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DADLS-73

ପବିତ୍ର ସାଧାରଣତନ୍ତ୍ର ଦିବସ - ୨୦୨୧ ପାଳନ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ଓଡ଼ିଶାବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଓ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି ।

ଓଡ଼ିଶାକୁ ଦେଶର ଏକ ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ଏବଂ ଅଗ୍ରଣୀ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ପରିଣତ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଏହି ପବିତ୍ର ଅବସରରେ ସମସ୍ତେ ଶପଥ ନେବାକୁ ମୁଁ ଆହ୍ୱାନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।

ଶଶେଶୀଲାଲି
(ଗଣେଶୀ ଲାଲ)

ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

OIPR- 15001/13/0118/2021



DADLS-73

ପବିତ୍ର ସାଧାରଣତନ୍ତ୍ର ଦିବସ ଅବସରରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାବାସୀ ଭାଇ ଓ ଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି । ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ସର୍ବାଙ୍ଗୀନ ଉନ୍ନତି ଏବଂ ସବୁ ବର୍ଗର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ପାଇଁ ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଉଦ୍ୟମରେ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କର ସହଯୋଗ କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

ଆସନ୍ତୁ, ଏକ ସଶକ୍ତ, ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ଓ ସ୍ୱାଭିମାନୀ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଗଠନ ପାଇଁ ସମସ୍ତେ ନିଜ ନିଜ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ରହି କାମ କରିବାକୁ । ଦେଶର ସମୃଦ୍ଧିରେ ନିଜର ଯୋଗଦାନ ଦେଇ ଭାରତକୁ ଆହୁରି ଶକ୍ତିଶାଳୀ କରିବା ।

ନବୀନ ଚକ୍ରବର୍ତ୍ତୀ
(ନବୀନ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ)
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

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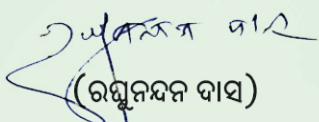

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DADLS-73

ପବିତ୍ର ୭୨ତମ ସାଧାରଣତନ୍ତ୍ର ଦିବସ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀ ସମସ୍ତ ଭାଇ ଓ ଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଓ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି । ଭାରତର ଏକତା ଓ ସଂହତି ରକ୍ଷା ସହିତ ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟକୁ ଦେଶର ଏକ ଅଗ୍ରଗଣ୍ୟ ରାଜ୍ୟ ଭାବେ ଗଢ଼ିତୋଳିବା ନିମନ୍ତେ ସମସ୍ତେ ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଉଦ୍ୟମ କରିବାକୁ ମୁଁ ବିନମ୍ର ନିବେଦନ କରୁଛି ।


(ରମ୍ଭାନନ୍ଦନ ଦାସ)
ଜଳସଂପଦ, ସୂଚନା ଓ ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

OIPR- 15001/13/0118/2021

Three Little-Known Personalities Who Bring Padma Laurels To Odisha

Bhubaneswar : As many as six persons from Odisha have been conferred with the Padma awards this year. Among the awardees are three little-known personalities who have been recognised by the Centre for their contributions in the field of art, literature, education, and social service. Here is a look at the life and achievements of the three commoners. Purnamasi Jani, a septuagenarian tribal poet, and singer from the Kandhamal district received the prestigious Padma Shri award this year. She has not received a formal education, but helps others through her songs and address social



issues. She has sung about 10,000 devotional songs. Despite being a woman, she is known as Tadisaru Baba. Reacting to the conferment of the award, Jani thanked the Narendra Modi government and also prayed for happiness and prosperity across the world. Another recipient of the prestigious award is social worker Shanti Devi

who has dedicated her life to the uplift of tribal women and children. Born in 1934 in a landlord family in Balasore, she eventually moved to the tribal-dominated Koraput district along with her doctor husband. She set up an ashram and started serving people with chronic diseases. "So far, five ashrams have been set up for

the children. I will continue to do this service throughout my life," said Shanti Devi. Another little known person, who has been bestowed with the Padma Shri award is, Nanda Kishore Prusty popularly known as Nanda Master. At 103, he still imparts education to children at Kantara village under Sukinda of Jajpur district. While Nanda Sir's Pathsalahas turned 75 years, he never received remuneration for teaching. "I am honored for being conferred with the prestigious award. I will continue to teach the children till my last breath," Prusty said.

Lt Gen CP Mohanty To Be Next Vice Chief Of Indian Army

If reports are anything to go by, Mohanty is set to be-



come the 42nd vice chief of the Indian Army and he will be the first Odia officer to be selected for the post, which is next in rank to the Chief of Army Staff in the Indian Army.

The Odia Army officer is a native of Jayabada village in Jagatsingpur. The news of his appointment has not only brought cheers among the residents of the district but the whole of Odisha.

Lt Gen Mohanty has operational experience along the borders with Pakistan and China and in active counter-insurgency operations in Assam. He has also led a multinational UN brigade in Congo.

At present, he is serving as the General Officer Commanding-in-chief of Southern Command. Before this, he was posted as the General Officer Commanding of the Uttar Bharat area.

Kishore Dwibedi Elected World Odisha Society Chairman

Bhubaneswar : (Kishore Dwibedi) Senior Journalist and Founder of VandeUtkal Foundation Kishore Dwibedi has been elected Chairman of Newly formed World Odisha Society (WOS). Shri Dwibedi garnered the overwhelming majority of votes in an election conducted online. A Seasoned Journalist having long years of experience Shri Dwibedi has had the distinction of serving as New Delhi Bureau Chief of Three Prominent Odisha Newspapers namely The Prajatantra, The Sambad, And The Samaja. A five-time member of the Press Advisory Committee of Lok Sabha. He will serve as the Chairman of WOS for a 2-year term. A 20 member Working Committee has also been elected to aid and advise the Chairman. The Office Bearers of Odia Samaj of Different Countries, Prominent Non-Resident Odias and representatives of Odisha Centric Socio-Cultural Organisations were present during the Video Conferencing meeting.

The elected Working Committee Members are Pabitra Maharatha (India), Pradeep Rath (Abu Dhabi), Debendra Majhi (India), Asutosh Dash (India), Dr. Tanmay Panda (Canada), Manoj Nayak (India), Santosh

Mishra (Russia), Dr. Nalini Pati (Australia), Amiya Mishra (U.A.E.), Saswat Padhi (Netherlands), Dr. Pratap Pani (India), Dr. Sunanda Mishra Panda (Canada), Siddharth Das (U.A.E.), Debarshi Mallick (Indonesia), Pritish Dash (U.A.E.), Siba Ranjan Biswal (U.K.), Sambit Mishra (Singapore), Kunna Dash (Japan), Pitambar Barik (India), Dr. Bhagyashree Singh (U.K.). Chartered Accountant Sudhir Dash con-

mother state Odisha will attain the best status.

The Founder Member of WOS and President of Odia Socio-Cultural Association of Netherlands Saswat Padhi presented the Mission, Vision, and Future Roadmap of WOS through a PowerPoint presentation.

The President of All Russia Odia Samaj Santosh Mishra extended all-out Help, Support, and Cooperation to the newly formed



ducted the Election Process transparently and smoothly.

After getting elected Shri Dwibedi gave a Clarion call to Odia Diaspora across the Globe to stand strong and united. He exudes confidence that incases the Odia Communities all over the world put their joint effort with full dedication, devotion and determination then our

World forum of Odias. The President of Odisha Samaj U.A.E. Amiya Mishra presided over the internet meeting. President of Odia Samaj, Australia Dr. Nalini Pati and Dr. Sunanda Mishra Panda from Toronto proposed a Vote of Thanks. Pushpanjali Barik recited VandeUtkal Janani.

Tata Steel Foundation celebrates 'International Day of Education' at Joda

Joda : 'International Day of Education' was celebrated with a lot of fervor at Girl's and Boy's Residential Bridge Course Centres (RBCs), Joda on Sunday by Tata Steel Foundation, the CSR wing of Tata Steel. More than 100 stu-

ences with the guests. Apart from this, a drawing competition for the students was also organised at both the centers and the winners were felicitated. The dignitaries also distributed educational materials to the students.

Currently, there are



dents participated in the events organised at both centers. The celebrations aimed at recognising the importance of education for children for their brighter future.

Ms Vinita Singh, Vice President of Spandan Mahila Samiti graced the occasion as Chief Guest along with Ms Debolina Sarkar, Secretary, Spandan Mahila Samiti, and Ms Pallavi Singh, Treasurer, Spandan Mahila Samiti at Girl's RBC. Mr Rajesh Kumar, Chief, Joda, Tata Steel graced the occasion as Chief Guest at Boy's RBC.

On the occasion, the students organised a cultural program including a drama and a song based on the subject 'Importance of Education' that was appreciated by the guests. During the celebrations, a few students also shared their experi-

195 girls and 140 boys at the Girl's and Boy's RBC respectively. These RBCs have come as a boon for the students of 17 Panchayats under the Joda block of Keonjhar district who have dropped out of schools or never been to schools for varied reasons. Lack of financial support is the main reason in most cases.

Since 2019, every year, January 24 is observed as 'International Day of Education' across the globe to celebrate the role of education for peace and development. This year the theme is 'Recover and Revitalize Education for the COVID-19 Generation'. A dedicated day for education also works to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4, which aims to ensure quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all by 2030.

ES hints at rosy Charvak debt growth, and not an easy path



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

India is poised to grow despite the pandemic panic shock during a critical financial year when all budget projections had gone awry because of the total countrywide shutdown of all production, predicts Economic Survey (ES) 2020-21. Agriculture alone is growing at 3.4 percent.

The survey is positive on future real GDP growth for 2021-22 at 11 percent despite the economy being in recession leading to gross domestic product (GDP) contraction of a record (-) 23.9 percent in April-June, and a full contraction of 7.7 percent during the year. The ES, while praising the lockdown, notes that the economy is technically in a recession due to the severe contractions.

This path, with 11% real GDP growth in FY22, would entail a growth of 2.4 percent over the absolute level of FY20, implying that the economy would take two years to reach and go past the pre-pandemic level. The ES estimates the real GDP to grow at its trend rate of 6.5% in FY23 and 7% in FY24, aided by structural reforms.

(The national statistics office on January 28 revised the GDP growth rate for 2020-21 to 4 percent from 4.2 percent earlier mainly due to contraction in manufacturing and construction.).

The growth is to be achieved on such a low base through spending more as there is an impulse for "expansionary fiscal

policy", in short, the prescription is to follow the Hindu Charvak philosophy of resorting to high debt and be spendthrift for "a happier life" and political dividend as well.

It is an indication that the budget is to have a high fiscal deficit, maybe around 7.5 percent, and likely to resort to tough measures to raise the revenue. It may not be easy on taxes though the room for actually raising it is limited as the industry is keen on softening the tax regime even on personal income-tax to create an environment for increasing purchasing power.

Chief Economic Adviser K V Subramanian says economic growth leads to debt sustainability and even if India were to have a real GDP growth rate as low as 3.8 percent each year from 2022-23 to 2028-29, the country's debt levels will still come down. Subramanian further said India has a track record of having adopted expansionary fiscal policy focused on infrastructure spending.

So as imagined it will be a five-year budgetary process and not a recovery in two years to undo the pandemic recession. The Fitch Rating agency earlier had indicated that it would take five years to get to the pre-pandemic level. The survey severely criticizes Moody's, S&P as "noisy, opaque and

biased". It adds that the fiscal policy "must not remain beholden to such noisy/biased measures and should be guided by considerations of growth and development rather than be restrained by biased subjective sovereign credits". Western agencies maintain a negative view on deficits and high borrowing and ES wants transparent sovereign methodology, as India's willingness to pay is unquestionably demonstrated through zero sovereign default history, Subramanian says,

A study sponsored by RBI in mid-2020 by the Survey of Professional Forecasters is also not very different from the sovereign agencies. It says, "Real GDP is likely to contract by 1.5 percent in 2020-21 but is expected to revert to growth terrain next year when it is likely to grow by 7.2 percent". The survey projects that to 11 percent possibly on better data. But credit agencies globally keep a tab on different growth parameters and even the IMF and World Bank do not wish them away. While the survey extols borrowings, its expectations are a bit speculative. Usually, sovereign borrowings lead to inflation and act as a check on growth. Of late, inflation despite some moderation has been high, including that of food, despite a liberal food dole to over 80,000 crore people.


Largely the 2021-22 projections are based on "V" shaped recovery in the second half on a low-base effect of 2020-21; recovery in pent-up demand; high liquidity and low-interest rates driving credit - a measure that is hitting the banking sector; supply-side reforms through easing of regulations to increase investment!; spending on manufacturing (provided there is demand growth); and speculative arena of hopes of a rise in discretionary consumption of vaccine roll-out!

One major aspect of all these aspirations is the RBI revenue pay-out. The CARE Ratings says that the central bank's earnings, which build a surplus and contribute to the country's non-tax revenue may be dented due to low-yielding US dollar assets, and also due to payment of interest to banks in reverse revenue repo. Its earnings were hit by low-interest rates. This would lead to the lower dividend payment by the RBI, which had squeezed itself in paying over Rs 2 lakh to pay a dividend during the last two years. The ES has not taken this aspect into its calculations.

While the ES has laid stress on rising R&D spending to 3 percent from 1.5 percent, noting more than half of it was done by the government, it has not taken note of the ground reality that most research in academic-related institutions is not in the

proper direction and maybe a great waste due to the lack of a proper methodology. The ES has stood by the farm laws and labor codes saying these are instruments of growth and sustains the view by citing 21 reports since 2001. While the views are fine it has overstressed the benefits of 1991 reforms, often called Manmohanomics. The nation in the 30th year of liberalization needs to have a vociferous debate on the "liberalization and new economy". It needs to study the linkage of present farm stress and protests and look for remedies. Its stress on reforms may not be as ideal as the ES has projected.

However, it gives a cue to the budget proposals, which may have large doses of allocations for various supposed "development and construction" projects as it benefits certain industries.

The ES is hopeful on repaying capacity of high projected borrowings but also indicates many distresses like credit delinquency, asset quality review of banks, recapitalization, and substantial reform of banks. This could pose a severe squeeze on corporate borrowers indicating that the optimism on the overall economy may not be as easy to achieve. The nation, the ES suggests, is not on an easy path despite a rosy projection. 

RSP Celebrates 'SAIL' Gaurav Diwas



Rourkela : SAIL Gaurav Diwas was celebrated by Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) at Ispat Stadium on 24th January with pomp and gaiety. Dipak Chattaraj, CEO, RSP unfurled the SAIL flag to mark the occasion. It was followed by the rendering of SAIL Anthem. The CEO adminis-

tered the health and fitness pledge and also released colorful balloons to the sky as a part of the celebrations.

He along with Raj Vir Singh, ED (P&A), Pankaj Kumar, ED (Projects) with the additional charge of ED (Works), C R Mohapatra, CGM In-charge (MM &

Marketing), Praveen Nigam, CGM (F&A), Dr. B K Hota, CMO (M&HS) and other Senior Officers walked around the stadium to promote the idea of physical fitness.

This year SAIL Foundation Day was celebrated all across SAIL as SAIL Gaurav Diwas to rekindle the sense of pride amongst the employees, ex-employees as well as their family members.

Applauding the RSP collective for facing and surmounting the massive challenges posed by COVID 19 to scale new peaks of excellence, Mr. Chattaraj said, "The grit, undeterred efforts and

sheer perseverance with which we braved COVID 19, will go down as one of the most successful chapters in the history of the company." The Nehru Vishista Karmachari Puraskars for the year 2019 were presented to 79 employees on the occasion. The CEO presented cash awards, citations, and mementos to the distinguished employees as a part of the coveted award. He also presented the Srujani Awards to individual employees and departments as well as the Sports Awards. The CEO also distributed mementos to employees in recognition of their excellent performance.

Minister of State (Steel) Kulaste visit Rourkela

Rourkela : Faggan Singh Kulaste, Minister of State (Steel), accompanied by H N Rai, Director (Technical, Projects & Raw Materials) visited Rourkela for two days from 21 to 22nd January. He visited the mines area, various production units, and the CSR project of Rourkela Steel Plant. He held review meetings, addressed officers, and held discussions with trade union leaders.

During the two-day stay Minister visited RMD Mines such as Taldih Mines and Barsuan Mines on the first day.

On the second day, Kulaste took around the plant. First, he visited Model Room at HRDC. Then he proceeded to Hot Strip Mill-II where he was apprised about the project status of the new State-of-the-art Mill. Thereafter he went to New Plate Mill. The Plant visit of the Minister concluded with a visit to



Blast Furnace-5 'Durga'. He presided a meeting organised at 'Manthan' Conference Hall to review the endeavors of the plant in various areas. H N Rai, Director (Technical, Projects & Raw Materials), Dipak Chattaraj, CEO, RSP, Pankaj Kumar, ED (Projects), with the additional charge of ED (Works), Raj Vir Singh, ED (P&A), several Chief General Managers, HoDs and

Senior Officers of RSP as well as other SAIL units were present on the occasion. The meeting was attended online by other Senior Officers of the plant from different locations. "The connect created by RSP with its employees and stakeholders through effective communication should be sustained as it would help the Plant scale greater heights of success,"

The Minister also held discussions with various Trade Unions and Executive Association. He also visited Deepika Mahila Jagruti Sansthan, where he was apprised about the various CSR ventures of RSP.

Kulaste and Rai were accorded a warm send-off at the Rourkela Airport by the CEO and other Senior Officers.

Senior Officials Visit Proposed Hockey Stadium Site

Rourkela : A high-level team consisting of senior state government officials visited Rourkela on 19 January to expedite work for county's largest hockey stadium to host the world cup hockey championship. It is noteworthy that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik 24 December announced that a new world-class hockey stadium would be constructed at Rourkela as part of preparations for the 2023 Hockey World Cup which would be



hosted by the state. The proposed stadium would be the largest hockey stadium in India with a seating capacity of 20,000 people. This is going to redefine the sports landscape in the region, the chief minister had said.

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra accompanied by 5T Secretary V. Kartikeyan Pandian, Works Secretary Krishan Kumar, Special Secretary to Sports R Vineel Krishna, Western Odisha Development Council, Asit Tripathy visited the site of the proposed stadium. The officials discussed the structure of the stadium, provision for parking space, entry and exit points, accommodation for players, etc. Chief Secretary SC Mohapatra later said that a detailed plan and design would be approved shortly and work is likely to start from April and would be built in a year.

They visited the Biju Patnaik hockey stadium of Rourkela Steel Plant and held a review meeting with SAIL officials. State Government had planned to use this stadium by renovating it for the prestigious tournament. But it seemed SAIL authorities could not assure them to convert the stadium and other sports infrastructure development as per FIH standards.

This prompted the State Government to take a call to build a new, modern stadium in the city. Whatever be the reason, in the tussle between SAIL and State Government Rourkela has been benefitted as an ultra-modern hockey infrastructure would be added to the steel city.

Sundargarh Collector Nikhil Pawan Kalyan, Rourkela MLA, and District Planning Committee Chairman Sarada Prasad Nayak ADM Aboli Sunil Naravane were also present during the visit of the officials.

Paradip refinery receives National energy conservation award 2020

PARADIP: Paradip Refinery has won First prize under the 30th National Energy Conservation Awards-2020 in the "Petroleum Refinery Sector". The award is instituted by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under The Ministry of Power, Government of India to give national recognition to industries and establishments that have taken exemplary efforts on energy conservation while



maintaining their production. Shri R.K. Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C) for Power and New and Renewable Energy presented the award to Shri TDVS Gopalakrishna, Executive Director & Refinery Head, Paradip Refinery during the award function held on 11th Jan'2021 through video conference in presence of Minister of State in Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri V. S.

Jain, CGM(PJ) also joined the award ceremony through a virtual platform. With continuous endeavor towards achieving higher energy efficiency for a sustainable future, Paradip Refinery has implemented various innovative energy conservation schemes resulting in significant savings in thermal and electrical energy consumption and reducing the carbon footprint.

Republic Day celebrated in Paradip Refinery



PARADEEP: Shri TDVS Gopalakrishna, Executive Director and Refinery Head, Paradip Refinery, unfurled the National Flag at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Stadium of Paradip Refinery Township on the occasion of the 72nd Republic Day celebration. Shri TDVS Gopalakrishna inspected the CISF contingent followed by a parade. Addressing the

gathering, Shri Gopalakrishna, paid homage to the great leaders and freedom fighters who were instrumental in the enactment of our constitution. He further added that IndianOil is fully focussed on inclusive growth of the region and new projects like MEG, PX-PTA, Needle Coker, Textile park at Bhadrak, etc. will pave the way for

scripting the industrial growth story of Odisha. Needle Coker project is based on IndianOil's R&D technology, which substantiates our journey towards becoming Atmanirbhar Bharat. Shri Gopalakrishna appreciated local Sarpanchs, stakeholders for their unstinted support during the mega shutdown activity at Paradip Refinery.

Long Service Awardees, winners of Prativa Samman and Samuhik Uplabdh Puraskar 2019-20, and Local Sarpanchas were felicitated during the event. The event was celebrated without mass gathering and following all the COVID appropriate norms. The event was live-streamed for the virtual participation of all the employees & families of Paradip Refinery.

Army vice chief designate Lt Gen C P Mohanty visits home Jagatsinghpur

JAGATSINGHPUR: The residents of Jagatsinghpur rejoiced as the son of the soil Lt Gen Chandhi Prasad Mohanty who has been designated to become next Vice Chief of the Indian Army visited his home turf Jaibada village on the outskirts of Jagatsinghpur and Maa Sarala temple on today. The V C of Army waiting Lt Gen Mohanty first reached in Maa Sarala temple at Jhankada and performed Puja and Darshan in the temple, hundreds of local villagers congregated around Maa Sarala temple have a glimpse to Lt Gen Mohanty and greeted him respectfully. Mohanty reached his native Jaibada village in Jagatsinghpur town where



he had begun his early schooling. Hundreds of villagers accompanying many dignitaries were converged at his ancestral residence greeting son of the soil who becomes the first Odia to rise to the second-highest position of the Indian Army. local MLA Prashant Muduli, collector S K Mohapatra, state

cashew development corporation chairman Amarendra Das, district Congress president Natabar Barik, senior lawyer Ravindra Nath Mohanty, Sivaprasad Acharya, Dipti Das, Madhusudan Sahoo political leaders from several parties, scribes were held a courtesy meeting with Lt Gen Mohanty.

J'spur Employees associations resort to cease work protesting police inaction

JAGATSINGHPUR: Protesting police inaction arresting a youth who had assaulted a Revenue Inspector [RI] one week ago, 8 employees associations in Jagatsinghpur district have started a cease work lasted for four days. Following employees strike administrative works in all blocks, Tehsil govern-



ment offices have come to a halt, the agitated employees have threatened the stir will continue

unless their demands are not met. The report said that the victim RI Susanta Kumar Swain

accompanying Tahasildar Sidhartha Shankar Sahoo had visited Balipatana Hat for conducting a field inspection where a local youth Subash Chandra Nayak assaulted RI Swain following an altercation, Swain had sustained injuries. Meanwhile, a complaint had been lodged in Balikuda police station by RI

Swain against the alleged youth on January 20, but the police have not arrested the alleged youth, the investigation has been moving at a snail's pace, rued the agitated employees association leaders. Following the employees strike administrative works in offices across the district were affected, meanwhile the alleged youth's

wife Khulana Nayak has lodged an FIR against RI Swain who had ill-treated her husband on the occurrence day, RI association president Govinda Bindhani has kidnapped her husband so she demanded action against the culprits later Khulana was apprised collector S K Mohapatra about the incident.

Century-old heritage pond cries for renovation



Baripada : At a time the devotees and servitors used the water of Hemsagar pond as holy water and used for religious activities, holy dip and local people had been using the water of the pond for domestic purposes, the situation has changed now, not a drop of water of the pond is used for any domestic activity and religious favor due to the water contamination. With the lackadaisical attitude of both the endowment department and Baripada municipality, the renovation work of the century-old heritage pond located around 50 meters far from Haribaldevjew temple now stands neglected.

When Surendra Kumar Meena was the then collector in 2017, had been asked by the authority of Baripada municipality to take immediate steps for the renovation of ponds under Civic body's jurisdiction which Hemsagar pond the heritage pond is one of them. Despite the collector's order, no adequate steps are taken for this pond besides de-weeding in the river in 2019 before Chapa Khela a religious performance of Bhudevi (Saraswati), Sridevi(Laxmi), and Madan Mohan conducted in 2019. Since then no regular maintenance of de-weeding and other renovation works have been carried out last year for Covid-19 protocol.

The Baripada municipality has put a hoarding in the bank of the river in 2017 and aware the people not to dump garbage and open defecation on the bank of the pond, if the notice of any person will do such activities will give Rs.500 as fine must slap from him/her when Jyotisanakar Ray was the in-charge Executive officer of Baripada municipality five years ago.

On 12 February 2019, the civic body laid the foundation stone of renovation and beautification work of the pond when Babita Das was the chairman and Deputy Speaker of Odisha State Legislative and MLA of Baripada Sananda Marandi was the guest in the event.

When contacted Baripada Executive Officer P Anvesha Reddy said at least six ponds including the Hemsagar pond will be renovated as early as possible after the government approved the assistance as the proposal of removal and development work of these ponds had been given to the government earlier. She further said that development and renovation work as a track around the pond, de-weeding, and overall renovation works of the pond will be carried out.

Irregularity by Baripada Municipality in the procurement of sanitation goods

Baripada : irregularities smelled over procurement of syntax dustbins and trolley rickshaws used for sanitation drive in Baripada municipality in Mayurbhanj district. These essential items were procured from the private agency through the tender system in 2019. The large scale irregularity allegedly made by the municipality when Saroj Kumar Das was the in-charge Executive Officer of the municipality. It was alleged that the price of each item like trolley rickshaw, wheel garbage bin, Sintex make movable wheel waste bin were procured through the tender process had double price while the actual price of these items as per market value is quite different.

The report said that a bid was called by the municipality for the procurement of 20

numbers of trolley rickshaws by inviting quotation call notice no-1522 on 1 March 2019. The municipality had procured per trolley rickshaw at a cost of Rs.21,610 but calculated based on market value is Rs.18,999. While the actual cost of 20 number trolley rickshaws is Rs. 37,9,980 the municipality had paid Rs.43,2200 lakh basis of the tender.

The irregularity also came to notice over procurement of 660 liters wheel garbage bin. When the actual market price of each wheel garbage bin is Rs. 14,000, the municipality had procured each garbage bin for Rs. 28,305 as per the tender process the sum of each one has doubled. The municipality had procured 90 numbers of 660 wheel garbage bins had to pay Rs.25,47,450 when the market value of total no numbers of wheel garbage bins is Rs.1260000. Prices as per

tender and market are different to the tune of Rs.12,87,450.

The municipality further paid extra money from a government fund for procuring 400 numbers of Sintex made movable 240 liters wheel waste bins. As per the tender process, the municipality paid Rs.5,337 per Sintex movable wheel waste bin while the market value of each item has Rs.4,500. The price of this item has varied to Rs.837, where the municipality had to pay an extra Rs.334800 for procuring 90 numbers waste bins instead of Rs.1800000.

RTI Activist Samar Ranjan Das resident of Naharpada Ward No-11 said that he had been forced to take the information on the issue through the RTI act and basing the information given by the municipality he came to know that a large scale of irregular-

ity was made over procurement of these commodities. He charged to the authority of the municipality who knowingly approved the tender.

Laxmidhar Haboda the ex-councilor of Ward No-26 said that a resolution was approved before the dissolution of the council body about the Sintex items to be procured directly from Sintex Company. But the authority of the municipality had procured from A and A Enterprises instead of Sintex Company.

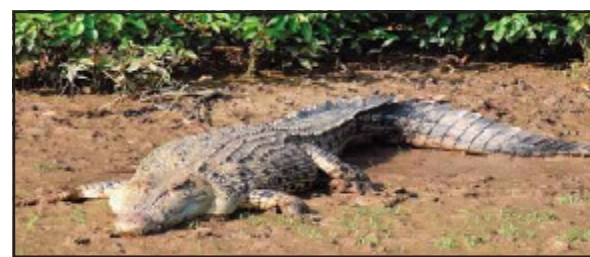
When contacted, Collector Vineet Bhardwaj said that he will direct to Sub-collector and in-charge executive officer of Baripada municipality P Anvesha Reddy to inquire about the issue and action will be taken against them if the inquiry report came against them.

Crocodile numbers in major wetlands of Similipal national park on the rise

Baripada : A three-day-long annual census was conducted just after the end of the waterfowl census in major water bodies, rivers, canals, and tributaries held in wetlands on 3 January across the district. There Ramtirtha

87.

Deputy Director of Similipal Tiger Reserve, Jagyandatta Pati said that the three-day-long census of crocodiles in Similipal Tiger Reserve was conducted in major river systems and their



Here is good news for the wildlife lovers as the number of the crocodile in different water bodies in Similipal national park is on the rise.

is one of the centers for reptile breeding. The forest officials had conducted a counting drive of the reptiles in major water bodies for three days. This year's census report revealed that the number of reptiles in water bodies is on the rise which reptiles' numbers up from 81 to

tributaries and canals like Deo, East, and West Deo, Khadkei, Budhabalanga, Ramtirtha breeding center, Khairi bandana, Thakthaki, and eco-tourism.

The report revealed that there 87 reptiles were sighted over the rivers bodies comes under three divisions like

STR North, South, Karanjia, and Ramtirtha. While 63 reptiles were sighted in West Deo, 7 in Khairi, 4 in East Deo, and 3 in Khadkei Nala. Similarly, 2 reptiles were sighted in the river Budhabalanga, 1 in Thakthaki, 7 were sighted in the reptile breeding center at Ramtirtha. Rising the numbers of reptiles this year also brings cheer to wildlife lovers.

A survey report in 1970 revealed that the number of reptiles in major water bodies in Similipal national park had declined. That worried to

government and wildlife lovers, and then the State Government had decided to set up a center at Ramtirtha for captive breeding of reptiles. As per the report of 1979, the center started functioning, with 24 crocodiles consisting of both males and females were brought from Chennai. In 1984, the first crocodile breeding was accomplished at the center and since then, 1,500 eggs had been hatched. So far, 700 young crocodiles were released to rivers of West Deo, East Deo, Budhabalanga, Khairi, and Polpala.

80 Artistes From Odisha Bear The Brunt Of Tractor Rally

Bhubaneswar : A group of 80 Bajasal artistes from Odisha bore the brunt of the agitating farmers' tractor rally and the subsequent violence in Delhi on the occasion of the



Republic Day on Tuesday. The artistes, who had gone to Delhi to perform Bajasal, a popular tribal folk dance of Kalahandi district at the Republic Day parade, remained

stranded for several hours due to the protest against the Centre's three farm laws before being rescued by police.

According to sources, after completion of their performance at the Rajpath, the artists were preparing to leave for their destination when farmers started the tractor rally. They got stranded at Red Fort along with artists from other States. The artists remained stuck there for five hours from noon. In the evening, police rescued the artists and shifted to Daryaganj Mess of Delhi Police.

Apart from the artists, children who had gone to Delhi to receive various awards were also stuck due to the violence. "There were around 300 artists including children at the Red Fort. As the situation developed, we provided them with food and shifted them to a safe place, Daryaganj Mess," DCP (North) Anto Alphonse told.

Central Funds To Develop Mandi Infrastructure Lying Unused: BJP

Bhubaneswar : Amid the allegations of discrepancies in paddy procurement in the State, Odisha BJP on Monday alleged that the ruling-BJD has failed to utilise Central funds entitled for the development of mandis.

"Centre has sanctioned thousands of crores of rupees for the development of mandi infrastructure in the State, but the funds are lying unused," alleged Odisha BJP spokesperson Lekhashree Samantsinghar. Hitting back at the ruling-BJD for slamming the Centre over paddy procurement, she further demanded the opening of mandis and procurement of paddy across the State.

Earlier, targetting the Centre over its decision to procure only 50% of the Parboiled rice this Kharif



season, Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MLA, Rohit Pujari on Monday accused the BJP of shedding crocodile tears over farmer issues.

Addressing a press conference in Bhubaneswar, Pujari said, "Out of the 55 Lakh MT parboiled rice produced in Odisha till now, we will keep 24 Lakh MT for the State's consumption. The Centre has offered to procure only 50%, i.e 15 Lakh MT out of the remaining 31 Lakh MT rice. This decision will put an additional burden of Rs 10,000 Crore on

Odisha."

"Odisha State Civil Supply Corporation, which acts as a procurement agency for the Central government and helps the State get the advance subsidy from the Centre, has not received the cut for 2020 Kharif season yet," added Pujari.

"It is unfortunate that at a time when we have already paid Rs 6550 crore to the farmers in Odisha for their produce, the State government is yet to get the paddy subsidy to the tune of Rs 2850

crore from the center which it should ideally have provided us before September 2020," said Pujari.

Invoking the Swaminathan Committee report, he further said, "On one hand, Centre does not want to implement the Swaminathan Committee's recommendations on the minimum support price of paddy while at the same time it is delaying subsidies to the State. The double whammy has made our farmers revolt against them."

Earlier, the Leader of Opposition Pradipta Kumar Naik had said that farmers of five Parliamentary Constituencies are gearing up to gherao the RDC office at Sambalpur on January 21, 2021, over discrepancies in paddy procurement.

Indian courts like institutions of governance, permit criticism of judgments, process: Salve

New Delhi : Terming Indian courts as "institutions of governance" that has "evolved" over the years and permit criticism of not only judgments passed by a court but also the decision-making process behind it, senior advocate Harish Salve said what needs to be tested now is where does one draw the line with the criticism.

"We have always accepted that the decisions of the courts can be criticised, including in language which may be impolite... Can we criticise the decision-making process? Why not? ... In a

law that has far-reaching consequences... these are not criticisms of the law but the decision-making process. Then why not the decision-making processes of co-equal constitutional institutions - the courts? How far can we go? Can't we ask why certain cases were heard in a certain way? Of course, we can... Because justice is administered under the public gaze. That makes the decision-making process subject to scrutiny."

Salve, however, proposed that it is important to draw the lines of such criticism. "We have to consider it in two or three

contexts. One context is 'who' is rendering that criticism? If there is a tweet by a layperson, should we take cognizance of such comments? No, we should not. But a criticism by politicians, that raises different issues... there is one area where judges need to be protected - that area is casting aspersions on an institution inconsistent with its character as an independent institution... In India, I don't think we have reached that stage of maturity where people can understand what is a ridiculous allegation... The court will see 'who' is making the allegations..."



said the Queen's counsel. He was speaking from London via video conference.

"What we need to note is in cases involving

matters of public moment, (is that) people in public life would criticise you. If that criticism pertains to a principle, cannot be considered as 'scandalising

the courts'. Constitutional law is not static. Criticism of judges, of judicial overreach is not 'scandalising the courts' he added.

Respect The Laxman Rekha Drawn Between The Pillars



Sirish C. Mohanty

Judiciary must respect the functional and structural reasons why its role is distinct from that of Parliament

Supreme Court stayed the implementation of three farm laws in response to protests by certain farmer groups, continuing its interventions in important matters of policy. What is surprising, however, is that the court did not state any legal or constitutional basis for the stay order. Instead, the court intervened as a self-appointed mediator, because "the negotiations between the farmers' bodies and the government have not yielded any result." In the process, the court has violated both India's functional as well as structural separation of powers.

The court's actions regarding the farm laws and protests have been critiqued

by legal and constitutional scholars on multiple grounds. First, the lack of legal basis sets a dangerous precedent. Second, the court has neglected its main constitutional function of independent judicial review. When there are multiple challenges on the constitutionality of the farm laws for violating federalism, legislative procedure, etc., it is a very odd choice for the court to evade this function and instead act as a mediator. Third, even those who support judicial interventions in policy, have critiqued the lack of representation from all the parties.

This trend in the court's actions goes beyond farm

laws. It threatens the foundation of the separation of powers between the legislature, judiciary, and executive in India. Power is distributed across different branches of government to create and maintain checks and balances. The framers of our Constitution were well versed with these ideas. The Constitution provides a strong separation of powers between the judiciary and the legislature, and the judiciary and the executive. A slightly weaker form of separation of powers exists between the legislature and the executive. The Constitution grants the judiciary the power to review the constitutional validity of all legislation and executive action. Everyone, and most certainly the apex constitutional court of the country, should be well acquainted with the need for structural separation of powers.

But apart from preventing the concentration of power in a single branch


of government, there is another pragmatic reason for this separation-division of labor and specialization of tasks, or the functional separation of powers. In 1776, Adam Smith gave us the theory of division of labour and specialization as the fundamental reason for the increase in productivity in a market. But Smith also talked about the division of labour and specialization in the dispensation of justice. He argued that "The separation of the judicial from the executive power seems original to have arisen from the increasing business of the society, in consequence of its increasing improvement. The administration of justice became so laborious and so complicated a duty as to require the undivided attention of the persons to whom it was entrusted." This does not undermine the structural separation of powers and Smith recognized the importance of checks and balances when he wrote, "When the judicial is united to the executive power, it is scarce possible that justice should not frequently be sacrificed to what is vulgarly called politics." Structural and functional separation go hand in hand.

The reasoning for the functional separation of powers is straightforward.

The tasks attempted by each branch of government are different and complex and require expert individuals and specialized systems. The legislature's role is to aggregate voter preferences. This is done through representative democracy and feedback mechanisms between elections. The executive, with the bureaucracy at its disposal, is tasked with governing and executing complex tasks. And the judiciary specializes in reviewing evidence, complex legislation, and constitutional rules, and is incentivized to remain impartial.

Whether the legislature, executive, and judiciary execute their assigned tasks perfectly or even adequately is debatable, especially in India. But even with imperfections, comparatively between the three branches of government, the legislature is best designed and incentivized to aggregate preferences. The judiciary, specifically the Supreme Court, and High Courts, are best equipped to evaluate the constitutionality of laws. Taking on a new task that primarily belongs to the legislature because of a perceived policy failure does not mean the judiciary can accomplish the task at hand. It is not an elected

representative body; and no special committee, no matter how eminent or impartial, can aggregate preferences the same way as an elected legislature. The court's order on farm laws, dated 12 January 2021, on farm laws confirms this, as various farmer groups have indicated that they were not represented in the proceedings. No matter how well-intentioned and impartial, the court can never represent and aggregate the preferences of over a billion people; even an inefficient Parliament will do better. This also holds for the executive role that the court has taken on through its public interest litigation jurisprudence.

The court and Indian polity at large must be clear about the role of the judiciary. Violating the boundaries of functional separation of powers will fail, as the court is institutionally not equipped to legislate. And violating the structural separation of powers concentrates power in the judiciary, which will lead to a dictatorial instead of an impartial court. Despite its good intention to mediate during a crisis, the court must control these impulses to govern or legislate from the bench. 

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

It was believed by the govt. & supreme court that after keeping on hold of farm laws & the formation of the committee the protesters would also leave Delhi by postponing their agitation. But it did not happen. The farmer unions could sense the game plan & be hellbent on sitting on protest till the repeal of farm laws.

But, permission given to hold tractor rally on Republic day has proved disastrous & boomeranged. The whole country was shocked and surprised to watch the unexpected vandalism by the protesters on the auspicious Republic Day.

Now, the blame game has started by political parties. As alleged by the farmer

unions anti-social elements perpetrated the incident with an evil design to defame the farmer's protestors as Anti-national. The police have already started taking action against the culprits.

**Bharat Patra, Social activist,
Keonjhar
Contact no. 9437119735**



ଓଡ଼ିଶା : ବିକାଶର ନୂଆ ପରିଭାଷା

- ରାଜ୍ୟରେ କୋଭିଡ୍-୧୯ ଟିକାକରଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ପାଇଁ ରାଜ୍ୟସ୍ତରରୁ ଜିଲ୍ଲାସ୍ତର ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତି । ଟିକାକରଣରେ ଅପାର ସଫଳତା ।
- ସମସ୍ତ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ସାମଗ୍ରିକ, ସୁଲଭ ଏବଂ ଗୁଣାତ୍ମକ ସ୍ବାସ୍ଥ୍ୟସେବା ପାଇଁ “ସୁସ୍ଥ ଓଡ଼ିଶା, ସୁଖୀ ଓଡ଼ିଶା” ମିଶନ ।
- ଲୋକାଭିମୁଖୀ ଲୋକସେବା ପାଇଁ ୧୦ଟି ବିଭାଗରେ ୧୦୦ଟି ଅନୁଲାଇନ୍ ଜନସେବା ଆରମ୍ଭ । ସରକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟକୁ ନଯାଇ ଘରେ ବସି ଜନସାଧାରଣ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ସରକାରୀ ସେବା ପାଇବା ପାଇଁ ସୁଯୋଗ ।
- ସଂପ୍ରତି ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିବେଶ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଦେଶର ଏକ ନୟନ ରାଜ୍ୟ । କୋଭିଡ୍ ସମୟରେ ମଧ୍ୟ ୧ ଲକ୍ଷ ୨୫ ହଜାର କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିବେଶ ପ୍ରସ୍ତାବ । ରସ୍ତା ନିର୍ମାଣରେ ମଧ୍ୟ ୫୫ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ଅଭିବୃଦ୍ଧି ।
- ଦେଶର ସାଧାରଣ ବଣ୍ଟନ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥାକୁ ଦେଶର ୧୦ଟି ରାଜ୍ୟ ଯେତିକି ଚାଉଳ ଯୋଗାଉଛନ୍ତି, ଆଜି ଆମ କଳାହାଣ୍ଡି ଜିଲ୍ଲା ଏକ୍ସପୋରଟର ସେତିକି ଚାଉଳ ଯୋଗାଇ ଦେଉଛି ।
- ମିଶନ ଶକ୍ତିରେ ସାମିଲ ରାଜ୍ୟର ୮୦ ଲକ୍ଷ ମହିଳା ଆଜି ବିଭିନ୍ନ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଦକ୍ଷତାର ସହ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରୁଛନ୍ତି । ଆମେରିକା, ଯୁରୋପର ତିଆରିମେଣ୍ଟାଲ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଏଣିକି ବିକ୍ରି ହେବ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସ୍ବାୟଂ ସହାୟକ ଗୋଷ୍ଠି ଉତ୍ପାଦିତ ସାମଗ୍ରୀ ।



- ପୁରୀକୁ ବିଶ୍ୱ ଏଡ଼ିହ୍ୟ ନଗରୀରେ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତିତ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ‘ଶ୍ରୀଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ଏଡ଼ିହ୍ୟ କରିଡର’ ଓ ‘ଅବଡ଼ା’ ଯୋଜନା ।
- ୫‘ଟି’ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ଅଧୀନରେ ଶ୍ରୀ ଲିଙ୍ଗରାଜ ମନ୍ଦିରର ପାରିପାର୍ଶ୍ବିକ ଉନ୍ନତି ପାଇଁ ଏକାମ୍ର ଯୋଜନା । ଖୁବ୍ ଶୀଘ୍ର ସମ୍ବଲପୁରର ପ୍ରସିଦ୍ଧ ମା’ ସମଲେଶ୍ବରୀ ପୀଠର ବିକାଶ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଆରମ୍ଭ ।
- ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ଅଧିକ ସଂଖ୍ୟକ ମେଡିକାଲ କଲେଜ ସ୍ଥାପନ ସହ କଟକ ଶ୍ରୀରାମଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ଭଞ୍ଜ ମେଡିକାଲ କଲେଜ ହେବ ବିଶ୍ୱସ୍ତରୀୟ ସ୍ବାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ସେବା ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ।
- ହଳିର ଏକ୍ସଟ୍ରିଣାଲ ସୁନ୍ଦରଗଡ଼ ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ରାଉରକେଲାଠାରେ ନିର୍ମାଣ ହେବ ଦେଶର ସର୍ବବୃହତ୍ ହଳି ଷ୍ଟାଡ଼ିୟମ । ସୁନ୍ଦରଗଡ଼ ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ପ୍ରତି ବ୍ଲକ୍ରେ ଆଷ୍ଟୋଗର୍ବ୍ ହଳି ଖେଳ ପଡ଼ିଥା ।
- କେନ୍ଦୁପଡ଼ା ଡୋକାଳୀ ଓ ଏଥିରେ ନିୟୋଜିତ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ କର୍ମଚାରୀଙ୍କ କଲ୍ୟାଣାର୍ଥେ ୯୨.୩୭ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ବୋନସ୍ ଓ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ସହାୟତା ଘୋଷଣା ।
- ‘ବନ୍ଦେ ଉତ୍କଳ ଜନନୀ’କୁ ରାଜ୍ୟ ସଙ୍ଗୀତ ଭାବେ ଘୋଷଣା । ଖୁଲି ପାଠ୍ୟକ୍ରମରେ ସ୍ଥାନିତ ହେବ ‘ବନ୍ଦେ ଉତ୍କଳ ଜନନୀ’ ।
- ଚଳିତ ବର୍ଷ ମାଧ୍ୟମିକ ଶିକ୍ଷା ବୋର୍ଡ଼ ଦ୍ବାରା ପରିଚାଳିତ ହେବାକୁ ଥିବା ମାଟ୍ରିକ୍ ପରୀକ୍ଷା ନିମନ୍ତେ ପରୀକ୍ଷା ଫି’ ଛାଡ଼ । ଉପକୃତ ହେବେ ୬ ଲକ୍ଷରୁ ଅଧିକ ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀ ।

କରୋନା କଟକଣା ମାନି ଚଳୁଥିବା, ମାସ୍କ ପିନ୍ଧିବା, ହାତ ଧୋଇବା ଏବଂ ସାମାଜିକ ଦୂରତା ରଖୁଥିବା, ତେବେ ଆମେ ନିଜେ ସୁରକ୍ଷିତ ରହିବା ସହ ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟ ତଥା ଦେଶକୁ କରୋନାମୁକ୍ତ ରଖିପାରିବା ।

ସୂଚନା ଓ ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ ବିଭାଗ

Indian, Chinese Soldiers Clash At Naku La, Many Injured

New Delhi : Indian and Chinese soldiers clashed at Naku La in North Sikkim last week with many injuries reported, said a government source. The situation is said to be under control though as of now.

Naku La, incidentally, was one of the original face-off sites, along with Pangong Tso, Galwan, Gogra, Hot Springs, in early-May last year.

The government source said the clash took place three days ago. It happened while both the countries' government and military were readying for another round of talks to resolve border dispute along the 3,488 kilometer-long Line of



Actual Control.

On Sunday, India and China held a 16-hour long marathon military dialogue that ended after 2 a.m. on Monday to resolve the ongoing nine-month-long border dispute and thinning of forces along the LAC.

The ninth Corps Commander level talks between both the countries took place at the Moldo Meeting point in the Ladakh region. It had started at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday and ended at 2.30 a.m. on Monday.

Lieutenant General P.G.K. Menon, the Corps Commander of Leh-based HQ 14 Corps, led the Indian delegation. India has sought complete disengagement and withdrawal of forces from the disputed areas.

It happened after almost two months after the last dialogue.

The details of the meeting were yet to come. The military commanders will convey the details of the meeting to the Prime Minister Office.

On June 15, 2020, India lost 20 soldiers during a violent clash at Galwan Valley with Chinese People's Liberation Army soldiers. Chinese never made their casualty public.

India and China are engaged in a nine-month-long standoff at the LAC. Despite several levels of dialogue, there has not been any breakthrough and the deadlock continues.

Kidney Sale Fraud In Odisha: Himanshu's Arrest May Open Pandora's Box!

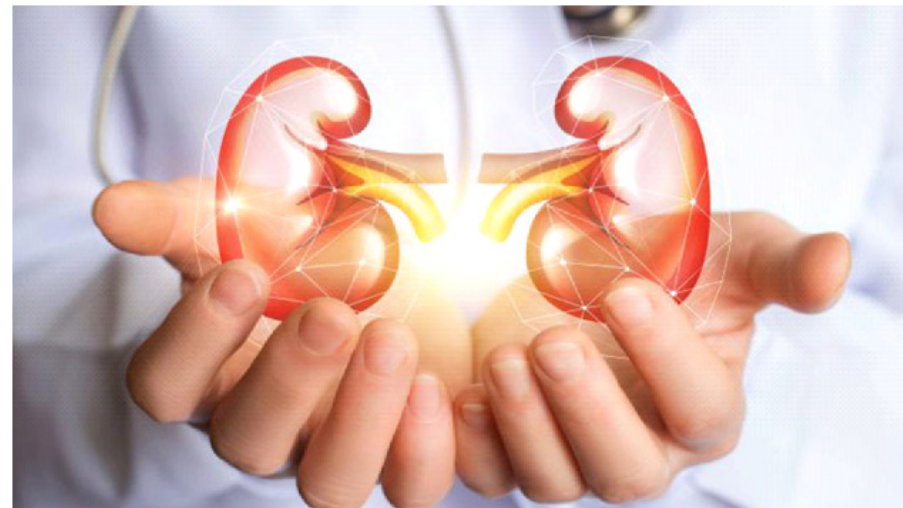
Bhubaneswar : The recent arrest of 32-year-old youth Himanshu Bhusan Nanda in Bhubaneswar is expected to unfold many vital details concerning kidney sale and transplant fraud.

The Commissionerate Police on Saturday took Nanda on a three-day remand to unravel the mystery behind so many kidney deals and trace persons involved in the scam.

So far, four victims of Nanda have come forward and lodged complaints against him. What has come as a shocker is that there is also a likelihood of the involvement of some medical staff in this fraud, as it is claimed that Nanda has worked with the marketing team of a private hospital in the capital city earlier. This apart, he had been using one of his accomplices as a 'fake kidney donor' who accompanied the patients to a Kolkata-based hospital for necessary tests and documentation.

Nanda had taken Rs 5.50 lakh from one Pratap Mishra (64) of Rupsa in Balasore, back in April 2019, to arrange a kidney. Similarly, Tarulata Mishra hailing from the Laxmi Sagar area in Bhubaneswar has also accused Nanda of cheating her to the tune of Rs 3.19 lakh. Another complaint lodged at the Mancheswar Police station in Bhubaneswar mentioned that Himanshu duped Rs 18 lakh from a patient on the pretext of arranging a kidney donor.

And on Saturday, one more chapter was added to



Himanshu's crime record after one Alok Ranjan Chaini of Kendrapara's Marshaghai came out in the open to reveal how he has duped of Rs 8 lakh. Though a complaint was lodged by Chaini in 2015, the actual matter was known following the arrest of Nanda.

Speaking to OTV, Chaini alleged, "Himanshu Nanda had accompanied Sanjay Pallai who identified himself as the transplant coordinator of a hospital. I had set a condition that I would go ahead with the operation only after seeing the Orissa HC order and the no-objection certificate (NOC) of the Director of Medical Education and Training (DMET). They did not provide me any document even after one and half years, I demanded a refund of the money I had paid to them. They (fraudsters) then did not pick up my phone and communication was cut-off completely."

The arrested youth Himanshu happens to be a resident of Nuapatna in Pattamundai of Kendrapara district and

had been staying in Uttara area of the capital city, where he has opened a decor showroom with the money he had received from the kidney patients.

Bhubaneswar DCP Umashankar Dash said that Himanshu is hiding many things and not cooperating with the police. "Very cleverly, he used to win the trust of the people. He assured patients that the process of kidney sale is all legal. We need to find more about the modus operandi, and how the accused operated the scam. A detailed interrogation will lead us to the core of the racket, and then we'll be able to shed more light on this." Dash, however, denied divulging more information about an alleged nexus between medical personnel and the accused, as the case is under investigation.

Surprisingly, the State health department or the concerned minister had no information about this fraud until the media men spoke to the minister seeking details of the action initiated by the department in this regard.

"I haven't received any

written complaint on this as yet. I'm hearing about this from you (OTV). I will issue an order to the department to conduct an inquiry into this. Stringent action would be taken as per law," said health minister Naba Das.

The guidelines of the government regarding kidney transplantation mention that only a voluntary donor or relative of a patient can donate a kidney. The complete documentation process also is arduous, plus any deviation from the guidelines would invite legal action, sources said.

"As per standard protocol, documentation is to be done after tests. Then the documents must be sent to the government. People cannot go to the hospitals directly with the test reports seeking operation. Without obtaining permission or NOC from the government, no such operation is conducted in the world," Dr Nishit Mohanty has said.

For now, the police are hopeful of opening Pandora's box before Himanshu's remand period ends.

What is 5G and how prepared is India to adapt?



The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has sought inputs from telcos and other industry experts on the sale and use of radiofrequency spectrum over the next 10 years, including the 5G bands.

What is 5G technology and how is it different?

5G or fifth generation is the latest upgrade in the long-term evolution (LTE) mobile broadband networks. 5G mainly works in 3 bands, namely low, mid and high-frequency spectrum - all of which have their uses as well as limitations.

While the low band spectrum has shown great promise in terms of coverage and speed of internet and data exchange, the maximum speed is limited to 100 Mbps (Megabits per second). This means that while telcos can use and install it for commercial cellphone users who may not have specific demands for very high-speed internet, the low band spectrum may not be optimal for specialised needs of the industry.

The mid-band spectrum, on the other hand, offers higher speeds compared to the low band but has limitations in terms of coverage area and penetration of signals. Telcos and companies, which

have taken the lead on 5G, have indicated that this band may be used by industries and specialised factory units for building captive networks that can be molded into the needs of that particular industry.

The high-band spectrum offers the highest speed of all three bands, but has extremely limited coverage and signal penetration strength. Internet speeds in the high-band spectrum of 5G have been tested to be as high as 20 Gbps (gigabits per second), while, in most cases, the maximum internet data speed in 4G has been recorded at 1 Gbps.

Where does India stand in the 5G technology race?

On par with the global players, India had, in 2018, planned to start 5G services as soon as possible, intending to capitalise on the better network speeds and strength that the technology promised.

All three private telecom players, Reliance JioInfocomm, Bharti Airtel, and Vi, have been urging the DoT to lay out a clear road map of spectrum allocation and 5G frequency bands so that they would be able to plan the rollout of their services accordingly. One big hurdle, however, is the lack of flow of cash and adequate capital with at least two of the three

players, namely Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea.

On the other hand, Reliance Jio plans to launch an indigenously built 5G network for the country as early as the second half of this year. The company is said to have a complete end-to-end 5G solution prepared by the company itself that is ready for deployment once the networks are in place. This solution can also be deployed by other telecom operators as a complete managed service.

What is the global progress on 5G?

More than governments, global telecom companies have started building 5G networks and rolling them out to their customers on a trial basis. In countries like the US, companies such as AT&T, T-mobile, and Verizon have taken the lead when it comes to rolling out commercial 5G for their users.

While some such as AT&T had started testing and deploying the technology as early as 2018, other companies such as Verizon have followed suit, expanding their 5G ultra-wide broadband services to as many as 60 cities by the end of 2020. In other countries such as China, some of the telcos such as China Unicom had started 5G trials as early as 2018, and have since rolled out the commercial services for users.

South Korean company Samsung, which had started researching on 5G technology way back in 2011, has, on the other hand, take the lead when it comes to building the hardware for 5G networks for several companies.

Not just temples Odisha makes big ecotourism push

Across TV screens, newspapers, and hoardings, the Odisha govt is presenting the state as the country's 'best-kept secret', whose lakes, beaches, hills, and monuments haven't got much attention.

Konark, Jan 25: With its network of temples - from the Sun Temple in Konark, a world heritage site, to the Jagannath shrine in Puri, one of the four 'dhams' - Odisha has been an important destination for religious tourists from all over the country.

But the state tourism department now wants an image makeover for Odisha, to offer it to leisure tourists as a destination that rivals the usual favorites such as Kerala and Rajasthan.

Across TV screens, newspapers, and hoardings, the Odisha government is presenting the state as the country's "best-kept secret", whose lakes (Chilika is an example), beaches (like the Golden Beach in Puri and the Chandipur beach, where the sea recedes up to 5 km every day), hills, and historical attractions (emperor Ashoka's edicts inscribed on a rock in Ganjam district, among others) haven't got much attention over the years. **Backing the drive is a tourism budget that is over two times the funds allocated in 2019-20.**

"The fact of the matter is that we missed the bus because tourism wasn't a priority earlier. But we are committed to changing that because we have no less to offer than Kerala or Rajasthan when it comes to sight-seeing and discovery," Odisha Tourism Minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi told.

Odisha's attempt to revive its tourism industry comes after the devastation left behind by Cyclone Fani in 2019, which was followed by the worldwide coronavirus pandemic a

high-end campsites. The point of keeping them temporary is so the environment and local communities aren't disrupted by permanent structures and an influx of tourists, officials in



year later.

According to state officials, as the Covid lockdown kicked in, tourism dropped significantly from March to September 2020. The industry, they say, has been barely keeping afloat by the few tourists who began entering the state October onwards, when Odisha declared itself open to tourism.

To make up for lost time and revenue, the most recent offering by the state is luxury camping. The "eco-retreats", as they are called, are aimed at showcasing the state's prime holiday spots while attracting high-income tourists - all in a sustainable manner that respects the state's tribal population or the environment.

Tourism in Odisha The eco-retreats, set up in five spots around the state - Konark, Bhitarkanika, Hirakud, Satkosia, and Daringbadi - this year, are temporary

the department said. For those willing to pay, it isn't cheap. Guests can stay in tents for anything between Rs 8,000 and Rs 25,000 a night. Despite the price and the ongoing pandemic, the campsites have maintained 60 to 80 percent occupancy since the retreats began on 22 December, according to government figures.

The campsites will operate until mid-February.

Between 2009 and 2019, Odisha saw a steady 8 to 9 percent growth in its tourist arrivals. But this fell in 2019 - a likely effect of Cyclone Fani, which made landfall in May of that year.

In 2018-2019, Odisha saw 1,53,19,358 tourists, including foreign and domestic. This number rose by 0.68 per cent to 1,54,22,765 in 2019-2020. The pandemic has shrunk this figure further.

If Modi isn't stopped, India will leave behind Superpowers

writes Joseph Hope,
editor NY times

Narendra Modi's sole aim is to make India a better Country. If he is not stopped, in the future India will become the most Powerful Nation in the World. It will surprise the United States, the United Kingdom, and Russia.

Narendra Modi is moving towards a specific goal. No one knows what he wants to do. Behind the Smiling face, a dangerous Patriot. He uses all the Countries of the world for the benefit of his Nation India.

Destroyed US ties with Pakistan and Afghanistan. Narendra

Modi has created an alliance with Vietnam, shattered China's Superpower dream, and made use of the 3 Countries.

The long-running dispute over oil extraction overseas between Vietnam and China has benefited India. With India's support, Vietnam began producing Oil in China's Southern Seas. It supplies all of its Oil to India. The United States has different support for this. He made Pakistan a poor Country.

He brought the Port of Iran under his control. He has set up an Indian Military base on the border with Afghanistan,

very close to the area that divides Pakistan. To increase Indian trade, he has also built a route through Iran (leaving Pakistan) to Afghanistan.

Narendra Modi's desires are going one by one. Sections 370 and 35A have been repealed. One day, Pakistan, he will completely capture occupied Kashmir. Pakistan will fall into 4 pieces in the coming seasons. This will happen on the warning of Narendra Modi. Saudi Arabia, Pakistan's traditional ally, will also play a key role in the Partition of Pakistan.

In Asia, this man who finished China and the

United States canceled the SAARC Summit and showed his power to the World. Narendra Modi has succeeded in maintaining India's superiority over Asia. He made UAE fine the Foreign minister of Pakistan on landing in UAE & sent the minister back.

Russia and Japan, 2 of Asia's Major Powers, have done nothing to say. He held both Countries in his hands with great precision. In the case of China's Vietnam Oil issue, China will ask for Oil. Then he will ask Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.

What he would ask was, "I'll take it. You have Hair in your Mouth," and

tease China's Vietnam issue. Nothing can be done by China. This person is taking Indian Politics to a different level.

Many Countries think and act that each Country has many Enemies. But India has no Enemies other than Pakistan. India is almost certain to be a friend to all Countries of the World.

This man is doing more harm to Pakistan than the real War. By using Muslim Countries against Pakistan, Narendra Modi has proven himself to be one of the Best leaders in the World. Even if Pakistan makes War with India, there will not be so much loss. But now



Pakistan is suffering more than that.

In all negotiations with all Countries, this person's Honesty must be taken into account. India's progress will be difficult for the rest of the World. With the current astounding growth of India, all the Countries in the United Nations will experience the consequences!

Dharmendra Pradhan's visit raises new hopes for Kendrapada



Kendrapada : (Rajesh Kumar Behera) Bhitarkanika National park, after remaining close for tourists from last 15th January to 23rd January for headcount drive of Estuarine crocodile, opened today and on the opening, the Union petroleum minister & Natural Gas and steel minister, Dharmendra Pradhan, paid a visit to enjoy the flora and fauna of the world-famous lush green eco-tourism spot- Bhitarkanika National park on Sunday, after spending a night in Bhitarkanika Eco Retreat at Nalitapatia.

Union Minister was

accompanied by Odisha Tourism Secretary, Vishal Dev, and senior forest officials along with the Brahmagiri MLA, Lalitenu Bidyadhar Mohapatra, BJP state general Secretary, Golak Mohapatra, former BJP MLA of Rajnagar, Alekha Jena, Aul BJP leader, Braja Sundar Bhuiyan, and other senior BJP leader of Kendrapada.

Being overwhelmed with Nature's treasure trove and the flora and fauna of the Bhitarkanika National park, Dharmendra Pradhan shared some pictures of the

Bhitarkanika National park and the Estuarine crocodiles, spotted deer in his Twitter page, and tweeted "Dense mangrove forests, exciting trekking trails, birds chirping in colonies, creeks and canals teeming with wildlife-Bhitarkanika National Park spoils you for choices. An off-the-beaten-track, a visit to Bhitarkanika is a must during this time of the year".

"The second largest mangrove ecosystem in the country, Bhitarkanika is often referred to as 'Mini Amazon' in India. Home to saltwater crocodiles, the park also is the

only habitat of the rare and endangered albino estuarine crocodiles. #DekhoApnaDesh", tweeted Pradhan.

While addressing to media, the Union minister praised the State Tourism Department for organizing such an Eco-Retreat at Bhitarkanika. It is different from others. The area is world-famous. I earlier heard about the famous Bhitarkanika. I got the opportunity to halt at Bhitarkanika Eco-Retreat cottage and also enjoyed the Nature's trail of Bhitarkanika in boat safari.

Bhitarkanika is going to be a catalyst and a medium for the economical and tourism development of the state and the development of the area as a whole. Giving emphasis and ecological balance to the environment, the tourism sector development is possible and it has been proved by Eco-Retreat of Bhitarkanika. The state government has made a regulated branding by organizing the Eco Retreat at Bhitarkanika, added Pradhan.

While addressing the people, Pradhan stated that he would discuss with the union minister of Tourism and union minister of Forest and Environment; climate change

for the economical development of the area, to generate employment opportunities through the tourism sector. Even, he would discuss with the Finance minister to set up a nationalized bank in the locality for providing banking facilities as the people trek more than 10 kilometers to get nationalized banking facilities.

Later Pradhan met with the people, who came with their grievance, at circuit house and also felicitated and interacted with the Covid warriors of the district, who have been inoculated with the first dose of the Covid19 vaccine during the first phase of the nationwide vaccination drive launched by the prime minister, to enquire about their well-being and also their experiences post the vaccination. The Covid warriors expressed their gratitude to the Prime minister through union minister, Pradhan, for prioritizing their health and wellness. While addressing to media, under PM Modi's mission of Purbodaya - a prosperous East for building Nation, Kendrapada is going to get the benefit. He stated the union government and the state government have been

trying to set up an industrial area. Steps are afoot for setting up 500 kilometers coastal highway from Digha to Gopalpur with an estimated sum of Rs 10000 crore. It will be the lifeline for the district and the district would get the highest benefit. Very shortly the work would start, the discussion is on with the ministry of Environment.

The Cabinet has approved setting up of Western dock at Paradip port for Rs 3,000 crore in PPP mode which will transform the port into a world-class and modern port. Besides, MoU is going to be signed for the riverine port is going to be set up in Mahanadi river. So the coastal development is on the pipeline of Modi and the people of Kendrapada will be benefitted.

The passenger train and goods train will run in Paradip-Haridaspur railway line and very shortly prime minister will inaugurate. Even, the union government is interested to set up a medical college at Kendrapada.

He also went with BJP leaders to meet with party workers to encourage them and to give mantras of strengthening the party in the district.

Farm laws are appropriate to push agriculture out of the low-income trap

If the farm laws are to be repealed, it would sound a death knell for the efforts to improve the agriculture sector, for no political party in government would ever dare carry out agricultural reforms again

Indian agriculture grew at about 1 percent per annum in the 50 years before Independence. It has grown at about 2.6 percent per annum in the post-Independence era to become the world's second-largest food producer. This transformation has been possible through increasing the area under cultivation and adoption of modern production technologies. Though agriculture is India's main occupation, its contribution to GDP hovers around 17 percent because farm productivity has almost stagnated. Feeding the world's second-most populated country remains a prime responsibility and the government has to find ways to retain farmers' interest in agriculture.

Compared to the world average of 11 percent, around 51 percent of India's area is already under cultivation, with rainfed drylands constituting 65 percent of the net sown area. There is no further scope to increase the area under cultivation and agriculture research fatigue has strangled crop productivity. According to the last agricultural census, of 14.57 crore agricultural holdings in the country, 12.56 crore (86.21 percent) are small and marginal holdings (less than 2 hectares) representing 47 percent of the total operated agricultural area. With an average of at least four members per family,

agriculture is the source of livelihood for this half a billion people, generating an approximate monthly income of Rs 6,000 - Rs 50 per person per day. It is this segment of the farming community whose income from agriculture needs to be enhanced to stop their migration to the non-agriculture sector.

World over, it is the farmer who decides the market price of his produce, but in India, it is decided by intermediaries. During harvest, agricultural production centers see a glut of produce at throwaway prices whereas shortages and high prices rule the roost at consumption centers. About 16 percent of fruits and vegetables and 10 percent of oilseeds, pulses, and cereals perish before reaching the consumer's table, while the Global Hunger Index (GHI) of the International Food Policy Research Institute ranked India 100th out of 118 countries in 2018. The 15th Finance Commission observed that power subsidies imperil our already-stretched groundwater resources. India's electricity consumption in agriculture is far greater than any comparable country and the withdrawal of groundwater is more than China's and the US's put together.

Over the years, influenced by government interventions like MSP, seed, fertiliser subsidies,

our agriculture production system has been primarily rice-wheat centric. These interventions were once essential for food security. Once achieved, they should have been tweaked to enforce reforms to bring agriculture in tune with market demands, incentivise crop diversification, and create an infrastructure to modernise agriculture. The economic boom of the last 25 years is due to the opening up of the economy that began under Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao. This is exactly what is required in the agricultural sector. The three farm laws reforming the agriculture sector are much-needed.

Processing is the mantra to generate higher income from agri-produce and calls for private investment. However, private investment entails profit-making and for this to happen, the investor needs to have a say in the sale of the agricultural produce. This is possible when the investor has a legal agreement or "contract" with the farmer-producer guaranteeing the sale of produce at pre-determined quality, quantity, and price. This is what the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement On Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 provides for. The Act envisages the investor to provide farm services in the form of technology infusion for achieving the desired



production, protection against acquisition of farmer's land, and dispute redressal mechanism. The apprehension that this Act would lead to the exploitation of farmers is unfounded.

Not receiving the right price is the main reason for farmers' dissatisfaction. The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 now gives liberty to the farmer-producers to sell their products to any trader or through modern electronic platforms to any place at a price decided by him. The Act also defines who is the trader of agricultural commodities, sets the time limit for payments, and includes a dispute redressal system. This Act liberates the sector from the APMC Act,

which provided an opportunity for the middleman to dictate prices and pocket a lion's share of profits.

The creation of storehouses etc. makes it possible inter alia to store perishable agri-produce and make them available during the off-season when prices are high and maintain a year-round supply of agri-raw materials for processing factories. Keeping these requirements in mind, the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 was passed to regulate the supply of certain foodstuffs only under extraordinary circumstances. To prevent the black marketers from taking the advantage of this well-intended law, a rider could have been added setting limits on the storage of

directly-consumable products.

The three Farm Acts intended to break the logjam in the agriculture sector. How they hamper farmers' interest has not been explained by any of the agitating farmers' organisations or their political sympathisers. The argument that these laws would result in loss of state revenue is absurd as the state cannot earn revenue by keeping farmers in perpetual poverty.

If the farm laws are to be repealed, it would sound a death knell for the efforts to improve the agriculture sector, for no political party in government would ever dare carry out agricultural reforms again, much like how the family planning program has been forgotten in the country.

The cost of guaranteed MSP

Apart from the repeal of farm laws, farmers are demanding guaranteed minimum support prices, which have no legal backing. A look at what the implications would be if the govt did provide the guarantee

MSP VALUE OF PRODUCTION

| CROP | VALUE |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Paddy | 3,20,821.57 |
| Wheat | 2,07,110.75 |
| Sugarcane | 97,817.50 |
| Cotton | 95,117.65 |
| Chana | 55,331.25 |
| Groundnut | 51,388.64 |
| Maize | 50,406.40 |
| Soyabean | 41,607.65 |
| Mustard | 40,338.30 |
| Arhar | 22,214.00 |
| Bajra | 20,560.00 |
| Moong | 17,343.00 |
| Jowar | 12,061.50 |
| Urad | 11,628.00 |
| Copra | 7,140.75 |
| Jute | 6,691.93 |
| Masur | 5,664.00 |
| Ragi | 5,481.00 |
| Sesamum | 4,863.75 |
| Barley | 2,577.25 |
| Sunflower | 1,226.05 |
| Nigerseed | 249.48 |
| Safflower | 156.45 |
| TOTAL Value | 10,77,796.88 |

(Prices in Rs crore; for 2019-20)

Farmer unions protesting on Delhi's borders are raising two fundamental demands. The first is for repealing the three agricultural reform laws enacted by the Centre. The second is to provide a legal guarantee for the minimum support prices (MSPs) that the Centre declares for various crops every year. Currently, there is no statutory backing for these prices or any law mandating their implementation. What are the implications of the government were to accept the farmer unions' demand?

How can MSP be made legally binding?

There are two ways it can be done. The first is to force private buyers to pay it. In this case, no crop can be purchased below the MSP, which would also act as the floor price for bidding in mandi auctions. There's already a precedent: In sugarcane, mills are required by law to pay growers the Centre's "fair and remunerative price" - Uttar Pradesh and Haryana fix even higher "state advised prices" - within 14 days of supply. In no other crop is the compulsion to pay the government-announced MSP thrust on the private trade/industry.

The second route is, of course, the government itself buying the entire crop that farmers offer at the MSP. In 2019-20, government agencies - Food Corporation of India, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India, and Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) - procured 77.34 million tonnes (mt) of paddy and 38.99 mt of wheat, worth roughly Rs 140,834 crore and Rs 75,060 crore at their

respective MSPs. Further, they purchased 105.23 lakh bales of cotton (MSP value of Rs 28,202 crore in terms of raw un-ginned kapas), 2.1 mt of chana or chickpea (Rs 10,238 crore), 0.7 mt each of arhar or pigeon-pea (Rs 4,176 crore), and groundnut (Rs 3,614 crore), 0.8 mt of rapeseed-mustard (Rs 3,540 crore) and 0.1 mt of moong or green gram (Rs 987 crore).

But how much of farmers' produce can the government buy at MSP? The MSP is now applicable on 23 farm commodities: 7 kinds of cereal (paddy, wheat, maize, bajra, jowar, ragi, and barley), 5 pulses (chana, arhar, moong, urad, and Masur), 7 oilseeds (groundnut, soybean, rapeseed-mustard, sesamum, sunflower, nigerseed, and safflower) and 4 commercial crops (sugarcane, cotton, copra and raw jute).

MSP value of production.

The chart shows that the MSP value of the total production of the 23 crops worked out to around Rs 10.78 lakh crore in 2019-20. Not all this produce, however, is marketed. Farmers retain part of it for self-consumption, the seed for the next season's sowing, and also for feeding their animals. The marketed surplus ratio for different crops is estimated to range from below 50% for ragi and 65-70% for bajra (pearlmillet) and jawar (sorghum) to 75% for wheat, 80% for paddy, 85% for sugarcane, 90% for most pulses, and 95%-plus for cotton, jute, soybean, and sunflower. Taking an average of 75% would yield several just over Rs 8 lakh crore. This is the MSP value of production that is the marketable surplus - which

farmers sell.

So, is this the money that the government would have to spend to ensure farmers get MSP?

Not really. To start with, one must exclude sugarcane from the calculations. The onus for paying cane MSP, as earlier pointed out, lies on sugar mills and not the government. Secondly, the government is already procuring many crops - especially paddy, wheat, cotton, and also pulses and oilseeds. The combined MSP value of the procured quantities of these would have exceeded Rs 2.7 lakh crore in 2019-20.

Thirdly, government agencies don't have to buy every single grain that comes to the market. Mopping up even a quarter or third of the market arrivals is usually enough to lift prices. Take cotton, where CCI has so far procured 87.85 lakh bales out of the current year's (October 2020-September 2021) projected crop of 358.50 lakh bales. The state-owned corporation's intervention has led to open market prices crossing the MSP for kapas in most mandis, thereby not necessitating further official purchases.

Fourth, the crop bought on government account also gets sold. While such sales in wheat and paddy - which are distributed at super-subsidised rates under the National Food Security Act - entail heavy losses, those are far less in the remaining MSP crops. The revenues realised from sales would partly offset the expenditures from MSP procurement.

All in all, the additional fiscal outgo, from the government undertaking the maximum required procurement for

guaranteeing MSP to farmers, may not be more than Rs 1-1.5 lakh crore per year.

That isn't much, right?

The government undertaking to buy at MSP is better than forcing private players. If the record of sugar mills - their inability to pay farmers on time despite statutory provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 issued under the Essential Commodities Act - is any guide, no trader or processor will purchase crops at prices beyond what the market supply-demand dynamics permit. Their going out of business would ultimately hurt farmers most.

However, even assured government MSP-based procurement is fraught with problems. The coverage of MSPs today does not extend to fruits, vegetables, and livestock products that together have a 45% share in the gross value of the output of India's agriculture, forestry, and fishing sector. The value of milk and milk products alone is more than that of all cereals and pulses combined.

Extending MSP to all farm produce and guaranteeing it through law is hugely challenging, fiscally and otherwise. It also explains why economists increasingly are in favor of guaranteeing minimum "incomes" rather than "prices" to farmers. One way to achieve that is via direct cash transfers either on a flat per-acre (as in the Telangana government's RythuBandhu scheme) or per-farm household (the Centre's Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi) basis.

Best Wishes from ::

RADHE RADHE

IMF projects an 11.5% growth rate for India in 2021, the only economy to record double-digit growth



In its latest update, the IMF projected an 11.5 percent growth rate for India in 2021. This makes India the only major economy in the world to register double-digit growth in 2021, it said.

Washington : The IMF on Tuesday projected an impressive 11.5 percent growth rate for India in 2021, making the country the only major economy in the world to register double-digit growth this year amidst the coronavirus pandemic.

The International Monetary Fund's growth projections for India in its latest World Economic Outlook Update released on Tuesday reflected a strong rebound in the economy, which is estimated to have contracted by eight percent in 2020 due to the pandemic.

In its latest update, the IMF projected an 11.5

percent growth rate for India in 2021. This makes India the only major economy in the world to register double-digit growth in 2021, it said.

China is next with 8.1 percent growth in 2021 followed by Spain (5.9 percent) and France (5.5 percent).

Revising its figures, the IMF said that in 2020, the Indian economy is estimated to have contracted by eight percent. China is the only major country that registered a positive growth rate of 2.3 percent in 2020. India's economy, the IMF said, is projected to grow by 6.8 percent in 2022 and that

of China by 5.6 percent.

With the latest projections, India regains the tag of the fastest developing economies in the world.

Early this month, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva had said that India "actually has taken very decisive action, very decisive steps to deal with the pandemic and to deal with the economic consequences of it".

India, she said, went for a very dramatic lockdown for a country of this size of the population with people clustered so closely together. And then India

moved to more targeted restrictions and lockdowns.

"What we see is that transition, combined with policy support, seems to have worked well. Why? Because if you look at mobility indicators, we are almost where we were before COVID in India, meaning that economic activities have been revitalized quite significantly," the IMF chief said.

Commending the steps being taken by the Indian government on the monetary policy and the fiscal policy side, she said it is slightly above the average for emerging markets.

"Emerging markets on average have provided six percent of GDP. In India, this is slightly above that. Good for India is that there is still space to do more," she said, adding that she is impressed by the appetite for structural reforms that India is retaining.



During 72nd Republic Day 2021 Goura Mohapatra felicitated by Hotel Excellency, Bhubaneswar for media pravari of Smart city.

Dr. Ramchandra Behera to get the prestigious "Atibadi Jagannath Das Samman" for 2020

Kendrapada : (Rajesh Kumar Behera) Dr. Ramchandra Behera, an eminent short story writer of Odia literature, a retired professor of English, a good educationalist of Kendrapada district is going to be conferred with the prestigious "Atibadi Jagannath Das Samman" for 2020. Notably, Atibadi Jagannath Das Samman, which is awarded by the Odisha Sahitya Academy to the Odia litterateurs for their lifetime contribution to enrich the Odia literature. Several poets, story writers, and intellectuals in and outside the district came to the house of Dr. Ramchandra Behera to congratulate him for being nominated by the Odisha Sahitya Akademi. "I was surprised to hear as I never expected to get any award. For me, it gives immense pleasure and self-satisfaction. Dr. Behera was born in the year 1945 in a small village in Barahatipura of Keonjhar district. He does not belong to a well-to-do family, a simple and common man. When he was a student of class 8th, he developed an interest in literature, and from that day onwards he never turned back, he went on writing, said Dr. Behera. Every creation of his literary works reflects the theme of human sufferings by Time, Nature, and surroundings and finally gives an optimistic note in the end in his writings. He always tries to show how a person always faces different situations on their way with utmost courage and dedication. All his characters differentiate from one another but among them, every character speaks about the volume of universal nature and eternal appeal. Dr. Ramachandra Behera has got several awards in the past years for his literary works from various cultural organizations in the state. He also bagged Kendriya Sahitya Academy Award 2005 for his excellent creation "Gopapur", a series of short stories.

He too bagged "Chandrabhaga Samman" in the year 1997, "Jhankar" in 1981, "Bishuva Sahitya Samman" in the year 1999, "Sarala Sahitya Award" in the year 1991, "Odisha Sahitya Academy Samman" in the year 1993, "Praffula Pathagara Award, Kolkota" in the year 2000 and he also bagged the award in the year 2000 from Utkal Sahitya Samaj. Dr. Behera has got recognition for his literary works not only in the Odia language but also one of his short story "Snake Charmer", written in English, was also published by "One Story" a reputed and prestigious American publication house.



Odisha To Auction 11 Mining Blocks During 2021-22

Bhubaneswar : Odisha government has lined up as many as 11 mineral blocks for bidding during the 2021-22 financial year.

According to government sources, the auction process will be completed by March this year.

Of the 11 mines to go under the hammer, there are iron ore blocks, manganese blocks, graphite blocks, limestone blocks, and dolomite blocks.

However, State mines



director Debidutta Biswal informed that the auction documents of the mining blocks have been sent to the government for minor amendments.

"The bidding process will start immediately as

soon as the documents are amended," said Biswal.

Odisha government had set a target to auction 24 mineral blocks during the 2020-21 financial year and the

process was almost completed. However, mining leases (ML) for only 19 mineral blocks could be executed.

"As the mining lease agreement failed to be inked within the stipulated time, Jindal Steel & Power Limited (JSPL) and Shyam Steel Industries Ltd had to lose Guali iron ore and Jilling-Langalota Iron ore mines respectively. Both the mines have been allotted to Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) for 10 years," added Biswal.

Tractor Factor



Sirish C Mohanty

New Delhi : The terrifying scenes by the terrorists in the disguise of farmers take our memory back to 1747 and 1857. In 1747 Nadir Shah invaded the Redfort and plundered its precious jewels. Again in 1857, after the failure of the first war of independence, the British soldiers occupied the Redfort. The INA trials, also known as the Red Fort Trials, refer to the court-martial of several officers of the Indian National Army. The first was held between November and December 1945 at the Red Fort. On 15 August 1947, the first prime minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru raised the Indian national flag above the Lahore Gate. We continue that practice and customs until today. The ugly incidents of the republic day of 2021 add another black chapter to our national heritage.

What are the reasons and who is accountable for the capitulation of the government before the terrorists who virtually occupied, and vandalized the Redfort complex? If honestly perused, the three pillars of democracy - executive, legislature, and the judiciary are responsible and ac-

countable. The unfortunate incidents at the Redfort complex show; as if the three pillars of our democracy are crumbling, and falling apart. In other words, it sums up that there was a total failure for the country to mature for over 70 years of independence. More importantly, it is time to also ask if the three pillars - legislature, executive, and judiciary to function as the Constitution would have wanted them to. It wanted them to work cohesively, but also wanted each of these three wings to function independently, with clearly defined separation of powers.

Judiciary

This was the pillar that was supposed to be the strongest. But what we instead have are judges, often trying to self-promote through their spoken words than written judgments, or coming under the stranglehold of the government, or trying to take over the role not assigned to them under the Constitution. Our judges seem to have all the time in the world to weigh in on the issues that are best left to either the legislature or the executive, but not for upholding the rights of the citizens.

The SC's holding of the three farm laws is the best example of it. The Apex court without evaluating the constitutional validity of the laws just infringes into the arena of the legislature and that enhanced the simmering anger of the farmers and opened avenues for the unwanted el-



ements to step in for the explosion on the republic day.

Executive

The job of the executive was to ensure proper implementation of the laws passed by the legislature and also govern. However, with the executive now looking more like an extension of the dysfunctional legislature than a separate wing, the edifice is crumbling. The famed steel frame - as Sardar Patel called the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) - is now more structure that is falling apart. Bureaucrats, who were supposed to uphold the rule of the law and keep the politicians in check, have now joined hands with them, refusing to stand up to the questionable demands of their political masters. Consequently, the police have gone rogue on several occasions, are happy being hand-maidens of whichever party is in power. The lure of post-retirement jobs often drives

the in-the-job decisions of our bureaucrats.

The permissions granted by Delhi Police for the tractor rally remains a major constituent of anarchy the agitating farmers have dyed-in-the-wool. Delhi has been under the grip of pollution for a long time. To restrict the movement of vehicular traffic, the system of odd-even numbered vehicles have been introduced time and again. Under such deteriorating air quality how the Police commissioner allowed a large number of highly polluting tractors to have a free run in the national capital?


Legislature

The most important, although not the most powerful, a wing under the Constitution has unfortunately degenerated into an arena where politicians work more to safeguard the interests of their parties than for those who elect them. Debate, the oxygen of any functioning democratic institution, is something that

we seldom witness in our Parliament and the state legislatures. Instead, we have monologues guided mostly by the party and, sometimes, personal line. Law-making has taken a back seat and MPs don't show much interest in knowing how a law would affect us. Our parliamentary standing committees also work on party lines, with their reports seldom taken seriously even by the department attached to them. Sights of our unruly MPs and MLAs having a go at each other, using mikes, chairs, and slippers, don't make for a pretty picture. It also encourages the ultras to rampant.

The Union government believes that the opposition to its policies is not principled. But it shouldn't have underestimated social forces. The standoff between the Centre and farm groups has been intensifying for the last 60 days. Notwithstanding the merits and demer-

its of the farm laws, there is an emerging consensus that the Centre did not engage in enough consultation with states and farm groups, underestimated the mobilisation capacity of these unions, and adopted a unilateral approach. It was this unilateral approach and the accompanying communication gap that has resulted in the prevailing precarious situation, in which both sides believe that blinking first is a costly strategy. The most important factor of violence is that the BJP in the Modi-Shah era is missing interlocutors. After the demise of Arun Jaitley and Sushma Swaraj, there are hardly any leaders, except Rajnath Singh and Nitin Gadkari. Also, there are a handful of Opposition leaders who could warm up to Modi and Shah. All of this has compounded the BJP's inability to hear the other side.

The writeup is inconclusive if the role of the fourth pillar 'Media' is not discussed. Though the pillar is intended to be independent, with the deterioration of the other three pillars the Media too started crumbling. It is sharply divided into party lines, and the vested interests have snatched the wheel hastening to nowhere, consequently, social media emerges fast to fill the void of lost credibility. Had the Media been independent, Delhi like thunderstruck would not have taken place. 

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Editor : Sirish C Mohanty

Our correspondents at

New Delhi, Rourkela, Jaipur, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Bolangir, Baripada, Dhenkanal, Bhadrak, Talcher, Nayagarh, Keonjhar, Joda, Sundargarh, Rayagada, Nabarangapur, Jeypore, Phulbani, Nuapara

Editorial office

LIG 491, Neeladri Vihar 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