which would benefit these pensioners throughout India," Patnaik's letter read.

Bad highways cost Rs 7 lakh crore a year

Land grabbed for profits and Dumps huge losses on the nation



Prof. Shivaji Sarkar
Former HOD in English journalism in IIMC, Delhi

Farmers are losing more to roads and highways or expressways than the mere MSP guarantee they are demanding or repeal of three farm laws. The ten new expressways proposed around the country and industrial corridors would be creating land sharks by the acquisition of at least 25 percent of more farmlands than required for each project and it can lead to enormous disaster and financial mess. Atal Behari Vajpayee's Golden Quadrilateral highway project was for a purpose. But it has degraded into a land-grabbing movement. The rouge of infrastructure building is virtually a sham if the Agra-Noida JP Infratech Yamuna expressway (YE) is taken as a test case. It has 3500 acres of the 6177 acres

acquired unutilized - 56.6 percent. The 165 km road itself as per calculations needed no more than 4500 acres. The project conceptualized by the UP government in 2001 emerged as the model for grabbing people's land for private profits. All subsequent road projects virtually have emulated it to create a new zamindari, a fear expressed at a national discussion at VigyanBhavan, New Delhi on freeing urban and rural ceilings in 1994. Now on December 21, 2020, YE industrial development authority (Yeida) CEO ArunVir Singh says that it has notified 256,862 hectares (6.3 lakh acre) for development and has acquired 12,481 hectares (30841acre) for various developmental projects -

all of that is agriculture or wetland - in GautamBuddh Nagar, Aligarh, Mathura, and Agra.

The project also busts the myth that the public sector is inefficient. As a huge tract of land is acquired by JP Infratech and it gets into Rs 6500 crore debt to settle the tangle public sector NBCC is roped in. How much the public sector has lost for rescuing the prime acquirers and some others like Amrapali needs to be assessed. It is also a case where thousands of home seekers have lost their life's savings amounting to thousands of crore.

The NBCC in turn has told the public sector banks to raise about Rs 2,000 crore against the expressway and provide half of the amount (Rs 1,000 crore) to the state-owned company, which would utilise the fund for an upfront payment and kick-start construction. The NBCC will not repay the loans in cash but would give 100 percent equity to lenders (banks). So it is people's deposits that are being put to speculative risks with uncertain chances of return.

There is a myth in western UP that the compensation, peanuts as per market valuation, has improved the quality of life of the farmer families as the project displaced them with "rich" benefits. It does not assess the fact that the loss it has caused to farm

production, greenery, and increased pollution in the national Capital Region (NCR) falls in the quality of life of farm families. Many have squandered it away or just been reduced to laborers. Large slums have started growing.

It's also a wonder why after a few years of the start of the project NBCC has to step in. The project is virtually financially, ecologically, and socially an example of how a company can botch up a simple issue for its greed. The JP Infratech has 3500 acres of land of the 6177 acres acquired unutilized. This is now being told to NBCC to acquire and manage. Is the public sector a hospital to rescue a private company that has caused untold human, financial, and ecological hazards at stone's throw from the National Capital?

The toll roads are not masterpieces of Indian civilization. The national highways to Chandigarh, Jaipur, Aligarh, and hosts of others across the country are instances of how bad; potholed roads have been levied toll to fleece people. The chain of toll roads in NCR - Kundli-Manesar-Palwal, Delhi-Aligarh, Delhi-Meerut, Delhi Baghpat, Delhi-Hardwar, Delhi-Hapur-Moradabad, eastern Peripheral Highway, Delhi-Saharanpur highway are instances of dumping huge costs on the NCR farmers and businesses

and adding to inflation that causes concern to RBI. Each of these is built on farmers' lands acquired for peanuts to bolster profits.

Each toll road has become synonymous with unending loot. The DND - or the Noida toll bridge lost the toll status at the intervention of the court as it had recovered more than it had invested in construction and maintenance in three years. The wonder that has not become the standard for awarding future such roads. Now the license for toll collection is being given for 30 to 36 years - more than a generation. One such emerging monopoly belongs to an influential politician and many others also have similar connections in every region.

Minister for Transport Nitin Gadkari says India has now the second largest road network of expressways and highways. It is expanding at 30 km of road building a day. But he ignores the World Bank (WB) report of February 2020 on roads in India that says the country has one of the worst roads and has the highest road crashes killing 1.5 lakh a year and injuring or maiming more than five times. (The YE is supposedly the most accident-prone. The conditions of state highways are far worse).

The WB says it costs the economy between 3

to 5 percent of GDP, almost Rs 7 lakh crore. India's real GDP at constant prices (2011-12) is 140.78 lakh crore in 2018-19, as per the ministry of statistics and program implementation.

So for corporate greed, the country is building unsafe roads and people are being saddled with huge costs and increasing insurance premiums. What started as a loss to farmers has engulfed the entire society and the profits of the perpetrators are increasing.

The unnecessary supposedly high-security plates for 26 crore vehicles are boosting their profits by a minimum of Rs 10,000 crore and displacing lakhs of mohalla level poor number plate makers across the country. This monopolization is another bane.

Greed is not only driving out the farmers but also various poor workers around him who have been subsisting on-farm activities. The country needs to study the phenomenon and act to prevent the situation from aggravating.

The loss of arable land for a scramble of "bad development" can be socially and politically disastrous. The mad game for the acquisition of fertile land must stop and the government has to look back to have a holistic agriculture and growth (not development) policy.

RSP presented Sewing Machines to Women beneficiaries



Rourkela, Dec 19: 45 women beneficiaries of periphery villages who completed the 12-day sewing training program organized by M/s NBCC in association with the CSR Department of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP)

were presented with Sewing Machines, Guide Books, Tools, and accessories in a function organized at the Institute for Periphery Development (IPD) on 19th December. Ms. Rajashree Banerjee, GM In-charge (HRDC) was the Chief Guest on the occasion. She along with M V Appa Rao, GM In-charge (CSR), and Ms. MunmunMitra, DGM (CSR) presented the materials to the participants who completed the training. The program was organized in the concluding session of the training in strict adherence to the COVID guidelines. The dignitaries encouraged and inspired the beneficiaries to use the sustainable means of livelihood effectively and urged them to reap maximum benefits from the training program. The participants expressed their immense pleasure over the training and also thanked the team for extending not just the training, but also equipping them with the basic needs to set out on their journey. The jubilant beneficiaries enthusiastically displayed the intricacies of sewing they had learned during

the course. Ms. PrabhatiKhuntia was the resource personnel from Messers Usha International who imparted training to the women.

Notably, the beneficiaries are from peripheral villages like Bagdega, Lindra, Mitkundri, Pograbahal, and Dalpos. The sessions included theoretical inputs on stitching, repair, and assembly of the machine as well as practical demonstrations. A similar program is being planned for another group of 45 women in January.

Contract Labourers awarded under Instant Recognition Scheme



Rourkela : A special award program under the Instant Recognition Scheme was organized on 22nd December. Arabinda Mishra, CGM, RMHP was the Chief Guest on the occasion who presented the awards to 6 Contract Labour of M/s Kalyani, 8 Contract Labour of M/s Durga Construction and 4 Contract Labour of M/s Tarini (Total 18 Contract Labour) engaged in the RMHP area. Present on the occasion were Mr. TG Kanekar GM(PL) Projects, Mr. SS Roychoudhury, GM(Open) RMHP, Mr. BB Kar, GM (Open), and other Senior Officers and concerned Contractors. It may be noted that the contract Labour were awarded for their exemplary contribution towards sanitization of all control pulpits, operator cabins, control rooms, restrooms and offices at up to 80 locations in the

RMHP Deptt on regular basis thrice daily since 24th March 2020 which enabled proper sanitization of the workplace and helped in continuing the production without any interruptions. Arabinda Mishra appreciated the efforts and hard work of the awardees and encouraged them to put their best efforts in these pandemic times. TG Kanekar also appreciated the efforts of the contract Labour amidst these tough times and also appreciated the department for recognizing the efforts put by these contract Labour.

Notably, this was the 45th Award function under the Instant Recognition Award Scheme and to date 320 Contract Labours have been awarded under the scheme.

SAIL Conferred Golden Peacock Environment Management Award

Rourkela : The prestigious Golden Peacock Environment Management Award for 2020 in steel sector was presented to Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) by the Institute of Directors for the second successive year.

Appreciating the efforts of SAIL collective for winning the award, Anil Kumar Chaudhary, Chairman, SAIL said, "Getting this award for successive two years bears testimony to the efforts made by the company for sustainable and environmentally responsible steel making."

Considering various environmental issues leading to global warming and climate change, the award encourages corporates to enhance their environmental performance and to compete with peers to set benchmarks, he added.

SAIL, as its Corporate Responsibility for Environment Protection, strives for adopting



environmental measures including upgrading of pollution control facilities, treatment & recirculation of wastewater from individual units & outfalls, enhancement in the green cover in & around plants and units and handling of solid wastes, eco-restoration of mined area, a company release stated.

The award was conferred on SAIL in a virtual award presentation ceremony held on December 15.

BJP disapproves SIT probe on the Pari murder case



JAGATSINGHPUR : The opposition party BJP has categorically has not accepted an SIT probe ordered by the state government over the murder of five-year-old girl Pari in the Nayagarh district. Meanwhile, the government has asked Odisha high

court to depute a judge for monitoring the investigation, but the honorable court is yet to decide the state government request. Consequently, the government is misleading the probe and protecting the culprits, rued BJP state

vice president PravatiParida while speaking to media persons here. The press meeting was attended by district BJP president Satya Brata Mohapatra, BJP leaders Rajkishor Behera Sampad Swain, Krishna Mohanty, Jagannath Das.

Youth arrested for kidnapping minor girl

JAGATSINGHPUR, Dec 26: Raghunathpur police have arrested one youth and rescued a minor girl from Gholabandha village in Ganjam district, the alleged youth had kidnapped a minor girl from Sadeipur village under Raghunathpur block on 4

October 2020. The report said that the alleged youth RavindraSahoo hails from Gholabandha village had been in love with the minor girl reading in class nine. On 4 October the girl was found missing, as a consequence her mother had lodged an FIR in

Raghunathpur police station. Police launched a probe, taking clues and mobile tracking of the minor reached Gholabandha village and rescued the minor from the alleged youth custody from Dum Duma in Bhubaneswar.

National consumer day celebrated in J'spur

JAGATSINGHPUR, Dec 26: The National consumer day was celebrated in district headquarters through a webinar, district collector Saroj Kumar Mishra attended the event as chief guest accompanying ADM cum district consumer protection

o f f i c e r SatchidanandaSahoo, assistant civil supply officer Salal Uddin Khan, Prafulla Kumar Behera, senior lawyer Ranjit Mohanty, district consumer protection council members G o v i n d a O j h a , NiranjanaBarik, DIPRO

Kaminiranjan Patnaik, assistant controller W&M Harishankar Patnaik and ZillaParishad members, Panchayat Samiti chairpersons and vice-chairpersons and consumer movement activists were connected through virtual mode and expressed their opinions.

National LokAdalat held in Jagatsinghpur



JAGATSINGHPUR : The National LokAdalat organized by District Legal Services Authority [DLSA] was held in the judicial complex here. District judge cum DLSA chairman Ananda Chandra Behera inaugurated this one day camp. 710 cases relating civil, criminal, family, and marriage disputes, bank and insurance connecting cases were taken up for adjudication, out of which 122 cases were disposed of and an amount Rs 1,27,24,500 collected from several litigants and different agencies. Out of 2318 bank cases, only 109 cases were settled.

Similar LokAdalat was organized in Kujanga court complex, additional district judge Pranab Kumar Routray, Sub-judge Priyaranjan Mishra, JMFC Sunita Mishra conducted the legal proceedings of different cases. JMFC Susanta Kumar Nayak accompanied LokAdalat in Tirtol court premises and village court judge Dr Sumitra Bisoi conducted LokAdalat in Raghunathpur.

BJD celebrated the 24th foundation day in J'spur

JAGATSINGHPUR : The district BJD unit celebrated its 24th foundation day in a function held in SaradaMandap here on Saturday. District BJD president cum MLA PrasantaMuduli attended the event as chief guest, addressing party sympathizers MLA Muduli spelled out the success story of state chief minister Naveen Patnaik since the year 2000.

Maa Sarala and Gorekhnath temples to open from Jan 03

JAGATSINGHPUR : After nine months of the closing of Maa Sarala and Gorekhanath temples in Tirtol block due to the Covid 19 outbreak, both shrines would finally reopen on January 03, 2021, informed district collector Saroj Kumar Mishra. As Standard Operation Procedure [SOP] has framed, the visitors would maintain strict adherence to the Covid 19 guidelines issued by the state government. Every visitor would hold a formal test at

the temple entrance, social distancing, mask-wearing, and sanitization formalities are compulsory for the devotees. Children below 10 years and a person above 65 years are disallowed entering the temple, and each visitor would show his or her identity-prove of belonging to Jagatsinghpur district while out of district visitors are mandated to show his or her Covid 19 negative report before entering the temple.

District union of journalists organizes annual meet

JAGATSINGHPUR, : TheJagatsinghpur branch of Odisha union of journalists held its annual meet and office bearer's selection in DhartarangaGada under Raghunathpur block. OJ state president Prasanna Mohanty addressed the meeting through virtual mode and discussed several problems affecting scribes in state and assured Odisha government would be suitably considered different demands of Journalist.

OJ district head Subhankar Jena presided

over the meeting and Secretary Jyoti RanjanParida, senior scribes Ajaya Kumar Jena, KanhuaCharan Nanda, Bijaya Swain was speaking on the occasion and emphasized conducting professional works sincerely while maintaining dignity.

Office bearer's selection was held at the meeting unanimously, the district OJ selects was selected Subhanakr Jena as president, secretary- JyotiRanjanParida, vice president-TapanRoutray, organizing secretary-BasantaBehera and



treasurer-Manas Swain. 15 executive body members were selected. An advisory committee was formed. The selected members for the committee were KanhuaCharan Nanda, Pradipta Kishor Choudhury,

Bijaya Kumar Swain, Ajaya Kumar Jena, Pinaki Mohanty, ArtatranaPati, and SasankaSekhar Panda. Few senior scribes working in the Jagatsinghpur district were felicitated by the union on the occasion.

Lodha tribals of Kuldiha forest range remain deprived of basic facilities



Baripada :- With a population of more than 120 consisting of 30 families in Chamchata village close to Kuldiha wildlife sanctuary bordering the Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts are facing miserable conditions as the people are deprived of basic facilities for long due to apathy of districts administration of both Balasore and Mayurbhanj. They believe that their life is desecrated as they have born in that place. Since the

53 years of the independence of the country, there are no changes in the village model and development in the standard of living of the residents due to the absence of drinking water, education, house, health care, and road connectivity facilities to the village. As the village is locating on the border of the two districts, the administrations have not taken initiatives for the development of the village. While it is 18 km far from the

Kaptipada block of Mayurbhanj district, around 23 km distance from Nilagiri town in the Balasore district.

There have been no developmental works for the residents as both the districts shift their responsibilities to each other. As the government claims to have succeeded in proving development in the tribal belts of the State, residents of Chamchata village remains exemplary in depriving of government benefits. They quench their thirst by consuming streams and pit water that are located 1.5 km from the village.

The absence of road connectivity to the village either from Kaptipada in Mayurbhanj district and Nilagiri in Balasore district has added misery to the residents. Only the leaves, roots and

small branches of plants are used by the villagers as remedies for their disease.

An Anganwadi center which is running in an unsafe thatched house is the only source of health service for the village. In an emergency, they bring patients to either Kaptipada or Nilagiri hospital. They get a motorable road at a distance of three kilometers from the village. As they reside in the forest land, they have no scope for agriculture. As a result, some of the residents and their children go to other states in search of a living. Now, these migrant laborers are back home for the pandemic. The benefits of centrally sponsored schemes under MGNREGS are yet to reach the village due to its location.

Italian couple adopts two twin abandoned children

Baripada : An Italian couple legally adopted two abandoned children in Mayurbhanj district as per the Juvenile Justice Act recently. The couple has no child. The children were twin brothers rescued by the District Child Protection Department on 7 December 2018 when they were at the age of 3. Later the department had sent them to a government-run child care unit at Rashgobindpur. Later the twin brothers were legally accepted as adopted children. The Child Welfare Committee (CWC) had posted details of the twin brothers on a portal of the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA). Asian Foreign Agency, a government registered authorized organization had communicated to CARA about the details of the twin as the Italian couple had been interested to accept the twin brothers.

District Child Protection (DCPO) Officer Mamata Maiee Biswal said a case was filed in Family Court regarding the adoption of the twin abandoned children and other details of the Italian couple after a No-Objection Certificate (NOC) was given by the CARA. A case was filed in Juvenile Court on August 24, 2020 to permit CWO about the adoption of the twin children to the Italian couple. Later it was legally allowed by the Court. Then the passport and adequate documents were officially prepared by the CWC for the twin brothers. Either the twin brother would not adjust with the Italian couple. The DCPO said the CWC is overseeing the health condition, education, and other activities of the twin children over video conference.

NOU Renamed as Maharaja Sri Ram Chandra Bhanj Deo University

Baripada: Odisha renamed the North Orissa University (NOU) to Maharaja Sri Ram Chandra Bhanj Deo University that effected from Wednesday, said BJD's Rajya Sabha MP Dr. Sasmit Patra here in a press meet. Sri Ram Chandra Bhanj Deo was the then Maharaja of the princely State of Mayurbhanj. When

name of the Maharaja during the celebration of his 150th birth anniversary and a proposal to provide financial assistance for the restoration and renovation of centuries-old Sri Ram Chandra Library which was lying neglected and structure of the library in a dilapidated condition since long. To restored the old



people across the district and state are all set to celebrate the 150 birth anniversary of Maharaja Sri Ram Chandra Bhanj Deo, the State Government had taken the initiative and renamed the University's name to the Maharaja as part of the dedication of the State Government. Narrating over the rename of the university, he said the workers of BJD gave a proposal to rename North Orissa University to the

building made with fabulous architectural way and preserve the volumes of rear books in different languages, the State Government accepted the proposal and the financial assistance that will be sanctioned as much as needed.

Among the party workers and leaders, Rajya Sabha MP Mamata Mohanta and Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Sudam Marandi were present in the meeting.

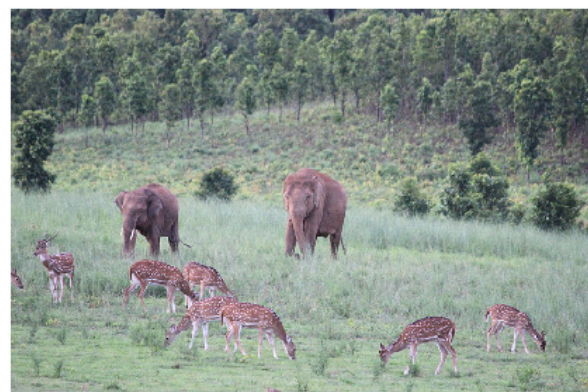
Tourists footfall after re-opened of Similipal national park

Baripada :- The Similipal hills usually witness a huge turnout of tourists between early November and June, but this year, the Similipal remained closed from mid-March for tourists for Covid-19 that struck poor tourists footfall. The authority of the national park had allowed the tourists inside the park after it reopened on first November this year. At least two gates one from Pithabata under Baripda wildlife division and another at Kaliani in Jashipur block were opened for the tourists. As many as 287 tourists visited the park on the first day of its reopening after a gap of more than eight months on the first of November. The park had some protocols for the tourists while entering into the park to wear a mask and maintains social distance as precautionary measures. 46 vehicles were allowed into the park from two gates while one was from Jharkhand, four from

West Bengal, and the rest from Odisha. There is a provision that allows a maximum of 35 four-wheelers from Kaliani gate in Jashipur block and 25 four-wheelers from Pithabata gate to be allowed into the park daily, and that protocol will continue till the close of the park for tourists before the arrival of monsoon.

After the reopening of the park on the first of November, there is a good response to tourists visiting the park. As many as 7,618 tourists visited the park up to 10 December when Rs. 73,2500 collected day tour visited of tourists, Rs. 37,07,822 revenue collected from the night stays tourists. A total of Rs. 44,40,322 revenue collected from the tourists till 10 December.

During 2018-19 a total of 30092 tourists visited the park and Rs. 21,12,6,436 revenue had collected from the tourists who had visited the park day and night. Apart from these years, the revenue



had collected Rs. 18,41,8203 on 2017-18 while there a total of 31740 tourists visited the park.

The reports of 2016-17 registered the tourists of the park and the revenue of Rs. 11,46,9833 collected from the tourists and Rs. 40,43,932 earned the revenue from the tourists who had registered 30431.

They also attacked tourists and officials at Chahala guest house, which is located on the border of the core area of STR. The authorities have made elaborate arrangements like guest houses, eco-tourism. The Park, spreading over an

area of 2,750 sq km in Mayurbhanj district, is one of the largest national parks in the country. At least 1,076 species of mammals, 29 types of reptiles, and 231 species of birds live in the STR. The visitors have been advised to collect entry permits from Jashipur, close to Kaliani entry point and Pithabata from 6 am to 9 am. They have also been directed to leave the sanctuary area latest by 5 pm, the sources added that the tourists can book accommodation for a night halt at Gudgudia, Kumari, Ramtirtha, Barehipani, and Jamuani through the website, www.ecotourodisa.com.

Returnee migrant workers of the west and South Odisha preparing for remigration

Bolangir : (Sudhir Mishra) Returnee migrant workers of the west and South Odisha preparing themselves for remigration reveals a study by Aide et action and shared on the status of returnee migrant workers in 9 districts covering Western and Southern parts of Odisha. On International Migrants day, Aide et Action and its partner organisations shared an assessment on the status of returnee migrant workers in 9 districts covering Western and Southern parts of Odisha. through a webinar held on Friday. The assessment covered 831 returnee migrant workers out of which 28 % were female. It was observed that

migrants from western Odisha are between 25 years to 44 years of age while in South Odisha the migrants are in the age group of 15 to 34 years. South Odisha migration is young adults dominated one, while Western Odisha is middle age dominated.

In Southern Odisha districts, most of the migrants were engaged in Building construction, basically people from Gajapati (52%) & Koraput (43%) districts. Also, there is a good number of people from Ganjam (26%) and Gajapati (12%) district was engaged in Garment Factories.

While in Western Odisha districts migration sector are Brick kilns followed by Building

construction. The favored destinations are Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamilnadu, and Gujarat. Migrants said they faced



several kinds of problems like food availability, lack of transportation, lack of health facility, issue of shelter homes, issue of wage payment, etc. after coming back to their village.

The South Odisha migrants mostly faced Social discrimination.

Around 75 % of the returnee migrants received PDS items under TPDS, and 31% were engaged in MGNREGS work in their

locality. Around 9.52% of returnee migrants reported that their children were enrolled in ICDS and 4.76% in MDM. Also, 22% got financial support from the Govt., whereas in total 23.55% of returnee migrants have not received any support from the Govt. Currently, most

of the migrants are engaged in Agriculture. Around 53% said that they are planning for remigration in western Odisha while in south Odisha it is 60%. 75% of the workers will remigrate as there is no sustainable livelihood opportunity in their villages or nearby. The migrant workers are in touch with their previous employers and fellow workers for remigration. Most of the migration is happening for a short period which can be seasonal we can say and that is for 6-8 months only.

Facilitating the webinar Mr Umi Daniel, Director Migration & Education of Aide et Action South Asia opined that looking at the

migration and issues of migrant workers the government should think of setting up a new department to handle the migration issue. He also emphasized interstate collaboration and coordination for safe and informed migration.

Participating in the webinar 55 representatives from civil society organizations, academic researchers, media, and UN agencies shared a way forward to the meeting.

The migrants covered in the study will be followed up for the next 1 year to capture the impact and coping pattern including their access to different govt. entitlements said Umi Daniel.

Centre Extends Driving Licence, Vehicle Registration Validity Till March 2021

The ministry had earlier extended the validity of these documents till December 31, 2020



New Delhi : The Central government has once again extended the validity of all vehicle-related documents to avoid crowding and the possible spread of COVID-19. All those driving licenses, registration certificates, and permits that were set

to expire may now be used till March 31, 2021, according to a directory issued by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to various State and Union Territory administrations.

"Taking into consideration the need to prevent the spread of

Covid-19, it is further advised that the validity of all of the above-referred documents may be treated to be valid till 31st March 2021. This covers all documents whose validity has expired since 1st Feb 2020 or would expire by 31st March 2021," the director says.

"This will help out citizens in availing transport-related services while maintaining social distancing," it says.

The ministry had earlier issued advisories dated March 30, June 09, and August 24 of this year, in which it extended the validity of documents

related to the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989. They all said fitness, permit (all types), license, registration, or any other concerned document may be treated to be valid till December 31, 2020.

Referring to its latest directive, the Union Transport Ministry said all States and Union Territories are requested to implement it in letter and spirit so that citizens, transporters, and various other organizations operating in this pandemic may not get harassed or face difficulties.

From Page-1

Govt stops mining...

of Tarini Minerals over 34.365 ha under the Joda mining region of Keonjhar district for violation of MCDR 1988 and the provision of Rule 10 (5) of OMPTS Rules 2007.

However, there is widespread resentment in the mines corridor as the Government has not initiated the same action to the new entrants in the mine's business in Odisha after successfully bidding in the auctions. It is alleged that the authorities showed unprecedented favor to some company.

When many lessees who were not maintaining proper stacks for sampling were show-caused and their operations closed, while some select miners have been spared even after committing continued violations.

The iron ore mines of Kashvi, DR Patnaik, and Tarini Minerals have been closed and they were sent show cause for not maintaining stacking and/or suppressing the actual grades and sell as low grade by under-invoicing.

In the meantime, the Government has sent notices to collect crores of additional stamp duty as differential stamp duty and differential registration fee due to enhancement of production as per approved mining plan in respect of Nuagaon mine of JSW but hectic lobbies are going on to reduce the stamp duty rates.

Run with the hare and hunt with the hound



Sirish C. Mohanty

CM Naveen is the longest-serving, Odisha has ever seen. It is a curiosity to know the art of managing the policy that keeps him wrapped by a fireblanket from the onslaught of the national party in Center even while the same party in the state functioning as an opposition. "When in trouble, or elections are around the corner, rant against the Centre!" It is a policy that has served Naveen extremely well over the years, especially when an election is around the corner. And true to form, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has invoked this time-tested formula - just as the state is going for the long-delayed municipal elections in the new year and the panchayat elections a few months after.

The recent tirade against

the Centre comes from Naveen who has backed the NDA government in Parliament on every major issue, including contentious ones like CAA and abolition of Article 370, for over six years now - much to the humiliation of the combined opposition. But this game has stopped raising eyebrows long back. For over 16 years now, Naveen has managed to do the seemingly impossible by enjoying the best of relations with the party in power at the Centre while crying 'Central neglect' in the state in what is a classic case of 'run with the hare and hunt with the hound'. Managing these two seemingly contradictory positions is certainly not easy, more so because the two national parties that have been in power at the

Centre during this period - the Congress and the BJP - have also been the two major opposition parties in Odisha. But Naveen has managed it with aplomb.

The amiability between Naveen and the top leadership of the ruling party at the Centre has benefited in two major ways. On the one hand, it has saved him in the state from the kind of vindictive action that the Mamata Banerjee government in neighboring West Bengal is facing right now. It has also ensured that the Centre would step in to bail out Naveen, his party, and his government when needed. As in the same way, the UPA government did by amending Rule 37 of the MMDR Act when the BJD government was facing the heat over the massive mining scam in the state. Or


the NDA government has done by sitting over the Justice MB Shah Commission recommendation for a CBI probe into the mining scam for over six years now and making sure that the CBI inquiry ordered by the Supreme Court into the chit fund scam lost its way.

But the bigger advantage comes closer home. State leaders of the two national parties, which also happen to be the two major 'Opposition' parties in the state, are left red-faced, discredited, and woefully short of credibility since Naveen enjoys the best of relationship with their 'high command'. Their rants against the state government, therefore, appear hollow and their protest movements look like shadow boxing to the public even when they take up a worthy cause. Seasoned observers even see the unseen hand of Naveen in the choice of state unit presidents of the two national parties over the years!

'P's are proved to be ominous for Naveen. The First 'P' was Pyarimohan Mohapatra, and

that is long over with his demise. Now there are three 'P's- Pari, Pradeep Panigrahy, and Pathak pose problems for the Naveen government. Much to the discomfiture of the government, the Pari murder case is now about getting national attention. the startling revelations about the accumulation of illegal wealth by IFS officer Pathak and BJD MLA from Chhatrapur MLA Pardeep Panigrahy - has embarrassed the government without end because all this loot was taking place for years right under the nose of the government. The bigger cause for embarrassment, however, is the fact that Panigrahy was for long the blue-eyed boy of Naveen, looking after his constituency, managing the affairs of the party in his 'home' district in his capacity as district BJD president, and serving his council of ministers as Higher Education minister. In taking the unprecedented step of expelling his former acolyte from the party for his allegedly 'anti-people activities' - perhaps the first time such ground has been

invoked to throw someone out of a party. Naveen is merely trying to shake off his past association with Panigrahy and perpetuate his cultivated image as someone who 'doesn't spare anyone'. Going by experience, he may even succeed in convincing the people about this narrative. Nevertheless, there is another 'P'- a pandemic of COVID-19, its management by his government can certainly singe him, and that explains the timing of his tirade against the BJP government in the center.

A key factor in Naveen's enviable ability to 'manage' the national parties by redrawing his equations with the latter according to the changing political equations. When asked about his opinion on Narendra Modi as Prime Minister on the eve of the 2014 elections, Naveen, never prone to using strong terms about political personalities, had said he would be a 'disaster'! But we have all seen the 'ease of doing business' he has found with the 'disaster' over the last six years and more to be seen especially after the Bengal polls. 

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

In ur editorial, u have very nicely narrated a story of Famous poet Ravindranath Tagore to touch upon the state of affairs of the present governance of Odisha.

Indeed, costly medicine can not make the patient immortal but it can enhance longevity.

The. 5 T, " MO Sarkar " announced by Odisha govt is a people-friendly initiative for good governance. It is a service delivery mechanism introduced by NAVIN Patnaik govt. Undoubtedly, There has been a visible change & electrifying effect in the style of functioning of district/ block level administration after the introduction of 5 T.

The hitherto callous, casual, sluggish, lethargic govt. machinery has become

more active, accountable, & techno-savvy..by changing the age-old mindset. The wind of change has started blowing in full swing in the power corridor.

This is how Navin Patnaik has become the darling of the Odia people by creating history as the longest-serving CM for more than two decades.

Therefore, I disagree with ur views that govt is run by bureaucracy as generally perceived.

I was truly emotionally moved to read the " year-end, special. " Terrible year, As I see it ", written by SIRISH C MOHANTY.

It is like a melancholy song by a Ballad singer who has traveled a long turbulent journey from teaching to present journalism career with ups & downs, trials, and tribulations!

This article vividly depicts not only his personal

tumultuous life history but also a rediscovery of political, social & economic events around the globe during this year.

Of course, in the end, Sri Mohanty exhibited optimism by expecting spring to arrive after frosty days of winter. He seems to have reflected his supreme courage, confidence, and conviction in his well-written article.

The analysis by Prof. Shivaji Sarkar has thrown light on the genesis of farmers, and recurring chronic problems faced by the community. The leaders of the agitation & policymakers should hold a thread-bare discussion to arrive at an amicable solution so that prolong agitation by farmers will come to a logical end.

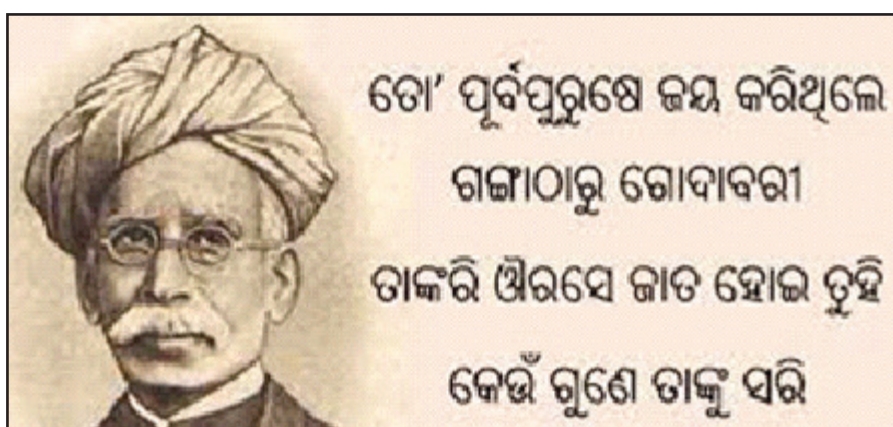
**Bharat Patra, Social activist
Kendujhar**

Why Odisha is a failed state?



Sirish C Mohanty

This is a poem written by Madhusudan Das. With a broken heart, he questions the people of Odisha-'Your ancestors have extended the state from the Ganga to the Godavari in the south, being their inheritor which of their virtues you have inherited?' Odisha state has been bestowed by mother nature with the most fertile land to be irrigated by perennial rivers like the Subarnarekha, the Budhabalanga, the Baitarani, the Brahmani, the Mahanadi, and the Rushikulya. The State has an area of 61.80 lakh ha of arableland. The state has 480 kilometers of coastline to facilitate trade and fishing. Odisha has a lion's share of the Country's mineral reserves. The chromite, nickel, bauxite, iron ore, and coal resources of the state respectively stand at a staggering 83, 92, 55, 38, and 26 percent of India's total reserves. Some of these minerals also account for a visible spot in the world's mineral map. The State has reported the extent of recorded forest area (RFA) 61,204 sq km which is 39.31% of its geographical



area.

A state flourishes by agriculture or Industry. Odisha has everything for both. Despite been bestowed upon by mother nature, the state languishes with poverty, unemployment, s h a m e l e s s l y remains dependant on the neighboring states for day to day needs. For our daily diet of potatoes, we depend on the West Bengal. Having 480 km of coastline and major rivers, and alluvial soil for raising crops, we depend on Andhra for our fish requirements, and for onions, we go to Maharashtra. The state often gets humiliated by Bengal when we need urgently potato to check the rising prices. This sounds ridiculous. Despite having manpower, fertile land, and major rivers to irrigate we failed even to meet our requirements if not a surplus state to supply to other states or export. Why we have failed in becoming a surplus or self-sufficient state?

Until the 18th century, the

state remained powerful both economically and militarily. In the 19th century, it was invaded by the British and was kept under the Bengal presidency and finally became a state in 1936. After independence, the state didn't have a stable government led by any visionary leader to bring back the state's past glories. No tangible plans were chalked out to make Odisha a flourishing state. The saga of dependency, instability, and corruption in governance continued until the beginning of 2000. The BJD had to concentrate to hold on to power in the rapidly changing national political scenario; hence it had to depend on the devices of freebies like subsidised ration and the like rather than concentrating on the state's overall development programs. Just before the 2009 elections, the states' coalition partners BJD and BJP parted ways. With the enchanting effect of freebies, the BJD returned to power and Naveen never looked at anything other than the magic

want of freebies to remain in power. Naveen also knows- if you make any demand for the state, your relation with the center becomes sour. So, why take that risk? Follow the mantra to stay on power- 'Jo jeetawoh hi Sikandar'. However, in 2016 there was an abnormal rise in the price of potatoes in the state. WB CM Mamata too stopped sending potatoes as a pressure tactic to force Naveen to join the opposition alliance to fight against the BJP. BJP's 2009 wounds inflicted by BJD were in process of healing and Naveen couldn't afford to endanger them. Hence, it made the Naveen government think about growing potatoes in the state: the state government launched with much fanfare, 'the State Potato Mission'. The mission had a program to increase potato production in the state from a mere 2 lakh tons to 11.2 lakh ton in one year. The then Agriculture Minister Pradeep Maharathy made the mega launch of Rs 267 crore worth

State Potato Mission with an ambitious talk of making Odisha self-sufficient in potato production. Well, it was a courageous program the BJD has ever taken!

Appallingly, the outcome of the ambitious program was a big zero, rather the Tiber production in the state was dropped from 2 lakh ton to 94000 tons. As per a statement laid in the House on July 19, 2019, the potato production in the State in 2018-19 stood at a measly 2.94LT. In contrast, the demand for the tuber in the State has been estimated at a massive 12.7LT. The cipher show of the State Potato Mission is the production of the tuber in the period of 2015-16 to 2018-19 grew by mere 94,000 tonnes.

Why the tuber production target crashed? It is so because farmers got a raw deal in value realisation. Under the Mission, in the first year, farmers bought quality Gujarati variety tuber seeds from district agriculture centers at Rs 35-40 per kg. Farmers need around 2,500 kg tuber seeds to cultivate potatoes in one-hectare land. The expenses towards the seeds they then incurred were a high of around Rs 1 lakh/ha. With the productivity of potato per hectare has been around 12 tonnes or 12,000 kg, a farmer had spent Rs 8 towards seed for every one kg potato produced.

With the lack of cold storage and high production across the nation, the potato prices crashed in the State.

Significantly, after much criticism, the State Government then had decided to procure potato from farmers at Rs 6/kilo, when the seed expenses alone were Rs 8/kilo.

Red-faced over the huge loss, the farmers abandoned potato cultivation in the very next farm season.

The gaping hole in the State Potato Mission is, it never was conceived as a holistic mission - that covers market input, market support for tuber cultivators. Moreover, without putting in place the necessary cold chain infra, the Agriculture Department jumped into ramping up production. As the Mission has failed to put in place forward and backward linkage for the tuber growers, the Mission stuttered only to halt just after a year.

However, the State Government has erred again when instead of bringing in remedial measures to put the Mission back on track, the State Finance minister Niranjana Pujari did a trifle talk over the State Potato Mission by stating in Assembly that "The Potato Mission started and ended with Maharathy's tenure." The government is yet to think of fixing accountability for the failure of the mission. The media too acts mum like Meena Kumari in the movie 'Mein chuprahungi'.

Failure is the pillar of success, but one has to identify the cause of it. The state needs long-term planning; never forget, the time is fast running out.

As the year-2020 draws to an end, it is time to share season's blessings and greetings with everyone around.

Happy New Year-2021



Srinivas Jena
Environmentist
Dharmasala, Jajpur

A new beginning. And things will change.

Happy New Year-2021



Himansu Sekhar Sahu
Secretary
Ansuman Memorial Trust

India's Biggest Hockey Stadium To Come Up In Rourkela City: CM Naveen

Bhubaneswar : In what could redefine the sports landscape in Odisha, the country's biggest hockey stadiums will come up in the city of Rourkela.

Announcing this, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday said the new world-class hockey stadium in Rourkela will have a sitting capacity for 20,000 spectators.

"The stadium along with the allied facilities will be developed as a benchmark for other Hockey stadiums around the world. Spread over 15 acres of land, the stadium will be constructed in the Biju Patnaik University of



Technology campus, Rourkela," said Patnaik in a video message.

The new stadium will serve as the second venue for the Men's Hockey World Cup scheduled to be played in 2023. Another venue is Kalinga Stadium

in Bhubaneswar, official sources said.

Patnaik further said, "As we have announced earlier, Odisha will once again be the proud host of the prestigious Men's Hockey World Cup in 2023. The tournament will be

organised both in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela."

The Chief Minister stated that Sundargarh district is our powerhouse of 'Hockey Talent' and many great hockey players from the district have

represented the country at the international level.

The India team led by players like Dilip Tirkey and Sunita Lakra have brought laurels for the country. The popularity of Hockey can be seen across the district. The support of people of the district to hockey players is unparalleled anywhere in the world, he said.

"As a tribute to the contribution of Sundargarh to Indian Hockey, I would like to announce that we will build a new International level Hockey Stadium in Rourkela with a seating capacity of 20,000. The stadium will have all the modern amenities and will

offer a unique experience. I hope it will emerge as the best venue for Field Hockey in the World," Patnaik added.

It is pertinent to mention here that a high-level team including senior officials from the State Government, International Federation of Hockey (FIH), Department of Sports and Youth Services, and Hockey India recently had visited Rourkela and reviewed the infrastructure and allied facilities in the city.

The work to develop synthetic hockey turf in each of the 17 blocks of Sundargarh district has already commenced.

Pragyan Ojha To Represent ICA In IPL Governing Council



New Delhi : The Indian Cricketers' Association (ICA) on Wednesday nominated former India left-arm spinner Pragyan Ojha to represent the ICA in the Indian Premier League's (IPL) Governing Council. He will replace former ODI wicketkeeper, Surinder Khanna. "The tenure of the member is one year and with the tenure of the existing nominee having expired, the ICA Board nominated the 34-year-old Ojha to the

prestigious post," the ICA said in a statement. "In the ICA AGM held on December 19, 2020, the members had authorised the Board of Directors to nominate the member to the IPL GC and the ICA Board, after due deliberations and taking into consideration any possible issues of conflict of interest, found in Ojha a suitable candidate to represent them. This nomination will hold good for one year," the statement

added. The ICA AGM, which was conducted via video conference, touched upon the issues that had been raised by the ICA Representatives to the BCCI Apex Council, including increasing the gratis and medical reimbursement of players and include widows in the scheme. It also called for the inclusion of domestic women cricketers in the gratis scheme. "The representatives as also the ICA office bearers had repeatedly raised the issue with the BCCI of increasing the gratis and medical reimbursement and include widows as also those who have played between 10 and 24 First-Class games for the same. The BCCI has also been requested to include domestic women cricketers in their gratis scheme," said the statement. "We have close to 2000 members. We want to give opportunities to as many players as we can," ICA president Ashok Malhotra told IANS.

Debashish Mohanty Appointed National Selector To Indian Cricket Team

Mumbai : The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Thursday has appointed former India pacers Debashis Mohanty, Chetan Sharma, and Abey Kuruvilla as national selectors.

The legendary cricketer from Odisha, Debashish Mohanty, who also headed the Odisha Cricket Association (OCA) Selection Committee will now serve as a member of the All-India Senior Selection Committee Panel.

Chetan Sharma will replace Sunil Joshi as the chairman of the senior national selection committee. Joshi and Harvinder Singh, who was appointed as selectors in February this year, will continue in their roles.

The Cricket Advisory



Committee (CAC) comprising Madan Lal, Rudra Pratap Singh, and Sulakshana Naik on Thursday met virtually to select three members of the All-India Senior Selection Committee (Men). Speaking exclusively to OTV, Mohanty said "The

new role is a challenge for me as it will demand more responsibility. I don't want to rush on my new job, rather, I would like to take one step at a time and see where it takes me," Mohanty said thanking BCCI, OCA, and other supporters for his new endeavor.

Steel price hike: Gadkari fumes

Concerned over the steep hikes at the prices of steel and cement, both inputs for construction, the minister for Ministry of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) and highways Nitin Gadkari has written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his intervention to arrest the trend.

New Delhi : "Steel companies have raised the rates by 55% in the last six months. I have written to the Prime Minister and have suggested that the issue should be discussed at the highest level. Some decision has to be taken. This (the price hike) is not good. (It has to be known) if the hike is commensurate with the increased cost of labor, power, and raw materials. Lowering the productivity and increasing the rate is not a good strategy," Gadkari said at an Assocham event.

The minister also took a jibe at the cement industry, saying this (relentless price increases)



also holds for the cement sector.

"At a time when we are trying to create so much infrastructure, this kind of policy approach from their (cement and steel companies) side would not do any good for them in the long-term. This is also not good for the country.

We need to create a long term-policy for the steel and cement sectors," Gadkari said.

The minister said if the prices of steel and cement companies stick to their present policy of jacking up prices, infrastructure projects would become economically unviable and

might force the government to change its (procurement/usage) policy.

Just a couple of days back, Gadkari accused cement units of forming cartels to raise the prices of the building material, even as the construction industry is struggling to recover after being hit hard by the pandemic and the lockdown.

"I decided to make all roads concrete. I wanted to encourage the cement industry. But they are only taking (unfair) advantage of the situation and making cartels. So, I am now allowing bitumen (for road construction)," Gadkari

had said at a Ficci event.

In a recent report, ICICI Securities said cement's industry average operating margin grew 25% Y-o-Y in FY'20 and further rose 20% Y-o-Y to over Rs 1,250/tonne in the first half of the current fiscal.

Steel prices also are ruling at least a 12-year high. Cashing in on higher demand amidst subdued production and limited imports, domestic steelmakers have hiked prices thrice in as many weeks in the current month, taking the benchmark hot-rolled coil prices in the wholesale market (ex-Mumbai) to Rs

52,000 per tonne from just `36,500 a tonne in July, a 43 %hike.

Separately, the minister said that the government has finalized GPS-based (Global Positioning System) technology toll collection to ensure seamless movement of vehicles across the country. He said this will ensure India becomes 'toll-free' in the next two years. He expressed hope that the toll collections may reach Rs 34,000 crore by March 2021 and by using the GPS-enabled technology for toll collection, it would touch Rs 1,34,000 crore in the next five years.

Another massive setback for China!

India Takes Big Action

The government of India has taken more action and this will have a massive impact too. China's aggression and expansionist approach in eastern Ladakh is costing it dear. The violent face-off between India and Chinese forces in May has prompted the Indian government to take very strong note of the belligerence and take quick and massive action on its part. Not only, but India also continues to isolate China through diplomatic channels at an international level. It continues to take action that will be a big setback for China through different restrictions and bans.

In a recent step, India has

decided to put restrictions on some Chinese firms that make telecom equipment. Narendra Modi government will make a list of trusted companies to buy the equipment from and this means that certain companies will have to face restrictions.

So far, Chinese companies have dominated the telecom sector, but they will have to bear a huge loss due to this move of the government. Earlier also, the Modi government had banned many Chinese apps, including TikTok and PUBG, resulting in huge losses to the Chinese developers.

One of the biggest players in the telecom sector is China's ZTE. Apart from

this, Huawei also has a good market share. Due to the aggressive and expansionist attitude of the Communist Party of China, these companies are now going to suffer. The central government will prepare a list of reliable companies providing telecom equipment, from which telecom companies in India can buy equipment. This decision will have a direct impact on Chinese companies.

Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Wednesday said that this decision has been taken to promote security in the telecom sector. Under this, the government will release

a list of trustworthy companies. Equipment will be purchased from these companies to build telecom networks in the country. He further said that the list of companies will be prepared by the

National Cybersecurity Coordinator. The list of trusted companies and products will be approved by a committee, whose deputy will be the National Security Advisor. The committee will also include members of the concerned departments and ministries. Along with them, two members will be industry and independent experts.

Refusing to comment on connecting the decision to China, Prasad said that the



plan focuses on promoting equipment developed by indigenous companies. "We aim to further strengthen the security of the telecom sector," Ravi Shankar Prasad said. He also said that these instructions will not affect the agreements related to annual maintenance. Devices that are being used in the network before the instructions are

issued are also excluded from their scope. There is also a provision to give preference to companies in the country.

Earlier on June 29, 2020, the Government had banned 59 mobile apps and on September 2, 2020, 118 more apps were banned under section 69A of the Information Technology Act.

Baul singer who hosted Amit Shah slams BJP after TMC outreach

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) has made attempts to reach out to Bengali folk singer Basudeb Das Baul, days after he hosted Union Home Minister Amit Shah for lunch at his home in Bolpur. Bolpur : In an about-turn, the Baul singer on Wednesday said the BJP did not help him in any way and the home minister also did not talk to him after the lunch on Sunday. Das had even sung some folk songs for Shah.

The artiste's latest comments come after a meeting with TMC Birbhum district chief Anubrata Mondal at a party office on Tuesday evening. Das said he would perform at Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's rally in Bolpur on December 29. "Amit Shah came to my house, had lunch and left. I did not get the chance to talk to him. They did not extend any helping hand to me. No one even kept in touch with me after Shah's visit. I thought I would request the home minister to help my daughter with higher studies," the singer told reporters. Mondal said the TMC's education cell would help Basudeb Das Baul's daughter complete higher studies. "Amit Shah came to his house to do a drama. He was not serious about their welfare. We have decided to bear all expenses of his daughter's studies," added the TMC leader.

The BJP hit back at the TMC, saying that it did not look after the singer's family for 10 years, and acted after the minister's visit. "For 10 years, the TMC did not have the time to look after this family. Now, after Amit Shah visited their house, the TMC has decided to help them. So, it means that the BJP is at the forefront of identifying such families that need help," said BJP national secretary Anupam Hazra.

JD(U) Suffers Setback in Arunachal, Six MLAs Join BJP

Itanagar : The Janata Dal-United received a major jolt in Arunachal Pradesh, with six of its seven MLAs shifting allegiance to the ruling BJP, a bulletin issued by the state legislative assembly said. The lone MLA from the People's Party of Arunachal (PPA), Kardo Nyigyor from the Likabali constituency, has also joined the saffron party.

The development comes a day ahead of the announcement of the panchayat and municipal poll results. The JD(U) MLAs who switched sides are Talem Taboh from Rumgong Assembly Constituency, Hayeng Mangfi (Chaoyang Tajo), Jakke Tako (Tali), Dorjee Wangdi Kharm (Kalakrang), Dongru Siongju (Bomdila), and Kanggong Taku from Mariyang-Geku constituency, the bulletin



said.

On November 26, the JD(U) had issued show-cause notices to Siongju, Kharma, and Taku for "anti-party" activities, and suspended them. The six JD(U) MLAs had earlier elected Talem Taboh as the new Legislature Party leader allegedly without the knowledge of senior party members.

The PPA MLA was

also suspended by the regional outfit earlier this month. "We have accepted their letters conveying the intention to join the party," BJP's Arunachal Pradesh president B R Waghe said.

The JD(U), led by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, won seven of the 15 seats it contested in the 2019

assembly elections and emerged as the second-largest party after the BJP, which had bagged 41 seats. Following the switchover, the BJP now has 48 MLAs in the 60-member House, while the JD(U) is left with only one.

Congress and the National People's Party (NPP) have four members each.

Odisha Writes Centre To Send IFS Officer Abhay Pathak On Compulsory Retirement Suspended IFS officer Abhay Kant Pathak

Bhubaneswar : Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has recommended the Central Government for the compulsory retirement of 'very corrupt and high-flying' IFS officer Abhay Kant Pathak.

"It is for the first time that an All India Services Officer has been recommended by the Odisha Government for compulsory retirement on grounds of corruption," stated CM Naveen in his letter to the Centre on Thursday.

Pathak, who served as the Additional Principal



Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Plan, Program, and Afforestation, before his arrest along with his son Akash Pathak on November 27, is presently lodged in Judicial custody. He has been facing charges of acquisition of ill-gotten

wealth amounting to more than 20 crores, till the last count.

"Pathak was making cash deposits of his ill-gotten wealth in his son Akash Pathak's bank accounts and further helping his son in fraudulently posing as MD of Tata Motors,"

stated the CM in his recommendation letter to the Centre.

"His son has also been arrested by the Crime Branch in case of forgery, cheating and duping unemployed youth by taking huge cash from them by falsely promising them jobs in Tata Motors. In this case, the FIR was lodged by Tata Motors," added Naveen.

Pathak was himself using high-brand expensive cars like Mercedes, BMW from the ill-gotten wealth. During the lockdown period, he and his son were flying

across India in chartered planes and staying in luxurious hotels. Both father and son were using private security guards/bouncers to show off their ill-got wealth, said the CM to the Centre.

The Odisha Vigilance had conducted simultaneous raids in Bhubaneswar, Mumbai, and Pune and at one place in Bihar on November 25 and 26 on the strength of search warrants issued by the Court of Special Judge, Vigilance in Bhubaneswar.

From the preliminary investigation, the

Vigilance sleuths had found that the 1987 batch IFS officer owned disproportionate assets to the tune of Rs 9.35 crore which was about 435% of the total income from all his known sources.

On December 4, Pathak had moved the Orissa High Court after a Vigilance Court rejected his bail petition on November 27.

A case under several sections of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018, has been registered against both Pathak and his son, Akash.

Republic TV fined in the UK for hate speech

Ofcom imposes £20,000 penalty on Republic TV for 'highly pejorative' comments on the talk show



An Indian news channel known for its strong pro-government stance and firebrand host has been fined by the UK regulator Ofcom for broadcasting hate speech about Pakistan.

Republic TV was fined £20,000 for airing a segment on its UK service, which conveyed the view that all Pakistani people are terrorists, including "their scientists, doctors, their leaders, politicians, Even their sportspeople".

The primetime show Poochta Hai Bharat aired on 6 September 2019 on the Hindi-language version of the channel, Republic Bharat. The channel was licensed to broadcast in the UK by Worldview Media Network but the network has now been banned from airing the show in the UK again.

Republic TV is one of the most widely watched channels in India, with news anchor and founder Arnab Goswami hosting aggressive current affairs debates, which regularly air rightwing and Islamophobic opinions while pointing and shouting at viewers down the camera. It is known for its fierce allegiance to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the prime minister, Narendra Modi.

Ofcom said it had received multiple complaints from viewers for the "highly pejorative references to members of the Pakistani

community (eg continually referring to them as 'filthy') on Goswami's show.

Ofcom found that statements made during a 35-minute discussion between Goswami and guests included the description of Pakistani scientists as "thieves" and Pakistani people as "beggars". The topic of discussion was India's recent Chandrayaan-2 mission into space but instead shifted towards the country's alleged superiority to its neighbor and longtime adversary Pakistan.

The regulator said the show failed to comply with UK broadcasting rules as it had "spread, incited, promoted and justified such intolerance towards Pakistani people among viewers".

This is the third time Ofcom has found Republic Bharat in breach of its broadcasting code, after previously reprimanding the channel for broadcasting graphically violent footage and for airing "contextualise hate speech and abusive and derogatory treatment of groups". However, this was the first time Ofcom had issued a fine. In response to the investigation, Republic TV had said the show did not feature hate speech but instead included "figures of speech not intended to be taken literally, which Asian viewers would have understood clearly".

Global Odia Web Festival on 26th & 27th December

California / New Delhi / Bhubaneswar, Dec 24: (Kishore Dewvedi) The Stage is all set for the First ever Web Global Odia Festival on 26th and 27th December 2020. Odisha Society of Americas (OSA) would be hosting this Mahakumbha of Odia Diaspora in collaboration with Odia Associations of Thirty two countries spreading all over the World. The two days long virtual Mega Event will be inaugurated on Saturday 26th December 2020 at 6.30. p.m. India Time in the presence of Galaxy of dignitaries like Gajapati Maharaja of Puri Dibia Singha Deb, Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Odisha Ministers Arun Sahoo, Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi, Kenya's Member of Parliament Swarup Mishra, Odisha Government's "Mo Paribar" Convenor Arup Patnaik and Senior Bureaucrat Arabinda Padhee. Technocrat and Policymaker Sam Pitroda and M.P. Achyuta Samanta are scheduled to take part as distinguished Guests during the Seminar on Health and Wellness. The Special attractions in the closing ceremony

on Sunday 27th December 2020 at 10.30 p.m. India time would be the appearance of ollywood superstars Akash Das Nayak and Sabyasachi Mishra. The Grand Digital show of Odishan and Odia's expertise and excellence will witness brainstorming deliberations on the topics like Role of Media to increase engagement between Global Odia Diaspora and Odisha, Youth connection, ensuring quality higher education in Odisha for the future generation, and women empowerment. The Jumbo internet conclave of Odisha's fragrance and festivities will feature sessions on Odia literature, Meet the Odia Diplomats, Musical extravaganza entitled 'Sura Sangeeta', Odia Poetry recitals, and global networking namely "GapaSapa". The Cultural Jamboori, solely designed to promote and popularise "Brand Odisha" will also showcase the rich art forms and vibrant culture of the state. The sand animation by renowned artist Sudam Pradhan, presentation of colorful creative choreographies on dance, music, and theatre by artists of participating countries, and exhibition of

choicest traditional Odia cuisines will be the other highlights of the Festival.

The minute details of the unique Event has been finalized by several rounds of online International Preparatory meetings held under the chairmanship of OSA President Kuku Das. The representatives of Odia Associations across the Globe and Prominent non-Resident Odias actively engaged in organizing this global Odia festival include OSA's Vice President Anil Patnaik, Secretary Vivek Das, Treasurer Utkal Nayak, Prof. Chitta Baral from the U.S.A, Dr. Sunanda Mishra Panda, and Prashant Bhuyan from Canada, President of All Russia Odia Samaj Santosh Mishra, President of Australia Odia Samaj Dr. Nalini Pati, Chairman of Vande Utkal Foundation Kishore Dwivedi, President of Odisha Society UK Sumant Mansingh and General Secretary Siba Ranjan Biswal, President of Odisha Samaj U.A.E. Amiya Mishra and General Secretary Pritish Ranjan Dash, President of Indo-Japan Friendship Centre Kunna Dash, president of Bahrain Odia Samaj Arun Praharaj, President of Netherland Odia

Samaj Saswat Padhi, President of Odia Network of Entrepreneurs Manoj Patra, Bikram Mohanty, Dr. Debendra Majhi, Debendra Rout, Sangeeta Gosain from India. Dr. Bijaylaxmi Mohanty and Dr. Sanjib Kumar Panda from Singapore, Akshay Patra and Dr. Bijayshree Samal from Switzerland, Dr. Bhagyashree Singh and Susmita Rajahansa from the U.K., Dr. Adris Brahmadata from Thailand, Dr. Sital Kumar from Burma, President of Tanzania Odia Samaj Abhilash Nanda, President of Odia Samaj Abu Dhabi Pradeep Kumar Rath and Vice President Siddharth Das, President of Oman Odia Samaj Manoj Mohapatra, President of Odia Society of Singapore Dr. Alok Panda and former Secretary Sambit Mishra, Susmita Pattnaik from Qatar, Sanjay Das from Kathmandu, Ramesh Biswal from Odia Samaj Nigeria, Sumita Sahu from Finland, Deb Mohanty from Japan, N. Biswal from Bahama, Dipak Parida from Netherland, Debasis Mallik from Indonesia, Dr. Snigdha Mishra from Malaysia, Silky Misra from Odia Samaj Germany, Saroj Patnaik from Ghana and Chitaranjan Jena from Odia Samaj South Africa.

Manoj Mohapatra, President of Odia Society of Singapore Dr. Alok Panda and former Secretary Sambit Mishra, Susmita Pattnaik from Qatar, Sanjay Das from Kathmandu, Ramesh Biswal from Odia Samaj Nigeria, Sumita Sahu from Finland, Deb Mohanty from Japan, N. Biswal from Bahama, Dipak Parida from Netherland, Debasis Mallik from Indonesia, Dr. Snigdha Mishra from Malaysia, Silky Misra from Odia Samaj Germany, Saroj Patnaik from Ghana and Chitaranjan Jena from Odia Samaj South Africa.

Congress alliances with Left front for Bengal assembly elections



New Delhi : THE CONGRESS high command on Thursday gave the green signal to its West Bengal unit to enter into a seat-sharing pact with the Left parties for the forthcoming Assembly elections to take on the ruling Trinamool Congress and an aggressive BJP. While a section of Congress leaders believe a Congress-Left alliance could end up helping the BJP, the party's state unit was vehemently opposed to any pact with the TMC and had been insisting on a tie-up with the Left.

West Bengal Congress president

AdhirRanjan Chowdhury told The Indian Express that the BJP and the TMC have the same "political DNA" and asserted that the Congress and the Left parties "occupy the secular space" in Bengal and still enjoyed the support of a large section of the population who believe in secularism and liberal democracy. He said it is the media that is projecting the Assembly elections as a fight between the TMC and the BJP.

"The impression (of a straight fight between the TMC and the BJP) has been gaining because of

media hype. Because the media is trying to project that only two forces are there. But that is far from reality and far from the truth. In West Bengal, the Left and the Congress occupy the secular space and still enjoy the support of a large section of the population who believe in secularism and liberal democracy. So certainly we have our constituents that will be reflected in the coming elections," he said.

On the possible division of anti-BJP votes, Chowdhury said, "We have to fight against the BJP and [Chief Minister] Mamata Banerjee both

because we have been subjected to persecution by the ruling dispensation in West Bengal. Mamata Banerjee is a regional poacher while the BJP is a national poacher.

Both are well adept in poaching operations in the opposition camps. To that extent, they are very much similar in their approaches," he said.

He said it was not the responsibility of the Congress party to keep the anti-BJP votes together.

"On the one hand, we are subjected to atrocities and persecution by Mamata Banerjee... on the other hand, on the alibi of the BJP... [we have been asked] to ally with the TMC. This cannot be done... because we have been left between the devil and the deep sea. We have to carve out our own space because space has been snatched upon by the Mamata Banerjee government. And now she is facing the music. The way Mamata poached our people and dismantled our organization the same ploy is being employed by the

BJP. They are identical in their politics of destruction. Both are the same in their attitude. Their political DNA is quite identical," he said.

Battle for survival

For both the Congress as well as Left parties, the upcoming assembly elections in West Bengal is a battle for survival. The high-octane campaign by the ruling TMC and the BJP saw the Left getting squeezed out in the Lok Sabha elections and the Congress plunging to two seats. The parties had fought the elections separately. Having decided on the alliance, the two hope to arrest the declining trend and pose a challenge to both the TMC and BJP.

Asked about Banerjee's move to rally opposition leaders like Sharad Pawar and M K Stalin in her fight against the BJP on the issue of federalism, he said, "Federalism in India is certainly in peril. That is why our Congress chief ministers also extended support to Mamata Banerjee. As far as

federalism is concerned, all the Opposition-ruled states are in peril. That is why all have to be united on that account. That is a different kettle of fish."

"Pawarji is a senior leader. He thought it prudent that on the issue of federalism all the states ruled by the Opposition should be united. That is why he has extended his opinion... It is a common issue. There is nothing extraordinary in this approach."

Asked how many seats will the Congress contest, Chowdhury said, "That stage has not come. During discussions, factoring in other considerations like where we are strong and all... we will zero in on the number and choice of seats. Everything has been left to the state leadership... nothing has been imposed on us."

"First of all, we have to discuss and decide amongst ourselves that these many seats have to be demanded. Thereafter, we will propose to the Left parties," he said.

'No maikalal can take away farmers land'

Shimla : Farmers' protest against the farm laws has continued for a month now. Amid the stir, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Sunday that attempts were being made to 'mislead' the farmers, and these attempts will not succeed as he lashed out at the Opposition. He said, among other things, that no "Mai ka Lal" (mother's son) can take away land from farmers.

Addressing a state-level function to mark the third anniversary of the Jai Ram Thakur-led BJP government in Himachal

Pradesh, Singh said, "It's unfortunate that those who don't even know about farming, are misleading innocent farmers. This government never intended to stop MSP, neither it will in the future. Mandis will also be maintained. No 'maikalal' can take away land from farmers," as mentioned in ANI.

Singh highlighted that whenever reform is brought in place, it takes a few years before it reaps benefits. He gave examples of the 1991 economic reforms brought about by then Finance Minister Manmohan Singh and other reforms brought



about by the Vajpayee government that took around four-five years to see positive results.

The Defence Minister said even if we can't wait for four to five years, we can at least wait for two years to witness the positive outcome of the agriculture reforms implemented by the Modi government.

Rajnath Singh

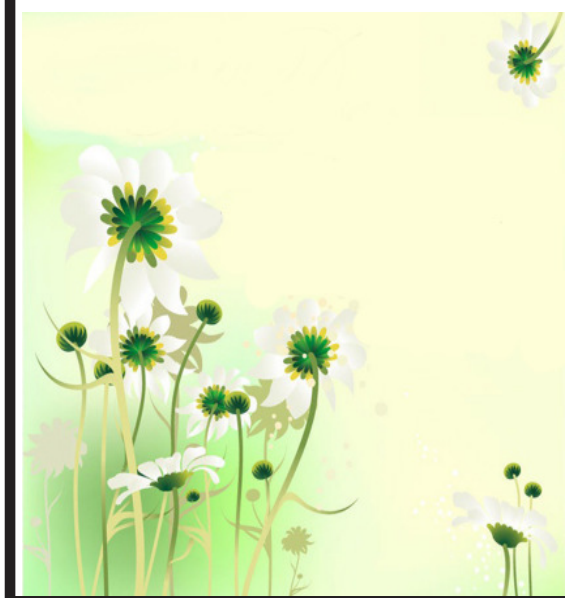
reiterated that farmers are free to sell their crops wherever they want to and to whoever they want.

"Whatever agreement will be made with the farmers will be about their products, not their land. And the if the one who agrees pays less to the farmers than the fixed amount, then the farmers can take the government to court," Rajnath Singh said.

Singh said that the government will do whatever is necessary for the welfare of the farmers, including rediscussing the laws.

Best Wishes from ::

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2021 Horoscope Predictions: Accurate Yearly Forecasts



Aries

As seen in the Aries 2021 horoscope predictions, the year 2021 is likely to begin on a very positive note and it may also grant you ease of working and a general good fortune. Gradually, relations with friends and associates are likely to improve. Around the mid-2021, certain planetary situations may bring new challenges on the career front. Kindly keep control of your negative thoughts during this period.



Taurus

The planetary situations will remain supportive of your professional life as per Taurus 2021 horoscope. You will grow in terms of knowledge and personality during this phase and you will do very well in your career. You will find new and creative ways to get things done and this is going to make things better for you. You are likely to see benefits to your undertakings.



Gemini

The Gemini horoscope 2021 prediction shows the very special year 2021 for the Gemini natives. This will be a year where you will be happy with the support of luck and even the reduction of obstacles that were following you for a long time. This will be a year where the Gemini zodiac will finally put an end to old issues and start afresh.



Cancer

A year that will start on a sluggish note. 2021 as a year will be slightly challenging for natives of Cancer zodiac sign states of the Cancer 2021 horoscope predictions. The transit of Saturn in Capricorn and its hash aspect upon your sign will be difficult to sail through. But Saturn is known to reward hard work and efforts.



Leo

This is a year when your conviction in your decisions will be very strong as per your Leo 2021 horoscope. While this will help you take some radical decisions, you will also need to be on your guard against becoming inflexible and stubborn. You will experience a deep emotional attachment with your loved ones as seen in Leo 2021. You will be in sync with your roots and family values.



Virgo

As per Virgo 2021 horoscope, your time is good this year and you will be excited about some positive developments in your life. Creativity and enthusiasm will flow in whatever you do. You will also have a renewed interest in your life. However, when everything is moving in the right direction this year, it is essential for you to understand and to know what you are getting into, and what you are expecting out of it. You need to figure out the value before you take a step forward. You need to identify the opportunities early, and a timely response to them is required or else you may miss the boat. Avoid being overconfident.



Libra

According to Libra 2021 horoscope predictions, the year 2021 may prove to be one of the most successful years for you. With the transit of Saturn and Jupiter, placed in squares and trines respectively, the dual-energy of planets will enhance the benevolence in your life. Moreover, Saturn will bring stability to your personal life.



Scorpio

As per Scorpio horoscope 2021, the year may bring mixed results for Scorpio natives. As the year 2021 will progress, you are likely to be more energetic, courageous, and even be able to stick to your new year's resolutions. Moreover, the transit of Saturn in Capricorn will make you courageous and the transit of Jupiter in Aquarius will make you stick firm on the decision that you would take out of courage.



Sagittarius

As per Sagittarius astrology prediction 2021, the year 2021 is likely to bring many surprises for you. Moreover, there is something for all age groups this year, which will delight one and all. Prosperity, success, and fortune are likely to manifest across the year to please you. There are chances that your education and higher studies may be impressive and fulfilling, says Sagittarius 2021 horoscope.



Capricorn

2021 is likely to be a year with heavy transit which may impact your life. As per Capricorn's 2021 horoscope, the year 2021 may make you introspect in your actions and may induce you to make adjustments. These changes may decide the future of your actions. The decision that you may take now and then follow it with actions will decide the outcome during the year, says Capricorn's 2021 predictions. Therefore, our expert astrologers suggest you make sure you think deeply before you decide to make a decision and take action.



Aquarius

As per Aquarius astrology prediction 2021, the year is likely to be giving you more experience than usual. With the sign lord Saturn being in the 12th house for your sign, the initial few months may see a rise in tension and you may face some challenges. Furthermore, the conjunction of a debilitated Jupiter may cause some issues in your life.



Pisces

According to Pisces astrology prediction 2021, the year 2021 is likely to bring mixed-results initially for you. At the start of the year, the sign lord Jupiter is well placed in the 11th house of gains. Albeit debilitated, it would be encouraging as the conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter is likely to bring steady progress, says Pisces 2021 horoscope.

General 2021 Horoscope

They say change is the universal law of nature. The old has to give way to the new, which is the way things work out and move on. And we are going to witness another significant change in the flow of time. Yes, the year 2020 is leaving us making way for the year 2021.

While the horoscope 2021 promises good times ahead, some things may not be under our control and we may have to be more conscious about it. This is why we are here to help you with our 2021 astrology predictions.

And the year 2021 is all set to bring positive

changes for all the Zodiac signs. The year 2021 will bring good vibes and happiness for the people at large. Though there will be dark aspects also, you can manage the situation if you take proper steps. We know that you are eagerly waiting for the 2021 horoscope predictions. Towards this, our team of experienced astrologers offers you a detailed analysis of your astrology 2021. Knowing 2021 predictions will help you command a better hold over your life and destiny.

Your future predictions 2021 predict that you will look at the positive sides of the future. As you will get to know about your future in detail,

you will be better equipped to devise a strategy to improve your life and your growth & development prospects. You will have a better understanding of life. You will be in a commanding position and will be able to decide & direct your destiny and future.

The new year horoscope 2021 will include detailed forecasts and predictions about the upcoming year for each Zodiac sign. Our expert astrologers are here to make your life simpler by suggesting detailed remedies for your problems along with your 2021 astrology forecasts. So read on and know what is in store:

THE INDUSTRY & MINES

OBSERVER

Responsible Journalism

2021

CALENDAR & HOLIDAYS

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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February

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March

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April

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Jan 01	New Year's Day
Jan 14	Makar Sankranti
Jan 14	Pongal
Jan 26	Republic Day
Mar 11	Maha Shivaratri
Mar 29	Holi
Apr 02	Good Friday
Apr 04	Easter
Apr 13	Gudi Padava/Ugadi
Apr 21	Rama Navami
Apr 25	Mahavir Jayanti
May 13	Eid al-Fitr
May 26	Buddha Purnima
Aug 15	Independence Day
Aug 19	Muharram/Ashura
Aug 21	Onam
Aug 30	Janmashtami
Sep 10	Ganesh Chaturthi
Oct 02	Gandhi Jayanti
Oct 13	Maha Ashtami
Oct 14	Maha Navami
Oct 14	Ayudha Puja
Oct 15	Dussehra
Oct 19	Milad un-Nabi
Nov 04	Diwali/Deepavali
Dec 25	Christmas Day

May

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June

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July

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August

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September

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October

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November

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December

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THE INDUSTRY & MINES
OBSERVER

Vol.-14
Issue -16
December 16

Editor : Sirish C Mohanty

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Editorial office

LIG 491, NeeladriVihar PH II, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar 751021, R.O: Uplands, Banspani, Joda 758034, Odisha
Editorial: 9437072248, Circulation and subscription: 9938229429
Email: imobserver@rediffmail.com,
Our offices at: New Delhi, Raipur, and Mumbai

Printed, Published, Owned & Edited by Sirish Chandra Mohanty at LIG 489 & 490, NeeladriViharPhII, Chandrasekhar pur, Bhubaneswar - 751021 & Printed at Web line, Weblines, D2/19, Sector-A, Zone-D, Mancheswar Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010