

Assembly Drowns in Din, Slippers and Paper Missiles Hurlled at Speaker



Bhubaneswar : Slippers, microphones, and documents crumpled up into balls flew like missiles in the Odisha assembly on Saturday,

as BJP members raged over the passage of a bill without discussion, provoking the Speaker to suspend three of them and order their immediate exit from the chamber. BJP members were up in arms against Speaker S N Patro after the House passed the Odisha Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill within minutes without any discussion. Congress MLAs, too, were livid as the chair had turned down their notice for a discussion on alleged corruption in mining activities. Hardly had the Bill been passed in the pre-lunch (Page-4)

Central employment scheme figures falsified in Odisha; CAG seeks probe

Bhubaneswar : The CAG audited the scheme for the period between 2014 and 2019 and found that 14% of training and 77% placements claimed by Odisha were fabricated. Odisha has been faulted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) for

failing to achieve targeted employment of youth and for inflated expenditure under the DeenDayalUpadhyayGrameen Kaushal Yojana (DDUGKY), run by the ministry of rural development. CAG also underlined massive irregularities in the implementation (Page-5)



DADLS-85



ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଦିବସ ଅବସରରେ
ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳଙ୍କ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା



ପବିତ୍ର ଉତ୍କଳ ଦିବସ - ୨୦୨୧ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି । ଓଡ଼ିଶାକୁ ଏକ ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ଓ ବିକଶିତ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ପରିଣତ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଆଜିର ଦିବସରେ ସମସ୍ତେ ସଂକଳ୍ପବଦ୍ଧ ହେବାକୁ ମୁଁ ଆହ୍ୱାନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।

କରୋନା ବିରୋଧରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଲଢ଼େଇ ବେଶ୍ ଉତ୍ସାହପୂର୍ବକ । ଆସନ୍ତୁ, ନିର୍ଣ୍ଣାୟକ ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଏହାକୁ ଜାରି ରଖିବା ।

ଶଶିଶ୍ୟାମାଳି
(ଗଣେଶୀ ଲାଲ)

OIPR- 15001/13/0137/2021

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ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଦିବସ ପାଳନ ଅବସରରେ
ବାର୍ତ୍ତା



ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଦିବସ - ୨୦୨୧ ପାଳନର ଶୁଭ ଅବସରରେ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀ ସମସ୍ତେ ଭାଇ ଓ ଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି । ଆମର ପୂର୍ବସୂରୀ, ଯେଉଁମାନଙ୍କ ଅମୂଲ୍ୟ ଅବଦାନ ବଳରେ ଭାଷାଭିତ୍ତିକ ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର ଓଡ଼ିଶା ପ୍ରଦେଶ ଗଠନ ହୋଇଥିଲା, ଏହି ଅବସରରେ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତି ମୋର ଗଭୀର ଶ୍ରଦ୍ଧାଞ୍ଜଳି ଅର୍ପଣ କରୁଛି ।

ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଭାଷା, ସାହିତ୍ୟ, ସଂସ୍କୃତି ଓ ପରମ୍ପରାର ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର ପରିଚିତି ରହିଛି । ଏସବୁର ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ, ସମୃଦ୍ଧି ଏବଂ ପ୍ରଚାର ପ୍ରସାର ପାଇଁ ଆସନ୍ତୁ, ଆଜିର ଏହି ମହାର୍ଦ୍ଦ ଦିବସରେ ସଂକଳ୍ପ ନେବା ।

ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଜାରି କରାଯାଇଥିବା କରୋନା କଟକଣା କଡ଼ାକଡ଼ି ଭାବେ ପାଳନ କରନ୍ତୁ । ନିଜକୁ ଏବଂ ନିଜ ପରିବାରକୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷିତ ରଖନ୍ତୁ ।

(ରଘୁନନ୍ଦନ ଦାସ)

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ଜଳସଂପଦ, ସୂଚନା ଓ ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

DADLS-85



ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଦିବସ-୨୦୨୧ ଅବସରରେ
ମାନ୍ୟବର ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା



ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଦିବସ ଅବସରରେ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କୁ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି । ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର ଓଡ଼ିଶା ପ୍ରଦେଶ ଗଠନର ସ୍ୱପ୍ନକୁ ସାକାର କରିଥିବା ମହାପୁରୁଷମାନଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତି ଏହି ଅବସରରେ ମୋର ଶ୍ରଦ୍ଧାଞ୍ଜଳି ଅର୍ପଣ କରୁଛି ।

ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଭାଷା, ସାହିତ୍ୟ ଓ ସଂସ୍କୃତିର ଗୌରବ ବୃଦ୍ଧି କରିଥିବା ଆମର ବରପୁତ୍ରମାନଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତି ମଧ୍ୟ ମୋର ସମ୍ମାନ ଜଣାଉଛି । ଆଜି ବିଭିନ୍ନ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସାରା ଦେଶ ପାଇଁ ପଥ ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶକ ହୋଇପାରିଛି । ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଗୌରବକୁ ନୂତନ ଶିଖରରେ ପହଞ୍ଚାଇବା ପାଇଁ ଆସନ୍ତୁ, ଆଜିର ଏହି ପବିତ୍ର ଦିବସରେ ଶପଥ ନେଇ କାମ କରିବା ।

ଏହି ଅବସରରେ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଅନୁରୋଧ କରୋନା ସଂକ୍ରମଣ ରୋକିବା ପାଇଁ କୋଭିଡ ନିୟମାବଳୀ କଡ଼ାକଡ଼ି ଭାବରେ ପାଳନ କରନ୍ତୁ । 'ଘରେ ରୁହନ୍ତୁ', ନିଜକୁ, ନିଜ ପରିବାରକୁ ଏବଂ ବନ୍ଧୁ ପରିଜନଙ୍କୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷିତ ରଖନ୍ତୁ ।

ବନ୍ଦେ ଉତ୍କଳ ଜନନୀ

ନବୀନ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ରନାୟକ

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(ନବୀନ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ)

Chaiti Parba Restrictions At Tarini, Majhighariani Temples Over Covid Surge



Keonjhar/ Rayagada : Amid a rapid resurgence in cases of Covid-19, tight restrictions have been issued for the ChaitiParba at several Shakti shrines in the State.

Keonjhar district administration has banned public darshan at Goddess Tarini Temple in Ghatgaon on April 13 and 14 on ChaitiParba and Pana Sankranti. The decision has

been taken by the administration anticipating heavy footfall at the shrine on the festive occasion.

The administration, which issued some fresh guidelines for the famous ChaitiParba of the Goddess, stated that the devotees would be allowed darshan from April 9 to 12 and after April 14.

"Public darshan on April 13 (Tuesday) and 14

(Pana Sankranti) will remain restricted," an official order read. However, all rituals will be performed with the servitors in strict adherence to Covid protocols, it said.

Devotees will not be allowed to offer 'Bhoga' at the famous site. All the shops selling puja materials for offerings will remain closed during 'ChaitiParba'.

Similarly, the distribution of 'Panaa' and Anna Prasad has been restricted this year. All the rituals and special Puja of the Goddess will be telecast on social media, the administration stated through a statement.

These apart, no cultural programs will be allowed to perform on the occasion.

On the other hand, the

Rayagada district administration has banned the public darshan of MaaMajhighariani from April 23 to 27 during ChaitiParba.

Devotees will be barred from darshan three days (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Sunday) in a week till further order, the administration stated.

However, all rituals inside the shrine will be performed as usual with strict adherence to covid guidelines.

Notably, ChaitiParba is a famous festival of Goddess Tarini in Keonjhar and MajhiGhariani in Rayagada. The festival attracts lakhs of devotees from across the districts and outside.

Odisha Govt spent Rs 6,690 crore under KALIA Yojana



Bhubaneswar : The State Government has spent a whopping Rs 6,690 crore under the Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) Yojana during the last three years, informed Agriculture Minister ArunSahoo in the State Assembly on Wednesday. Replying to a question by BJP MLA NauriNayak, Sahoo said that in 2018-19 fiscal, a sum of Rs 2175.66 crore was spent towards

the financial assistance of 51.05 lakh marginal and landless farmers. In 2019-20, the beneficiaries received Rs 3,243.01 crore under the scheme. Families of as many as 53.55 lakh marginal and landless farmers have been provided with financial assistance under KALIA Yojana during the 2020-21 financial year. Till February this year, Rs 1,272.19 crore has been spent, Sahoo added.

Naveen Seeks Rs 300 Crore For Covid Management



Bhubaneswar : Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to release Rs 300 crore to the State for the management of upsurge in Covid-19 pandemic. Participating in the meeting with PM Modi over the Covid situation along with other chief ministers, Patnaik said, "During 2020-21, Odisha had requested for Rs 400 crores under Emergency Covid Response Plan (ECRP), but we received only Rs 146 crores. Because of the new wave of Covid, it is

requested that at least Rs 300 crores be released to Odisha for 2021-22 for Covid Management." The CM thanked the Union Government for allowing the States, under SDRF guidelines, to spend up to 50% of the annual allocation for Covid-related activities during 2020-21 and urged that the same guidelines may be continued for the year 2021-22 as well. He has also raised the issue about the supply of vaccines and requested the Centre to ensure the advance release of at least 10 days' stock of the vaccines for Odisha.

"Odisha has been doing well in vaccination program with among the lowest wastage in the country and efficient system of administering the vaccine to eligible persons," the CM said. "We have not been able to ramp up the vaccination due to supply issues. We are currently able to vaccinate 2.5 lakh persons per day and have the capability to increase further. We request that at least 10 days' stock of the vaccines is ensured for Odisha," he added. He further said the State has reactivated its system to tackle the new rise in the Covid cases especially in districts bordering some states with a high incidence of the virus. "The entire country has to put up a united front against this pandemic and we will continue to provide support in this fight," he added.

OSA elects Office Bearers



Chicago (Kishore Dwibedi) : Chicago-based I.T. Professional Gyana Patnaik is the new President of Odisha Society of America (OSA). Shri Patnaik defeated his nearest rival SauryaMohapatra from New England in a keenly contested online election. Akshaya Ray from Michigan got elected to the OSA's Vice President Post defeating Sunil Sabat from California. Tennessee-based PramodMahapatra will be

the Secretary of OSA. Shri Mahapatra defeated Smaranika Rout from Southwest. PracheeBehera of Southwest got elected as the Treasurer of OSA defeating Anjana Choudhury from Washington D.C.

The New executives of OSA will serve in their respective offices for a two years term commencing from 2021 till 2023. They will take overcharge in the first week of July 2021, during the ensuing Annual

Convention of OSA. Established in 1959 Odisha Society of America has the distinction of becoming the oldest and largest Non-resident Odias' Organisation in America and currently having Nineteen State Chapters including Canada. Extending hearty congratulations to the newly elected office-bearers of OSA, World Odisha Society Chairman Kishore Dwibedi expresses hope that OSA will continue to play a vital role for the overall wellbeing of Odias Diaspora in the USA and shall renew its proactive cooperation about the development of mother state Odisha under the able and dynamic leadership of newly elected President Gyana Patnaik.

None locks itself down during the war, India must have a protocol to be on job



Prof. Shivaji Sarkar

Former HOD in English journalism in IIMC, Delhi

India has to learn to be in working mode and not shut or lock itself down repeatedly. After the loss of productivity, jobs, and severe thaw in the economy for a year, it should have evolved a protocol to restore normal working conditions.

The hits come at a time when International Monetary Fund just predicts a possible 12.5 growth in 2022 and forecast India as the fastest-growing economy. The second erratic closure may throw a spanner.

During the last 100 years, it has suffered many epidemics but never closed down the establishments. During the difficult times, all individuals and organisations came together to strive and restore normalcy. In the mid-1990s Surat plague was also combated like that and the

dirty city reemerged as a beautiful clean destination but it did not shut its business activities.

Even after nine months after the unlocking process, most industries, including education, tourism, travel, and even government offices have not gone back to the usual mode. Direct and indirect job losses are hitting not only the economy but social and family lives. The minus 23.9 percent fall in GDP during the lockdown and still speculations by national and international organisations about the growth; another bout of widespread closures and uncertainties are hitting all activities. The nation remembers that nationwide sudden lockdown on March 25, 2020, at a four-hour notice led to 10.9 million (1.1 crores) jobs being lost and termed the

worst-ever year for the job market. It does not include the trek back of at least another 10 crore migrant workers, of a supposed 18 crore, to their homes impacting MNREGA expenses.

There is no centralized data available for how many jobs were created during July-December 2020, a volatile period. In total, HR consultants estimate one million (ten lakh) jobs were added during this period. Now many of these jobs, most in irregular employment, are threatened to be lost again.

Many companies like Parle Products, Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra, Ceat, and Axis Bank have largely gone back to WFH format for corporate employees. Many others like ITC, Samsung, RPG, Dabur, Haier, Vedanta, Vivo, and Panasonic have issued new guidelines to the workers. Aditya Birla group Global HR director S Misra says that office attendance may come down to 30 percent against the present 50 to 60 percent. This reduces companies' productivity or not it affects travel and transport, restaurant, entertainment, and allied sectors. According to CMIE, since January 2021 about 12 million additional people get jobs, the highest since March 2020. But the April lockdowns can make many of them lose it again.

Retailers fear \$ 5 billion loss in Maharashtra alone due to new lockdown

The stock market is again rocked with both BSE and Nifty slipping every day, banks fretting over another spike in defaults and credit quality, and the manufacturing activity at its slowest pace in seven months restricted by covid19 panic. The curbs imposed almost all over the country and the beginning of the second wave of the exodus of migrant workers back to their home could dent manufacturing, core sector activities, supply of goods & services, and the overall demand.

The rating agency ICRA says that bad loans of Indian banks could rise to 9.7 percent in 2021 and 10.2 percent in 2022 from gross bad loans at 9.6 percent in March 2020 and 8.3 percent in December 2020. The December decline is due to writing off of Rs 1.1 lakh crore of such loans.

A nation trying to recover is being hit hard again.

Retailers Association of India (RAI) estimates retailers will lose about \$ 5 billion in Maharashtra alone in April. It says that Maharashtra alone accounts for 10 percent of \$ 85 billion of India's annual retail sales. It says that sales of automobiles, consumer durables, smartphones, and apparel, which have just started recovering, will be adversely affected. Even partial lockdowns in different parts hit sales.

Kirana stores across the country report that there are no major increases or customer walk-ins.

Work from home occasionally for maximum worker utilization cannot be a permanent mode. The online mode in a poor country like India with critical cash flow in rural areas increases hardship and is devastating the education sector, largely private as income-deprived parents are unable to pay the tuition fees leading to the closure of several lakh budget schools in Bihar, UP, Rajasthan, MP and many other states. They can neither afford increasing data costs nor they have connectivity nor even smartphones or laptops. The new generation feels not only deprived but also discriminated leading to a severe social divide. In Bihar, the budget school owners are up in arms against the irrational lockdowns.

The situation remains alarming as the factory activity grew at its weakest in March 2021. The Nikkei manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) declined to a seven-month low of 55.4 from 57.5 in February's on-demand squeeze. A Reuters survey says that Asia's third-largest economy despite some recent improvements is heading for the biggest risk to the outlook. The rupee is already taking a hit

for national, international situations as well as severe price hikes and income squeeze.

The country cannot also relax fiscal deficit norms as suggested by Home Minister Amit Shah. Rising government debts may have many dangers.

The second-largest populated country that can grow fast has to change its policies. It cannot force repeated closures of social and economic activities for an unconfirmed fear of disease. Some health sector people link the new supposed surge to intense vaccination. Even the efficacy of the vaccine produced in a jiffy is being questioned as the production and testing process is yet to be made public. It is also said that the pneumonia vaccine has yet not been found even after over 100 years of modern medicine. The concerns may remain though the fears are more speculative.

However, it calls for the nation and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to reconsider whether now and then the country should impose jittery closures. A protocol must be developed so that it continues its work during wartime with the least of disruption during any future epidemic. Diseases surge and go but a nation has to sprint to success without closing down for a day.

University Rankings : NIT Rourkela Ranked First Among NITs

Rourkela : The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Rourkela has been ranked between 201-250 in the Emerging Economies University Rankings. NIT Rourkela bagged the top position among all the NITs of the country. Overall, 606 universities from 48 countries were listed for the ranking in 2021, according to results published by the Times Higher Education. NIT Rourkela is placed at 16th position in Engineering and 32nd position in Overall categories in NIRF Ranking 2020. As per NIRF 2020 data, NIT Rourkela has the highest research scores (RPC) among all NITs. At the International level, NITR is ranked at 250 by QS Asian University Ranking 2021 (Top position among all NITs). The Times Higher



Education World University Rankings is the global performance table that judges research-intensive universities across the world. The rankings use 13 indicators clubbed into five categories: Teaching (the learning environment); Research (volume, income, and reputation); Citations (research influence); International outlook (staff, students, and research); and Industry income (knowledge transfer). The Director of the Institute, Prof. Animesh Biswas while praising the efforts of the whole NITR community for this achievement said he was very happy that NIT Rourkela came first among all NITs in Times Higher Education Emerging Economies University Rankings 2021. This was the outcome of collaborative efforts from all the stakeholders of the institute such as students, faculties and staff. "We will try hard to climb up the ladder in the future," he added.

From Page-1

Assembly Drowns...

session when opposition BJP members were on their feet, shouting at the Speaker. Soon they began flinging slippers, microphones, and paper balls that shot over the opposition benches and landed near the Speaker's podium, plunging the assembly into chaos and leading to an adjournment till lunch. When the House reassembled, Speaker Patro announced the suspension of BJP deputy leader in House B. C. Sethi, Mohan Majhi, the party's whip, and MLA J N Mishra for the duration of the entire session and asked them to leave immediately. The BJP has 22 MLAs in the 147-member Odisha assembly. The action followed after Patro, Parliamentary Affairs Minister B K Arukha, Government Chief Whip Pramila Mallick, Leader of the Opposition P K Naik and Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Narasingha Mishra watched a video of the incident. The errant MLAs, however, remained defiant and staged a sit-in near Mahatma Gandhi's statue on the premises. "Our members were suspended without allowing them to present their point of view. Our dharna will continue till tomorrow," Leader of the Opposition P K Naik of the BJP told reporters. Suspended MLAs Mishra and Majhi said they had no regrets for hurling slippers and other objects at the Speaker's podium. "We were not allowed to speak. We have done no wrong. The objects thrown by MLAs did not land even close to the Speaker's podium," Majhi said. Mishra accused the Speaker of working in a partisan manner "like a BJD member", and blamed the chair for the fracas. "I don't care about the suspension. I have been working for the people and will continue to do so. This suspension cannot stop me from performing my duty as people's representative," he declared nonchalantly. Government's Chief Whip Pramila Mallick alleged the errant BJP MLAs acted the way they did to "remain in news". Congress Legislature Party leader Narsingha Mishra dubbed the incident as unfortunate but voiced displeasure over the Speaker rejecting his party's notice for a discussion on illegal mining activities. "It is also unfortunate that bills are passed in the House without discussion. Bills should not be passed when the House is not in order," he said. Sethi said the BJP members were protesting against the Speaker as he did not allow Leader of the Opposition P K Naik to speak. "We also wanted a discussion on illegal mining activities and farmers issues. But the Speaker did not allow it. Is it democratic?" he said.

RSP Ends FY'21 on a Record-Breaking Mode

Rourkela : SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) ended the Financial Year 2020-21 on a record-breaking mode by surpassing the previous best figures on all major fronts despite the adverse impact of the COVID 19 pandemic. The Steel Plant achieved the ABP targets for the 1st time since its inception to create history.

RSP produced 3573000 tonnes of Hot Metal in FY'21 to achieve a growth of 5.7% over the previous fiscal. Similarly, the Steel Plant produced 3207284 tonnes of Saleable Steel compared to 3205318 tonnes achieved in FY'20. The Raw Materials Handling Plant (RMHP) despatched 10565951 tonnes of the base mix (excluding sinter) to record the best fiscal performance

since inception in FY'21. Best-March performance was registered in the field of production of Hot Metal (4,00,666Tonnes). Blast Furnace-5 'Durga' contributing its best-March production figure of 2,45,184tonnes. The Steel Melting Shops produced 3,60,606 tonnes of crude steel notching up its Best March performance thereby improving the earlier best figures of 325553 tonnes achieved in 2019. The Mills of the Steel Plant excelled in tandem to clock Best-March production of Saleable Steel at 342230 tonnes. The earlier best being 303175 tonnes achieved in 2019. The State-of-the-art New Plate Mill rolled out 85700 tonnes of plates to clock its best month performance. Similarly, RSP dispatched



130000 tonnes of HR Coils to register the Best Despatch achieved for any March. Notably, RSP ended the financial year on a bang with a string of marvelous performances by individual departments in March'2021. It is worth mentioning here that the Steel Plant made 6 single-day records on 27th March 2021. It is noteworthy that the 1st quarter of FY'21 was largely affected by the grim impacts

of the COVID 19 pandemic. The Steel Plant led by Mr. Dipak Chattaraj, CEO adopted multipronged strategies to safeguard its employees and the residents, also ensuring the scaled-down operation of the thermo-sensitive units. The undeterred efforts resulted in achieving the astounding performance of the plant in the remaining quarters of the financial year.

Central team visits Sundargarh MCH to review infra for 2nd AIIMS in Odisha



Sundargarh: The prospect of Odisha having a second AIIMS has brightened up as a Central team visited the Sundargarh Medical College and Hospital on 3rd April.

The 9 member team consisting of Central and State Government representatives reviewed the infrastructure facilities at the newly built hospital building constructed by NTPC. The technical team

was led by Bhubaneswar AIIMS Director Dr.Gitanjali Batmanabane. Other members were Delhi AIIMS Medical Superintendent Dr. D.K.Sharma, Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry's Medical Education Director Dr. Sanjay Rai, Director Dr. Narender Kumar Ojha, Senior Officer Rajiv Kanaujia, State Government's Health Education, Training Directorate Dr. C.V.K.

Mohanty, BrajaKishor Das, Prakash Chandra Mohanty, Bhubaneswar AIIMSDy. Director P.K.Ray.

The technical team visited Sundargarh Medical College and Hospital to review the available infrastructure. After the assessment, the team will submit its report to the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for setting up AIIMS at the Sundargarh Medical College and Hospital.

Odisha government has proposed the Centre to set up an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in tribal-dominated Sundargarh district. After a review of upcoming healthcare facilities in the State, in November last year the then Chief Secretary AsitTripathy has

requested Union Secretary of Health and Family Welfare Rajesh Bhushan to consider Odisha's demand for the second AIIMS at Sankara in the district where the NTPC has already developed infrastructure.

Recently State Health Minister Naba Kishore Das also wrote a letter to the Union Ministry for a second AIIMS at the Sundargarh Medical College and Hospital. Responding to the requests from the state five-member central medical team came to Sundargarh.

District collector Nikhil PawanKalyan and Sundargarh MP JualOram were present during the visit. District administration assured all necessary help in setting up AIIMS at Sundargarh.

**District Bar association
office-bearers administered
the oath**

Jagatsinghpur : The newly elected district bar association office-bearers administered the oath and took charge in a function held in the bar association office here. District judge Ananda Chandra Behera attended the ceremony as chief guest accompanying collector S K Mohapatra, senior lawyers RabindraNath Mohanty and GorachandKaunongo, and election officer advocate Srikantha Nanda. Newly elected district bar association president Gagan Das first took oath then others elected office bearers took charge.

Husband dead, Wife and lover arrested

Jagatsinghpur : Balikuda police have arrested a woman and her lover following the mysterious death of one Alok Kandi in Phakirpada village under Garama Panchayat in Balikuda block. The report said that deceased Alok had married one AmbikaBhoia few months back and residing at her in-law's house. But trouble surfaced when Ambika's lover Dibakar Kandi had been visiting regularly Ambika's house. Several times both wife and husband had been quarreling due to unusual access of Dibakar but Ambika had been protecting her lover. Strangely Alok sustained severe burn injuries on March 21 and shifted to SCB Medical College and hospital in Cuttack for treatment in critical condition where he succumbed to his injuries on March 31. The deceased brother Rajendra Kandi lodged an FIR in Balikuda police Station claiming his brother has been murdered by his wife and lover both had set fire on Alok on the occurrence day. After registering a case Balikuda police Friday arrested Ambika and her lover Dibakar and forwarded them to court.

A workshop on revenue laws and rules held in J'spur

Jagatsinghpur : A district-level workshop on revenue laws and rules held in Adikabi Sarala Das Sanskruti Bhawan here on Thursday, district collector S K Mohapatra inaugurated this one-day seminar. Addressing revenue department officials, revenue inspectors, Amin's, employees Collector emphasized the sincere study of different revenue laws and their ancillary rules for strict enforcement. As revenue



laws have been changing from time to time and the government has been adding several rules so officials should aware of such changes, the collector spelled out. Among others, ADM

ChinmayeeBiswal, sub-collector Dharmendra Mallick, Tahasildar Manas Mallick as many as 70 revenue officials have taken part in this workshop, and revenue experts have educated them.

Three weekly market yards to set up in Tirtol and Kujanga blocks

Jagatsinghpur : As many as three weekly market yards would be established in Kujanga and Tirtol areas, a state government notification has been issued recently and a sum of Rs 10 Lakh has been sanctioned by the government for infrastructural development for each proposed market yard.

The government-approved proposed Market yards were identified as Kanjiakan Hat in Balia Panchayat and

Khosalpur Hat in Hansura Panchayat under Kujanga block and Joganian Hat in Porgadei village under Tirtol block.

The report said that the proposed Markets have been identifying as kitchen gardens of Tirtol, Kujanga, and Paradip areas where vegetables from various varieties are produced by farmers in all seasons throughout the year.

The farmers had been complaining of facing hardship fetching their produces. Usually, farmers

had been sending vegetables to local Rahama Hat and Kujanga Hat for trading and selling. Farmers including locals had been demanding setting up local Hat, several times they had been apprising administration officials and local MLAs but not considered to date. While during the last assembly elections people of the localities had made it an issue and demanded establishing Hat in their Panchayat headquarters

and cold storage in block headquarters. During elections campaigning B J D candidate, SambitRoutray had promised people to fulfill their demands. After Routray elected MLA from Paradip constituency in the 2019 elections, he took up the matter personally before the state government, and finally, the government allowed establishing three Hats and awarded financial supports Rs 10 Lakh for each for infrastructural

development.

District collector SangramKeshariMohapatra spelled out that the administration is always emphasizing the interest of farmers, I know personally how massive a quantity of vegetables have been producing in Tirtol and Kujanga riverside areas but sans proper marketing, acting on the fact a suggestion had been placed before the government for establishing Market yards finally it has been

approved, moreover another few market yards would be set up in few vegetable farming areas in Jagatsinghpur district shortly, collector Mohapatra informed.

On the other hand, due to massive production and distress sale of vegetable farmers are suffering facing, so we demand the establishment of at least two cold storages in Tirtol and Kujanga block headquarters, claimed a farmer Sarata Chandra Patnaik from Kujanga area.

Congress demonstrates over power tariff increase



Jagatsinghpur : The District Congress Committee [DCC] staged a demonstration and protest meeting in front of the local electric department subdivision office here, the party supporters fumed over power tariff increase by 30 paise per unit by Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission.

DCC president NatabarBarik led the agitation accompanying party senior leaders and discussed OERC decision, a

minimal rise of 30 paise per KWH in energy charge from the consumer, amounts to an above 5 percent rise in overall retail supply tariff, moreover, after TATA took over power distribution works, electric charges have been hiked twice in last seven months, we demand state government interference and immediate rollback of the OERC decision, DCC president Barik claimed.

Furthermore, DCC youth wing President Prasanta Kumar Mallick

speaking at agitation site said Odisha has been earned name producing electric power in the country but ironically our people are paying excess power charge than other states. Among others, DCC leaders Sarveswar Panda, Mahanicharan Rout, PratimaMallick, Askhya Kumar Mohanty, and Abhya Kumar Mohanty spoke on the occasion. Later a memorandum was sent to the state Governor seeking his interference.

79-year-old Delingi Bandh cries for attention



Baripada : Government apathy has taken its toll on 79-year-old Delingi bandh in Gopabandhunagar (GB Nagar) under Kaptipada Sub-Division in Mayurbhanj district. Built in 1942 March 24 during Praja Andolan, thousands of men and women under the leadership of woman tribal leader late Lusi Majhidug the water body and a basket of soil was first digging by the freedom fighter late Grisihichandra Ray. The construction of the water body was completed in 8 days by the local people. The district merged with the Odisha government on 1949

January 1, the water body came under the control of the Minor Irrigation department under Kaptipada Sub-division. Since then the water body has been forgotten by the government. While more than one thousand farmers used to get irrigation facility to their land and

more than 135 hectares of land. While the villagers of Kenduamundi and Silaghatigive tax every year to the government without getting irrigation facility from the water body for long as the water body could not provide adequate water every year due to huge deposition of silt and no adequate measures are taken by the department concerned.

Chaitan Hansdah and Pradhan Murmu the farmers of Silaghati said that though the water body plays a major role to irrigate hectares of land it gets neglected. However, one portion of the water body is buried and a gate that would provide the water to

land is closed down as the key of the gate was missing. The local people and cattle are using its water for domestic purposes now. They demanded the district administration and state government intervene in the renovation of the water body for the interest of local farmers.

Tapan Mohanty the programme coordinator of Delingi Bandh Smruti Committee said that more than 200 people faced judicial custody in Udala Jail as they erected the water body in forest land. "We have formed a committee in the name of Delingi Bandh and annually organize a

programme on 24 March to remember the people who braved judicial custody. Last year we did not organise a meeting due to Covid-19. The farmers here have demanded immediate renovation of the water body, but no interest is taken by the district administration, even this issue is not brought to State level by any political leaders or by concerned department officials too," he said that the committee has been demanding before the BDO of GB Nagar to install a nameplate in the name of the water body as it is one of the historical places in the district.

Restriction sought for Covid-affected coming from neighboring states

Baripada : The people of bordering villages in both Mayurbhanj and Balasore districts visit over the business and other necessary activities with West Bengal and the Jharkhand States are worried as no precautionary measures are taken by the districts' authorities as the Covid-19 infection had spiked to 52 the highest number of cases in Mayurbhanj district for this year. Apart from the case, gatherings by political parties in places and the people of West Bengal who come to Mayurbhanj and Balasore districts through Chaksuliapada and Jamsula entry points on NH-18 and Laxmanath entry point on NH-60 and village routes are the reason of anxiety and fear to people of both the districts.

While more than 90 village routes and three major roads in Balasore are connected to West Bengal and around 18 village routes and three major routes are linked to West Bengal and Jharkhand states from Mayurbhanj district. There is no restriction been enforced besides the use of masks and maintaining social distance.

When no restrictions are enforced for public and party meetings during the West Bengal State poll, it may be a scare of infection spread as hundreds of businessmen and people of the State visit various markets in Mayurbhanj and Balasore districts of Odisha. The important market places are in Baripada, Rairangpur, Udala, Jashipur, Bahalda, Karanjia, Bombay Chowk in Mayurbhanj and Jaleswar, Chandaneswar, Baliapal and Bhograi in Balasore district where the traders of West Bengal regularly visit the market places.

When contacted, Mayurbhanj SP Parmar Smit Parshottamdas said village level committees are giving feedback to the district administration. Symptomatic people who come from the district from outside have been tested and sent for isolation. From top to bottom, the administration has been approaching the people to maintain social distance, use masks, and unnecessary not to go outside.

Resentment on delay in starting of blood component separation machine in Baripada blood bank

Baripada : Resentment is brewing among the patients and locals over delay in the functioning of the Blood Component Separation (BCS) machine in Baripada Blood Bank unit of Pandit Raghunath Murmu Government Medical College and Hospital here.

Two years after the installation of the BCS machine at the Baripada unit, it is yet to operate as a technical wing in the health department. The government of India did not approve the report and issue a license for the operation of the BCS machine. More than 800 patients are getting medical services from the district headquarters hospital after it became a government-run medical college. While partly patients from Jaleswar, Bhograi, Basat, and Baliapal from Balasore district many patients from neighboring states West Bengal and Jharkhand are getting health service facilities from the PRM MCH here. Owing to the non-starter of the BCS



machine, the blood bank is facing a tough task to deliver services for thalassemia patients and emergency patients when the district needed 700-unit of blood for a month.

As per the official sources, apart from blood given to emergency patients, the district has registered 450 thalassemia patients and particularly 200 thalassemias are getting service from the Baripada blood bank unit. Similarly, more blood donors are required when the district headquarters hospital was upgraded to a government-run medical college and hospital. As per requirement, it will be

a tough task for the staff of the blood bank unit to conduct tests and separation of different blood groups. Once the BCS machine is functioning, the services will easily be provided to patients.

Dr. Soumya Ranjan Nayak, Medical Officer of Baripada blood bank unit said that a trained technical supervisor was already appointed for the operation of the machine but a pathology doctor is required which the Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) has brought the notice of the health secretary, Government of Odisha. "Once the report and license

are approved, as per existing infrastructure the blood bank of Baripada unit will provide quick services for the patients," the medical officer said that as per Sunday figure 8 A-plus, 10 B-plus, 5 AB-plus, 40 O-plus, 4 O-negative, and one AB-native are available in the blood bank.

The blood banks in four sub-divisions across the district faced a blood crisis from last March as there had been poor donors registered to donate blood during lockdowns. There over 36 blood donation camps conducted across the district from January of this year, said official sources.

Odisha May See More Power Tariff Hikes

GRIDCO & DISCOMS Bleed Red!

The buck stops at the Odisha Energy Dept as CAG finds that ODSSP (Odisha Distribution System Strengthening Project) did not yield the desired result and was affected by delays due to inadequacies in project planning

Bhubaneswar : The power play in Odisha is in a piquant position. The question nagging every mind is what will happen to the State if the lone bulk power supply utility GRIDCO goes bankrupt. The fact of GRIDCO bleeding red and on the verge of bankruptcy has popped out in the audit report of CAG that was tabled yesterday in Odisha Assembly.

HOW BANKRUPTCY SWORD HANGS OVER GRIDCO?

The net worth of State Power transmission PSU GRIDCO Limited had fully eroded (Rs (-)3,853.75 crore). At the aggregate level, it is among the nine power PSUs that have accumulated losses to the tune of Rs 4,443.12 crore as against the capital investment of Rs 4,048.67 crore as of 31 March 2019.

WHAT'S THE WORRY:

"A negative net worth indicates that the entire investment by the owners has been wiped out by accumulated losses and deferred revenue expenditure," the CAG report rued.

"If the entire investment gets wiped out by liabilities and losses then how can the power transmission infra in the State record a revival. This will lead to higher T & D (Transmission and Distribution), AT&C (aggregate technical and commercial) losses, which in turn will lead to an increase in power tariff every year or back to the dark ages," opine experts in the power sector.

WHY MORE POWER TARIFF HIKE LOOMS LARGE?

The power consumers in the State have to worry a lot if the revelations of the CAG

report are any indication. Not only GRIDCO, but the DISCOMs in the State are also in deep red. The CAG report finds that AT&C (aggregate technical and commercial) losses of DISCOMs in the State have risen to 74 per cent on 2018-19 from 50 per cent. The experts are of the view that high AT and C loss has been the main contributing factor behind steep hikes in power tariffs.

THE BUCK STOPS WHERE?

If the CAG report is to be believed then the mess in the power sector is the 'undoing of the State Energy Department. The power-play of omissions and commissions has been behind the trip down in the performance of GRIDCO and DISCOMS.

Sample the details below.

"ODSSP (Odisha



Distribution System Strengthening Project) was conceived for implementation within the timeline of 2018-19 to reduce AT&C loss and to increase the supply of quality and reliable power to the consumers by up-gradation of distribution infrastructure. The project did not yield the desired result and was affected by delays due to inadequacies in project planning. Execution of the project suffered due to delayed handing over of sites and lack of coordination with the DISCOMs.

In some instances, structural deficiencies like installation of higher capacity

transformers (leading to improper load balancing), installation of defective transformers, usage of oversized conductors continued to potentially impact AT&C losses negatively instead of arresting them.

Instances of unplanned and uneconomic procurement of materials led to larger financial outlay without the corresponding benefit for the attainment of the envisaged project objective.

The CAG report, thus, has commented that this has led to a situation whereby even after spending 81 per cent of the project outlay, the physical progress

of the project was 36 per cent (August 2019).

CAG FINDS SHOCKERS

Based on price bids received, a purchase order was placed on the L1 bidder on 17 February 2018 for a supply of 71 KMs of ACSR Panther conductor and 1,015 KMs of ACSR Zebra conductor for Rs 26.29 crore.

Due to such 'irrational' purchase bids, CAG says, "Consequently, the applicability of price variation clause in deviation to tender condition resulted in an extension of undue benefit to the supplier and avoidable expenditure of Rs1.04 crore (Rs 39.13 - Rs 38.09 crore)."

From Page-1

Central employment...

of the scheme, for which the state was earlier adjudged top achiever for two consecutive years. The DDUGKY was started by the Centre in September 2014 for imparting skills to rural youth between the ages of 15 and 35 years and giving them regular jobs and was tied into the National Rural Livelihoods Mission program. Of the 6.28 lakh rural youths who were employed till December last year, Odisha claimed to have placed the highest number of youth--1,33,853, followed by Andhra Pradesh (67,128) and Jammu and Kashmir (60,433), according to data available on the DDUGKY website. The CAG audited the scheme for the period between 2014 and 2019 and found that 14% of training and 77% placements claimed by Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS), the implementing agency of the scheme, were false and fabricated. ORMAS engaged 95 Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs), mostly private, to provide training in placement-linked skill development courses, but the CAG audit found that many of these agencies were unfit while several of them exaggerated the employment figures. ORMAS received ₹657.90 crores during 2014-19 under

DDUGKY and spent ₹568.43 crore as of March 2019 for its target of training 2.02 lakh rural youth. It claimed to have trained 1.31 lakh youth by March 2019 and placed 97,198 of these in jobs. But the CAG audit team found that ORMAS provided undue favor to project implementing agencies by skipping the laid-down appraisal process, a crucial internal control mechanism. The PIAs were selected again and again despite a poor record of placing youth.

The audit also found that many of the PIAs, though financially ineligible, were awarded projects in violation of the laid-down procedures due to the intervention of the executive director of ORMAS and secretary of the Panchayati raj department. Four PIAs were sanctioned five projects worth ₹102.13 crores from September 2016 to September 2018 while they were only eligible for projects worth ₹25.20 crores. "The PIAs were selected arbitrarily without conducting mandatory qualitative assessment in terms of their financial strength, commitment to captive placement, parent company structure and core sector presence, etc., which amounted to an extension of undue pecuniary benefits to certain PIAs. The PIAs misused the provisions in the DDUGKY reporting system that allowed them to revise MIS figures at their level," the CAG audit found. One PIA was supposed to provide overseas placements

and set up a center of excellence in Odisha. It continued to get the projects despite failing in both stated objectives. Two PIAs who claimed to have earlier provided placement to 916 and 257 candidates, respectively later revised the figures to 619 and 234 candidates.

Claims by PIAs of having provided jobs to the youths also turned out to be exaggerated. CAG audit found that bank statements of several youths did not show any entry, forget salary credit. At least six bank accounts were found to be non-existent and no transactions were seen in 33 accounts. Some of the PIAs even faked ESIC numbers and salary slips of 19 candidates, who they claimed to have provided jobs.

The CAG recommended a thorough investigation of all the placement claims. "Ensure that after the verification is conducted, placement percentage is recalculated and any excess money released is recovered with penal interest," the CAG advised.

The CAG report on DDUGKY has come at a time when the state government is under fire from the opposition over the lack of employment for youths. Recently, leader of opposition Pradipta Naik alleged Odisha has more than 9 lakh registered unemployed youths while thousands of people migrate to other states in search of jobs.

In This Pandemic, 'In' Is The Only Way 'Out'



Sirish C. Mohanty

This year began like any other. Three months into it, we naively believed the pandemic meant an endurance test of a few weeks. Under lockdown, we convinced ourselves that if we locked down or locked up, masked up, or paid up, the problem would go away.

We had no dramatic event - war, flood, or famine, to blame for our misfortune. We had no conventional enemy to combat. Instead, an invisible microbe proved to be a deadly adversary, wreaking such havoc on our lives and livelihoods that it has left an indelible mark on an entire generation. As we reach the end of an unforgettable year, it seems increasingly evident that a post-virus era is a pipe dream. Covid-19, like so many infections, is here to stay. The onus is on human

intelligence, ingenuity, and resourcefulness to deal with it.

For anything- good or bad, God has an intention to teach to enrich the intelligence of mankind and the pandemic is no exception. Human life is the most valuable gift by God. The precious gift should never be allowed to be thrown away or wasted. No other creature has a similar faculty of ability, intelligence, or wisdom as a human being. Understand that your most precious possessions are not costly mobile phones, luxury cars, or big houses. Your most precious possessions are certain things that cannot be purchased in any shop. The truth is, they are very few in numbers. Amongst your most valuable possessions are- your time, purpose, relationships, and the most

important thing, health.

Health is indeed the single most important part of the existence of a human being. Without good health, there is no meaning in life. So, it is crucial not to take sound health for granted and preserve it like a rare diamond. Many people take health for granted until they have an unfortunate reason not to. They neglect exercise and then get surprised why their bodies protest when they need to run in a field or climb a flight of stairs. They ignore a balanced diet and then get surprised when additional weight piles upon them. They disregard mental health and meditation and then get surprised why they are always anxious, stressed, and tensed. When you are kind to yourself, your body responds positively enables you to deal with day-to-day challenges.

So, take some time out for self-care & self-kindness, and show compassion towards yourself. Many novel diseases are attacking mankind, and it is high time that you start taking good care of cleanliness around you and maintain good personal hygiene too. This is essential. It is your primary duty to create a clean and hygienic environment at work and home. Deep clean the inside and outside of your home often. Take it as a lesson imparted by the almighty through the pandemic.

The ordeal has had its lighter moments. For one, our hands have never been as spotless as they are now. There is definitely more alcohol on human hands today than in the human gut - a phenomenon that augurs well for future health and wellbeing. A nail-biting Coronavirus vaccine race has kept us entertained. Russia leaped into the fray with Sputnik V; America responded spiritedly with a two-pronged- Moderna, and Pfizer reprisal. India, home to one of the world's largest immunization programs and manufacturer of sixty percent of the

world's vaccines, has shown no lack of initiative, although mobilizing supply chains and motivating a billion people to submit to two-needle pricks a month remains a daunting challenge.

Soothsayers of varied persuasions have offered a spate of dire predictions. Medical experts have foretold a mental health and suicide pandemic, while astrologers are busy charting horoscopes for the virus, foretelling how eclipses and shifts in the Earth's planetary axis will affect humans and viral destinies. The story grows more complex. Human biological evolution, we are told, was determined by our ability to integrate and even enslave foreign viral elements. Over half the human genome is composed of DNA sequences, possibly attributable to long-dead viruses. Given our ability to turn several viral infections to our advantage, is it possible that in time we will domesticate or even befriend this sneaky invader?

Spiritually, the virus has triumphed where all gurus have failed, offering

humanity a crash course in the stillness that no religious leader has ever been able to inspire on this scale! In the past, people outsourced their suffering to a million factors. Now, they have a single enemy. Since all needless physical contact and movement has been minimized, people have no choice but to stay put and deal with their own issues. Many are discovering that they aren't very good company! The responsibility to craft more meaningful and joyful lives lies squarely with them. This move towards self-determination is the perfect start to any spiritual journey.

My intention is not to trivialize the immense suffering this virus has unleashed. But instead of being passive victims of the viral apocalypse, it is time to consciously craft a new destiny for all of us. The pandemic is a viral contagion; let us transform it into a contagion of consciousness that liberates us from within. If there is one truth to which this year has pointed us, it is just this: In is the only way out. 

Best Wishes from ::

RADHE RADHE

Forest Department to move to the goal of zero fires

Bolangir (Sudhir Mishra) : While Odisha in the disaster management, especially in Cyclone has achieved zero casualties, efforts of the State looks forward to zero casualties and called upon the Forest Department to ensure towards the goal of zero fires in forthcoming times.

The views that emerged in a webinar on forest fire held recently organized by RCDC and Odisha to understand the present situation of forest fire in Odisha, especially in the context of happening in February; a forest fire in wildlife sanctuaries and its impact on climate change, and explore the immediate actions to be taken for prevention of forest fire in the remaining months of summer, and to develop the broad contours of a long term strategy for mitigating forest fire by taking the communities into confidence.

Forest fires in Odisha usually occur from March to May. And much to the surprise of many this year's forest fire started in February and the huge forest fire in the Similipal Biosphere reserve captured the attention of the national and international media and Odisha figured at the top of the list of forest fire incidents in the country.


According to the Forest Survey of India (FSI), at least 5,291 forest fires were recorded in Odisha between 22nd February and 1st March, the highest in the country for the same period. Forest and Environment Minister of Odisha Bikram Keshari Arukh informed the State Assembly in session

now that since January this year till date 23,473 fire incidents have been reported in the state devouring about 159 square km of forest.

Incidents of forest fires are increasing. Explaining the various causes and Sri Prabhat Mishra told how community members have been traditionally proactive in reporting and putting out forest fires in association with workers of the Forest Department.

The process of approving individual and community forest rights should step up to enthuse the community to do more and the process of CFR management would go a long way in protecting and conserving the forests. He thought that the capacity of all stakeholders must be strengthened and coordination must improve to address the menace points out Satya Pattnaik.

As per the satellite data, forest fire clusters are developing in certain pockets of Odisha and it is important to keep watch on them. He dwelt on the climatic factors that could be driving the fires points out said Barna Baibhav Panda.

The Forest Department continues to look upon the forest as a production unit. It should change its stance and concentrate on the conservation of forests to enrich the livelihoods of the forest dwellers. He also called upon the State to strengthen the Forest Department and enhance coordinated efforts, opines Sri Gitanjay Sahoo. 

Odisha's Strongest Weak CM



Sirish C Mohanty

with the BJP, helping the latter to get its candidate elected to the Rajya Sabha.

Admires father, animosity to policy

In the 90s, Biju Patnaik had decried the move by the then prime minister V.P. Singh to carry out the recommendations of Mandal Commission for backward castes, and the Rath Yatra by L.K. Advani, saying "no Mandal, no Kamandal" and added that the focus should be only on eliminating poverty and unemployment. On the contrary, Naveen Patnaik went into an alliance with the BJP. At the same time remains vigilant to check the saffron party to spread tentacles in Odisha. He has recently taken up the development of Puri, to transform it into a world heritage city with a total investment of Rs 3,208 crore. Though this can be projected as an attempt to boost the tourism sector in the state, the blend of economics and politics in the move is unmissable. Political pundits opine that Naveen's embracing soft Hindutva in an attempt to counter the BJP, the Puri initiative is certainly a sugar-coated bitter pill for the BJP.

While Biju Patnaik disapproved of Mandal politics, Naveen Patnaik got a resolution passed in the state assembly, which enables state commission for backward classes to survey the social and educational conditions of OBCs. The state government formally moved Centre requesting it to conduct a socio-economic caste enumeration along with the general census of 2021. These decisions suggest



the shrewdness of Naveen to keep the OBC vote bank in good humor. While the BJD originated as a countermeasure to the Congress, later it had to fight both the Congress and the BJP. Naveen's BJD is not aligned to any camp at the national level, while it doesn't like to displease any; it supported CAA and opposed NRC.

Changed way of governance

Within one year of becoming chief minister, Naveen Patnaik sacked three of his ministers as they were 'under the shadow of corruption. Since then, he has tried to maintain the bluegrass of 'Clean' image. In the meantime, Pyarimohan Mohapatra came in to guide the then politically naïve Naveen and shouldered all administrative burdens both in the governance and the party. A second power center began to be in the making. Dhoti-clad Biju

loyalists in the party were shown the door and Mohapatra brought in his lads to replace them. After the defeat of the NDA government in 2004, the BJD successfully adjusted with Congress in the center while continuing the alliance with the BJP in state governance. Mohapatra is known to be left-tilted, took all measures to stop BJP's spreading of tentacles in the state. In the 2009 elections, the BJP was dumped and routed. BJD returned with a thumping majority and continued its cordial relations with Congress while keeping well in mind it doesn't spread in the state.


Soon after 2009, Naveen's government faced tough times. Serious allegations of mining and chit fund scams surfaced. CBI, Supreme Court-appointed Shah Commission stepped in to probe. Many of his party colleagues were in the net

Naveen Patnaik is a pragmatic strong politician and a longest-serving weak chief minister

of the probe, but the cordial relations with Congress sealed him to be touched. A 2000-batch Odisha cadre IAS officer, V.K. Pandian became private secretary to the CM in May 2011, after serving as collectors of Mayurbhanj and Ganjam districts. But his emergence as Naveen's closest aide coincided with the gradual decline of the BJD president's once key advisor, bureaucrat-turned-politician Pyarimohan Mohapatra. The Naveen-Pyari relationship took a turn for the worse when the latter made an aborted coup bid on May 29, 2012, while the former was visiting the United Kingdom. Following the abortive coup, Naveen Patnaik stopped believing his party colleagues and became secluded. Pandian filled up the gap at the right time and that had made him the 'most powerful' bureaucrat in Odisha. It's not for nothing that the CM began to trusts him so much after the failed coup. He has proved himself time and again, be it in dealing with the situation following Pyari's ouster from the BJD or rolling various welfare schemes to keep the BJP challenge at bay. Gradually the strongest CM of the state

helplessly became bureaucrat-dependent. Ministers and MLAs of the state of late realized that they have already lost their shine and have to depend on the secretaries who have become their new boss.

It can be a coincidence. May 29, 2012 (abortive coup attempt), and May 29, 2019 (Naveen takes oath as CM for the fifth time), shall go down as significant days in Chief Ministers Naveen Patnaik's political career. And May 29 also happens to be the birthday of V Karthikeya Pandian, who has emerged as the most influential factor in the ruling dispensation. In his fifth term, the chief minister's main thrust is citizen-centric governance and the focus is on 5T's. V.K. Pandian has been designated as the first 5-T secretary and he is making surprising visits to different places with officials to ensure the implementation of the same. The CM's physical presence in his office or Assembly has been drastically reduced without any problem in the governance as the bureaucrats manage with administrative acumen.

Apparently, these are the past participle and present perfect tense, but nobody knows- if it turns out to be a future perfect progressive tense. 

Justice N V Ramana to be sworn in as new Chief Justice on April 24



As the 48th Chief Justice of India, Justice Ramana will have a tenure of over sixteen months - until August 26, 2022.

Born on August 27, 1957, in Ponnavaaram of Krishna district in Andhra Pradesh, Justice Ramana is the youngest of these three siblings. His parents Nuthalapati Ganapathi Rao and Sarojini were humble agriculturists. Although he briefly worked as a journalist for Telugu newspaper Eenadu, as a first-generation lawyer, he enrolled as an advocate and set up practice in Vijayawada in 1983.

He subsequently moved to Hyderabad and later served as Additional Advocate General of Andhra Pradesh. In June 2000, he was appointed a

permanent judge of the AP High Court and in 2014 was elevated to the Supreme Court. During his tenure in the Supreme Court, Justice Ramana has advocated the need to implement regional languages as the language of the court to increase the participation of rural litigants in the trial process.

He is one of the few judges who display his nameplate outside his official residence in Telugu, his mother tongue. Incidentally, Justice Ramana will be only the second CJI from Andhra Pradesh after Justice K Subba Rao who

was CJI between 1966-67.

As a judge of the SC, Justice Ramana has walked the tightrope between upholding personal liberty and democratic values of the Constitution and giving weight to practical imperatives.

In the case challenging the suspension of the Internet in Jammu and Kashmir, following the abrogation of Article 370, a bench led by Justice Ramana upheld the right to disseminate and access information through Internet as a fundamental right and mandated greater transparency and accountability from the government in issuing curbs. In the case challenging the disqualification of 17 Karnataka legislators in September 2019, a bench led by him upheld the

disqualification of 17 Karnataka legislators by the Speaker but permitted them to contest the bypolls to avoid "a chilling effect on legitimate dissent."

Justice Ramana has dealt with several politically sensitive cases: setting up of special courts for fast-tracking criminal cases against MPs and MLAs; bringing the CJI's office under the purview of the RTI Act, and the curative petitions filed by convicts in the December 2012 gangrape and murder case which led to their execution.

On March 24, an SC in-house panel dismissed allegations by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy against Justice Ramana, after which his name was recommended for appointment as the next Chief Justice of India.

New Delhi : Justice N V Ramana, the most senior judge of the Supreme Court after Chief Justice S A Bobde, was appointed as the next Chief Justice of India with effect from April 24. "In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana, Judge of the Supreme Court, to be the Chief Justice of India with effect from April 24, 2021," said a Ministry of Law and Justice notification.

As the 48th Chief Justice of India, Justice Ramana will have a tenure of over sixteen months - until August 26, 2022.

Justice Ramana takes over at a time when the judiciary is adjusting to functioning in the virtual mode while ensuring uninterrupted access to justice to citizens. As Chairperson of the National Legal Services Authority, Justice Ramana led efforts to ensure training to lawyers and litigants to adapt to e-courts during the pandemic.

Seven villages start vanishing from the Odisha map: the only remaining is a half-buried in sand hand pump

This 17-km stretch along the coast in Odisha's Kendrapara district, which was once home for nearly 700 families, now stands in solitude, a vast expanse covered in sand as far as the eye can see, peppered with palm trees and abandoned cattle. Close to the shore, there are some remnants of the past: a hand pump half-buried in the sand, cattle left unattended, and an old temple without a deity. The temple was once a bustling weekend spot for many of those families. Today, it has only one regular visitor, Prafulla Lenka. This, in short, is the story of Satabhaya, a cluster of seven villages, which has almost disappeared from the map due to coastal

Today, for all facilities, including ration, those left behind have to cross a 5 km stretch that includes a narrow road and a small creek inhabited by crocodiles.

erosion, taking with it a way of life and livelihood.

The six-member family of Lenka was among the 571 that were rehabilitated by the district administration to a colony in Bagapatia, 12 km away, in 2018. But the 40-year-old stayed back to look after his 20 buffaloes, despite the lack of basic facilities like electricity and clean drinking water. Orders have now been issued to rehabilitate 118 of the 148 families left behind. Officials say the other 30 still have paperwork to sort out. "A

plot of land, a house means something to us, we have waited too long, but our livelihoods and our houses have been taken away by the sea. This is the fourth time we will be shifting houses in the last four years," says Babu Mallick, one of the beneficiaries.

"The administration will provide 10 decimals of land and Rs 1.5 lakh each for construction of houses under Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana to each family," says Additional District Magistrate (ADM)



Basant Kumar Rout.

"As the villagers here moved out, I shifted my family to another village. The school was also moved to the new colony and there was no point staying back. My family shifted to rented accommodation and I went to Kerala to earn a living. But after the lockdown, I had to come back. Since then, I have been living here alone. I catch and sell fish to make a living. This was my source of income earlier

as well," says Pavitra Kumar Sahoo (45), who is yet to be rehabilitated and stays in Barahipur, one of the seven villages.

Until almost a decade ago, farming and fishing were the main sources of livelihood. But the sea rapidly swallowed several homes and farmland and increased the salinity of the soil, rendering acres infertile. Like Sahoo, a majority of the youths took up jobs in other states like

Kerala, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu.

According to a study conducted by the National Centre for Coastal Research in Chennai, Odisha lost 28 per cent of its 550-km coastline to the sea between 1990 and 2016. Kendrapara alone lost 31 km.

Today, Satabhaya is an island of sorts. For all facilities, including ration, those left behind have to cross a 5 km stretch that includes a narrow road and a small creek inhabited by crocodiles.

This perilous journey is undertaken every month by Brahmananda Dalai (70), on foot. Dalai lives in a small hut with his wife, hardly a kilometer from the sea, and refuses to leave his home.

Brazil Says "No" To Covaxin, Bharat Biotech Explains

According to reports, a Brazilian government gazette had said that Covaxin had been rejected "considering the non-compliance with the requirements of Good Manufacturing Practices for Medicines".

New Delhi : Brazil's health regulator has denied permission to import Covaxin, the Covid vaccine produced by indigenous firm Bharat Biotech. Twenty million doses of the vaccine have been ordered by Brazil, the nation hit worst by Covid after the United States. According to reports, a Brazilian government gazette had said that Covaxin had been rejected "considering the non-compliance with the requirements of Good Manufacturing Practices for Medicines". In its response, Bharat Biotech has told NDTV: "The requirements pointed out during inspection will be fulfilled, the timelines for fulfillment is under discussion with the Brazil NRA and will be resolved soon." Covaxin, produced by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council for Medical Research, was approved for emergency use by the national drug regulator in January. The vaccine was expected to be used only in the "clinical trial mode". Earlier this month, it was taken off clinical trial mode after the authorities said the vaccine has shown an interim efficacy of 81 per cent in Phase 3 clinical trials in India. Bharat Biotech said the vaccine is effective against the UK variant of the virus. The government has said the need to change the composition of Covaxin has not been felt yet because of its efficacy against the mutant variants. Several other nations, including Iran, Nepal, Mauritius, Paraguay, and Zimbabwe have approved and received Covaxin for emergency use. Bharat Biotech had also applied for clearance in Brazil, Thailand, and the Philippines. Bharat Biotech says around 40 countries have expressed interest in Covaxin. Under the 'Vaccine Maitri' initiative, India has been providing coronavirus vaccines to more than 70 nations including Maldives, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Mauritius, Seychelles, and the Gulf nations.

Odisha CM chairs first meeting of State Sagarmala Committee

Bhubaneswar : Chairing the first meeting of the State Sagarmala Committee, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday said that in addition to the strategic advantage of long coastline, the Sagarmala project can further enable Odisha to emerge as a major logistics destination.

The Chief Minister said that the Port-led development through industrialization and connectivity is a major focus of Sagarmala projects. "We will also be prioritizing the Coastal community development as an integrated part of this initiative," he added. The Chief Minister said that Odisha has the advantage of being strategically located with a long coastline. "We have a rich cultural heritage of maritime trade. We can become India's gateway to southeast Asian countries," he added. Apart from the Paradip Port, the state government has been facilitating the development of various ports all along Odisha's coastline, he further added. The Chief Minister further said that the State Maritime Board is

expected to be fully functional in the coming months.

Hopefully, the Board will act as a catalyst for the overall development of the maritime sector in the State. He asked for close coordination with various departments and resolving the issues for timely completion of projects under Sagarmala. He urged all the departments concerned to prioritize these projects.

Commerce & Transport Minister Padmanav Behera said that the Sagarmala program aims at Port-led development and improvement of waterways. "For the success of the program, we need the cooperation of Centre, State, and local authorities," he added. Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra said that all Departments need to prepare projects under the Government of India guidelines and maximize project approval. Welcoming the members, the Principal Secretary of Commerce & Transport Madhusudan Padhi made a presentation on the



State Sagarmala Projects.

As per the presentation, the State has three ports in operation - Paradeep, Damara, and Gopalpur. As many as four ports including Subarnarekha, Astharang, Riverine port at Kendrapada and Jatadhar Muhan Port are in the pipeline. Besides, there are 8 potential locations for the development of ports.

The Sagarmala Project has a vision for port-led development across the coast of India. It aims at Port modernization, Port connectivity, Port led industrialization, and Coastal community development. The projects under this program will get 50 percent funding from the Government of India. Under this program, the State

Government has submitted 14 nos. of projects of various departments including Fishers & ARD, Chilka Development Authority, Commerce & Transport, and Works Department. Out of these, only 2 projects of the Commerce & Transport Department, Ro-Pax Jetty, and Allied Infrastructure in Bhadrak, Kendrapada, Balugaon, and Puri districts have been sanctioned by the Government of India. IDCO CMD Sanjay Singh said 3 logistic park projects at Dhamara, Gopalpur, and Subarnarekha are under preparation. The proposals will be sent soon. Other Departments were asked to finalize projects under the Sagarmala project.

Round Table Conclave in Delhi on Odisha's Development



New Delhi (Kishore Dwivedi) : A marathon roundtable Conclave held recently in Delhi on Odisha's Economic emancipation. The Online and Offline Convention was hosted at Aerocity by the Think Tank Group Odisha Positive in association with the Roots of Odisha Foundation. The panel of distinguished speakers deliberated on varied economic issues concerning the opportunities and

challenges being confronted by the State of Odisha in the midst and post-pandemic period.

Initiating the debate live-streamed through social media platforms industry veteran Michael Jon Mattsen, CEO of Mattsen Kumar LLC, USA, highlighted the wider scope of employment available in Odisha with the advent of new professional culture of Working from Home being mandated because of Covid - 19 protocol.

Addressing the Power-Packed Round Table meeting Pankaj Gupta, CEO, V CloudxPte Ltd, Singapore, emphasized the dire need of fine-tuning the Ecosystem of Odisha to enable the State to utilise its vast resources to an optimum level not only to foster its economy but also to greatly contribute for the growth of National Economy. Delivering his speech during the Conclave Publisher and Editor of Voice of Civil Society, Ravi Pani C.A., recalled the golden era of Odias and their unusual business acumen during maritime trade voyage across the globe. Joining the Conference through Video Conferencing Lt. Col. Dr. Parminder Kaur stressed the requirement of providing the state of Art Child Care Facilities in remote tribal hamlets in Odisha recounting

her ground Zero personal experience during her visit to hinterlands of Koraput, Kandhamal, and Phulbani districts.

Renowned Environmentalist and Eco Traveller Yogendra Singh adjudged Odisha's Eco-Adventure - Spiritual Tourism Potential as World Class Comparing his extensive tours within Odisha and Outside in the western countries particularly focussing on the high-Class Rural hospitality in the State and exuded confidence that these positive factors will be instrumental in furthering rural level employment. Participating in the Virtual Event Dr. Sadanand Sahoo, Professor of Sociology and Anthropology and Founder of Global Research Forum on Diaspora and

Transnationalism underlined the priority of drawing the attention of Odias Diaspora across the Globe towards the gloomy financial scenario in their mother state and expected their full commitment and large contribution for the all-round development of Odisha. Putting his views during the internet session Dr. Srikant Panigrahi, Director General, Indian Institute of Sustainable Development, informed about the availability of a vast coastline and several forest valleys and appealed Corporates to invest in new and renewable energy sectors such as Wind, Solar, Wave, and Geothermal in Odisha. Anchoring and moderating the two-hour-long digital discussion, the Founder of Roots of Odisha Foundation, Sudhir Kumar

Dash, C.A., declared that Odisha as a State being doubly blessed with Surplus in Power and stability in Politics has the merit, mechanism, and momentum of achieving the highest ladder of economic excellence.

Delivering the welcome address during the Webinar, the Founder of Odisha Positive and senior Advocate Sanjib Kumar Mohanty praised the uniqueness and unifying character of Odisha amongst the presence of huge diversity in language, culture, lifestyle, and ethnicity, which places the State in a prime position to attain the perpetual peace and eternal bliss. Senior Member of Odisha Positive Dr. Bikram Mohanty presented the vote of thanks.

Russia to supply military equipment to Pakistan: Russian FM

Islamabad : Russia stands ready to supply special military equipment to Pakistan to strengthen its counter-terrorism capabilities, Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov said on Wednesday as Islamabad rolled out the red carpet for the visiting leader.

Lavrov, who traveled to Islamabad from New Delhi, also spoke of Russia's plans to conduct more military and naval

supplying Pakistan with special military equipment. This serves the interests of all states of the region," Lavrov said during a joint news conference with Qureshi after their meeting on Wednesday.

"We also agreed that we need to further conduct exercises and drills in the mountains called Druzhba (friendship) and maritime exercises called the Arabian Monsoon," he

Without directly referring to the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue that includes India, Australia, Japan and the US, Lavrov took a swipe at US-backed strategies that he said were affecting stability in the Asia-Pacific region. Lavrov has been critical of the Indo-Pacific concept, which is the focus of the Quad.

There was no immediate reaction from

on sovereign equality and mutual progress," he said.

Both Qureshi and Prime Minister Khan raised the Kashmir issue in their discussions with Lavrov. Qureshi said at the joint news conference that he had told Lavrov about the "fragility of the situation on our border with India" and concerns about the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and human rights issues.

However, Qureshi also acknowledged that tensions with India had reduced after the Indian and Pakistan armies recommitted themselves to the 2003 ceasefire on the Line of Control (LoC) in February.

During his meeting with Lavrov, Khan underlined the importance that Pakistan attaches to relations with Russia as a "key foreign policy priority", and expressed satisfaction at "steady growth in bilateral ties, including deepening cooperation in trade, energy, security and defence", according to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office.

Lavrov said at the joint news conference that he and Qureshi had touched upon the fact that India and Pakistan have started talks on the normalization of relations. "We welcome that," he said.

The reception given to Lavrov in Islamabad was in contrast to his brief visit to New Delhi, where he only held talks with his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar. Lavrov didn't meet the Indian prime minister - usually a part of any senior Russian leader's visit to New Delhi.



exercises with Pakistan and to further deepen bilateral ties. Lavrov also met Pakistan Army chief Gen Qamar Bajwa and Prime Minister Imran Khan, who raised the Kashmir issue during their talks.

Foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi personally received Lavrov - the first senior Russian leader to travel to Pakistan in almost a decade - at the airport on his arrival on Tuesday, signaling the importance attached to the visit by Islamabad.

"We've confirmed that we stand ready to strengthen the anti-terrorist potential of Pakistan, including by

added.

The Druzhba exercise between the Pakistani and Russian militaries, which began in 2016, usually features special forces from both sides. A Russian Army contingent visited Pakistan last November for the latest edition of the drill.

Russia had angered India by supplying a limited number of Mi-35M helicopter gunships to Pakistan in 2018. Lavrov's comments about potential supplies of special military equipment, even to bolster Pakistan's counter-terrorism capabilities, are unlikely to go down well in New Delhi, which perceives such arms deals as a provocation.

Indian officials to Lavrov's comments.

Enhanced defence and security cooperation also figured in Lavrov's meeting with Pakistan Army chief Gen Bajwa. According to a readout from the Pakistani military's media arm, Bajwa said that "Pakistan values its relations with Russia and reciprocates the desire for enhanced bilateral military cooperation".

Bajwa welcomed all initiatives to bring peace and stability to Afghanistan. "We have no hostile designs towards any country and will keep on working towards a cooperative regional framework based

'Girls at Sea Still Not Accepted'

Miles Away from Suez, Egypt's 1st Female Ship Captain Blamed for Blockage

Elselehdar said that it is not necessary to seek everyone's approval if you do what you love. The captain is one of the 2 percent of women seafarers in the world.

In an unfortunate incident, Egypt's first female ship captain Marwa



Elselehdar was dragged into a fake news campaign that blamed her for the Suez Canal blockade, reported BBC news.

However, as per sources, the said claims were found to be fake when it was revealed that Elselehdar was on duty hundreds of miles away in the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria when news of the container ship Ever Given wedged across the Suez Canal was making headlines.

"I was shocked. I felt that I might be targeted maybe because I'm a successful female in this field or because I'm Egyptian, but I'm not sure," the 29-year-old captain was quoted in the BBC report.

In addition, screenshots of the fake news headline and a doctored image of the captain were also circulated all over social media on March 22 which further made people believe in the rumors of her involvement in the canal incident.

In a report by BBC, Elselehdar confided that people still don't accept the idea of women working in the sea away from their families, which probably could have let people believe in the fake news. She further went on to say that it is not necessary to seek everyone's approval if you do what you love. The captain is one of the 2 percent of women seafarers in the world.

The skyscraper-sized container ship Ever Given got stuck in the Suez canal last month leading to huge traffic congestion in one of the world's most strategic shipping routes which in turn adversely affected trade across the world.

More than 300 ships were waiting to pass as the container ship remained stuck for six days in the Suez Canal. The ship was refloated on March 29.

Tata Steel goes to the public hearing for enhancement of production for the JE Iron mine on April 26

Joda : Joda East iron ore mine (ML area: 671.093 ha) will go for a public hearing for the enhancement of production of iron ore from 12 MTPA to 19.5 MTPA (ROM) with a total excavation of 22.14 MTPA, and enhancement of beneficiation plant from 12 MTPA to 17.6 MTPA at villages Joda, Kamarjoda, Banspani, Khuntpani & Baitarini Reserve in Keonjhar District

The mine is in operation since 1956 and as mining is a site-specific activity no alternative site is considered. As per EIA Notification dated 14th Sept 2006 and its subsequent amendments, the project falls under Project Activity 1 (a) of non-coal mine and 2(b) of mineral beneficiation plant, Category "A".

The lease block of Joda East Iron Mine covering an area of 671.093 ha along with the adjoining region was secured by TSL under a prospecting license in the year 1916. The lease period was extended upto 31.03.2030 in compliance with MMDR Amendment Act 2015. The 671.093 ha area of Joda East lease also includes 16.35 ha area of Manmora Manganese lease which was granted to the



Steel company for the mining of Manganese ore from the Joda East lease area. Hence, the Marmora Manganese lease is a part of the Joda East lease. In addition to the Mining lease, the company has 252.17 acres of Land lease in Joda.

The mine is presently producing at an average rate of 11.7 MTPA of ROM. The iron ore produced from Joda East Iron Mine is used for captive consumption. The present capacity of the steel plant at Jamshedpur is about 11 MTPA which is likely to expand upto 13 MTPA. The company has also commissioned a new steel plant at Kalinganagar, Odisha having the capacity of 3 MTPA in the first phase. In the second phase, its capacity will be added by another 5

MTPA. Thus, the total capacity of the Steel plant at Kalinganagar will be 8 MTPA. The company has acquired Steel making facilities at Angul (erstwhile Bhushan Steel Limited) now called Tata Steel BSL and at Gamharia (Usha Martin India Limited) under Tata Steel Long Product Limited. Further, Company has plans for expansion of its existing Sister Companies (Tata Metaliks Limited, Tata Steel Long Products Limited, Tata Steel BSL, etc).

Therefore, the captive requirement of iron ore will gradually increase from 36 million tonnes in 2020-21 to 55 million tonnes by 2029-30. The Environmental Clearance for the mine was obtained from MoEF & CC, Govt. of India to enhance the

production of ROM of iron ore from 6 MTPA to 12 MTPA and expansion of beneficiation plant from 6 MTPA to 12 MTPA.

Fresh Environmental Clearance is now being applied for the proposed expansion of the mine from 12 MTPA to 19.5 MTPA (ROM) with a total excavation of 22.14 MTPA. The beneficiation plant capacity will increase from 12 MTPA to 17.6 MTPA.

MoEF & CC accorded Stage-II Forest Clearance over an area 567.087 ha of land vide letter No. F. No. 8-32/1993-FC (vol. II) dated: 24.09.2007. For the balance forest area, the company has applied for the diversion of 41.819 ha forest area which includes 32.425 ha Joda East iron ore mine (ML area: 671.093 ha) for the enhancement of production of iron ore from 12 MTPA to 19.5 MTPA (ROM) with the total excavation of 22.14 MTPA, and enhancement of beneficiation plant from 12 MTPA to 17.6 MTPA.

The peak water requirement in the future will increase up to 17500 m³/day. At present, the mine has four slime dams (Tailing 1, Tailing 1A, Manmora & Tailing 2). During the plan period, in-

pit slime dam Tailing 2 located in North Pit will be used for disposal of slime. At the conceptual stage, the mine will have another in-pit tailing dam called Tailing 3 which would be located in South Pit. In terms of power requirement, the existing load of Joda is around 10 MVA. The approximate load of overland conveyor, new material handling section, proposed beneficiation plant would take the total maximum demand of Joda to 35.3 MVA. The total employment potential will rise to 1500 persons. The current dispatch of product through rail transport to the company's steel plants and sister concerns is close to 11 MTPA. The infrastructure facilities will be developed shortly to increase the transport of finished products with dispatch close to 17.6 MTPA per annum.

The measures taken during mining activities include Stabilization of dumps with plantation, Toe wall, garland drains, settling pits, check dams wherever required, Re-use of water recovered from slime dam. Domestic discharges from the residences of the employees are treated in STPs. Zero discharge is ensured from the

slime dam and the clear water is pumped back to the plant for reuse.

For safe and systematic mining sufficient technical & supervisory staff will be provided at the mine site. At present, about 588 workers are engaged by direct employment and besides direct employment, almost 517 persons are benefited through indirect employment as contract labor, which is mainly extended to the local tribes. For carrying out the proposed expansion, further employment will be provided to 185 people as direct employment and besides the direct employment, almost 618 persons will be benefited through indirect employment as contract labor, which is mainly extended to the local tribes.

The total cost of the project is Rs. 1915 crores. However as per Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) guideline dated 1st May 2018 of MoEF & CC no. 22-65/2017-IA.III, the total environmental cost for Project is 4.78 Crores including CER cost.

Tata steel strongly hopes to get its proposal passed in the public hearing scheduled to be held on April 26 at the central ground at Joda.

Utkal Divas celebrated in Assam

G u w a h a t i (Manoranjan Dash) : Utkal Divas was celebrated on April 1, 2021, virtually attended by the Odias from various places in the country and outside organised by the Kalinga Sanskritika Sansada, Guwahati & Lord Jagannath Temple Trust, Guwahati.

Kalinga Sanskritika Sansada (KSS), an association established in the year 1987, has been celebrating

Utkal Divas every year to mark the day the state was born as a separate entity on a linguistic basis. Members present on that occasion recalled the sacrifice made by the great heroes of Odisha who played a pivotal role in the formation of a separate province of Odisha. Cultural programs. The cultural function started with the Odisha state song Bande Utkal Janani and Assam State song O Mur Apunar Desh followed by



folk & classical dance performance of eminent Artists of international repute from Odisha and Assam.

Kalinga Sanskritika Sansada has been taking several initiatives to provide a platform to the

Odias staying in and around Guwahati. Construction of Lord Jagannath Temple at Guwahati is one of them. Besides, KSS has most often played as Brand Ambassador of the State of Odisha in Assam by

facilitating pilgrimage tours to the people of Assam to Puri and other places of Odisha.

Members present expressed concern over the construction of Lord Jagannath Temple at Guwahati, resume direct flight between Guwahati to Bhubaneswar, etc. They requested the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha to take such initiatives for sustaining the cultural bond between Odisha &

Assam.

Shri S Barik from Ireland delivered the inauguration address. Among others who spoke on the occasion were Manoranjan Dash, P K Patri, B Moharana, B C Nayak, Upendra Mahapatra, D P Mohapatra, Rajat Pati, Bhakti Bhumi, Nirakar Pradhan, H P Mohanty, Harihar Das, Anshuman Mohanty, P S Biswal, Dilip Satpathy, Subhra Nanda, C S Behera, Mihir Das, Sambit Gantayat, Prasant Sutar.

Congress Shying Away From A Fight In West Bengal

"Only those who will risk going too far can find out how far one can go." - T. S. Eliot



But Congress has not gone by this and continues to play safe. And this aversion to risks is more apparent nowhere than in West Bengal. The State has seen the completion of two phases of polls and in both, the Congress was conspicuous by its absence or its lethargic attitude. Some sporadic campaigning and a few press conferences aside, most Congress leaders have remained elusive. The State President of the Congress party, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, has largely focused on his home turf under his Lok Sabha constituency of Murshidabad and in some parts of Howrah.

The Congress is in an alliance with the ISF and the Left in the state and is contesting in 92 seats out of the total 294. In the first two phases, the Congress contested in 13 seats, but one barely saw senior or high-profile leaders coming for campaigning. State in-charge

Jitin Prasada was almost a lone ranger with a few others who came occasionally.

Top Congress sources say that while an extensive star campaigner list has been drawn up for each phase, the focus will only be on the last three phases where the party has some considerable presence. One Congress leader said: "We won't waste our energy where we have no presence. We will bring all our stars in the last few phases where we have stakes."

This is in sharp contrast to the BJP style. Said a leader of the G23 (a group of 23 dissenting Congress leaders): "A few years back, BJP was a nobody in Bengal. But they remained at it? And today they are the main challengers. They never play safe. They take risks and it pays. Eventually, they emerge as chief challengers and also build a perception that every election does matter and they are fighters. The Congress cannot live a cotton wool

existence. Rules of the game have changed."

One more reason why Gandhis, especially Rahul Gandhi, are staying away is because of an alliance with the Left in Bengal clashes with the Congress opposition to it in Kerala. He stayed away from the joint Samyukt Morcha rally in Kolkata as he wanted to play safe, he said.

Another problem that has surfaced is the unhappiness of Adhir with the ISF alliance. He fears it may eat into his minority vote bank in Murshidabad and if it succeeds it could bring problems for him in the Lok Sabha polls. So far, Congress has not even campaigned for its allies. For example, Meenakshi Mukherjee, the Left candidate from Nandigram, was seen braving it alone with her cadre. The Congress flags were nowhere to be seen. The Congress playing it safe has posed a problem for the State leadership. Those who decided to stay back in the party

despite many joining the TMC and the BJP wonder what's the point of being in the inactive party. Said one MLA, "The TMC took away more than half of the 44 MLAs we have. Some joined the BJP. We are with the Congress but look at our party. They don't want to attack Mamata. They don't want to take risks."

It was this feedback that pushed Congress to finally attack the TMC. At a press conference by Jaiveer Shergill, a football was used to show that Mamata Banerjee had played games with the people of West Bengal.

The Congress State in-charge, Jitin Prasada, scotches the talk of Congress shying away from a fight. He said, "So many of us are here. How can you say we not campaigning?"

In politics, one needs to be like a woodpecker. Keep on pecking at the wood till you make the space. The Congress has yet to begin pecking in earnest.

China goes on losing interest in Pakistan

China and Pakistan are close allies but the level of that closeness will not remain the same for all time. It will keep on fluctuating due to some fundamental reasons:

The most fundamental factor is that Pakistan is inherently a liability for China, but China has been trying to use it as a strategic opportunity as per her own needs

How Pakistan is a liability for China?

The poor economic status of Pakistan, in which Chinese investments face the uncertainty of repayments. the occasional political instability and safety of her investments is an

added concern. At present, Chinese investments are facing this twin threat which explains China's less interest in Pakistan. Pakistan-based terrorism makes her vulnerable to global action and isolation. Pakistan is now facing actions by the Financial Action Task Force. Chinese support to Pakistan on the issue of terrorism makes dents on China's credibility also.

Again China is also facing the challenges of Uighur extremism in Xinjiang, which may get support from Pakistan. Though Officially the government of Pakistan has not raised the issue of Uighurs, People in Pakistan have sympathy with Uighur Muslims as

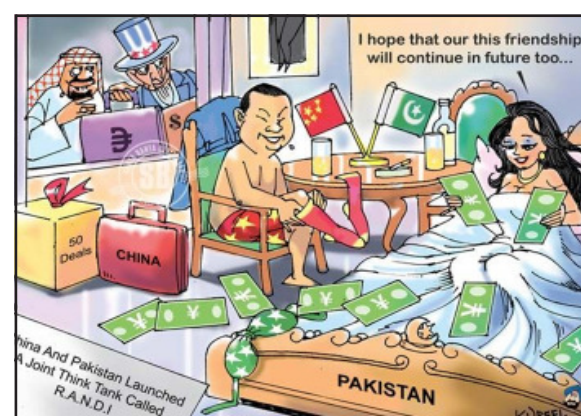
their basic human rights are violated in China.

Pakistan's links with Arab countries and its vulnerability manipulation by the US make Pakistan's external behavior both unpredictable and unreliable. For example, when China was threatening a two-front war against India amidst an ongoing standoff along the LAC, Pakistan has been involved in back-channel and secret consultations with India through the mediation of UAE, perhaps under the direction of the US. Can Pakistan be a reliable partner for China at all times? How Pakistan is a Strategic Opportunity?

First, China's only access to the Indian Ocean

and Sea routes is through the Malacca strait, which faces challenges of blockade by the US or India in case of any wider conflict. Thus, China wants another viable access to the Sea. The Gadar port of Pakistan offers such an opportunity. Under the CPEC project, China has gained access to the port but has developed it as per her requirements. The highway linking Gwadar with the Chinese town of Kashgar has already been built.

Second, China needs Pakistan as a balancing factor against India. China has tense relations with India and considers India as a regional rival and an impediment on the way to her global power status.



This is the basis of the all-weather friendship between China and Pakistan. Thus, when strategic factors become paramount China goes closer to Pakistan. On the other hand, when Pakistan as a liability becomes unbearable, China becomes less interested in Pakistan. China-

Pakistan relations move within these two ends of the spectrum. But in the overall assessment, strategic factors are more important and lasting, hence China is not going to leave Pakistan till there is some fundamental change in the Indo-China relations.

What Indira would have felt when Rahul appeals to America



In a video interview to former US under-secretary of state Nicholas Burns, Rahul implored America to intervene in India's domestic affairs and pull up his rivals

Rahul Gandhi's trust in the Indian democracy grows more tenuous each day he and his family sit out of power. As the Congress becomes increasingly un-electable, his sense of entitlement seems to be fermenting into a dangerous sourness.

In his latest video interview with former US under-secretary of state and Harvard University professor Nicholas Burns, Rahul has implored America to intervene in India's domestic affairs and pull up his rivals.

"I don't hear anything from the US establishment about what's happening in

India. If you are saying partnership of democracies, I mean what is your view on what is going on here," he told Burns.

The Congress president-in-waiting also complained to Burns about the "wholesale capture of institutions" by the BJP.

Rahul's recklessness on foreign affairs is nothing new. His desperation to dislodge Modi by allying with foreign forces - or anyone who would help him, regardless of whether it is in the national interest or not - has been growing.

He met Chinese

diplomats during India's Doklam conflict with China. He repeatedly made noises undermining India's position and buttressing China during the subsequent Galwan and Pangong Tso clashes. There are reports of the Congress party signing an MoU with the Chinese Communist Party in 2008 during the UPA rule.

Rahul had also demanded proof of India's surgical strike on Pakistan. Pakistan returned the favor by quoting his comments on Kashmir to attack India at the United Nations.

The list is long. But there is a grim aspect to Rahul's invitation to the US to meddle

in India's affairs besides his seeming scorn for sovereignty.

Rahul is either oblivious of or does not care about how the US under Richard Nixon and his Secretary of State Henry Kissinger loathed his grandmother, then prime minister Indira Gandhi, and Indian women in general.

Gary J Bass, a professor at Princeton and the author of 'The Blood Telegram: Nixon, Kissinger and a Forgotten Genocide', has exposed alarmingly racist and misogynist conversations between the two from dozens of White House tapes, some of which were declassified in 2018-19.

In one of the tapes, after

a meeting with Indira, Nixon says: "They turn me off. They are repulsive and it's just easy to be tough with them."

A few days later, again on the subject of Indira and India, the President said: "I don't know how they reproduce!"


It does not stop there. In an appalling conversation at the Oval Office involving Kissinger and White House chief of staff HR Haldeman in June 1971, Nixon said: "Undoubtedly the most unattractive women in the world are the Indian women. Undoubtedly. The most sexless, nothing, these people. I mean, people say, what about the Black Africans? Well, you can see something, the vitality there, I mean they have a little animal-like charm, but God, those Indians, ack, pathetic. Uch."

Kissinger has also been quoted saying about Indians: "They are a scavenging people."

A decade earlier, Indira had faced humiliation from

Jacqueline, the wife of another US President John F Kennedy. The First Lady said in a 1964 interview: "She liked to be in with the men. And she is a real prune - bitter, kind of pushy, horrible woman. You know, I just don't like her a bit. It always looks like she's been sucking a lemon".

It is the same Americans that Rahul has now run to. Asking for lessons and interventions in democracy from a nation which was burning all of the last election season, where Capitol Hill was stormed, and which took months to count votes in the middle of a most uncivilized, puerile shame-game.

Lastly, the democracy within Rahul's own party is gasping. Organisational polls are being repeatedly deferred in the fear that the 50-year-old dynasty could be challenged and even overthrown by a dissenter. Perhaps he reckons that Americans understand how a famiglia is run. 

Forests under indigenous people more protected say a new report

Indigenous and tribal peoples play vital roles in global and regional climate action and in fighting poverty

Deforestation rates are significantly lower in indigenous and tribal territories, where governments have formally recognized collective land rights, according to a new report.

On average, indigenous and tribal territories in the Amazon Basin lost 0.17 per cent of the carbon stored in their forests each year between 2003 and 2016 due to deforestation and forest degradation, said the report titled Forest Governance by Indigenous and Tribal Peoples.

In contrast, forests outside indigenous territories and protected areas lost 0.53 per cent each year, 0.36 per cent more than the indigenous territories, the report said.

Improving the tenure security of these territories is an efficient and cost-effective way to reduce

carbon emissions, showed the report jointly published by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC).

The indigenous people follow forestry management practices such as assisted forest regeneration, selective harvesting and reforestation and assisted growth of trees within existing forests. These form an efficient and cost-effective way to reduce carbon emissions, the study noted.

Myrna Cunningham Kain, president of FILAC, said:

The time has come to create a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable future. This requires new ways of conceptualizing and doing development, to achieve a good coexistence

between peoples and between humans and other living beings, nature.

The report showed how the "cultural, geographic, economic and political conditions and factors that have favored the preservation of the forests in the indigenous and tribal peoples' territories" are changing drastically. The consequences can cause serious, irreversible harm both environmentally and financially, it said.

These people who dwell in forests have a vast wealth of culture, knowledge, and natural resources but have the lowest incomes and the poorest access to services. They were also among the worst hit during the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, healthwise and economically.

To respond to these challenges, the FAO report proposed a set of

investments and policies that have great potential to reactivate the economies of the indigenous and tribal territories, mitigate climate change, preserve biological and cultural diversity, and reduce social and environmental conflicts. The proposal is based on six pillars:

- ♦ Recognition of collective territorial rights
- ♦ Compensation for environmental services
- ♦ Community forest management
- ♦ Revitalization of ancestral knowledge
- ♦ Strengthening of grassroots organizations and
- ♦ Mechanisms for territorial governance

This would help in promoting social inclusion and reduce the inequalities that affect the indigenous and




tribal peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean and go a long way in improving equitable access to climate finance and rural economic recovery.

The first-ever Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which assessed the status of biodiversity on the planet, also said that the rate of decline in biodiversity is lower in areas where indigenous people own land. However, the knowledge and perspective of the

indigenous communities are absent in the global approaches to conservation.

The FAO report is significant because it comes days after forest fires in Simlipal highlighted the importance of engaging local communities in the first line of action.

The report calls for a new relationship with indigenous peoples and to "allocate resources to revitalize their intangible wealth of cultures and ancestral knowledge". 

Mahurat Of Odia Movie 'Yeah Bhi Ek Love Story' Held In Bhubaneswar Temple



Bhubaneswar: Following the success of 'Tu Mo Love Story', Taranga Cine

Productions is coming up with another Odia film 'Yeah Bhi Ek Love Story'.

Helmed by debutant director Mrutunjay Sahoo, the movie is based on the

love stories of two couples.

Rakesh, Divya, Rajesh, and Dipika will play the lead roles in the film. Pintu Nanda, Tribhuban Panda, Bhupati Tripathy, Guddu, Ameli, and Prativa Panda will be seen playing other characters. Produced by Ramesh Barik, the mahurat of the movie was held at a temple at Jaydev Vihar in Bhubaneswar on Friday. Ollywood Movie 'Dil Mora Manena' Ready For Release.

Odia Short Film 'Papagarbha' Set To Release Next Week

Bhubaneswar: Odia short film 'Papagarbha' is scheduled for release next week. The 16-minute movie has been produced by V Tunes Pro and Vibhas Music. The banner is launching a new face in the lead female cast, Nibedita Rout while Chandan Kar



will play the hero. The movie is directed by Sai Prasad Panda and Rakesh Samal while Saqti Mohanty has written the story. The movie team will release it on different platforms at the national and international levels. "Shooting of the film is over. Post-production works are underway. The movie is scheduled to be released next week," said Chandan, hero of the movie.

Ollywood Movie 'Dil Mora Manena' Ready For Release



Bhubaneswar: Love can happen anywhere at the most unexpected moments of life. This is the theme of the upcoming Ollywood movie 'Dil Mora Manena'. A love story of a young couple, who fall in love while traveling and the obstacles thereafter form the crux of the movie produced by Bapuni Kumar under the banner 'Maa Tarini Entertainment' and Chhabita Martha under the RRC banner. Chandi Parija is the director. Actors Swaraj Barik and Sivani Sangita play the lead pair and this is their first movie together. Producer Sridhar Martha is essaying a negative role in the movie. The star cast also includes Mihir Das, the late Salil Mitra, and Ushasi Mishra. Prem Anand has composed the music in the film, which has seven songs. Lubun-Tubun duo has choreographed the dance moves.

Odia Movie 'Tume Mo Sankha Tume Mo Sindura' Released In 22 Theatres

Bhubaneswar: Odia movie 'Tu Mo Sankha Tume Mo Sindura' was released in 22 cinema halls across Odisha on Thursday. Starring Avisekh Rath, Ankita, Mahima, and Shakti Barala, the movie is a romantic drama. Actress Mahima and Ankita have been paired opposite Avisekh.

Produced by Badrinath Pattnaik under the banner of 'Golden Forest India Television Pvt Ltd', the film has been directed by Ranjit Barik. Noted singers Human Sagar, Swayam



Padhi, Ira Mohanty, Rojalin, Rinky, Neha, and Niharika have lent voice to

the songs composed by Abhijit Majumdar. The film was released at Esplanade-

Cinepolis here in the presence of media and crew numbers.

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