



GREETINGS ON THE HOLY OCCASION OF RATH YATRA, MAY THE DIVINE TRINITY BESTOW UPON US, PEACE, PROSPERITY, AND GOOD FORTUNE.

Modi's reshuffle; an olive branch to Odisha



the BJP's allies, while some others come from important states where big-ticket elections are due soon. Several of the government's prominent faces have also

Dharmendra Pradhan may be an Odia, but not from Odisha to represent the Parliament had the important portfolios of Petroleum and gas and also steel. We rejoice



been dropped in the reshuffle, which is the first of Modi's current term.

Now let's see what the state of Odisha gets or loses.

these ministries belong to Odisha, but it is far from fact. Pradhan may be an Odia politician, but factually he got first (Page-16)

New Delhi, July 8: (Sirish C Mohanty) With 36 new faces, 7 promotions, and 12 resignations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's team of ministers has undergone its biggest reshuffle since the NDA government came to power in 2014.

Among the changes are several leaders who are from

DADLS-10



**ପବିତ୍ର ରଥଯାତ୍ରା ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ
ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳଙ୍କ
ବାର୍ତ୍ତା**

ବିଶ୍ୱ ପ୍ରସିଦ୍ଧ ପବିତ୍ର ରଥଯାତ୍ରା-୨୦୨୧ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ବିଶ୍ୱର କୋଣ ଅନୁକୋଣରେ ଥିବା ଶ୍ରୀଜଗନ୍ନାଥପ୍ରେମୀ ଭକ୍ତଜନଙ୍କୁ ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି ।

ଶ୍ରୀଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ଚେତନା ଓ ଦର୍ଶନରେ ରହିଛି ମାନବଜାତିର ଉତ୍ତରଣ ଓ ଅଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମ ଅନ୍ୱେଷଣର ମାର୍ଗ । ସମାଜରେ ଏହା ଶାନ୍ତି, ମୈତ୍ରୀ, ପ୍ରେମ ଓ ଭ୍ରାତୃଭାବର ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠାରେ ସହାୟକ ହେଉ ବୋଲି କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

କରୋନା ମହାମାରୀ ବିରୋଧରେ ମାନବଜାତିର ଲଢେଇରେ ବିଜୟ ନିମନ୍ତେ ମହାପ୍ରଭୁଙ୍କ କରୁଣା ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା କରୁଛି ।

ଶଶେଶାମାଳି
(ଗଣେଶୀ ଲାଲ)

OIPR- 15001/13/0018/2122

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ରଥଯାତ୍ରା ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

ବିଶ୍ୱ ଭ୍ରାତୃତ୍ୱ, ସଂପ୍ରୀତି ଓ ସଂହତିର ପ୍ରତୀକ ମହାପ୍ରଭୁ ଶ୍ରୀଜଗନ୍ନାଥଙ୍କ ପବିତ୍ର ରଥଯାତ୍ରା ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ମୁଁ ଓଡ଼ିଶାବାସୀ ତଥା ବିଶ୍ୱର କୋଣ ଅନୁକୋଣରେ ରହୁଥିବା ସମସ୍ତ ଶ୍ରୀଜଗନ୍ନାଥପ୍ରେମୀ ଭକ୍ତଜନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଓ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି ।

କରୋନା ମହାମାରୀ ଭଳି କଠିନ ସମୟରେ ଆପଣମାନେ ଘରେ ରହି ଦୂରଦର୍ଶନ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ମହାପ୍ରଭୁଙ୍କ ଘୋଷ ଯାତ୍ରା ଦର୍ଶନ କରନ୍ତୁ । ବିଶ୍ୱ ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରା ମହାପ୍ରଭୁଙ୍କ ଅପାର କରୁଣାରୁ ବିଶ୍ୱରୁ ଏ ମହାମାରୀ ଦୂରେଇଯାଉ ଏବଂ ଜଗତର ମଙ୍ଗଳ ଘଟୁ, ଏହା ହିଁ ମୋର ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା ।

ସୁଚନା ଓ ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ, କଳସଂପଦ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

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**ଶ୍ରୀଗୁଣ୍ଡିଚା ଅବସରରେ
ମାନ୍ୟବର ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା**

ପବିତ୍ର ଶ୍ରୀଗୁଣ୍ଡିଚା ଅବସରରେ ଶ୍ରୀଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ମହାପ୍ରଭୁଙ୍କ କୋଟିକୋଟି ଭକ୍ତଜନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି ।

ଚଳିତ ବର୍ଷ କୋଭିଡ କଟକଣା ମଧ୍ୟରେ ବିନା ଭକ୍ତରେ ମହାପ୍ରଭୁଙ୍କ ବିଶ୍ୱପ୍ରସିଦ୍ଧ ରଥଯାତ୍ରା ଅନୁଷ୍ଠିତ ହେଉଛି । ଆମେ ସମସ୍ତେ ଘରେ ରହି ମହାପ୍ରଭୁଙ୍କ ପତିତପାବନ ଯାତ୍ରାକୁ ଦର୍ଶନ କରିବା । ମହାପ୍ରଭୁ ଆମ ହୃଦୟରେ ସଦାସର୍ବଦା ରହିଛନ୍ତି ଏବଂ ଆମକୁ ସବୁବେଳେ ସଚ୍ଚିତ୍ତନ ଓ ସଚ୍ଚର୍ମ ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରେରଣା ଦେଇଆସୁଛନ୍ତି ।

ଏହି ପବିତ୍ର ଅବସରରେ ମାନବ ସମାଜର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ତଥା ଏକ ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ ପାଇଁ ମହାପ୍ରଭୁଙ୍କ ନିକଟରେ ମୋର ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା ଜଣାଉଛି ।

ଜୟ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ

ନବୀନ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ମହାନ୍ତି
(ନବୀନ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ)

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Odia Cultural Centre Inaugurated in U.S.A.



Houston, Dt: 07.07: (Kishore Dwibedi) United States of America (U.S.A.) recently witnessed the opening up of an Odia Cultural Centre at Megacity Houston in the state of Texas. Named as Dr. S.K.Dash Centre for Odia Culture, the coveted institution was inaugurated by renowned scientist and prominent philanthropist from Minneapolis Dr. SitaKantha Dash along with wife noted poetess SmtKalpana Dash in a spectacular ceremony. Situated at 3101 Fuqua street

the magnificent archaeological structure was built by Orissa Culture Center (OCC). The Center will work as a multipurpose community center and socio-cultural epicenter for the Odia residents staying in the Greater Houston locality. Established in 2009 OCC has been designed to serve as a forum for the integration of culture, literature, religion, and spirituality. OCC plans to establish a temple, Library, and Museum in the future.

Speaking during the inaugural ceremony as the

Chief Guest Dr. SitaKantha Dash exudes confidence that this Cultural center shall play a vital role in projecting, promoting, propagating, and popularising Odishan art, Culture, heritage, Sculpture, tradition, tourism, attire and cuisine in Texas as well as in the whole of U.S.A. Delivering welcome address Chairman of OCC Dr. Aditya Samal, explained that the center has been established with the sole and solemn motto of strengthening the bondage and facilitating the

interaction between the Odia community staying in Houston and nearby areas. Addressing the gathering President of OCC Dr. DebanandPati, declared that with the commencement of this center, the long-cherished dream of the Odia residents of Houston has been fulfilled. Dr. Pati sought everybody's help and cooperation for the further advancement of the center.

OCC hosted a grand Festival to install the four deities Lord Balavadra, Goddess Subhadra, Lord

Jagannath, and Lord Sudarshan in the newly built building. Chief Guest Dr. SitaKantha Dash and SmtKalpana Dash performed the worshipping rituals in the presence of a large number of devotees during the occasion. Earlier religious practices like Ankuraropana, Adhivasa, KalashYatra, Vastu Pooja, Vishnu, and JagannathSahasranamaYajna have been performed. In a pious and devotional atmosphere. The Pahandis of four deities has been done with the playing of musical instruments like Ghanta, Kartal, Jhanja, and loud chanting of Slogans Jai Jagannath. The special attraction of the ceremony was the Pahandi Journey of Devi Subhadra, conducted exclusively by lady devotees. Celebrated spiritual preachers Swami SarbapriyaNanda and Dr. Surya Narayan Nanda presented their illuminating and elevating religious discourses during the four-

day-long celebration.

The other highlights of the auspicious Event include the opening of the Ananda Bazar by Dr. NityanandaUpadhyaya and Mrs. PragyanUpadhyaya and the inauguration of the Shri Sitaram Foundation Hall by Dr. ArunVerma and SmtVinniVerma.

Distinguished dignitaries graced the Gala opening Ceremony include Consul General of India in Houston Aseem Mahajan, Mayor of Houston Sylvester Turner, Fort Bend County Judge K.P. George, Community relation specialist Betty Russo, OCC's Vice - President Madhab Maharana, Treasurer Debasis Mohanty, Secretary Srimant Dash, President of OSA's South West chapter Swaroop Panda, Dr. YaminiNayagandhi, Bikram Kumar, Dr. Gopal Mohapatra, Dr. Arati Nanda Pati, Dilip Patra, AbeezerTyebji, Shruti Mohanty Rout, Brijesh rout, Jyotsana Jena and Girish Kumar Lenka.

Dharmendra Pradhan Gets Education Ministry, Petroleum Goes To HardeepPuri



New Delhi, July 7: Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has been given the charge of Education, Skill Development, and Entrepreneurship Ministries in a major cabinet reshuffle effected by the Narendra Modi-led NDA government at the Centre on Wednesday.

The former Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel Minister replaced Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' while HardeepPuri got the Ministry of Urban Development, Housing, clubbed with Petroleum & Natural Gas.

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan got the Education, Skill Development, and

Entrepreneurship Ministries in the new Modi cabinet.

Pradhan held the important portfolio of Petroleum & Natural Gas twice in the Modi government.

In 2014, when the NDA came to power led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Pradhan became the Petroleum Minister with independent charge. Later, he was promoted to cabinet rank and given the additional portfolio of Skill Development in 2017.

Son of former Union Minister Debendra Pradhan, Dharmendra was born on June 26, 1969, in Talcher. He belongs to the Other Backward Caste (OBC) category. He is married to Mridula Pradhan and has two children Nishant and Naimisha.

He started his political carrier as an AkhilBhartiyaVidyarthiParishad (ABVP) activist in 1983 while pursuing higher secondary education in Talcher College. He became the president of the student union in Talcher in 1985. Later, he became the national secretary of ABVP.

He did his M.A. in Anthropology from Utkal University in Odisha.

'Ministry of Co-operation': Modi creates a new ministry ahead of cabinet expansion

New Delhi, July 6: The Modi government on Tuesday created a separate ministry - the Ministry of Co-operation - for strengthening the cooperative movement in the country. News agency ANI reported that a separate ministry has been created by PM Narendra Modi-led Central Government for realizing the vision of 'Sahkar se Samridhhi'.

This ministry will provide separate administrative, legal,



and policy framework for strengthening the cooperative movement in the country.

Commenting on the development, BJP National General Secretary B L Santhosh said that the new ministry is created with the motto of 'Sahakar Se Samruddhi'.

"A new ministry for 'Cooperatives' is created with the motto of 'Sahakar Se Samruddhi'. PM Narendra Modi first created Jal Shakti ministry and now Cooperatives. This will go a long way in strengthening the rural economy," he said on Twitter.

India must demolish the digital Berlin wall

Cut in administered prices, and cash flow are boosters, not in FM's stimulus



Prof. Shivaji Sarkar

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A booster dose of about Rs 6.28 lakh crore stimulus to push credit is supposedly an official phenomenon to rev up the economy with about, but the market response looks muted.

The banks are expected to lend about Rs 2.67 lakh crore to fund the covid19-hit businesses. The lending does not help when moods are down. The actual infusion is Rs 1.5 lakh crore. A key element of injecting cash into the system that helps the poor remains elusive. India must demolish the digital Berlin wall, IMF had advised in 2019. Eight lakh Jandhan accounts were beneficiaries of PM Kisan funds of Rs 6000 each - Rs 480 crore. Digital is not the answer to stop fraud.

The share market

continued with a bear hug for four days before closing with a rise of 166 points on Friday, July 2, 2021 - not a big deal but like most Fridays, it breaks the monotony into a visible surge for record's sake.

The concern is that institutional participation in the stock market has declined to a 15-year-low. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's largesse is a difficult move by a government with a severe financial crunch. This also is shadowed by galloping inflation fueled mostly by domestic factors though the global trends also are pushing it up. The FM should have looked around her table to rectify some she could have easily done - the fuel prices. The advisors who suggested that detrimental way are

good theoreticians. They are not aware that central and state governments are the biggest guzzlers of fuel and the highest taxpayer to its kitty. It merely window-dresses the coffers. The outgoes, in reality, are more.

The worse it has hit all industries, people and virtually bulldozed the poor. Another set of advisors go on harping that road tolls, fees, and user charges, and high rail and transport fares must rip the roof "to sprint to fast development" forgetting it is eroding the very base of the economy - the purchasing power. Though the latest CMIE report says, that eight lakh people have their jobs restored in June but most of them on lower wages. The job losses are baffling everyone. The incomes of 97 percent of households have declined since March 24, 2020. The government free food doles sustain people. The CPI index could plummet many points if petrol and other fuel prices are cut to around Rs 40, vehicles are not scrapped in the name of pseudo-pollution concerns, transportation charges get reduced and high-handed police deals to the people for enforcing covid19 healthcare protocol are done away with. The police deals have hurt the shops, vendors, many offices, and individuals. They are not trained to behave but their rent-seeking is ruining the

lowest level of economic activities. Some studies have come out with miseries of many families, some even committing suicide. It need not be a welfare nation but at least could be humane. Uncertain official advices are bringing not a good name to the political masters, who pay the final popular cost.

The banks are also shaking the confidence of the people. Would more privatization mean more outgo from the government and more miseries? No one is sure but banks themselves seem to be on a shaky platform. Despite the government's credit-driven stimulus to help tide over the impact of covid19, bank credit growth hit a new low for the second year in a row in FY21 at 5.56 per cent - the lowest in 59 years, according to an analysis by SBI Research. It is lower than financial year '20 when it grew by 6.14 percent. In 1962, it clocked 5.32 percent.

The June purchasing managers' index (PMI) plummets to 48.1, lowest, below the critical threshold of 50, signifying contraction beyond the levels of April and May, when the lockdown was severe. This suggests demand-side problems - another testimony that people are lacking in cash.

This has impacted investments, a

determinant of future growth. The CMIE says year-on-year growth numbers look impressive for the private sector on a low base effect. The cost of continuing uncertainties is said to be heavy on actual investment. New announcements continue to be at low levels. The government itself is wary of investments because of strained finances. It has led HSBC to moderate GDP growth to 8 percent, lower than RBI estimates of 9.5 percent

The industry fears that as the government largesse would depend on higher credit from the market, lending for them would be costlier. The RBI itself has indicated a rate rise by the next quarter or so and is pessimistic of growth. The silver lining is that the Nomura India Business resumption index hints at recovery from a sharp collapse on May 23 at 60.3.

The market concern is reflected over the drop in inflows from foreign and portfolio investors to the stock market due to elevated share valuations. In other words, there are apprehensions about actual equity prices. In June, their market share dropped to 30 percent against retail investors of 70 percent. The average portfolio investment was around Rs 25,200 core a day at NSE and BSE, an

extreme low. The FPIs sold stocks worth Rs 8,500 crore between April and June after buying Rs 44,500 crore stocks during January-March. The interesting aspect is that the stock market is no indicator of buoyancy but hints at a conducive atmosphere.

Meanwhile, the bad bank that is to come up has a pile of Rs 2 lakh crore debt, about a quarter of the country's non-performing assets may not resuscitate the economy nor the privatization causing more outflow of public funds.

So the stimulus pushes theoretical expenditure to about Rs 36.6 lakh crore. It may not exactly materialize. The net push may be far less and may result in lesser flows to the purchasers though it might push the official deficit to 7.5 percent, in actuality it may be a few notches more. Many companies and units are closing down. Even the government is downsizing as costs go up with inflation.

A mere stimulus would not work. Digital pushes have blunted cash flow and increased operational costs. The country has to bring down administered prices, enhanced taxes, transportation costs to make the people and businesses comfortable. The solutions are there one has to trudge.

SAIL steelworkers observed a 24 hours strike to protest the long delay in wage revision

Rourkela, July 2: Ahead of the 24-hour strike call given by the trade unions, Rourkela Steel Plant Management, threatened the workers issuing a notice which stated that the strike on 30th June is illegal as reconciliation proceeding is on with the Regional Labour Commissioner, and advised workers not to participate. "Participation in the strike would lead to break in service and attract action under provisions of Wages Act, 1936 leading to loss of eight days of wages, rewards and incentives besides disciplinary action."

Despite the threat of wage deduction, trade union leaders were not perturbed by the wage deduction notice. Workers joined the strike in huge numbers. Rather in reply to the



warning, trade unions of RSP resorted to a day-long hunger strike at Bisra Square.

About 95 per cent of the employees joined the one-day strike called by five central trade unions including BMS, INTUC, CITU, AITUC, and HMS of all SAIL plants. Smaller unions at Rourkela also joined the strike.

Trade unions are demanding immediate finalization of wage revision of public sector steelworkers in the National Joint Committee on Steel (NJCS) meetings. The wage revision has been due since January 1, 2017.

Following strike notice given by the unions across the country, SAIL had started wage negotiation in the NJCS meeting from June 22. In a partial success, its offer of 13 per cent growth in Minimum Guaranteed Benefit (MGB) enhancement on basic pay and Dearness Allowance was accepted. However, the NJCS meeting ended abruptly on 27th June with SAIL rejecting the demand for growth of perks at par with SAIL executives. RSP management didn't specifically mention the loss they suffered due to the absence of workers. They claimed that despite the strike the vital departments like Blast Furnace, Steel Melting Shop, Coke Oven, etc. did operate to around 15 to 30% of capacity.

Free dialysis service at Rourkela hospital

Rourkela: A free dialysis service has been started at the Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH). Rourkela MLA Sarada Nayak and Sundargarh Collector Nikhil Pavan Kalyan inaugurated the free dialysis unit on 25th June. It would benefit people who cannot afford the cost and have to go to faraway places like Cuttack for treatment. The dialysis unit has four machines and this service began under the 'Sahaya' scheme of the state government.

Under the upgradation program, Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH)

is gradually augmenting its infrastructure and medical facilities. In October 2019, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had announced a three-fold increase in RGH's bed strength from 128 to 400 under the 'Mo Sarkar' initiative. But due to first and second waves of the Covid-19 pandemic slowed the progress of the proposals.

However, RGH has started augmenting its medical facilities and infrastructure as part of a continuous process. A free CT Scan facility has become functional a few months ago. There are plans to start a central pathology



laboratory and laparoscopy surgery in near future also. Meanwhile, civil work for the PSA (Pressure Swing Adsorption) Oxygen Plant has already started. RGH Director Santosh Kumar

Swain informed dialysis center would remain open on all the days from morning 8 to evening 8 pm. He said the service would hugely benefit those who have to go to places like Cuttack for dialysis.

RSP Achieve Historic Milestone of 100 MT Hot Metal production

Rourkela: Rourkela Steel Plant has surpassed a historic milestone of 100 million tonnes (MT) Hot Metal production on July 5. With this achievement, SAIL has entered the elite club of the steel industries with such a distinction.

The journey of RSP had commenced on February 3, 1959, with the then President of India Dr Rajendra Prasad commissioning the first Blast Furnace 'Parvati,' which has now entered a higher orbit. In the last 62 years, RSP has consistently reinforced its commitment by providing one of the strongest metals available on planet Earth for use in every aspect of life and



living, right from household items to infrastructure and defense applications.

SAIL's Chairperson Soma Mondal in her congratulatory message for the achievement to CEO Chattaraj and RSP collective said, "The milestone has been crossed with the help of efforts put in by thousands of people who have

contributed directly and indirectly to the growth of the steel plant which had come up in the remote part of the state of Odisha more than 60 years back. Today, the steel plant and the city of Rourkela are vibrant and brimming with confidence to reach greater heights."

CEO Dipak Chattaraj visited the Blast Furnaces

department along with top management of the Plant and congratulated the collective remarkable achievement. A miniature of the 100 MT monument was unveiled and a ceremonial cake was cut at the BF-5 Control Room, to commemorate the occasion. A helium inflated balloon with the greetings message of 100 MT Hot Metal production was also floated in presence of senior officers, representatives of Trade Unions, and Executive Association.

Applauding the historic feat, Mr. Chattaraj extended hearty congratulations to the RSP collective and exhorted them to achieve 4.5 MT of Hot Metal production in the current fiscal.

RSP Provide equal opportunity to women employees

Women Empowerment refers to increasing and improving the social, economic, political, and legal strength of women. It helps in social transformation, improves their economic status and wellbeing. But women are generally underrepresented in power and decision-making roles. Empowering women to participate fully in economic life across all sectors is essential to build stronger economies, and improve the quality of life of all sections of society. Rourkela



Steel Plant is playing its part in this direction by creating an equal opportunity for women employees. They can be seen in Rourkela Steel Plant's higher echelons to middle and lower levels. Currently, there are a

record number of 2 Chief General Managers, 4 Heads of Departments, 10 General Managers, 18 Deputy General Managers, and several Section Heads are women. Notably, 113 lady executives and 671

lady non-executives are currently working in different departments of the Steel Plant, including the traditional male-bastions like Blast Furnaces, Coke Ovens, Steel Melting Shops, Finishing Mills. Dipak Chattaraj, CEO, RSP while interacting with a group of women executives on 2nd July in a session of the HR initiative 'Unmukt' said, "We are consistently improving the systems and facilities to provide the right ambiance and scope to the women employees

to grow personally and professionally. However you too have to come forward and grab the opportunities." He told them that RSP has become one of the best performing Steel Plants in the country. He urged them to make every possible effort to sustain this position. During the session, the women employees came up with various ideas and suggestions about a general improvement in the Plant and township, as well as specific requirements of women employees to

maintain a perfect work-life balance. The CEO assured them to take positive actions on the suggestions, ranging from further improving the crèche facilities to strengthening the mentor-mentee scheme, revisiting employee engagement formats, and launching new CSR schemes. Conducting health awareness and check-up camps for women employees is a regular feature at the Occupational Health Service Centre of the plant.

Shortage of doctors hit health service in Jagatsinghpur



JAGATSINGHPUR: The shortage of doctors at the headquarters hospital, Community health centers [CHC], Primary Health Centre (PHC), and other government-run hospitals are adversely affected in the healthcare scenario across the district.

As official reports informed that out of 220 sanctioned doctors post for Jagatsinghpur district, as many as 91 post doctors are lying vacant, six physicians have been sent on deputation to Cuttack and Bhubaneswar during Covid 19 pandemic, one

doctor has gone long leave and another one undergoing training. Out of 58 doctor's posts at district headquarters hospital [DHH] 39 doctors are working, sadly one anesthesia post is lying vacant for the past three years, following the urgency of any operation performed at DHH one PG student from SCB Medical College and hospital in Cuttack is regularly invited.

Echoing similar shortage of doctors in Biju Memorial Hospital in Paradeep out of 11 doctors only 5 doctors are working followed by in Kujanga

hospitals out of 17 doctors only 7 doctors are in duty, in 6 hospitals under Erasama block out of 16 sanctioned doctors post 10 physicians are at work, in Raghunathpur block adjacent hospitals 11 doctors working out of 24, in Balikuda hospitals 16 doctors are in duty out of 26, 8 PHCs under Manijanga only 14 doctors at work out of 19. In Naugaon CHC too has witnessed a shortage of doctors, 6 doctors, out of 13, in Mandasahi CHC out of 15 only 9 physicians at work, moreover, in Biridi CHC and 2 PHCs 7 doctors are working out of 13 sanctioned physicians post, however, 10 dentists are working in different hospitals across the district.

A major chunk of the population belonging to the coastal rural areas and bordering villages of Erasama, Kujanga, and Balikuda of the district face issues as healthcare

infrastructure is not as robust as compared to other parts of the district. Patients from Paradeep face added problems due to its long distance from DHH and S C B Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. Despite repeated requests to the district administration, no one is paying any heed in filling up vacant doctor posts. However, sources informed that a central team had visited Covid hospitals functioning in DHH and Paradeep three days ago, where the team found no doctors in pulmonary medicine and Anesthesia and expressed strong displeasure.

Chief District Medical Officer Dr Bijaya Panda said due to the shortage of doctors, medical services are managed by alternating the duties of doctors between the centers, resulting in poor health services.

Two judicial courts were inaugurated



JAGATSINGHPUR: The Odisha High Court Chief Justice Dr S Muralidhar inaugurated two judicial courts in Jagatsinghpur district through virtual mode. The newly inducted courts were identified as a court of Ad-HOC Additional district & sessions Judge [FTSC-POCSO] in a court complex in Jagatsinghpur and Civil Judge court [Junior Division] cum JMFC court in Erasama block.

Speaking to the judicial officers, court fraternities, legal professionals, and civil and police administration officials through video conferencing Hon'ble Chief justice Dr Muralidhar said that the opening of more courts aims to provide speedy and timely justice to litigants and people, which is pledged under the Constitution of India. Today as many as 15 Fast track courts and two civil judge

courts were inaugurated across the state, Chief justice informed.

Two virtual meetings were organized by civil and judicial administrations one in Erasama attended by minister Raghunandan Das, district judge Ananda Chandra Behera, Kujanga ADJ Pranab Kumar Routray, collector S K Mohapatra, SP Prakash R, family court judge Jiban J Rath, CJM Priya Ranjan Mishra, judicial officers and legal professionals from Kujanga and Tirtol courts.

While in Fast Track court inauguration ceremony held in a court complex in Jagatsinghpur headquarters the Hon'ble chief justice was connected cybernetic mode by additional district judge Itishree Bhuyian, senior civil judge Sasi Rekha Mishra, Registrar civil court, all judicial officials, bar association members, senior police officials.

Odisha approves 5 mega steel projects worth Rs.1.46 lakh crore investment

Odisha clears five mega steel projects

Bhubaneswar, July 6: The Odisha government Tuesday accorded in-principle approval for five different projects having 27.5 MT steelmaking capacity at an investment of ₹1.46 lakh crore, official sources said.

The state, which started its steel-making journey from just 2 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) in 2000, has so far enhanced the capacity to generate 30 mtpa and Tuesday's addition of another 27.5 mtpa will take the capacity to 57.5 mtpa, he said.

Tuesday's approval will also provide the mineral-rich and tribal-dominated Keonjhar district with a mega steel plant of 3 MT capacity. This is the first big investment in manufacturing in Keonjhar, the official said.

This apart, the approval to JSPL's expansion plan of its Angul plant to 25.2 mtpa, will make the company the world's largest single-location steel plant. The approval was cleared at the State High-Level Clearance Authority, chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

The new investment to the tune of ₹1,46,172 crore in metal and metal downstream sectors during the COVID-19 pandemic also made Odisha one of the favored investment destinations in the country. The



The expansion plans

state has been able to attract investments to the tune of ₹2.96 lakh crore in 2020-21 despite the Covid pandemic, he said, adding that with Tuesday's additional investments the total investments since last year will be ₹4.43 lakh crore in the state.

These five projects are expected to create employment opportunities for 26,959 persons. "All these projects need a big push forward to realize the steel dream of Odisha," Patnaik said after approving these projects.

This will help to achieve the goal to produce 100 million tonnes of steel by 2030, a senior official said, adding that the state currently has a production capacity of 30 million tonnes, way ahead of a meager 2 million tonne in the year 2000.

The projects which got approval included, the expansion of Bhushan Power and Steel Limited's integrated steel plant from 5 million tonnes per annum to 15 million tonnes per annum against an investment of Rs.55,000 crores. The project will be set up at Rengali in Sambalpur district and will

generate potential employment opportunities for over 10,000 persons.

A proposal for the expansion of Tata Steel Limited's crude steel production from 3 million tonnes per annum to 8 million tonnes per annum, hot-rolled coil from 3 million tonnes per annum to 7 million tonnes per annum, 2.2 million tonnes per annum cold-rolled products, and 2 million tonnes per annum long products against an investment of Rs.47,599 crores to be set up in Kalinga Nagar, Jajpur, also got the government's nod. This will generate potential employment opportunities for over 4,625 persons.

The expansion of Jindal Steel and Power Limited's 6 million tonnes per annum existing integrated steel plant from the proposed capacity of 18.6 million tonnes per annum to 25.2 million tonnes per annum at an investment of Rs.24,652 crores to be set up in Angul. This will generate potential employment opportunities for over 1,000 persons.

"This investment will take

JSPL's total investment to Rs.1,00,670 crore, making it the largest single-location steel plant capacity in the world," the official said.

Similarly, the expansion of Rungta Mines Limited's Integrated Steel Plant from the proposed capacity of 2.85 million tonnes per annum capacity to 7.55 million tonnes per annum by adding a capacity of 4.7 million tonnes per annum at an investment of Rs.11,001 crores to be set up at Jharbandh in Dhenkanal district. This will generate potential employment opportunities for over 6,200 persons, he said.

The expansion of Rungta Mines Limited's Steel Plant capacity from 0.53 million tonnes per annum to 3 million tonnes per annum at an investment of Rs.7,920 crores to be set up at Karakhendra in Keonjhar district, will also generate employment opportunities for over 5,134 persons.

Several steel-making and other downstream industries are already in various stages of implementation. The approvals granted on Tuesday are to the leading and reputed investors in the metal sector of the country and will further reinforce Odisha's position as the topmost investment destination in the country, the official said.

Man commits suicide after killing daughter and ailing wife

JAGATSINGHPUR: In a bizarre incident, a man committed suicide after killing his daughter and ailing wife due to a family feud and abject poverty. This strange incident has occurred in Jota village under Salijanga Panchayat in Jagatsinghpur block, a mason by profession Loknath Pala went berserk causing family feud, first, he attacked his teenaged college-going daughter Madhusmita Pala with an iron rod for which latter got severely injured while trying to rescue Madhusmita her mother ailing Kalpana Pala too received hurt under the wrath of husband. As a result, both fell on the floor unconscious with a pool of blood. Loknath ascertained that both have succumbed due to their injuries, he lost his mental balance and hanged himself in a ceiling fan in the room. On Saturday wee hours few neighbors discovered Loknath has hanged in ceiling fan and found his wife and daughter lying on the floor immediately shifted both to headquarters hospital for treatment where Loknath and Madhusmita declared dead by a doctor and injured Kalpana sent to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack in critical condition where she too died.

Khuntapal to New Delhi Bishweswarmakes it to be new Union Minister

Baripada, 10 July: the residents of Khuntapal, the home to the new Union Minister Bishweswar, expressed their happiness as Tudubecomes minister in the Modi ministry. But villagers could not celebrate due to the Covid-19 protocol.

Tudu was an engineer to give his resignation after he received a significant signal that his road is clear for politics in BJP and



he confirmed to contest as an aspirant from the party from Mayurbhanj Lok Sabha seat for 2019. Despite facing different odds in politics he did not care about them and set out on his political journey. Apart from it, his involvement in RSS, VHP, Vidya Bharati (SikhyaVikashSamiti in Odisha), and actively served in BanbaniKalyan Ashram for the last 19 years as well as his responsible duties towards the party had earned him good accolades by which he defeated DrDebashis Marandi of Biju Janata Dal which held wave in the constituency for about a decade. Two years after keeping his duty as MP from the tribal district, he becomes the new Minister of State for Tribal Affairs and Jal Shakti in Narendra Modi's reshuffled ministry.

Activists of right-wing outfits protested over rampant cow smuggling

Baripada, 8 July: Activists of right-wing Kesariya Hindu Vahini accusing Mayurbhanj district police and Odisha Government for their involvement in rampant cow smuggling from the district to Bangladesh.

Attending a press meet on Thursday at Baripada, Atula Mishra the Founder President of the outfit alleged the involvement of the State Government and the Mayurbhanj district administration who are openly supporting smugglers to send cows from the district. Despite shutting down the markets for the pandemic, the RMC markets in several districts are opened particularly for supplying cows. Mostly the smugglers are thronged at the cow markets and illegally transported cows to Bangladesh through the routes



of Mayurbhanj and Balasore districts of Odisha as these routes are closed to West Bengal State. Once the cows crossed the Odisha territory by smugglers, it easily crossed West Bengal State and reached Bangladesh without objection, he said.

"We are warning the district police and Odisha Government to check the illegal smuggling of cows. The outfit will not hesitate to take stern steps in the future if the Government fails to check

soon. Dillip Das the chairman and national core committee secretary charged that Mayurbhanj police and State Government both are responsible for the rampant smuggling of cows to Bangladesh. Despite the closure of the cow markets because of the pandemic, more than 500 cows are being supplied from Chuliaposi weekly market every week. When the right-wing protested against the cow supply, activists of the wing

were attacked by smugglers in presence of police. For instance, at least 8 persons including Hemalata Das, the district women president of the outfit were attacked on 28 June at Chuliaposi market by a group of 25 persons. While eight accused were arrested, the rest accused are still roaming in marketplaces. Not only the Udala police and the entire police department of the district are now mute spectators, but he also charged.

Neglected Khadia families of Dhipakocha Hamlet Village

Basic amenities still a distant dream for Mayurbhanj's Khadia families

Baripada, 11 July:- Notwithstanding tall claims of the State Government of giving priority to the development of tribal pockets, the Khadia people under Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) who are living in tribal-dominated Mayurbhanj district are depriving of basic facilities.

As many as 25 Khadia families under PVTG who are residing in Dhipakocha hamlet village near Asuraghati hill under Bahalda block in the district are struggling to sustain themselves without basic facilities like housing, education, drinking water,



electricity, health, and road connectivity. As they are living close to the Odisha and Jharkhand border that may be their major mistake, they feel. Besides facilities

like Adhar Card, Voter Identity Card, and Rational Card, other basic benefits like old-age pension, road, drinking water, health facilities are a far distance

from the village.

While the benefits of both Central and State Government schemes such as MGNREGS, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, and

Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana are for poor people, are yet to reach the tribals residing in the hamlet area.

Baskey Dehuri (65), Ghasiya Dehuri (62) citizens said that they have walked around one-and-a-half-kilometers to fetch water from a stream due to the absence of a drinking water facility in the village. As there is no health center nearest to the village sans road connectivity, they carry patients on the cot and bring them to Bahalda hospital, situated 20 km from their village. Collecting sal leaf and other minor forest produce are the main source of income and

sustaining their livelihood through this income. Some additional income support is brought by selling goats but these supports are not enough to cater to their family needs, they expressed. Citizens Manguli Dehuri (55) and Pana Dehuri (48) expressed their plight that they had their right to vote but did not get basic benefits from the government.

Balda BDO Hemanta Nayak said that he doesn't know the village. If there is a hamlet village under his block jurisdiction, he will go to the village and address their problems as per government rules.

Odisha Records Rs 858.83 Cr OGST Collection In June

Bhubaneswar, July 2: Odisha Records Rs 858.83 Cr OGST Collection In June As many as 6537 GSTR 3A notices have been issued to Non-Filers during FY 21-22 while 1200 number of assessment U/s 62 have been initiated for non-filing of returns. Clear instructions have been issued to Tax Officials to increase field surveillance so that potential leakages could be plugged. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic situation, Odisha witnessed a record collection of the Odisha Goods and Services Tax (OGST) in June. The State recorded an OGST collection of Rs 858.83 crore during last month against a collection of Rs. 759.17 crore in the corresponding month (June) last year, thereby recording a growth of 13.13 per



cent. Commissioner of CT & GST, Sushil Kumar Lohani has instructed all the field officers to detect the wrong return filers by applying data analytics and collect all taxes from them as per the provisions of law.

Similarly, clear instructions have been issued to Tax Officials to increase field surveillance so that potential leakages

could be plugged. Senior officials said that the CT & GST Organization has been focusing on increasing the taxbase of GST with regular surveys and registration. 7984 numbers of new registrants have been brought under the GST fold from April-June 2021-22 in the State. All Circles have been instructed to ensure 90 per cent return

filing within the due date. As many as 6537 GSTR 3A notices have been issued to Non-Filers during FY 21-22 while 1200 number of assessment U/s 62 have been initiated for non-filing of returns. The total e-way bill generated during June 2021 was Rs 13.38 lakh against Rs 11.12 lakh during June 2020. It is pertinent to mention here that Odisha has

recorded a progressive growth of 80.29 per cent as the progressive collection upto June 2021 stood at Rs 2812.93 crore against a collection of Rs 1560.20 crore upto June last year. Senior officials said that the growth of 13.13 per cent in OGST collection is due to better compliance by dealers having turnover of more than Rs. 5 crore during the previous year, increased collection from iron and steel as well as the mining sector, and collection from matured GST demand made by tax officers after return scrutiny.

The growth of collection in OGST is despite the extension of return filing date by the GST council, poor filing of returns/ payment of tax by dealers having turnover of less than Rs. 5 crores. "There is also a

collection of Rs. 743.16 crore in CGST, Rs 842.65 crore in IGST & Rs 555.27 crore in Cess during June 2021. The total GST collection during June this year is Rs 2999.91 crore against Rs 2693.75 crore collected during June last year," an official release read. The progressive GST collection till June 21 is Rs 10046.14 crore against Rs 5192.30 crore till June 20 with a growth of 93.48 per cent. The total collection of VAT (Petrol and Liquor) is Rs. 709.32 Cr during June '21 as against Rs 424.57 Cr during June '20. Out of the above, collection from Petroleum Products is Rs 585.49 Cr during June 21 against Rs 408.81 Cr during June 20. Similarly, the collection from liquor is Rs 123.82 Cr during June 21 against Rs. 15.75 Cr during June 20 (affected by COVID-19).

Puri Airport To Be Operational By 2022-23: Minister

Bhubaneswar, July 4: Making a major announcement today, Odisha Transport Minister Padmanabh Behera said, air services from Puri will commence in 2022-23. Speaking to the media, Behera informed that if everything goes as planned, we will very likely see air services from Puri in 2022-23. The proposal of a futuristic airport in the pilgrim town of Puri was envisioned in January 2021, when Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposing the same.

It is worthwhile to mention here that the proposal of a futuristic airport in the pilgrim town of Puri was envisioned in January 2021, when Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposing the same.

Apart from constructing a new airport at Puri, Odisha has plans to upgrade existing airstrips as well. "Odisha has

plans to upgrade airstrips in all the undivided districts of the State. We are also assisting the Centre to commence flight services from Rourkela, Utkela, and Jeypore," Behera added.

"COVID posed a major hurdle in executing the plans. As the Jharsuguda airport which was made operational last year, work on other airstrips would also have started if COVID had not hit us," said Behera.

Bhubaneswar 'Real Estate Builder' Arrested For Marrying Multiple Women

Bhubaneswar, July 8: In a sensational case, a man was arrested by Commissionerate Police in Bhubaneswar today (July 8) for allegedly marrying multiple women. The accused identified as Priyabrat Mishra used to get in touch with women with the good financial condition and would introduce himself as a real-estate builder.

Then he would allegedly marry them taking dowry in lakhs. Later, he allegedly harassed the women for more dowries and removed them from his house. Priyabrat's family was also reportedly involved with him in tormenting and harassing these women.

The incident came to the fore after one woman filed a complaint against Priyabrat



at Capital Police Station while another woman filed a separate complaint at the Mahila Police station. Both complainants have demanded strict action against Priyabrat. They have also demanded the return of all the money and belongings which are currently in the possession of the accused.

Bhubaneswar Woman Murder: Hand-Written 'Suicide Note' Reveals Gruesome Plan



Bhubaneswar, July 7: More and more details continue to surface in the sensational murder case of married woman Priyanka Priyadarshini at Bhimatangi in Bhubaneswar. Deputy Commissioner of Police, Umashankar Das on Tuesday (July 6) revealed

that the accused had planned to kill the victim's son ahead of her before committing suicide. The DCP said that a hand-written note recovered from the crime scene revealed accused Jagannath's original plan. Das also informed that a special investigation team

reached Jajpur to question Priyanka & Jagannath's family and acquaintances to gather more details in the case.

Earlier on Tuesday, accused Jagannath's mother had revealed that the accused and victim Priyanka had known each other from before and were

in a relationship. She revealed that after Priyanka's marriage, they cut all following which Jagannath had moved to Bengaluru. However, after a while, Priyanka had started calling Jagannath repeatedly in an attempt to re-establish contact with him.

Living together, separately



Sirish C. Mohanty

Indians are largely conservative when it comes to religion. But social, and political barriers aren't insurmountable but it is too late, and too difficult a task

In the year 2071, if someone reads about India and its history, he will certainly bookmark two points- 1952 and 2014. The reason being that the first committed unpardonable mistakes and the later attempts to rectify them. The first Lok Sabha commences on the 13, May 1952. That was the first Lok Sabha of independent India without-injury of the fresh partition, the burning problem of Kashmir, and a dusting of salt over it by the Western powers. There were growing animosities between South Asia's two largest religions- Hindus and Muslims. The colonial project of 'divide et imperia' (divide and rule) fomented religious antagonisms to facilitate continued imperial rule and reached its tragic culmination in 1947. The division of British India into India and Pakistan, and communal strife between Hindus and Muslims, are the result of the British

machination that was intended to last forever and seal the fate of the Sub-continent. The leaders of the first Lok Sabha who would blueprint the destiny of India were deeply in the hangover of the British thought. The leitmotif should have first identified the citizens of the country, but appallingly, they brought about articles 370 and 35A through the presidential proclamations in 1954 only to further the gap between the two religions, and the state of Jammu and Kashmir from the rest of India. The Citizenship act should have been the first agenda of the first Lok Sabha to build a resilient India to prevent infiltrators and claim to be the citizen of India. We can hardly find a country where the citizens are not registered. Another bookmark point is 2014, from where India begins to rectify and starts from the squire one. The process of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) begins. Articles 370 and 35A were revoked through the same presidential proclamation making Kashmir equal with other

states of the Union of India with the motto of all states 'living together, never separately.'

The Hindu majority-India is home to Hindus and Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Zoroastrians, and other religious groups. The problems emerge only between the Hindus and Muslims. Other groups of religions contend with the systems and provisions of the constitution. Why Muslims are unhappy with the Hindutwa with the present changes? The political ideology of Hindutva is an assertion of 'Indian identity and 'Indian nationhood'. Hindutva is cultural, civilizational, and nonreligious working for the well-being of all Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Ayyavazhis, Jains, and Lingayats, as well as those Muslims, Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians who accept India as their 'fatherland and their 'holy land'. But, for the colonial brain-child political parties would not accept it. They have been used to the anomalies of Hindu-Muslim muddy water to fish out of it. The core problem with Muslims is;

they wish to be treated separately, not as an ordinary loyal citizen of the country while living in a secular democratic country. They are yet to accept the principles of a democracy i.e. decisions taken on consensus.

Mohan Bhagwat's statement of the similar DNA of all Indians be a Muslim or a Hindu is timely and appropriate. Whether the consistency with which he makes such statements shows a radical change in his or the Sangh Parivar's thinking is still difficult to say. But if there is someone who can initiate perestroika in the RSS, it is Bhagwat. Gradually, he has been trying to change the Sangh's attitude towards Muslims. Let us try to understand this vital and now clearly a visible change.

Bhagwat is an outspoken person. He speaks his mind and that, too, without any fear of retaliation from the extreme Hindu right. Lately, he has addressed the question of minorities in general and Muslims in particular. His comments reveal an abrupt change of heart. The Rashtriya Muslim Manch (RMM) was formed in December 2002 under the patronage of the RSS chief K S Sudarshan and is currently led by Indresh Kumar, who, like Bhagwat, believes that when Hindus and Muslims share ancestors, culture, and the motherland, there is no scope for confrontation. He rightly believes that once Hindus and Muslims understand and realize the spirit and soul of India, all the artificial barriers between the two

communities would vanish. 15-17 crore Muslims cannot be thrown out of India. No NRC can exclude all of them. No country can accept them. Pakistan did not even accept the Bihari Muslims who chose to migrate to East Pakistan in 1947. How then can it accept those Indian Muslims who chose to live in a liberal and secular country rather than a feudal and theocratic Pakistan?

The RMM's primary function is to have a meaningful dialogue with the Muslim community. To do so, it should engage with those Muslims who are widely respected by the country as a whole. It should try to appreciate the Muslim perspective on several contentious issues. It must gain some credibility in the eyes of liberal Hindu activists and intellectuals, who enjoy much greater respect in the eyes of ordinary Muslims than their clergy or political leaders.

Many Muslims today indeed live under fear, and "trapped in the cycle of fear" that Islam is in danger in India. Simultaneously, Hindutva's foot soldiers and BJP leaders note that Hindus, too, are not in danger at all, even if recent electoral compulsions have tried to make it a dominant political theme. After the Second World War, Germany was divided and became bitter enemies, but was reunited. Similarly, the whimsical, religious, and machinated divide could be ended soon when we all learn to live together, never separately but jointly.

The meaning of Hindu

What is the meaning of the word 'Hindu'? When did Hinduism originate and who is the founder of this religion?

There is a reference to the word 'Hindu' by the Aryans. The term 'Hindu' in Vedic records did not refer to religion but is mentioned as the nationality of the people who lived in the region. At that time, the ancient name of the Hindu religion as Sanatan Dharma, an eternal or universal tradition referring to learning the right way of living life.

It is believed that the word 'Hindu' comes from the first letter

'H' of the Himalayas and the last words 'indu' from the Sindhu River. According to the Nadistuti Sukta, a hymn in the Rig Veda, Sindhu River, also known as the Indus River, is addressed as the mightiest of rivers. The river is also one of the longest in Asia, originating from the Manasarovar Lake and running through Ladakh to immerse in the Arabian sea. There are many beliefs behind the origin of the term 'Hindu'. It is believed that in the Zoroastrian holy book, the Avesta, the word 'Hindu' was used for the first time as a geographical

term for people who lived beyond the Indus River. The Persians could not pronounce the letter 'S' correctly and mispronounced it as 'H'. Thus, for the ancient Persians, the word 'Sindhu' became Hindu. Even today, people from the Sindh province in Pakistan are called Sindhis or Sindhus.

It is also believed that when Alexander came to India, he referred to its people as Indu, instead of Bharat. Thereafter, the east of the Indus was referred to as India, but initially, the Vedic name for the area was Bharat.



**Malpractice to be at fore,
a good practice no more.
The House turns golmal
With the editorial**

**There is murmur
Snake fumes its charmer
while staying in the
chamber.**

Argy-bargies of All The Chief Ministers Sons



Sirish C Mohanty

The sons of the Chief Ministers of Odisha have bedizened the headlines right from the aftermath of the sardonic emergency clamped on the country in 1975. In those days there were two leading newspapers: the Samaj and the Prajatantra. Prajatantra acquired a center stage because it covered politics and the rural life of the state. The iconic 'gaanmajlis' by Dr. HarekrishnaMahatab, former chief minister of Odisha used to be published in the Prajatantra was the most popular among the political, and news-conscious people of the time. Also after the emergency, 'Tathagat Diary' was a hit, where the personal contents of the diary of TathagatSatpathy, son of the former Odisha chief minister NandiniSatpathy was vividly covered in the daily Prajatantra. Dr. HK Mahatab was arrested during the emergency when NandiniSatpathy was the CM of the state. Even after Nandini departs from the Congress and joins the Janata Dal to defeat Indira, she continued to be targeted by Mahatab; consequently the serial publication of "Tathagat diary" for character assassination of Satpathys.

TathagatSatpathy is the younger son of former Odisha Chief Minister NandiniSatpathy. He is now the owner and editor of the daily Odia newspaper, Dharitri, and the English daily, Orissa Post. In 2000, Satpathy joined Orissa GanaParishad (a

nonpolitical outfit) and served as its secretary-general. After Naveen Patnaik also the son of a former CM Biju Patnaik got elected in 2000, Satpathy had used his newspaper Dharitri to criticize his policies which he does even now. In March 2004, just before the 2004 Indian general election, Satpathy reconciled with Naveen Patnaik. He had quit OGP due to its changing into a political party as also allying with former CM Janaki Ballabh Patnaik-led Indian National Congress (INC). However, due to his dissimilarities with BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik, Tathagat decided to be off from contesting the Dhenkanal seat to avoid theirdepleted political relations turn to an explosive turn.

AnangaUdaya Singh Deo, also known as A U Singh Deo is a politician from Odisha. He is the son of former Odisha CM R N Singhdeo He was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 2014 from Odisha. He is a former Member of the Odisha Legislative Assembly representing from Bolangir constituency. He is said to be a close friend of Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik as both were students of The Doon School, though AnangUday Singh Deo was Two years senior to Naveen Patnaik. He was a cabinet minister in Naveen's Government with portfolios like PWD, Excise, Mines, and others. Their relations turned to vinegary and in 2011 he had to step down as cabinet minister publicly said to be due to hooch tragedy in Cuttack.

BijoyshreeRoutray, son of former chief minister NilamaniRoutray, made his political debut from the Basudevpur Assembly constituency in 1990 as a Janata Dal member. He

never looked back and won from the constituency twice as a Janata Dal candidate and then as a BJD candidate consecutively till 2014. He served as minister in various capacities as tourism and culture, health and family welfare, revenue and disaster management, and forest and environment, in the Naveen

to the 11th Lok Sabha from Bhubaneswar (Lok Sabha constituency) on an Indian National Congress ticket. After he was expelled from Congress he floated a new political party 'Aama Odisha Party' (AOP). On 6 Mar 2018, he merged Aama Odisha Party into Biju Janata Dal, and the very same day he was nominated



BJD MP Bhartruhari Mahtab

Patnaik by Naveen Patnaik as a Biju Janata Dal MP of Rajya Sabha. SoumyaRanjan Patnaik is a member of the 16th Assembly of Odisha (2019-2024) elected from the Khandapada assembly

constituency. SoumyaRanjan Patnaik, sparked a political firestorm in Odisha, with a front-page signed editorial in his leading daily Sambad that accused the government of under-reporting deaths due to Covid and demanding the government issue a white paper on the Covid deaths. Patnaik, the Odia language newspaper's owner-editor, said the attempt to hide the real

After ruling BJD lawmaker SoumyaRanjan Patnaik sparked a political firestorm by accusing his party of under-reporting Covid deaths in his editorial piece, another BJD heavyweight and veteran MP BhartruhariMahtab weaved a fresh article in his Odia Daily, hitting back at the parties which have lost inner democracy.

in a house built on a plot allotted to his doctor wife for a hospital. His son was also denied a party ticket to contest the 2019 Assembly elections. Recently he passed away due to post-Covid complications.

SoumyaRanjan Patnaik, son-in-law of former CM J B Patnaik is a politician and the editor of the Odia daily Sambad. He is also a feature film producer as well as a successful business personality. He was elected

his self-edited Odia Daily the Prajatantra, hitting back at the parties which have lost inner democracy. Although Mahtab has not uttered a single word against any particular party or its leader, his write-up nevertheless gave a source to the Opposition to hit at the BJD which is allegedly run by the bureaucrats.

In his editorial piece, the Lok Sabha member from

figures "had ruined the image of administrative machinery". The editor-politician said the data of Covid deaths was manipulated due to a desperate race to be on the top and an attempt to cling onto past glory, remarks that are seen to refer to a tug-of-war in the corridors of power in Bhubaneswar.

"In the present scenario, what the left hand is doing is not known to the right hand of the administration. Whether chief minister Naveen Patnaik is aware of it or not, we do not know for sure," said SoumyaRanjan Patnaik, who is also the BJD vice-president.


Two days after ruling BJD lawmaker SoumyaRanjan Patnaik sparked a political firestorm by accusing his party-led government of under-reporting Covid deaths in his editorial piece, another BJD heavyweight and veteran MP BhartruhariMahtab also the son of a former CM Dr. HarekrishnaMahatab weaved a fresh article in

Cuttack has outlined the priority to respect and accept the difference of opinions and criticisms in political parties. He wrote "An elected representative, maybe an MLA or MP, they are forced to give an opinion on any issues as per the direction of the party high command. An intellectual discussion cannot be held inside the House even if a member wants to discuss freely. They are forced to present some points in the House, keeping in mind the party interest only."

The veteran Parliamentary also expressed anguish over the fact that a member is considered an anti-party force if opined in the larger interest of the State which may not go down well with the party boss. "If the party is in power, some so-called intellectuals called them Pandit bureaucrats determine the party policies and that are assumed as final," he stated.

Mahtab further wrote, "leaders are not allowed to debate on the difference of opinions. Is it really anti-party activity or anti-leader's interest?" he asked. The article further mentioned that many of the political parties are functioning like a corporate house that runs with some managers and clerical staff.

Expecting democratic behavior from such a party is wrong if freedom of expression in the same party or open debate on universal interest is squeezed, the MP stated. Even though the BJD MP has not pointed out any individual or particular party in his article, it has hastened the opposition parties to term it as a reflection of intra-party squabble in BJD.

Nevertheless, ordinary citizens must keep a distance as it's a matter of argy-bargy of the chief ministers' sons and son-in-law. 

End of an Era: Legendary actor Dilip Kumar dies at 98

Dilip Kumar was admitted to a Mumbai hospital last month to 'address medical issues related to old age after he complained of 'breathlessness'.



Mumbai, July 7: Legendary actor Dilip Kumar, admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) of a Mumbai hospital, passed away on 7 July. He was 98.

The screen icon was taken to the suburban Khar-based Hinduja Hospital, a non-COVID-19 facility on 29 June to "address medical issues" related to old age after he complained of

"breathlessness". His wife, actor Saira Banu had shared then the actor was under observation but "stable."

The Hindi cinema veteran was admitted to the same hospital earlier in June following episodes of breathlessness. At the time, Kumar was diagnosed with bilateral pleural effusion - a build-up of excess fluid

between the layers of the pleura outside the lungs and underwent a successful pleural aspiration procedure. He was discharged after five days.

Kumar's career spans over five decades with hits like Mughal-e-Azam, Devdas, Naya Daur, and Ram Aur Shyam. His last big-screen appearance was in the 1998 film Qila.

Dr PK Warriar

The Man Who Took Ayurveda to the World dies at 101

Malappuram, July 10: Panniyampilly Krishnankutty Warriar, popularly known as Dr PK Warriar, who played a pivotal role in popularising Kerala's traditional mode of treatment across the globe, passed away on Saturday. He was the chief physician and Managing Trustee of Vaidyaratnam P.S. Varier's Aryavaidya Sala known as Kottakkal Aryavaidya Sala, one of the leading Ayurvedic healthcare chains in the country. He breathed his last at Kailasa Mandiram, the headquarters of the Arya Vaidya Sala at Kottakkal in Malappuram, five weeks after celebrating his 100th birthday. His birth centenary celebrations were held on June 8.

Dr PK Warriar: The Man Who Took



Ayurveda to the World

A freedom fighter, Dr Warriar took over as the managing trustee of the Kottakkal Aryavaidya Sala in 1954. He became a synonym for Ayurveda in modern times with his immense contributions in making the practice accessible to the common masses and augmenting research in drug standardisation and development. During his seven-decade-long

service, Dr Warriar treated a large number of VVIPs, including presidents and prime ministers of many countries.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed deep grief over his passing. In a tweet, he said, "Saddened by the passing away of Dr. PK Warriar. His contributions to popularise Ayurveda will always be remembered. Condolences to his family and friends. Om Shanti."

Aamir Khan, Kiran Rao announce divorce

The nation woke up to shocking news of Mr. Perfectionist Aamir Khan and his wife Kiran Rao ending their marriage. Aamir Khan made headlines on intolerance and ebbed away from the front line

New Delhi, July 3: The nation woke up to shocking news of Mr. Perfectionist Aamir Khan and his wife Kiran Rao ending their marriage. The couple, in a joint statement, announced their divorce after 15 years of marriage. There have been many times when Aamir Khan and Kiran Rao made headlines. The duo has been in news on and off and so let's take a look at the times when they created controversies and became the talk-of-the-town.

During the rapid-fire round, when Karan asked Kiran, "If you woke up as the following people, what is the first thing you will do?" He also took Ranbir Kapoor's name on the list. Kiran replied, "As Ranbir Kapoor or with Ranbir Kapoor?" which raised Aamir's eyebrow, and was a bit jealous by Kiran's answer.

The actor sparked controversy when he spoke about growing intolerance



in the country. He shared that he was 'alarmed' over rising intolerance and his wife Kiran had even suggested leaving the country as she feared for the safety of their children in a climate of insecurity.

Aamir and Kiran's Paani Foundation.

The duo worked tirelessly for the farmers of Maharashtra and also brought a change in the state's drought-stricken areas. They also created awareness among people and also helped in saving

the water.

Aamir Khan and Kiran Rao got married on December 28, 2005. She was an assistant director to Ashutosh Gowariker on the set of Lagaan. On December 5, 2011, the duo announced the birth of their son, Azad Rao Khan via surrogacy.

The actor was earlier married to Reena Dutta and their divorce took place in 2002. Together, the couple has two kids - a son named Junaid and a daughter, Ira.

Law and order maintenance the best tool to contain COVID: Rayagada SP

Rayagada, July 4: (Jogeswar Das) The second set of Covid Warriors other than the medical personnel is none other than police. Both these warrior groups need to be proactive and grounded through their physical presence for 24X7 days: one inside the hospital & near the affected and the other outside the hospital but at the nook & corner of the entire district. Apart from their vigilant activities to carry out the Covid-19 promulgations as a priority, Rayagada police under the leadership of a young & dynamic IPS officer named Sri Vivekanand Sharma has been extremely successful in ensuring the rule of law in containing several illicit activities in the entire district.

Apart from a strict vigil in the operational areas of fifteen police stations where




swift actions were taken against the offenders of burglaries & murders and facilitating justice to the affected, Rayagada Police has actualized the maxim "We dare & We care" in true spirit. Job analysis of just the past month of June reflects some very important actions taken against the violators. 604

liters of liquor was seized & 1950 liters of Mahua Wash & illicit distilled liquor destroyed. 3014.09 kgs of contraband ganja amounting to approximately Rs.3 crores was seized alongwith twelve two-wheelers, four-wheelers, and heavy vehicles, and 13 accused persons were arrested u/s- 20(b) (ii) (c)/29

Narcotic Drugs And Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act-1985 & forwarded to court.

"Law & order maintenance and controlling the Covid norm violators can not be done through digital mode. We need to be physically present in the field, sensitive to the people & at the same time strict towards violators. This puts lots of pressure on the police force on ground zero including the risk of getting infected with Covid. We don't have the intention to punish the violators in the first place.

Filling the state exchequer with around Rs.4 crores in just a month is no small thing. Sharma has been quick in putting the activities of the police on his official Twitter page maintaining utmost transparency. 

Twitter to appoint resident grievance officer for India soon

Twitter had appointed California-based Jeremy Kessel as India's new grievance redressal officer after Chatur quit his post. The update on the website of Twitter showed the appointment of Kessel in the new role.



Microblogging platform Twitter which is at loggerheads with the government of India is said to be in the final stages of appointing an executive for the role of resident grievance officer. Twitter's recently appointed interim


officer Dharmendra Chatur quit his post.

"We are in the final stages of appointing a Resident Grievance Officer. The interim Resident Grievance Officer withdrew his candidature on June 21," Twitter informed the Delhi High Court. Twitter

- Twitter's recently appointed interim officer Dharmendra Chatur quit his post.
- Twitter had appointed California-based Jeremy Kessel as India's new grievance redressal officer after Chatur quit his post.
- But, the main issue is that the recent appointment of Kessel is not in line with the new IT rules formed by the government.

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But, the main issue is

that the recent appointment of Kessel is not in line with the new IT rules formed by the government. The new rules mandate that all nodal officials including the grievance redressal officer should be based out of India. 


Covid Combat in Rayagada a winning trend

Rayagada, July 2 : (Jogeswar Das) The partial lockdown in Rayagada has yielded a decreasing trend in Test Positivity Rate (TPR), Death Rate, Bed Occupancy Rate, Active cases, and an increasing trend in Recovery Rate. As per the statistics provided by CDM&PHO, Rayagada, there are four Covid Care Centres one each in Bissam Cuttack, Tadama, Penta & Gunupur, and one Covid Hospital in JK Pur having 720 beds in toto. Till last Wednesday only 20 beds were occupied which is just 2.77%. Out of the total of 18933 confirmed cases, 18231 have recovered leading to 96.3% recovery. Active cases have been decreasing turning Rayagada into a Green Zone. Similarly, TPR is also reducing.

800 villages are still inaccessible even by fair-weather roads. In many Dangaria and other tribal villages, different taboos prevailed regarding



vaccination. But due to a tribal-friendly approach of district administration and people's representatives & media, an aggressive vaccination drive was taken up. Officers went beyond their role to pop up the vaccination process.

The Community Resource Persons (CRPs) from this tribal community alongwith other health officials played a vital role in accelerating the vaccination drive. Out of many heroes of this drive, the names of two ladies CRPs named Sushanti Mallick and Bedu Wadaka can be cited as an example. Both speak Dangaria tribal language Kui. Bedu is from the Niyamagiri area and Sushanti, originally from Kandhamal district, is married to Bijaya Wadaka from Khambesi village of Niyamagiri hill range. Both go house to house with a digital thermometer, oximeters, and a few life-saving drugs, soaps & sanitizers. Sensitizing for swab tests, care during and after being affected with Corona, benefits of vaccination through traditional folk songs is their prime focus. Persons with symptoms of Covid-19, if identified, are referred to the health workers, who come for further tests like antigen & RTPCR. These two CRPs go to those households for follow-up and monitor at ground zero whether they follow the prescribed guidelines and medicines. They, in real sense & spirit, act as barefoot doctors and help their community in exploding the myths and taboos regarding the vaccination. 

Can Mamata remove Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar?



The political scuffle between West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar has become worse after the Trinamool Congress's thumping victory in the assembly election. In the assembly session, the TMC is planning to push through a resolution seeking the removal of

Jagdeep Dhankhar as West Bengal Governor.

The seriousness of the matter could be gauged from reports that Mamata Banerjee has already discussed the issue with West Bengal Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee.

Biman Banerjee earlier this week 'complained' to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla charging

Jagdeep Dhankhar with "excessive interference" in parliamentary matters and the functioning of the West Bengal Assembly.

Can a state get a governor removed?

The short answer is 'no'. The Constitution makes the governor a representative of the Union. A governor is appointed by the

In the assembly session, the TMC is planning to push through a resolution seeking the removal of Jagdeep Dhankhar as West Bengal Governor. But can a state get a governor removed?

President. And, only the President has the power to remove a governor.

But in effect, it is a political question, not a legal one. If a political party ruling in a state is in the truck with the political party ruling at the Centre, the state party can get a governor removed in the case of a tussle similar to the one between Mamata Banerjee and Jagdeep Dhankhar.

So, Mamata Banerjee's move is political with little constitutional value. A resolution could, however, be a record of the 'will of the people' against Governor Dhankhar.

What does the Constitution say?

Articles 155 and 156 of the Constitution make the governor the Centre's representative in a state "during the pleasure of the President".

Article 74 makes the President bound to aid and advice the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister. This means that the ruling party at the Centre could get the President to have a governor of its choice in any state.

How Supreme Court has interpreted the law?

The BP Singhal case of 2010 is considered a landmark

judgment by the Supreme Court in this regard.

The Supreme Court laid down some binding principles while hearing the case of removal of the governors of Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, and Goa in July 2004 following the defeat of the BJP-led NDA government in the Lok Sabha election.

The Supreme Court said the President's power to remove a governor could not be exercised in an arbitrary, capricious, or unreasonable manner. It was to be exercised only in rare and exceptional circumstances for valid and compelling reasons.

But back then, the key issue was of a governor perceived to be at variance with the policies and ideologies of the central government.

The ideological difference with the state government was not up for discussion.

Prashant Kishor, Mamata Banerjee Meet Ahead of TMC's 'Reformation'



Political strategist Prashant Kishore met with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata on Friday, amid the workings of a big organisational haul in the Trinamool Congress.

Kolkata, July 9: The meeting, which lasted for over three hours, 'is very significant', said a party insider. After the TMC's victory in the recently held assembly elections, the party is set for major internal changes; division of administrative and party responsibility.

The party had declared the implementation of the 'one man, one post' system in June. The move was carried out to prevent party leaders from holding more than one post in the state government and the

organisation at the same time.

Party leader Partha Chatterjee had said at the time that further changes in the organisation were expected soon.

Kishor, who played an instrumental role in the TMC's return to power in Bengal, had also attended the party's organisational meeting in June. The TMC also recently extended its association with Prashant Kishor's Indian Political Action Committee (IPAC) till the next assembly election in

2026.

Banerjee had chaired a working committee meeting and an organisation meets on June 5. The TMC had secured 213 seats in the recently-held assembly elections, while the Bharatiya Janata Party won 77 seats. The party's return to power is often attributed to Kishor's skillful campaign strategy.

Before the polls, the strategist had said he would quit if the BJP won more than 100 seats in the election.

Nose Cut, Ears Will Go Next'

Raipur, July 9: Verbal skirmishing has broken out between two veteran politicians from Chhattisgarh's Bastar area-Bharatiya Janata Party's Dinesh Kashyap and Congress's Deepak Baij-with each giving the other a bit of an earful. While criticising the state's Congress government, Kashyap said that if the party returns to power in the next assembly elections, to be held in 2023, he would chop off his ears. Reacting to this, Baij said that after the humiliating defeat in the previous polls, Kashyap had lost his nose (dignity) and in the next one he would lose his ears as well.

War of Words Erupts between Current and Former MP of Bastar

While Baij is the Lok Sabha lawmaker from Bastar, Kashyap was his predecessor. The BJP leader said that during the last two and a half years, Congress has not created a single public welfare scheme, and the farmers, the unemployed youth, the general public, and government

employees of the state were feeling cheated. He said that the party had pledged with holy water from the Ganga in its hand to bring to an end the various problems of the people but all that proved to be a hoax.

Baij hit back, saying that the Narendra Modi government at the Centre had completely

The Congress lawmaker said 9 BJP MPs were elected from Chhattisgarh and all the work they have now is to clap whenever the Centre makes an announcement.

Responding to Kashyap's allegation that no work had been done, Baij said his government has a five-year action plan for



failed, due to which a mega reshuffle of the cabinet was held on Wednesday. It has also become clear how much attention the PM gives to Chhattisgarh and what is the status of BJP leaders of the state in the Modi government, he added.

unemployment allowance, as there is a five-year government. Farm debt waivers are happening, he said, and on the charge of farmers not getting fertilisers he added that the supply comes from the Centre and perhaps Kashyap should write to the Prime Minister.

Cabinet Reshuffle: Know The Two Odisha MPs In PM Modi's New Cabinet

New Delhi, July 7: Putting all speculations to rest, the Narendra Modi-led BJP government at the Centre on Wednesday announced a major Cabinet reshuffle. The party came up with a list of 43 leaders who have been given ministerial berths.

The list features two new faces from Odisha- Rajya Sabha MP Ashwini Vaishnav and Mayurbhanj (Lok Sabha) MP BishweswarTudu- who have made it to the Modi cabinet 2.0.

Rajya Sabha MP Ashwini Vaishnav and Mayurbhanj Lok Sabha member BishweswarTudu are the two new faces from

collectors of Balasore and Cuttack districts before proceeding on Central deputation. He served as the deputy secretary (PMO) when the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister and was part of several important decisions. Even when Vajpayee lost the 2004 polls, Vaishnav worked as his personal secretary.

Ashwini was born in Jodhpur in 1970. He graduated from Jai Narayan Vyas University, Rajasthan in 1992 with a gold medal in Electronics and Communications engineering course and then completed his M.Tech from IIT Kanpur,



Ashwini Vaishnav (L) & BishweswarTudu who have been inducted into Union Cabinet

Odisha who have been made it to the Modi Cabinet 2.0.

While Vaishnav has taken oath as a cabinet minister, Tudu will be having MoS status. Here is a sneak peek into the political journey of these two new Ministers from Odisha.

Ashwini Vaishnav

Ashwini Vaishnav is a Rajya Sabha MP for Odisha. A former Odisha cadre IAS officer of the 1994 batch, he joined the BJP in 2019 after being named as the party's nominee for Rajya Sabha. He was elected unopposed to the upper house with the ruling BJD backing his candidature.

Vaishnav was appointed as a member of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation and Petitions and Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests. Ashwini Vaishnav Entrusted with Railways & IT ministry.

Vaishnav severed as

before cracking IAS in 1994 with an all-India rank of 27. In 2008, Vaishnav left for the US to pursue his MBA from Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

BishweswarTudu

BishweswarTudu was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Mayurbhanj district in the 2019 general election as a nominee of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He has been associated with the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and the welfare of the tribal for the last 19 years.

Before his foray into politics, he worked as a senior engineer in Water Resources Department in Odisha. He holds a Diploma in Electrical Engineering from UtkalmaniGopabandhu Institute of Engineering, Rourkela. It is believed that the inclusion of Tudu is part of Modi's efforts to reaffirm the faith of the tribal communities of Jharkhand and north Odisha on BJP.

Induction Of Ashwini Vaishnav As Cabinet Min Spells Out BJP's Odisha Plan

Modi Cabinet Expansion and The Odisha Plan

New Delhi, July 7: The much-awaited and oft-delayed Modi 2.0 cabinet expansion finally got off the ground today. A look at the new cabinet inductees spells out the strategy of PM Narendra Modi and BJP for the future. In this expansion, the key focus of PM Modi has been on 4 states - Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Odisha.

A more precise look at the Cabinet expansion brings to glare the fact that the BJP's key focus has been on Maharashtra and Odisha. Because, the new inductees from states like MP, Bihar, and Assam carry a background.

The inclusion of Mayurbhanj MP Bishweswar Tudu in the Modi council of ministers hints at the grooming of a first-time tribal MP from Odisha. It seems the party is now looking beyond its seasoned tribal leader and former BJP State president Jual Oram

While the Scindia scion has been awarded a cabinet berth for his key role in the installation of Shivraj Singh Chouhan as CM of MP, the former CM, and firebrand 'Jatiya Nayak' of Assam, Sarbanand Sonowal inducted into the cabinet after Hemanta Biswa Sarma took over the reins of Assam. In the same vein, the induction from Bihar has been necessitated by the decision of JD (U) to join the Modi Cabinet.

The Foresight

With the induction of

new faces from MP, Bihar, and Assam having a context to their inclusion, the foresight of BJP and PM Modi in giving representation from Maharashtra and Odisha carries a strategy.

While the induction of Konkan strongman and Shiv Sena bete noire Narayan Rane, given current the political flux in Maharashtra where Shiv Sena dumped BJP and joined hands with NCP and Cong to form the govt, clearly unveils the saffron party's political strategy (Maratha reservation) in the crucial western state, the induction of soft-spoken former bureaucrat and entrepreneur Ashwini Vaishnav from Odisha as Modi 2.0's new face belies any such aggressive political game-plan.

The Hindsight

A little hindsight spells out the BJP game-plan in Odisha. Ashwini Vaishnav's election to the upper house from Odisha has been facilitated by ruling BJD and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Despite gaining big in LS and State Assembly elections in 2019 riding on the Modi wave, the saffron party didn't have the strength to send a member to the Rajya Sabha, though it snatched the luxury of the ruling BJD to walk with the cake.

Post the change in legislative arithmetic in Odisha, the BJD couldn't grab all the RS seats on



offer from the State. With both PM Modi and HM Amit Shah keen on Vaishnav, the former IAS who quit the corporate sector to set up his own company in Gujarat in 2012, CM Naveen Patnaik sealed a win-win deal by supporting Vaishnav, who incidentally had a congenial relationship with CM Patnaik.

Saffron Odisha Tactic

The inclusion of the seasoned bureaucrat from Odisha, who happens to be an RS member, underscores the BJP current game-plan in Odisha. The State will go to election again in 2024. It seems inclusion from the Odisha quota underlines no electoral strategy of BJP. Because no eligible and qualified Lok Sabha MP from Odisha has been accommodated.

However, the party hasn't lost its sight of social engineering strategy in Odisha. The induction of first-time tribal MP from Odisha as a junior minister in the Union council tells a tale. Also, it seems, the saffron party has made up the loss it had scored during the first swearing-in of the Modi

cabinet post the emphatic win in 2019 when no tribal leader got a berth in the council of ministers.

"The inclusion of Mayurbhanj MP Bishweswar Tudu in the Modi council of ministers hints at grooming of a first time tribal MP from Odisha. It seems the party is now looking beyond its seasoned tribal leader and former BJP State president Jual Oram. Moreover, BJP has given the first minister in union council to Mayurbhanj - an erstwhile stronghold of Congress and JMM," observed a senior political analyst.

"The anointment of Bhubaneswar MP and former bureaucrat Aparajita Sarangi as national spokesperson earlier this year has then signaled the things to come. By giving organizational positions to battle-ready Lok Sabha MPs from Odisha, the party seems in the serious business of trying to shore up its organizational strength in the State to take on the might of ruling BJD. It didn't wish to burden them with ministerial responsibilities to weaken the focus," the analyst further commented.

How Ashwini Vaishnaw Made His Way to Top in Modi Govt

Ashwini Vaishnaw, who joined Prime Minister Narendra Modi's team on Wednesday, has emerged as a star player with responsibilities of the Ministry of Railways, the Ministry of Communications, and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.



Super Cyclone

His bureaucratic acumen caught people's attention during the super cyclone in Odisha in 1999 when he spent his long shifts tracking the cyclone on the US Navy website and followed it up by intimating Chief Secretary's office at regular intervals. His efforts helped the state government take measures in advance and several lives were saved. "He tracked the cyclone every hour and sent a report to the chief secretary at regular intervals, which became a major source of

information for the Odisha government about the cyclone," an official who then worked in the chief secretary's office recalled.

A 1994-batch IAS officer from Odisha cadre and gold medalist in Bachelor of Engineering (BE) from the Jai Narayan Vyas University in Jodhpur, Vaishnaw served as a Collector in Odisha's Balasore and Cuttack districts. While a Collector in Balasore, the National Human Rights Commission placed on record its appreciation of the sincerity, dedication, and commitment displayed

by him in organising and executing relief and rehabilitation work in his district.

When Modi-Shah Vouched for the Technocrat

Born in Rajasthan's Jodhpur, Vaishnaw managed to wrangle support from the ruling BJD president and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik despite being in the rival camp. Patnaik gave him outright support after PM Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah made it clear that they want the ex-bureaucrat in the Upper House. He was inducted into the BJP barely six days ahead of the Rajya Sabha elections on June 28, 2019. Two years later, he landed himself a job in India's cabinet ahead of veteran saffron leaders from the state of Odisha.

Personal Secretary to Vajpayee

Vaishnaw has also

served in the PMO at the turn of the millennium. He was also the personal secretary to former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee till 2003. In 2006, the technocrat became deputy chairman of Marmugoa Port Trust, where he worked for the next 2 years, and then left for the US to pursue an MBA. Vaishnaw was born in Jodhpur and completed his education from the state, earning a B-Tech degree in Electronics and Communications. He then got his M.TECH from IIT Kanpur, before cracking IAS in 1994 with an all-India rank of 27.

Political experts say that it is his wide experience in both public and private sectors that brightened his prospects and turned tables in his favour when Modi was finalising the names of ministers to be inducted in Wednesday's reshuffle.

Industry Bodies Urge Odisha Govt To Restore Pre-Emption Right Of Iron Ore

The scarcity and the surge in prices are mainly on account of interstate exports of iron ore, the Confederation of Indian Industry said.

Faced with soaring prices of iron ore and its shortage in Odisha, several industry associations have urged the government to reactivate the pre-emption right of the commodity produced in the state to ensure adequate availability of the raw material.

The scarcity and the surge in prices are mainly on account of interstate exports of iron ore, the

Confederation of Indian Industry said.

Several other industry bodies like the Pellet Manufacturers' Association of India (PMAI) and the Orissa Sponge Iron Manufacturers Association (OSIMA) have sought the intervention of the state government to overcome the crisis.

"In recent times, the state-based iron and steel industry has been facing

huge challenges due to low production of iron ore, rampant interstate dispatches, and thus the exponential increase in prices," CII said in a letter to the principal secretary of the department of steel and mines.

The companies, which have made huge investments in the value-added industries by the setting of plants in the hinterland areas are facing

a severe raw material crunch, it said.

"There is an urgent need to reactivate pre-emption rights of iron ore for state-based end-use plants to ensure a sustainable supply of usable ore," the industry body said.

Citing the policy by the Karnataka government, where there is a total ban on the export of ore outside the



state, the industry body stated that similar steps would enable such

industries to sustain, amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Why skyrocketing oil prices

Rs 1.3 lakh cr oil bond repayments due for cheap fuel in past



New Delhi, July 11: While Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government faces growing clamor to rein in rising petrol and diesel prices by cutting taxes, the reason for it not yielding to the demand can be traced back to the early 2000s

While Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government faces growing clamor to rein in rising petrol and diesel prices by cutting taxes, the reason for it not yielding to the demand can be traced back to the early 2000s. The present and the next governments have a bill worth Rs 1.3 lakh crore to pay, thanks to the then governments' largesse of keeping petrol and diesel prices in check.

Of late, retail fuel prices hit over Rs 100 per liter in many states, including the national capital Delhi. Notably, various central and state taxes make up for up to 60 per cent of fuel prices. The central government mopped up Rs 3.72 lakh crore in excise duty on crude oil and petroleum products in the last financial year 2020-21; while the state

governments collected Rs 2.03 lakh crore in sales tax and VAT on petrol and diesel. On the other hand, the government has to pay towards the redemption of outstanding oil bonds worth over a lakh crore rupees.

What are oil bonds? Why did governments issue?

Oil bonds were issued in place of cash subsidy to oil marketing companies (OMCs) in former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's UPA era, and also Atal Bihari Vajpayee's NDA rule. These sovereign oil bonds, issued in favour of oil companies Indian Oil Corp, HPCL, and BPCL, were transferable, allowing these companies to raise immediate cash at the time. The government, being the issuer, would bear the interest payments and redemption at maturity. During that time, OMCs were selling fuel at lower than international market prices to keep it affordable. The government compensated those companies for it.

The government has a liability to pay Rs 20,000 crore in the current fiscal year 2021-22 in the form of bond repayment and interest on the

outstanding oil bonds. While for the next six years, the government has a total debt obligation worth Rs 1.30 lakh crore.

Last month, Amit Malviya, national president of the IT cell of the BJP, in a tweet said that the increase in petrol and diesel prices has been a legacy of UPA's mismanagement. "We are paying for the oil bonds that will come up for redemption starting FY2021 till (2026), which were issued by UPA to oil companies for not increasing retail prices then! Bad economics, bad politics," a part of the tweet read.

Total oil bonds payout stands at Rs 1.30 lakh crore

In the 2021-22 receipt budget, as per annexure 6E titled 'Special Securities Issued to Oil Marketing Companies instead of Cash Subsidy', pending liabilities related to oil bonds were Rs 1,30,923.17 crore. This means an amount of Rs 1,30,923.17 crore was the total value of pending oil bonds by the end of 2020-21.


Narendra Modi's NDA government first came into power in 2014. During its regime, two tranches of bonds, worth Rs 1,750,

each (Rs 3,500 crore), matured in 2015.

Two oil bonds maturing this fiscal; Modi govt to pay Rs 20,000 cr

In 2019, Narendra Modi's NDA government came into power for the second consecutive time. According to the budget documents, oil bonds worth Rs 41,150 crore are due for maturity between 2019-2024. In 2018, Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that the government has paid around Rs 10,000 crore annually as interest over the last decade. The government will likely pay a similar amount of interest for outstanding bonds for the current fiscal as well. So, the total bond repayment and interest on the outstanding oil bonds stand around Rs 20,000 crore for the current fiscal.

Not just UPA, but Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led govt also issued

However, oil bonds were issued not only by the UPA government but also by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government. According to the budget speech of 2002-03, the then Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha said that the government would issue oil bonds. "The Oil Pool Account will be dismantled on April 1, 2002, and the outstanding balances will be liquidated by the issue of oil bonds to the concerned oil companies." 

UP launches population policy

The state is aiming for stability by 2050 and the government is trying to reduce the population growth rate to 2.1 per cent.

On World Population Day, Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath launched a population policy that aims to incentivize couples who do not have more than two babies. Stating that population control is related to awareness among masses and poverty, Adityanath said every community has been taken care of in Population Policy 2021-2030. The health minister Jai Pratap Singh said Uttar Pradesh is aiming for stability by 2050 and the government is trying to reduce the population growth rate to 2.1

do not follow the policy will face restrictions in government jobs, availing ration, and other benefits.

Meanwhile, the BJP-led government in Assam may soon give effect to a 2017 resolution titled 'Population and Women Empowerment Policy of Assam' that proposed a bar on people with more than two children from getting government jobs and other benefits.

There is already a rule in place in the north-eastern state wherein an individual with more than two children is not allowed to contest local body elections.

Over the years, several other states like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra have introduced such measures to bring down the population, but the success has not been equally



per cent. Besides, Uttar Pradesh, Assam is pushing for a similar move with its chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma stating last week that population norms will be slowly implemented for government schemes. Here's more on the population control measures being introduced by governments.


Two-child policy

The UP law commission that has formulated a population control bill said the policy would be voluntary and nobody would be forced to follow any rule. However, if any person decides to on his or her own to not have more than two babies, they will be eligible for government schemes., while those who

spreading. While states like Bihar and UP continue to register high population growth, others have been able to control the fertility rate.

Fertility rate

Fertility rate may be defined as the number of children that would be born of a woman during her reproductive years. For a country's population to remain stable, it is the total fertility rate should be 2.1.

Studies suggest that India's national fertility rate is 2.2 at the moment, but due to the uneven spread of the population, some states are now introducing new measures to incentivize couples and create more awareness on the issue. 

Haseen Dillruba

Love is a many-splendored thing, as they say. In its pure form, it touches divinity. Sometimes it's lust, sometimes madness, and sometimes regret. It can also be redemption. HaseenDillruba touches upon all forms of love in its two-hour setting and makes you root for its characters. They are ordinary people like you and me but driven by passion, they turn into both the worst and the best parts of themselves. There are no heroes or villains in the film as it says we all can be either. Time and circumstances shape our actions, our behaviour. We do crazy things to each other and for each other because then it felt right. Ultimately, we're the product of our choices and have to bear the consequences of our actions. These standard noir tropes are utilised cunningly in the film. Neo-noir is on the rise in Hollywood and director Vinil Mathew, who made his debut with the hatke romantic film HaseeTohPhasee (2014) seems to have the yen for it. The film is written by Kanika Dhillon, who certainly has a taste for out-of-the-ordinary stories.

This isn't a film for those seeking an escapist fantasy. It wears the garb of a thriller but holds a mirror to our society nevertheless. One of the things it states quite clearly is that it's considered taboo for a woman to have a sexual drive. And that men get uncomfortable and insecure when she chooses to express it. Marriages are a minefield of sexual politics and things can easily go wrong if it's not navigated



MOVIE REVIEW

Avg. Users' Rating:

4.1/5

CAST:

**Taapsee Pannu,
Vikrant Massey,
Harshvardhan Rane**

DIRECTION:

Vinil Mathew

GENRE:

Thriller

DURATION:

**2 hours 20
minutes**

properly. It also points out that attraction can have many faces. The most boring person can look attractive, thanks to some crazy trait. Nothing is constant when it comes to matters of the heart. Everything is in flux. Things change and one must recognise the change and move along with it.

It's the unpredictability of behaviour that makes the film so interesting. We're used to seeing black and white characters. But here's a film which offers a glimpse of how real men and women behave. The characters in the film let go of all pretences towards nicety and behave in their most raw manner towards each

other. Their true nature comes to the fore when the masks are dropped and it's not a pleasant thing to witness. The film also points out that forgiveness is also a form of love and one should learn to forgive oneself first and then learn to forgive others.

The screenplay are quite gripping and full marks to Kanika for maintaining an even pace. The editing and cinematography too are on point. All the technical wizardry would have gone for a toss if the actors hadn't done their job. To sum it up concisely, they're all quite brilliant. The hallmark of good acting is believability and

all three main leads come out as extremely believable characters. None of them are playing conventional characters but are doing roles which are constantly evolving. And that evolution isn't abrupt but gradual. Harshvardhan Rane plays the catalyst who tears Rishabh's and Rani's world apart but also acts as a binding agent of sorts. You don't love him or hate him because you recognise that's how people are. He's such a natural fit into his role that you can't decide if it's because he's a good actor or whether his role was so perfectly written.

The film airs on OTT, thanks to the pandemic and the lockdown. But it's one of those products that deserved a theatrical release. Perhaps, in the future, when things get better, the makers can opt for a theatrical release. Watch it for its dark take on love and for the brilliant performances by the entire ensemble cast.

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Modi's reshuffle

elected to Rajyasabha from Bihar and then from Madhya Pradesh. Hence we were in a false notion that the important ministries were in the hands of Odisha state.

Similarly, AswiniVaishnav a former bureaucrat-turned-corporate-turned politician elected for Rajyasabha from Odisha has become the Railway Minister in the just reshuffled Modi cabinet. Many beat the drum that for the first time the railway ministry has come to Odisha's hands. And Odisha's long-neglected railway network will get the priority as Modi has extended an olive branch to the neglected state of Odisha. There is no hesitation in telling that for Odisha it's just a mirage in the desert. AswiniVaishnav's relation with the state of Odisha is professional. Vaishnav served as a collector in Balasore and Cuttack districts. He worked in Odisha till 2003 when he was appointed as deputy secretary in the office of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. In 2006, he became deputy chairman of Mormugao Port Trust, where he worked for the next two years.

He took an educational loan to complete his MBA at the Wharton University. He realized that it will take him years to pay back his educational loan and eventually he left civil service in 2010 to join the private sector.

On completing MBA, Vaishnav came back to India and joined GE Transportation as Managing Director. Then he joined Siemens as the Vice President - Locomotives & Head Urban Infrastructure Strategy. In 2012, he quit the corporate sector and set up Three Tee Auto Logistics Private Limited and Vee Gee Auto Components Private Limited, both automotive components manufacturing units in Gujarat. In the later stage, he joined with the mining magnet B Prabhakaran in iron ore pellet making. He never looked back until he was elected to Rajyasabha as a BJP candidate with the hard bargained support of BJD. Hence, Odisha has little reason to cheer at Aswini becoming the Rly minister. As we have seen that the former PM Manmohan Singh used to be elected to Rajyasabha from 1991 to 2013 from Assam. The people of Assam were rejoicing that the PM of India belongs to Assam. What happened? Has Assam got anything special as the PM of the country belongs to the state? The people of Assam factually got nothing.

Lalu Prasad, Nitish Kumar, and Mamata Banerjee were the Railway ministers who made webs of railway lines in Bihar and Bengal. They have also made many developments of the Railways in their states. Till Mamata was the Railway minister, she didn't allow East Coast Railways to bifurcate from South Eastern Rly. Contributions of these three Rly ministers to their states remain unparalleled until today. We hear on the grapevine that had Andhra Pradesh gone the BJP way, the HQ of East Coast Rly at Bhubaneswar would have long gone away to Vishakhapatnam.

Time will show if Aswini proves his loyalty to Odisha in the shape of the development of Railways in Odisha.

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