

## Bomma is another instance of a CM's son becoming CM

The appointment of Basavaraj Bommai as the new Karnataka Chief Minister on Tuesday, makes him join the ranks of an elite club where a CM's son went on to become a chief minister himself.

Stepping Into Father's Shoes: Basavaraj Bommai Is Another Instance of a CM's Son Becoming CM

Bengaluru, July 27: Bommai is the son of SR Bommai, former Karnataka CM, who served the office from 1996-98 - making them the second father-son duo in the state to join the club after JD(S)'s HD Deve Gowda and his son HD Kumaraswamy. Deve Gowda served as the 14th CM of Karnataka from




1994-96, while Kumaraswamy held the post from 2018-19.


There are several other prominent examples of this holy grail of Indian politics such as SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav and son Akhilesh Yadav in Uttar Pradesh. Mulayam,

the founder of the Samajwadi Party, served as the UP chief minister for three straight terms, while Akhilesh sat on the CM's chair from 2012 to 2017.

Similar is the case in Odisha where Biju Janata Dal's Biju Patnaik became the third (Page-5)



ପବିତ୍ର ଇନ୍ଦ୍ର-ଉଦ୍-କୁହା-୨୦୨୧  
ଅବସରରେ  
ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳଙ୍କ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା ।




DADLS-13

ପବିତ୍ର ଇନ୍ଦ୍ର-ଉଦ୍-କୁହା ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟର ସମସ୍ତ ମୁସଲମାନ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି । ସେବା, ସମର୍ପଣ, ତ୍ୟାଗ ଓ ତିଷ୍ଠାର ଏହି ପର୍ବରେ ସମସ୍ତେ ସାମିଲ ହେବା ସହ ମୁସଲମାନ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କ ସର୍ବାଙ୍ଗୀନ ବିକାଶ ନିମନ୍ତେ ଉତ୍ସର୍ଗୀକୃତଭାବେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରିବାକୁ ମୁଁ ଆହ୍ୱାନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।


‘କରୋନା’ ମହାମାରୀ ବିରୋଧରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଲଢ଼େଇରେ ସାମିଲ ହୋଇ ଧୈର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଓ ସାହସର ସହ ମୁକାବିଲା ନିମନ୍ତେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର ସକ୍ରିୟ ସହଯୋଗ କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

ଶଶିଶ୍ୟାମାଳି  
(ଗଣେଶୀ ଲାଲ)

OIPR-15001/13/0020/2122



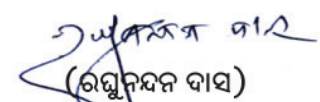
ଇନ୍ଦ୍ର-ଉଦ୍-କୁହା ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ  
ବାର୍ତ୍ତା




DADLS-13

ତ୍ୟାଗ, ସମର୍ପଣ ଓ ଉତ୍ସର୍ଗର ପର୍ବ ପବିତ୍ର ଇନ୍ଦ୍ର-ଉଦ୍-କୁହା ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀ ସମସ୍ତ ମୁସଲମାନ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି ।


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 (ଉତ୍ତମେଶ୍ୱର ଦାସ)  
 ସୂଚନା ଓ ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ, ଜଳସମ୍ପଦ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

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ପବିତ୍ର ଇନ୍ଦ୍ର-ଉଦ୍-କୁହା-୨୦୨୧  
ଅବସରରେ ମାନ୍ୟବର ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ  
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DADLS-13

ପବିତ୍ର ଇନ୍ଦ୍ର-ଉଦ୍-କୁହା ପର୍ବ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ମୁଁ ମୁସଲମାନ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି ଏବଂ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର ସୁଖ ଓ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

କୋଭିଡର ବିପଦ ଏ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଦୂର ହୋଇନାହିଁ । ତେଣୁ ମୋର ନିବେଦନ, ଆସନ୍ତୁ ସମସ୍ତେ କୋଭିଡ ନିୟମ ପାଳନ କରିବା । ମାସ୍କ ପିନ୍ଧିବା, ହାତ ଧୋଇବା ଓ ସାମାଜିକ ଦୂରତା ରକ୍ଷା କରି ନିଜେ ସୁସ୍ଥ ରହିବା ଓ ନିଜ ପରିବାରକୁ ମଧ୍ୟ ନିରାପଦ ରଖିବା ।

ନବୀନ ଧର୍ମଶାସ୍ତ୍ରୀ  
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

OIPR-15001/13/0020/2122



# Car Festival Hosted in Rhodes Island, USA



Rhodes Island, Dt: 22.07: (Kishore Dwibedi) : The tiniest State of United States of America Rhodes Island

per the Vedic norms commenced from the morning with the guidance of the main priest Somnath Shastri before the deities at the Hindu temple in Warwick. The worshipping, Homo, Nama Yagyan, upchara, Mangala Alati were performed solemnly and ceremonially. At about noon four deities were taken in Pahandi procession to the aesthetically and colorfully decked up chariot. The decoration was neatly done with the minutest care by Sasmita Mishra in association with Deepak Raj and Saurav Mishra. The entire atmosphere got reverberated with the chanting of hymns, roaring of slogans like Hari bol and Jai Jagannath, sounding of hulahuli, blowing off conch, and playing of musical instruments such as

ghanta, kartala, Mardala, Jhanja, and Mrudanga. The highlight of the celebration was the Pahandi of Goddess Subhadra being performed exclusively by ladies. Chandrashekhar Mohanty conducted the traditional service of sweeping before the Chariots called Chhera Pahanra. Their auspicious glance carries pure bliss in soul and ethereal peace in mind. Around 150 devotees gathered during the occasion had a holy glimpse of Gods and Goddess from the chariot. The participants of the Festival include an American yoga group, Hindu temple members, Hindu and Odia families settled in New England Region. The whole ambiance was agog with pious and spiritual fervor. Around 12:30 PM amidst the devotional renderings of Kirtan, recital of Bhajans,

Jananas, the chariot was pulled till one and a half kilometers distance in the city and then Pulled back to the temple premises.

The miracle happened when despite the Met department's prediction of heavy rainfall during Rathayatra time, not a single drop of water fell, while the Lord of the universe was on his Royal Sojourn at Grand Road. To everybody's utter surprise there was a massive downpour like cats and dogs in the island State just after the conclusion of the car caravan.

The much sought-after ceremony began with the soulful singing of Jagannath Bhajans by renowned singer Amrita Bharati being live-streamed from Mumbai. The special attractions of the day were masterly yoga performances

by the Iskcon group of Connecticut and a scintillating Odissi dance recital by local art exponent Akansha Patnaik. Ace anchors Bhagyashree Behera and Priyanshi Behera coordinated and moderated the cultural presentations nicely and lucidly. Pankaj Panda ably handled the audiovisual and digital control room.

The detailed arrangement of the Car Festival was skillfully executed and successfully managed by the main host Akshay Mohanty and co-organizers like Saroj Behera, Subharanshu Mohanty, Sourjya Mahapatra, Leena Mahapatra, Nibedita Padhi, Santosh Behera, Mani Mohapatra, Mahesh Patel, Dr. Neena Gupta, Nagesh Kamsani, Surya Kavli, Srinivas Belitung, and Hema Sundaresha.

**Santosh Kumar Tripathy** appointed Vice-Chancellor of FM University



Bhubaneswar, July 22: Odisha Governor Ganeshi Lal on Thursday appointed Prof. Santosh Kumar Tripathy as Vice-Chancellor of Fakir Mohan University in Balasore.

Tripathy has been appointed as the Vice-Chancellor for four years with effect from the date he assumes office as such or until further orders whichever is earlier.

He was working as a Professor, Department of PM & IR, Utkal University. He has more than 30 years of teaching experience. He has authored 10 books, successfully guided 17 Ph.D. and 40 MPhil scholars.

## Soon, senior citizens could claim over Rs 10,000 as maintenance charge

New Delhi, July 21: To improve the status of senior citizens in India, the Central government is working on several changes, including the Maintenance

and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill, 2019. The bill that was passed by the Cabinet Ministry in December 2019 aims to prevent parents and senior citizens from being put in old age homes, ensuring their needs, safety, and security.

The Central government is now planning to introduce the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill, 2019 in the ongoing monsoon session that started from Monday (July 19).

Senior citizens are hoping that the Parliament and the Indian President will give the nod to the bill in the coming few days. The Central government, however, has made a few changes to the bill before introducing it to Parliament.

The bill, which seeks to bring changes to the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, aims to remove the upper cap of maintenance charge for senior citizens from the existing Rs 10,000.

So, if the bill gets passed in the Parliament and gets the blessings of the President then senior citizens can get more than Rs 10,000 as maintenance charge. However, the maintenance tribunals will consider several factors such as standard of living, earning of the parent or senior citizen, and the salary of their children before awarding such maintenance fees.



## 'Pay Off Debt For Those Who Keonjhar Has Made Rich': Soumya Patnaik

A senior leader in the ruling BJD government in the State, Soumya Ranjan Patnaik, on Sunday, said that many people became rich by mining in the mineral-rich Keonjhar district of Odisha, and time has come for them to pay back to the district.

"I believe Keonjhar has been neglected in Odisha. It's time for those who have become rich in the last 10-15 years in Odisha from mining in Keonjhar, to pay off their debts," said Patnaik.

Speaking on his recent article claiming the hiding of actual Covid-19 death data in the State, Patnaik said there were always differences of opinion and it must be accepted. Or else, democracy can't survive, he said while reiterating his stand.

"We shouldn't stick to the impression that only I am right and no one else. We are within our rights to look into all opinions from different angles before accepting one. If one doesn't give respect to others' opinion, one loses the respect for himself too," he pointed out.

Patnaik had said that due to administrative failure and



negligence, a controversy has erupted over the COVID-19 toll in the State which is further affecting the image of the Odisha government.

The Odisha CM should release a white paper on the fatalities caused by the virus at the earliest, he demanded. "People of the State will love him more if he displays his courage by releasing the white paper," he had said.

On three leaders from Odisha getting included in the Modi cabinet, Patnaik said that all the MPs are capable and have the experience to handle the responsibilities.



# 30 years of an unfulfilled dream



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

Thirty years and India is waiting for the dream to turn real. The liberalization of the economy in 1991 is erroneously construed as divesting of government holding of industry and assets.

Liberalization was not a willful decision but a corollary as major lenders, IMF and World Bank, put a stop to their funding without a firm commitment to "reforms". The country went through a foreign exchange crisis in the late 1980s and 1990s. Family jewel had to be pawned since forex reserves plunged to a level that the country could finance only about 15 days of imports.

To strive off the immediate crisis, In July 1991, the RBI pledged 46.91 tonnes of gold with the Bank of England and Bank of Japan to raise \$ 400 million to meet

international obligations. The process of the new PV Narasimha Rao government followed a breakdown in January 1991, when the Chandra Shekhar government convinced IMF to approve two loans of \$ 775 million and \$ 1.02 billion under contingency and financing facility.

The reforms that meant losing government assets to the private sector, started with a "bang" instead of putting the private sector at par with the government. The reforms initiated by the then finance minister Manmohan Singh were not a roaring success but a piece of confusing policy that has put the subsequent governments in a quagmire.

While liberalizing the society from license-permit raj was welcomed but the processes were gradually complicated.

Changes were made in industrial policy, monopolies law was annulled, import licensing abolished, India joins WTO, TRIPS, and quantitative restrictions on import of manufactured goods and farm products removed and current account convertibility introduced easing the business process and the GST.

But disinvestment of public assets became the cynosure. Every government took pride in selling assets or be seen to do that. Still, the private sector is suspect in the eyes of the bureaucracy in any field. They are not seen as compatriots but officials continue to try controlling the private.

It is still a mystery why partial opening up was considered revolutionary. India is still not free of socialist mindset and a preference for government control for "concern of people's welfare".

The "reforms" worked a bit. The poverty ratio in two decades came down officially from 45.3 percent of the population to 21.9 percent. But the pandemic has impoverished 80 crore people subsisting on government dole of food grains. A large number of people thrown out of jobs due to lockdown has pushed the middle class to the edge of poverty.

This is reflected in the slow growth of Indian GDP from \$ 266 billion in 1991 to a modest rise of \$ 2.3 trillion, about nine

times. But at the end of 2021-22, the GDP would still be the same as Rs 146 trillion (Rs 146 lakh crore). In 2020-21, India's economic growth slowed and contracted by 7.3 percent, the NCAER says.

Singh says 1991 was acute. The year 2021 is more acute. The population has risen from 88 crores to 138 crores. The problems also have grown and the country does not find it easy to manage. So it pops up move for population control and does not learn lessons from Chinese failures.

The 1991 liberalization, the nation forgets, was followed by series of Rs 7 lakh crore scams - Harshad Mehta to Ketan Parekh, UTI, LIC (about Rs 2 lakh crore) and a series of banks leading to a JPC probe. The top major scams are coal allocation (Rs 1.86 trillion), 2G spectrum (Rs 1.76 lakh crore), Waqf Board land (Rs 1.5 lakh crore), Commonwealth Games (Rs 70,000 crore), Telgi stamp (Rs 20,000 crore), Satyam (Rs 14,000 crore), Hawala scandal (Rs 100 crore).

Scams of such magnitude had never happened since Independence. Each divestment deal was also questioned including the innocuous Centaur hotel. While the large private houses acquired these assets with loans from public sector banks, it also opened up an era of high bank losses (NPAs)

particularly since the European Lehman meltdown in 2007-08. The RBI Financial Stability Report (FSR) says despite banks writing off Rs 23786 crore loans in 2019-20, enabling the PSU banks to show lower NPAs, banks could go into severe stress as it fears NPA may escalate to 16.2 percent by September 2021 as borrowers are saddled with unpaid dues. The asset quality of banking can deteriorate sharply.


Repeated reorganization and mergers of banks have not boosted confidence. Now the move to sell four major banks and LIC are not being seen as happy events. Many buyers might be from the list of 50 major defaulters.

Since 1991, government assets worth Rs 3.63 lakh crore were divested. During 2014-19, Rs 2.79 lakh crore were disinvested. The target set for 2020-21 is Rs 2.1 lakh crore. Interestingly enough all the money received is adjusted in budgetary expenditure and not known to have been used for building assets. A contrast happened in the 1950s to 70s when the nation took pride in creating assets.

The state governments have also done many disinvestments. But despite that country has made certain progress in the digital economy

through cybercrimes are also on the rise. The home ministry data in Parliament reveal about 1.16 million cyber attacks in 2020 over 20 times rise since 2016. There were 53,117 cases of cyber attacks in 2017.

Liberal and digital economies shook the economy with demonetization in 2016. The cash flow has been severely hit. It has affected sales of goods and commodities as people's purchasing power collapses delaying the post-pandemic industrial, real estate, and market recovery. A scared government is spending less in favor of direct cash benefits. It might lead to years of moderate to slow post-pandemic growth and that means a severe resource crunch. Cardinal failures are the payoffs raising cost upfront and projects postponed. Thirty years since the reforms the power sector is in a mess again and agriculture remains the mainstay of the economy.

Have we made progress? PM Narendra Modi says his government is working for a \$5 trillion economy. But former PM Manmohan Singh says that the future economic path is tougher than 1991 and there are promises to keep. The country has to recast policies for the next 30 years for the happiness and growth of 1.64 billion people in 2050 and must bite a new "reform" bullet. 



# Water and Road Projects of 1279 crore Sanctioned for Sundargarh District



Sundargarh: State Government has sanctioned two mega drinking water projects and one road improvement project for the Sundargarh district. On all three projects Rs.1279 crores

would be incurred. The timeline for the completion of projects has been fixed at 24 months.

Mines, Steel, and PWD Minister Prafulla Mallick informed about the

sanctioning of development projects in a press conference held here on 17th July. Mallick told the media that a state cabinet meeting chaired by CM Naveen Patnaik has approved these development proposals for the district. Giving details of the approved projects he said that two mega drinking water projects and one road improvement work worth Rs. 1279 crores would be undertaken in the Sundargarh district. Among the approved projects are Duduka- Gopalpur-Tapia road improvement and two mega drinking water projects.

A proposal regarding the development of 2 lanes of 23

km long stretch of Duduka-Gopalpur-Tapia road got the nod of the cabinet. The project is to be developed with an investment of Rs. 103 crores.

This road will improve inter-state connectivity by connecting Raigarh of Chhattisgarh with Sundargarh town. This will serve as a mining traffic-bearing road connecting Basundhara mines. The work is likely to be completed in 24 months.

The state cabinet also approved two piped water supply projects for rural areas of the district.

Providing an uninterrupted supply of safe drinking water

of tap quality. For the 2 projects Rs.1176 crores have been approved. With both, the projects 10 Blocks' 6,38,407 people will be benefited.

In one project Rs. 388 crores would be spent for the execution of rural piped water supply to provide safe potable water in mines surrounding villages. The project is likely to benefit 2,59,617 people of 295 villages. It is likely to be completed in 24 months. Odisha Mining Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC) will provide the fund for the project. One another project has also been approved by the Government of worth Rs. 788.66 crores for the execution

of rural piped water supply projects in other regions of the district like Balisankra, Subdega, Lefripada, Tangarpali, Sundargarh Sadar, and Bargain Blocks. A total of 421 villages and 3,78,790 people are likely to be benefited from the scheme. This project also would be completed in 24 months. Funds from OMBADC and District Minerals Foundation will be used for the project.

Once completed the people of Sundargarh district would be benefited immensely said Minister Prafulla Mallick. Rourkela MLA and Chairman of District Planning Board Sarada Prasad Nayak were also present at the press conference.

## Sundargarh Pins High Hope from New Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

Rourkela: The hopes of the people of Sundargarh district have soared to new heights with Ashwini Vaishnaw taking over as Railway Minister in a recent union cabinet reshuffle.

Now a Rajyasabha MP from Odisha, Vaishnaw has a Sundargarh connection. The first posting of this 1994-batch Odisha-cadre IAS officer was at

Bonai where he served as a sub-collector. So the expectations of the people of Sundargarh district have been raised. They have become hopeful of getting their long-standing demands fulfilled, which includes completion of the Talcher-Bimlagarh rail link project and a Rail division at Rourkela.

Rourkela Steel Plant Executive Association President Bimal Bisi, who is

also a core committee member of Talcher-Bimlagarh Rail Link Action Committee (TBRLAC), has urged the newly appointed Railway Minister to intervene in these matters.

"It has been almost 60 years since the people of Sundargarh are waiting for tracks to be laid between Talcher and Bimlagarh. When the rail link project was sanctioned in 2003-04, the Centre had fixed 2012 as

the deadline for completion. This target has been revised thrice because of the slow pace of the work and it is expected to be completed only by 2025," Bisi mentioned in his letter.

Similarly, Pravin Garg, President, Rourkela Chamber of Commerce & Industry (RCCI), also hoped for the completion of the key rail projects during Vaishnaw's tenure as the Railway Minister.

Rourkela Rail Road Users Association President D N Pati and General Secretary AC Boral said that the Ministry is with an MP from Odisha after a long time and they are hopeful that their demand for Rail division at Rourkela would soon become a reality. In March, the then Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal had said that only the 20-km-long Talcher-Sunakhani section of the project has

been completed.

"Work has been taken up in 23.5 km length from Sunakhani station (20 km to 43.50 km) and the state government has to expedite the process of land acquisition and handing over of balance 916-acre land," he said.

In September last year, petitions were filed in the Orissa High Court seeking an early land transfer for the project.

## RSP Bags Greentech Energy Conservation Award

Rourkela: Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has bagged the prestigious Greentech Energy Conservation Award 2021 in the Platinum category. The award is presented by Greentech Foundation for outstanding initiatives and practices adopted to conserve energy. The steel plant has forayed into various ventures for reducing energy consumption by adopting renewable energy sources and ensuring a pollution-free environment.

The competition was organised in two phases, i.e. submission of application followed by a presentation and question-answer round.



The presentation session was handled by the team from Energy Management Department led by BP Pandey, DGM (EMD) and Business Excellence Department led by Chaitali Das, GM (BE) under the overall supervision of KK

Pandey, GM in-charge (EMD). The jury praised RSP for achieving the highest Blast Furnace Gas yield since inception, increased power generation from Power Blowing Station, and minimization of low uncontrol BF Gas pressure to Coke

Ovens Battery-6. To achieve these the EMD team had studied the entire system and conducted a pressure survey of BF Gas line to Battery-6 concerning BF grid pressure in the modernisation zone. As a result, the BF gas yield increased to 1685Nm<sup>3</sup>/ton of Hot Metal (THM) in July 2020 which was the all-time best since inception. The power generation from power and blowing station too went upto 25 MW, coal consumption was reduced to the tune of approximately 4000 tonnes per month in CPP-I, and chimney smoking was prevented. All these had led to substantial savings for the company.

## Rourkela Executives Win Asian Management Competition

Rourkela: A team of three executives from Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has won the prestigious Asian Management Games. This is the second year in a row that a SAIL team has won in the event, which is annually hosted by the Asian Association of Management Organisations with participation by top teams from across Asia.

The winning RSP team comprised Prakash Chandra Sahu, Bikrant Kumar Patel, and Biswajit Jena. While Sahu and Patel are managers in RSP's Finance and Accounts Department, Jena is a manager in the Instrumentation Department. The competition was organised online by MMA (Macau Management Association) and All India Management Association (AIMA) from June 9 to July 12. RSP CEO Dipak Chattaraj congratulated the three executives for their spectacular win and said the RSP collectively is proud of them. A team from Pakistan bagged the 1st runners-up spot in the competition and the 2nd runners-up prize went to a Hong Kong team.





# Jagatsinghpur legislators urge CM, to build a barrage on the river Mahanadi at Santara



**JAGATSINGHPUR:** For the first time, four legislators of Jagatsinghpur district united in a single platform recently, raised a vital public issue about the management of Mahanadi water and its proper distribution across the district, appealed to state chief minister Naveen Patnaik to build a barrage across Mahanadi at Santara near Paradip.

The Jagatsinghpur MLAs demand is considered as diversion of

Mahanadi water for useful purposes such as irrigation, industry, tourism, river transport, drinking water, flood management, and storage of surplus water downstream.

The proposed barrage would be estimated to cost Rs 560 crore, the people of Paradip assembly constituency including residents of Biridi, Raghunathpur, Balikuda, Erasama, Jagatsinghpur, Tirtol, Kujanga blocks under Jagatsinghpur district and Mahakalapada,

Derabis, Gardapur, Nischintakoili, and Salipur blocks under Kendrapada district would be benefited in the fields of irrigation, drinking water and shortage of water during summer, the MLAs petition to Chief Minister revealed.

The legislator's claim that several lakhs of cusecs of water flowing from river Mahanadi and its tributaries are discharging to sea regularly when there is no barrage exists from Cuttack to Paradeep for water storage, control, and

its distribution.

Mean while, Jagatsinghpur district economy has been recognized in the state for industry and agriculture. Paradeep has been known as an industrial hub for the country and agriculture is the hereditary profession for people. Water is a vital component and necessary for both industry and agriculture for its development. Even though two major canals as Taladanda and Machhagaon are flowing in the district unable to meet the irrigation requirement for the farmers.

Building a barrage and diversion of Mahanadi water for useful purposes had been first raised by late Sankhanada Behera and Govinda Tarai seven years ago, former an environmentalist and latter a prominent Kakibarta leader including Ex-

Paradeep municipality chairman. Both had urged to build a barrage across Mahanadi in Bhutamunde near Paradeep and apprised the prime minister of India, state chief minister, central water resources department during that time.

While sources informed that based on both leader's demand a central team and state water resource department engineers had studied the claim and visited the proposed barrage site several times, but sadly concluded opinion that building a barrage in Mahanadi brink and downstream near Paradeep is technically not feasible. Meanwhile, both leaders Sankhanada Behera and Govinda Tarai have passed away two years ago, the present demand by Jagatsinghpur MLAs building a barrage in

Santara ostensibly is stated to renew the old demand.

While on the flip side even though public supports for the proposed project is increasing across the district but residents living in Zillanasi Panchayat, few villagers from Bhandua village under Kujanga block, and people living in river Paika delta areas near Rahama are opposing the proposed barrage across river Mahanadi at Santara.

Entire Zillanasi Panchayat recognized as Islet area of Kujanga block likely to be submerged, few villages locating in Mahanadi and Paika rivers brink and bastion would be inundated, so residents living the locations have opposed building a barrage in Santara, informed Tapan Samantray ex Sarpanch of Zillanasi Panchayat.

## From Page-1

### Bomma is...

chief minister of the state, while his son Naveen Patnaik served as the 13th and current CM of the state.

YSR Jagan Mohan Reddy, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, is another example, who also stepped into the shoes of his chief minister father, Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy.

In Tamil Nadu, DMK's M Karunanidhi and MK Stalin are other prominent examples. Karunanidhi served as the chief minister for nearly two decades spanning five terms - from 1969-2011. His son MK Stalin followed in his father's footsteps by becoming the eighth and current CM of Tamil Nadu.

Other examples of this interesting phenomenon of Indian politics are Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna, a Congress leader who served as the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, while his eldest son Vijay Bahuguna, a BJP member, was the 6th chief minister of Uttarakhand.

Shankarrao Chavan and Ashok Chavan are another father-son duos who became CMs of Maharashtra. Shankarrao, a Congress member, served twice as the Maharashtra CM, while his son held the post once from 2008-10.

## Kargil Vijay Diwas 2021: Tribute to fallen heroes, 559 lamps lit in Ladakh

Srinagar, July 25: Soldiers light candles at Kargil War Memorial Drass in memory of the soldiers and officers who laid down their lives during the 1999 Kargil War, in Drass, on Sunday, July 25, 2021. Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed in honor of the war heroes. Dubbed 'Operation Vijay', the campaign held on July 26, 1999, saw the Indian Army seizing back control of key outposts in Ladakh after ousting Pakistani troops from the region. India celebrates Kargil Vijay Diwas on July 26 every year to mark the anniversary of the Indian Army's victory against Pakistan on this day in 1999, after more than 60 days of armed conflict on the highlands of Kargil in Ladakh. In what was perhaps the most recent example of high-altitude warfare in mountainous terrain, the Indian Army ousted the neighboring nation's military forces and took back control of the high outposts in the region. President Ram Nath Kovind is on a visit to Drass on Monday to pay homage at the memorial, located on the foothills of Tololing. Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat also participates at the Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrations. Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed in honor of Kargil's war heroes, the lives that were lost as a result of the war; soldiers who died in the line of duty serving their motherland. On this day every year, the Prime Minister pays his tributes to the armed forces at the 'eternal flame', Amar Jawan Jyoti, at India Gate in Delhi. Celebrations are also conducted in the Kargil sector and elsewhere across the country to commemorate the contributions of the Indian Army.

## J'spur New SP joined the office

**JAGATSINGHPUR:** The new superintendent of police [SP] of Jagatsinghpur district Akhileshwar Singh assumed office. The 2009 IPS Mr Singh reached at police headquarters here and took charge from Cuttack rural SP Mr Jagan Kishor who had subsequently designated SP Jagatsinghpur after transfer of incumbent Prakash R who had shifted to vigilance directorate in Cuttack two weeks ago. Senior police personnel, a few IICs from different police stations across the district, police headquarters staff greeted the new SP and held discussions over the district's police arrangements and its functioning.

## Kidnapper held in J'spur

**JAGATSINGHPUR:** A youth was arrested by police on the charge of him kidnapping a minor girl from here a week ago. The alleged abductor was identified as Bijaya Bhoi a resident of Gopalpur village under Raghunathpur block. Acting on the complaint lodged by the minor girl's parent, police had raided Bijaya house in Gopalpur village on Tuesday and rescued the victim from the residence along with the alleged accused. Both presented in court after performing medical examination later the court ordered sending accused to jail and handed over the victim to her parents.



# Secrets of Similipal, authored Dr. Debabrata Swain unveils by Governor



Baripada, 23 July: "Secrets of Similipal: A wonderland of elephants and melanistic tigers", authored by Dr. Debabrata Swain was unveiled by Governor Ganeshi Lal on Friday. The Governor had unveiled it in his office. The book has been recently published jointly by Daya Publishing House, New Delhi, and Save Elephant Foundation Trust of Odisha.

Similipal is one of the nine tiger reserves of the country initially notified during 1973. It is also a biosphere reserve of the same name recognized nationally in 1994 and internationally in 2009. It is also part of the Mayurbhanj elephant reserve. The author mentions several known and unknown facts about the reserve. The book lists 1359 species of plants found in

Similipal and mentions among them which have medicinal applications. Further 141 species of lichens, 33 species of bryophytes, and 19 species of corticolous algae have been added. A checklist of 60 species of mammals, 385 species of birds, 23 species of amphibians, 70 species of reptiles, 66 species of fishes, and 133 invertebrates of these forests is also appended. There

are seven chapters in the book, namely the landscape, the flora, the fauna, the people, the management, the corridor, and the epilogue, bringing out the salient features of Similipal. Sri Naveen Patnaik, Honourable Chief Minister of Odisha writes in the Foreword, "Similipal in Mayurbhanj district is an amazing floral and faunal repository displaying a mosaic composition of plant and animal species representing northern, southern, western and north-eastern India. It is one of the most vibrant ecosystems on earth" and adds that the book will be useful to promote research, conservation, and environmental services on a sustained basis. Dr. Swain, who is at present a member of the Lokayukta, Odisha, was the director of the reserve from April 2002 to November 2007. He also served as the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force Odisha and head of National Tiger Conservation Authority at New Delhi. The book written by him will prove to be a standard source of reference.

## Poor sanitation at Baripada PRM government medical college

Baripada, 23 July: At least three projects, to provide safe and cool drinking water to cater to the need of Pandit Raghunath Murmur Government Medical College and Hospital at Baripada in Mayurbhanj district are presently turning to dump places due to poor maintenance by the authorities concerned. Despite the presence of responsible officers and the members of Swastha Mitras, no one heeds over the proper cleanliness and care of



the water projects. Thanks a lot to the entire medical staff for the apathetic attitude towards the sanitation drive in the medical institution.

Bimal Dehuri and

attendant and Rukmani Majhi a patient expressed discontentment as they were forced to buy a water bottle from outside the hospital due to the unhygienic condition of water projects inside the PRM MCH. The pictures of neglect came to their notice when they had gone to the projects for fetching water. They took the help of media like no one in the medical college emerged for the care of the projects, they added.

Water stagnation on the road to Mother-Child Hospital is another miserly

to move patients and ambulance. To fix the problem, however, no permanent solutions are made by the hospital management. Such problems are made due to the faulty construction works by the Public Work Department, expressed some staff.

When Contacted, Chief District Medical Officer Dr. Rupavanoo Mishra had admitted the problem. He said the hospital management is duty-bound to look into, and he will see the problem is solved asap.

## Tussar worth Rs. 8 crores to be damaged



Baripada, 23 July:- Sericulture, one of the profitable farming after Sabai in Mayurbhanj will fail to provide a profit to farmers as the tussar cocoons worth Rs.8 crore are not sold due to the Covid-19 pandemic for the last two years. The cooperative societies had the duty to sell cocoons to silk companies, but due to the pandemic and continued lockdowns, they couldn't sell. As many as 12,000 farmers out of 30,000 registered farmers across the district depend on tussar farming after Sabai as a profitable one. To cater to the market linkage problem, as many as 21 cooperative societies were set up in the district. The societies procured tussar cocoons from registered farmers. The cooperative societies in the district had procured tussar cocoons worth Rs.10 crore for the last two years. The worth of Rs.2 crore of cocoons was being sold to silk weavers in the State and the value of Rs.8 crore of cocoons is stocked at the cooperative societies due to the poor demand

for silk items in the market. The registered farmers had been sold at Rs. 3,600-Rs.5, 500 for 16000 numbers of cocoons. Daba and Bagai two types of tussars were produced from the district and attract more demand in and outside the State.

Apart from the silk wavers of West Bengal and Jharkhand, the wavers of Mankdia in Balasore district, Binchua and Dhirakul in Mayurbhanj district, Gopalpur in Jajpur district, Fakirpur in Keonjhar district, Barpali in Bargarh district, Nuapatna and Maniabandh in Cuttack district and were sold the cocoons.

Production Manager of Bangiriposi Cooperative Society Jajati Rout said that

poor selling of the product due to less demand in the market, now the cocoons worth of Rs.8 crore out of Rs. 10 crore are stocked at different cooperative societies from the last years. Neither the silk waver from the State nor outsiders are procuring cocoons due to Covid-19 protocols.



# Jindal Stainless inks MoU with Tata Steel Mining for mining of chrome

Bhubaneswar, July 20: The partnership sets an example for sustainable chrome ore mining and is a win-win partnership for the State of Odisha, TSML, and JSL.

Jindal Stainless (JSL) said that the company has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tata Steel Mining (TSML) for jointly unearthing the chrome ore locked up in the boundary between their mines located in Sukinda of Jajpur district, Odisha.



This would help the conservation of chromite ore which otherwise would have been left unmined forever. Both the companies would now

initiate steps to get necessary statutory approvals from concerned authorities before jointly starting mining operations. M C Thomas,

managing director, Tata Steel Mining, said, "I am very happy to commence this project today with JSL who has been a valued customer and partner. We are committed to sustainable mining and such a joint initiative will set examples for organizations especially in the mining industry to collaborate in the larger interest of mineral conservation and sustainability. These will redefine the way mining is done through technology, mineral conservation, and safety". Abhyuday Jindal,

managing director, JSL, said, "This is a very unique collaboration where JSL & TSML will derive maximum value from a joint mining effort. This effort will enhance the availability of ore in the region without any adverse environmental impact, as it's an already explored area. The move will also benefit the local economy. As responsible institutions, we are committed to sustainable mining activity in the region."

JSL is the largest manufacturer of stainless steel in India with a capacity of 1.1 MTPA. The unit of Jindal Stainless is

located in Odisha. The plant comprises ferroalloy facilities with world-class technology and equipment. The manufacturing complex, equipped with a captive power generation facility, is eventually scalable up to 3.2 MTPA of stainless steel production.

The company reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 289.19 crore in Q4 FY21 as against a net loss of Rs 64.96 crore in Q4 FY20. Net sales during the quarter rose 26.49% YoY to Rs 3913.64 crore.

## CM inaugurates Tata Tea Packaging Unit at Gopalpur



Bhubaneswar, July 22: Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday inaugurated a Tea Packaging Unit of Tata Consumer Products Limited at Gopalpur Industrial Park. The Plant has been commissioned in 18 months with an investment of Rs.100 crore. This will provide employment opportunities to more than 900 persons in the district of Ganjam. It will be developed as the largest tea packaging plant in the country. It is one of the most modern Units with all the state-of-the-art technologies.

Currently, it has a production capacity of 15 million KGs of Tea which will be further enhanced to 50 million KGs. The Unit will cater to the needs of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Karnatak, Tamilnadu, Telengana, and Central India. It is operated by M/s Amalgamated Plantations Private Limited, an associate of Tata consumers. It is currently the second-largest tea producer in India.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister appreciated the role of the Tata group in Odisha and said that it has been playing a vital role in the industrial development of Odisha. They have also come forward in catalyzing social development through partnering with the Government of Odisha in education, health, and skill development initiatives. He thanked the Tata group for assisting the State Government in mobilizing medical oxygen, PSA, Plants, and critical accessories during the Covid pandemic.

## Proposal to construct a dam on Mahanadi near Santara opposed by Zillanasi villagers

Zillanasi(j'singpur), July 25: The senior and intellectuals of Zillanasi panchayat met to oppose the proposal to build a dam on Mahanadi and formed 'PrakalpBirodhManch'. They have prepared a seven-point memorandum addressed to the CM to be submitted through the Collector of the district.

The villagers pointed that the site of the dam is situated just five km away from the Sea and very close to River Luna. Hence building a dam over there will serve no purpose for the farmers but it will only be beneficial to the nearby industries at the cost of the livelihood of the farmers of the panchayat.



The villagers of the panchayat have taken an oath to protect their farmland and oppose the proposed project of building the dam.

## Odisha invites tender for e-auction of 11 mineral blocks

Bhubaneswar, July 18: The Odisha government has issued a Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for the online auction of 11 more mining blocks, including seven virgin blocks. The Directorate of Mines has issued the notice for grant of mining lease for seven iron ore blocks, two iron ore & manganese blocks, one iron ore & dolomite, and one bauxite block.

The seven iron ore blocks

**The Odisha government has issued Notice Inviting Tender for online auction of 11 more mining blocks, including seven virgin blocks**

are Nadidih (Bico), Purheibahal, Chandiposhi, Jumka Pathriposhi, Dholtapahar, Netrabandha Pahar (West) and Gandhalpada. Similarly, two iron ore and manganese blocks put under the hammer are --

Nadidih (Feegrade) and Teherai. Kasia mineral block having both iron ore and dolomite has also been put for the auction. The government has put Karlapat bauxite mineral block, a virgin block, for auction.

The interested bidder can purchase the tender documents till August 19, 2021, while August 24 is the last date for submission of the bid. The tender fee for all the 11 blocks is Rs 5 lakh each.

Accordingly, the government has invited financial bids in digital format only and technical bids in both digital and physical format.

# It is tardy Olympics in Japan



**Sirish C. Mohanty**

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) for the first time postponed the Tokyo Olympic 2020 for a year. Echoing the sentiments of the sporting community world over, its president Thomas Bach said, "These postponed Olympic Games will need compromises by all of the stakeholders." It's not only Japan, particularly the city of Tokyo, but also thousands of sportspersons and allied agencies who were supposed to be an integral part of this landmark event that have all been hit by the deadly Covid-19. Life certainly comes first; therefore creating kerfuffle around such a crisis is a folly. Rather, we must gather the courage to fight the menace out and look forward to Tokyo 2021 with renewed vigor and conviction. Finally, the games were rescheduled to 2021 and now, here it begins.

This is not the first time

an Olympic game was deferred or canceled in Japan. Earlier in 1936, when Tokyo was selected to host the Olympics in 1940, it was a surprise for a few reasons. For one, it was the first time a non-Western country had been picked. But also, the Japanese Empire had invaded Manchuria and withdrawn from the League of Nations, drawing diplomatic concern and humanitarian scorn. Japanese organizers wanted to host the games as a way to shore up international goodwill. By early 1938, the British delegation was threatening a boycott, spurring rumors that the United States might follow. It was reported that a poll of potential U.S. Olympians showed overwhelming support for attending the Games. But a respected member of the American Olympic Committee stepped down, saying it could not in

good conscience send athletes "to a country that stands for what Japan stands for". And in Japan, the pressure was mounting. Although construction on a rowing course, a cyclodrome, and a new hotel were complete, a wartime austerity plan created a shortage of steel needed to finish the job. Finally, in mid-July 1938, the government pulled the plug, forcing the organizing committee to announce it was forfeiting the chance to host the Games and would try again in 1944. The 1944 Olympics was also canceled because of the looming war and Japan had to wait until 1964.

Nevertheless, the games begin while the challenge this time is greater, if the Tokyo bubble holds, the world and India will witness the human spirit at its finest. The modern Olympics is a curious beast. Every four years - in the case

of this edition, five years - it rolls into the host city like a juggernaut, trailing tales of destruction, corruption, inflated budgets, development at the cost of citizens and the environment, apathy towards those suffering from natural disasters, relocation or disease. And then the Games begin. All the negativity dissolves into the background, replaced by nervous excitement and hypnotic awe at the sheer range of human endeavor, at the sight of athletes from every corner of the planet performing at the most breathtaking level possible.

The challenge this time is, however, greater. Tokyo 2020 was postponed by a year because of the raging pandemic; its budget has breached all reasonable bounds; the greatest sporting feats in the world will unfold inside empty stadiums; the host city is in a state of emergency, and the majority of the Japanese are opposed to the idea of the Games happening at all. The first sporting action was on July 21, Japan's softball match against Australia in Fukushima. The baseball and softball matches were given to Fukushima as a symbolic gesture, to show the world that the region has moved on, 10 years after being devastated by a tsunami and the world's

worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl. The stadium stands 65km from the nuclear plant. Yet, the pandemic has ensured that the people of Fukushima have nothing to do with the Games. No spectators saw Japan's win over Australia. Games volunteers were told to stay home too.

But if the Tokyo bubble holds, and if the spread of the Sars-Cov-2 virus can be kept at bay inside the Games, then a true spectacle awaits. The last chance to see arguably the greatest gymnast of all time, Simone Biles, in action. Novak Djokovic on his quest for a "golden slam". Eliud Kipchoge, poised to run - officially - the first sub-2 hour marathon. Caeleb Dressel, mounting a challenge to Michael Phelps's record of most medals in a single edition. And, most importantly for a perennially medal-starved nation such as India, a real opportunity to win at multiple events. India's boxers, wrestlers, shooters, and others are all going into Tokyo 2020 ranked in the top three in the world, or, in the case of badminton player PV Sindhu, as the defending world champion. However, Mirabai begins with a medal tally with silver beaconing India has never had it this good. 🇮🇳

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

The editorial of your last issue has thrown light on the dark history of the Hindu Muslim divide of our country. The recent pragmatic & forthright statement given by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat regarding the similarity of DNA of Hindu and Muslims will go a long way in reducing the animosity by fostering goodwill, brotherhood & communal harmony between two communities.

Of course, there is no denying the fact that most Indian Muslims are converted Muslims. As history

says originally they were either Hindus or Sikhs and they have not originated from Muslim countries like Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan. On the other hand, You have convincingly elaborated the exact meaning of the word "Hindu" which is originated from the word 'Sindhu'.

So, Hinduism is not a religion but a way of Life.

The time has come for the Hindu chauvinist & protagonist of Hindu ideology to broaden their outlook by inculcating this liberal Hindu philosophy and accordingly change their way of thinking.

As it is commonly perceived that neither Hindu nor Muslim is in danger in India.

The malicious propaganda is the handiwork of power-mongering politicians.

The Rashtriya Muslim Manch has a challenging responsibility to play a prominent role in this direction.

Lastly, I agree with your views that if the Hindus & Muslims imbibe the true spirit of nationalism all the ill-conceived barriers will naturally disappear thereby destroying the communalism & separatism from the Indian soil.

**Bharat Patra**  
Rtd. Banker & Social activist, Keonjhar



# Need of a strong, responsible Opposition



Sirish C Mohanty

Democracy stands out as the widely accepted form of government among most of the nations for decades now mainly

but very substantially. At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom'. When the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance in 1947 at the Red Fort, but, lo and behold; we have no regret rupturingsanctity of our national pride on this year's Republic day. What we have witnessed in the last seven decades



due to its cherished principle of rule of law that promises equality and freedom to all, ensured by the positive presence of checks and balances in the political system that would guard against any attempts by its leaders to tamper with it. These checks and balances come mainly, apart from the judiciary, in the form of the opposition party or parties in the representative democracies. As such, the opposition is one of the prerequisites for a healthy democracy in any country.

Seven decades are but a blip in the history of a people and the nation they started to march with- a march which began with the clarion call of 'Long years ago we made a tryst with destiny, and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure,

appears to be a complete change in the approach to the political, economic, social, and parliamentary systems in the country. The change appears to have happened so fast that it is almost unbelievable. Alas, déjà vu, we have been sleeping while the seeds of corruption, nepotism, and greed for power, sown in the 1970s and 1980s, have finally gulped us.

Let us rewind to 1947 when, and for a couple of decades thereafter, the Indian National Congress was the only major political party in the country as it was the child of the freedom movement. The giants of the freedom movement became the torchbearers of the INC; there was a galaxy of them at the Centre - Jawaharlal Nehru, DrRajendra Prasad, Maulana Azad, Vallabhbhai Patel, C Rajagopalachari,

YB Chavan, to name a few. The Chief Ministers of the states were almost of the same stature - GB Pant, Dr BC Roy, K Kamaraj, N Sanjeeva Reddy, Biju Patnaik, and so on. The Chief Ministers had no problem in addressing the Prime Minister as 'Jawahar' in their correspondence. The INC had strong party presidents at the national and state level and they were given sufficient latitude. The Prime Minister, the Cabinet ministers, the CMs, the PCC presidents worked together and there was no sense of insecurity.

Although there was no significant Opposition party and Nehru was an extremely popular and charismatic leader who could have usurped more powers than the Constitution mandated, yet he was quintessentially a democratic parliamentarian. He took the country, the Cabinet, the Chief Ministers, and the people into confidence on all important matters. He felt no need to foist 'his men' as CMs or PCC chiefs. Similarly, as the Opposition parties began to grow, he did not do anything to impede their progress, except through parliamentary debate and public discourse. The media and judiciary were given their own space to function independently. It was as a result of this democratic ethos, impassioned and uncorrupted leadership that a recently independent nation began to find its feet in the modern world. The very formation of the republic (absorption of the princely states), the emphasis on education and the establishment of AIIMS, IITs, IIMs, the focus on and creation of our Atomic Energy Department, the adoption of our

Constitution, the Five Year Plans - one can go on and on. A lot was achieved by Nehru and his team.

With the arrival of Indira Gandhi, things began to change. She again was a popular and charismatic figure but with some innate sense of insecurity. Within the Cabinet, there was a 'kitchen cabinet' whose membership was frequently changed. At the first opportunity, she split the INC and demolished the 'Syndicate' and its members. She also started the practice of imposing weak Chief Ministers and PCC chiefs on the states. The CLPs and PCCs became rubber stamps, especially after 1971. It is important to note that Congress remained a 'movement' bereft of cadres, whereas the Jana Sangh (now BJP) and the Left parties were cadre-based. In this


of clay'.

During all this time of ideological diversion of Congress, the BJP continued to grow to become a force to reckon with. Unlike Congress, the BJP has a solid, disciplined, and motivated cadre and its own very clear ideology. The party benefitted from this and was able to form a coalition government at the Centre with Vajpayee as its leader and unlike the Congress, the BJP as a party gained from this. Wherever it was in government, the BJP strengthened its base and tightened its grip over the administration, the media, and the judiciary. It developed good relations with the business and corporate world, which was to help it later on.

The Congress, despite its long stay in power, failed to

2014 and 2019 at the Centre and in the states at various times.

It is not disturbing that 'a' political party is consolidating its position in power, but is a matter of concern that the country lacks a strong Opposition party as misadventures could take place in its absence. There is an urgent need to spell out an alternative ideology; there are a lot of Indians - silent Indians - who want to hear something different, who do not want to be told what to eat or drink or whom to love or how to dress, what to do with our land and assets. In short, we want to live as free men and women, to live in peace. At the same time, while keeping in mind the unity and interest of the country, and to retain that, we must not hesitate to shed some of our granted liberties if the need arises. The need of the hour is a strong and vigilant Opposition because a vibrant democracy needs one. In a democracy, the debate should not be guided by charismatic leaders and hyperventilating media persons pulling emotional strings, but rather by Members of Parliament responsibly focusing on health, jobs, education, welfare, environment, and security.

The only way the Opposition can come up is by visualising and laying out their vision on the future of the nation. Whatever ideology they adopt, the struggle would be hard, requiring movements through inspiring people. Political leaders aspiring to lead need introspection or else have to be on the streets soon if they don't heed the writings on the wall. 



Biju Patnaik with Nehru

arrangement, Congress became completely dependent on the Prime Minister's charisma to win state and national elections. With the declaration of Emergency and the arrival of Sanjay Gandhi, the authoritarian way of functioning became stronger and the grip on the government and party machines absolute. The CMs, PCC chiefs, Cabinet ministers were reduced to be 'men

strengthen the party; in fact, it did not even attempt to do so and as a result, became too dependent on the Gandhis for electoral purposes. On the other hand, the BJP developed an election machine that had a cadre, ideology, and good leadership. With the arrival of Modi, a charismatic leader and an exceptional orator, this machine delivered stunning victories in



# Gangster Sk Hyder killed in police encounter



Bhubaneswar July 24: Notorious gangster Sk Hyder was killed in a police encounter in Odisha's Balasore on Saturday. Hyder was encountered while being shifted to Baripada jail from Choudwar jail in Cuttack.

He had sustained two bullet injuries on his leg and stomach. The encounter took place at around 3.20 PM near Simulia in Balasore district.

The gangster succumbed to his injuries at Balasore District Headquarters Hospital.

Midway near Simulia, he asked the cops to stop for a while to attend nature's call at around 3.20 pm. "He asked our men to stop the vehicle to attend nature's

call. He later snatched away a pistol and tried to escape. Police opened fire to prevent him from escaping and in the process he sustained bullet injuries," said Police Commissioner Saumendra Priyadarshi.

He suffered bullet injuries in his abdomen and was rushed to Balasore District Headquarters Hospital (DHH). He succumbed to injuries while undergoing treatment at the hospital,

doctors said.

Hyder had earlier escaped from SCB Hospital on April 10. He was nabbed from Telangana after a 120-hour-long operation launched by the Commissionerate Police.

Police said that more than 15 cases related to murder, extortion, and attempt to murder are lodged against the gangster in various police stations of Kendrapara, Bhubaneswar and Puri.

## Man Beats Stepdaughter To Death; Attempts Suicide, Hospitalised



Champua, July 21: A man allegedly attempted to commit suicide after beating his minor stepdaughter to death with a wooden plank at RaghualSahi near Naradpur village under Champua police limits in

Keonjhar district late on Tuesday night.

The accused identified as Kailash of RaghualSahi has been admitted to the Sub Divisional Hospital here in critical condition by the police after his rescue by his second wife.

According to reports, a few years back one SaratOram of the Jagannathpur area had died and was survived by his wife Santilata, a son, and a daughter.

Under such circumstances, Kailash whose wife had died and was a widower maintained a relationship with Santilata and accepted her as his wife.

On Tuesday night while Santilata's 15-year-old daughter from her first marriage was speaking to someone over a mobile phone, enraged over it, in a

fit of rage Kailash mercilessly beat the girl with a wooden plank leading to her death. Upon realising that the girl was dead, Kailash rushed inside the house and attempted to commit suicide by hanging himself.

However, Santilata rescued him by snapping the rope with a scythe. Villagers informed the police who got Kailash admitted to the hospital here in critical condition. Further investigation by the police into the incident is underway.

## The dead body of a missing woman found, murder after rape suspected

Barbil, July 22: The dead body of a woman who was missing for few days has been recovered from Kara Khendra forest under Barbil police station of Keonjhar district in Odisha today. The victim has been identified as Reena Mahakud and was a resident of Nalda area of Barbil. According to reports, Reena, a daily laborer, did not return home after work on July 18. Her family members searched her for few days but all was in vain. On July 20, the family lodged a missing complaint at Barbil police station.

A day after the family registered the missing complaint, Reena's body was found in the Kara Khendra forest by some passerby. On being informed, the police rushed the spot, seized the body, and sent it for an autopsy. The cops have suspected that the victim was raped and then murdered. One accused, RamchandraNaik, has been detained and is being questioned by police.

## ATM withdrawal fee to pinch more from August 1

In June, the central bank raised the interchange fee from ₹15 to ₹17, while for non-financial transactions the fee has been raised from ₹5 to ₹6.

The fee is charged by banks to merchants processing payments through credit cards or debit cards. As per the revised rules, the customers will be eligible for five free transactions every month from their home bank

**Starting August 1, the interchange fee that banks can charge on Automated Teller Machines (ATM) will see an increase of ₹2 following the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) order.**

ATMs. Customers can claim free transactions from ATMs of other banks, too, which include three withdrawals in metros and five in non-metro cities.

The changes were announced based on the suggestions of a committee set up by the RBI in June 2019.

It was set up under the

chairmanship of the chief executive of the Indian Banks' Association to review the entire gamut of ATM charges with a particular focus on interchange structure for ATM transactions. The central bank had said these charges were allowed to be hiked owing to the increasing cost of ATM deployment and expenses towards the maintenance of ATM that banks incur.

News agency PTI



reported that as of March 31, there are 115,605 onsite ATMs and 97,970 off-site teller machines in the country and around 900 million debit cards issued by different banks.



# Remain prepared for the third Covid-19 wave: Naveen Patnaik

Bhubaneswar, July 23: Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday asked officials to remain prepared for the third Covid-19 wave likely to hit the state by August end. "Though...(the) positivity rate has been under control in the state for the last few weeks, the situation is yet to improve in some districts. Health care is the top priority and if the third wave comes by the end of August, as predicted by scientists, the state will have to deal with the situation. Considering this, the officials should remain alert," he said after a review of the Covid situation.

Odisha on Friday



reported 1,917 Covid infections, taking the number of active cases to 19,261. The number of deaths rose to 5,377 with 69 fresh fatalities. Patnaik said even though the pandemic situation is under control, this is no time for complacency. "Only by remaining alert, we will be safe. Therefore, people

should strictly adhere to Covid-19 guidelines and not crowd places." He said the state government is emphasizing investing in human resources along with strengthening the health care infrastructure. "The district administration has a responsibility to ensure that people can access health care

without any hassle. It is the core responsibility of everyone, including police station inspectors, block development officers, sub-divisional police officers, sub collectors, superintendents of police, and district collectors to ensure that there is no problem in health care delivery right from district headquarter hospitals to the community health centers in blocks," he said.

Patnaik said Odisha has spent around ₹2,004 crores to support the poor, especially small farmers, construction workers, tribal families, Scheduled Castes, tribal students, and street vendors during the second wave of the pandemic.

## Can't use 'Hero' tag for electric vehicles

NEW DELHI, July 22: In a setback for the PawanMunjhal-run Hero MotoCorp, a 2010 family settlement bars the company and its promoter from using the popular 'Hero' brand name for any type of electric vehicle - two-, three- and four-wheeler - as the global rights for the green technology have been allotted to his family member and nephew Naveen Munjal's Hero Electric.

Any violation here "will lead to legal action", Naveen told TOI, making it clear that "only my family has the right to use the Hero brand for green vehicles", even though there is no non-compete/

electrics and no one else can use it. There is no ambiguity here. We can use it for any type of vehicle running on land - two-wheelers, three-wheelers, cars, or commercial vehicles," Naveen said, adding that, "If our rights are encroached upon, we will take legal recourse."

A spokesperson for Pawan's Hero MotoCorp said, "Hero MotoCorp remains fully committed to driving sustainability and clean mobility, including through electric vehicles, in India and our markets around the world. There is a family understanding in place, which everyone in the Munjal family is well aware of, and



prohibition on other clan members who can enter the category but with different branding.

Naveen, son of Pawan's cousin Vijay Munjal, runs the Hero Electric two-wheeler business since 2007 and said his family received "global rights over the Hero brand name in perpetuity for electrics", be it for personal-consumer use, or the commercial market.

This was done as part of a larger settlement between various members of the Munjal clan, which runs several businesses under the ubiquitous 'Hero' brand name (two-wheelers, cycles, insurance, realty, electric vehicles, components, education), and has players such as Sunil Munjal and Pankaj Munjal, besides PawanMunjhal and Vijay Munjal.

"We have the ownership of the Hero brand name for

everything is being done within the parameters of the understanding and the agreement. The brand names used on the vehicles even as on date speak for themselves. The family agreement is crystal clear. Hero MotoCorp is well aware of its rights, and has always acted, and will continue to act based on the best legal advice." However, Hero MotoCorp skirted the question of whether it can use the 'Hero' brand name for its upcoming EVs. At a time when it braces for stiff competition from newcomers such as Ola Electric, Hero MotoCorp has announced aggressive investments in the EV business (it also has a financial exposure in startup Ather) and plans to launch its first green vehicle this year. However, what branding will be used by the company is still not clear.

## Bharat Net Project on Way to Cover 6.3L Villages by Broadband'; Tenders Invited

New Delhi, July 21: In a first major move under the new Telecommunications and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, the government on Tuesday invited global tenders under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode for works worth Rs 29,500 crore in 16 states under the ambitious BharatNet project which will connect every village by broadband.

The scope of this project, considered close to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's heart, has been expanded to cover all 6.3 lakh villages in the country by 2023. The PM had announced from Red Fort last year on Independence Day that this would be achieved within the next 1,000 days. The present works for which tenders are out would involve connecting 3.61 lakh villages by optical fiber.

Vaishnav had undertaken a detailed review of this project soon after taking over as the new Telecom and IT Minister on July 9. The BharatNet project had been struggling for pace so far. The initial scope of the project was to cover 2.5 lakh gram panchayats in the country with optical fiber by August 2021. However, that deadline was missed. The government had told Parliament this March that only about 1.5 lakh Gram Panchayats had been service ready so far and 5.09 lakh km of Optical Fibre Cable was laid. The government then said the project progress was affected due to lockdown and movement restrictions due to the COVID pandemic.

According to the PM's announcement last August, the Union Cabinet on June 30 approved a revised implementation strategy of BharatNet through PPP mode in 16 States and the project to extend up to all inhabited villages (6.3 lakh) beyond Gram Panchayats in the said States. Estimated maximum viability gap funding for the PPP model of Rs 19,041 crores was also approved.

In a statement issued on Tuesday after the tenders were put out, the government said the scope of work under BharatNet PPP Project would include connecting the

remaining unconnected Gram Panchayats and all the inhabited Villages beyond the Gram Panchayats, up-gradation of the existing BharatNet Network from Linear to Ring topology and operation and Maintenance and utilisation of the existing as well as the newly deployed network.

The Bharat Broadband Network Limited will administer the Project as the Project Management Agency, as per the tender document. "The concessionaire would endeavor to use domestically manufactured products in the Project to promote the spirit of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'," the document also says. The earlier phase of the BharatNet project was implemented through three Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), BSNL, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), and the RailTel Corporation of India Limited.

The government said the PPP Model will leverage Private Sector efficiency for operation, maintenance, utilization, and revenue generation and is expected to result in a faster rollout of BharatNet. Also, an extension of the reach of BharatNet to all inhabited villages with reliable, quality, high-speed broadband will enable better access to e-services offered by various Central and State Government agencies, the government says. The penetration and proliferation of broadband are also expected to increase direct and indirect employment and income generation.

The government also says that the PPP Model in this critical infrastructure of Telecom is a novel initiative. "The Private Sector Partner is also expected to bring an equity investment and raise resources towards capital expenditure and for operation and maintenance of the network. Hence, the PPP Model for BharatNet will enhance efficiency, quality of service, consumer experience and leverage private sector expertise, entrepreneurship, and capacities for accelerating the achievement of digital India. This will be in addition to substantial savings of public money," the government said.



## In Ashwini, Odisha Gets First Railway Min Since Independence

Odisha Gets the First railway min since Independence!

In Ashwini Vaishnav, Odisha got its first-ever railway minister since 1947, when the seat considered as the 'lifeline of the nation' has been piloted by neighboring states like Bihar (5 -from Jagjivan Ram to George Fernandes, Nitish Kumar, and Ram Vilas Paswan) and West Bengal (3- Mamata to Dinesh and Mukul Roy).

In the long 74-years post-Independence history, Odisha could get a foothold in the guise of Kanhu Charan Lenka during the late PV Narishma Rao Prime Ministership in the years 1991-95. Incidentally, KC Lenka had been the RS member then, like Ashwini Vaishnav.

From day one (2014), PM Modi's first love for Railways Minister had been Suresh Prabhu. After being sworn in as PM in 2014, when the then alliance partner Shiv Sena refused to let Prabhu join the Modi cabinet as rail Minister from Sena bench, Sadanand Gowda was allocated the portfolio. But in November, the baton of the 'lifeline' was handed over to Prabhu after he resigned from Sena and joined BJP. Prabhu was preferred for having a good knack for the dynamics of private investment.

In 2015, Prabhu announced the Indian Railways Vision Plan 2030, which laid stress on the safety and services of global standards. And in his first rail budget laid an investment



road map worth \$142 billion to ramp up the rail infra and services of the country.

But after two major train

accidents in quick succession, Prabhu owning moral responsibility resigned from the ministry in 2017. Since then the 'lifeline' torch had been with Piyush Goyal nicknamed as "Happy" in the old Jansangh circle.

It is during his tenure, the Indian Railways has formally released its ambitious National Rail Plan-2024. Struck by the pandemic in 2020, the ambitious plan is yet to steam ahead. And with only 3-years left for the 2024 dateline (incidentally when BJP has to seek re-election), PM Modi again entrusted the 'lifeline' to Vaishnav- who is more a technocrat and less a politician.

### Why Ashwini PM Modi's Blue-Eyed Boy?

As per the National Rail Plan, the country needs a whopping 17.8 thousand locomotives by 2026. The plan forecasts a requirement of a massive 47.02 thousand by 2051. Besides, the requirement of wagons by 2026 is projected at 4.07 lakh and 10.6 lakh by 2051 to make the railways the 'engine' of the country's growth.

To put the National Rail Plan on the 2024 track and attain speed, the former bureaucrat from Odisha fits the bill. The plan to induct him as railway minister is hanging since 2019, thanks to the pandemic that has gripped the country hard since 2020 January.

For his stint in GE transportation and Siemens Locomotive, besides his hands-on technical expertise on urban infrastructure, PM Modi has allocated the country's 'lifeline' to Vaishnav. Both the companies have a stake in modernising the rolling stock of Indian Railways.

## Punjab Done, Rajasthan Next? As Gandhis Stamp Authority, Clock Ticking for Old Guard in Congress



Sources say Sonia Gandhi was rattled and wondered if she should postpone a decision but when Partap Singh Bajwa held a meeting with Punjab MPs in an attempt to show eyes to the top leadership, the die was cast and Sidhu was finally appointed PCC chief in a late-night declaration.

The Gandhis realised that if they backtracked this time after having made up their mind on Sidhu as Congress chief, their already shaky grip over the party would shake further.

The Captain has made it clear he would be no pushover and hence, had some tough talk with Punjab in-charge Harish Rawat. The four working presidents have been carefully chosen - not only do they get the regional balance right, but most of them are close to Rahul Gandhi.

After having taken on the veteran in Punjab, all eyes now are on whether the Gandhis will push for a generational change and younger leaders. First comes to mind Rajasthan where Sachin Pilot and his supporters have been watching the Punjab

developments closely. The fact that the Gandhis mustered the courage to take on veteran Congressman Amarinder Singh to appoint a relatively younger leader overruling his objections will be used by Pilot's supporters to ask why the Gandhis are scared of Ashok Gehlot.

When Congress won in Rajasthan, it did not make PCC chief Sachin Pilot the chief minister, citing the fact that Gehlot was senior, had the support of more MLAs and the PCC chief need not become the CM. The real reason, however, was a worry that ignoring Gehlot could mean the Gandhis lose the state.

Pilot was placated and promised that his time would come. But the rebellion couldn't be averted and soon enough, Pilot and his supporters parked themselves in Delhi. Once again, the Gandhis intervened to buy peace, and Pilot was promised that his concerns would be met. It has been more than six months now and Pilot's supporters are restless.

However, developments in Punjab give them hope that the Gandhis could flex

Rajasthan as well as other states where younger leaders are waiting for their turn.

Karnataka is another state which is showing restlessness as it heads for polls soon with a battle brewing between DK Shivakumar and former chief minister Siddaramaiah. As Shivakumar has the support of Rahul Gandhi, the question arises if he will be projected as the new leader after he is appointed PCC chief.

It's clear that with Rahul and Priyanka increasingly calling the shots, they want the younger ones to take over the party. Punjab was the testing ground where

**With the appointment of Navjot Singh Sidhu as PCC chief, the Gandhis have made it clear that they are the boss. While the Gandhis had already made up their mind about Sidhu, they were hesitant for a moment on seeing the strong stand taken by Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh.**

their muscle in the state and take on another powerful veteran - Gehlot. The Gandhis have been losing elections, one after another, and this has loosened their grip over the party. Many young leaders have quit the party, nurturing their ambitions, and some veterans feel that with the Gandhi siblings taking charge, they could be eased out further.

With the Punjab decision, Gandhis have underlined the clout they have. Ignoring the difference of opinion of the local leadership to appoint Sidhu is a huge gamble but now all eyes are on whether they can show the same risk in

they made it clear that should Congress win the 2022 polls, the chief minister could be someone other than Captain.

Punjab could be the cue for other states as well. So will it be DK Shivakumar over Siddaramaiah in Karnataka? Randeep Surjewala or Kumari Selja over Bhupinder Hooda in Haryana? Will the search begin for younger faces, with the Gandhis beginning to ease out seniors and powerful veterans for younger faces? While Punjab may have just been the beginning, all eyes are now on Rajasthan which could just as well seal the grip of the Gandhis.



## TMC MP suspended from Rajya Sabha for tearing minister's papers



New Delhi, July 23: Trinamool Congress (TMC) member Santanu Sen was on Friday suspended from Rajya Sabha for the rest of the ongoing Monsoon Session for "unruly and unbecoming behavior" a day after he snatched papers from information technology minister Ashwani Vaishnav while he was reading a statement on the alleged use of Israeli software Pegasus to potentially target politicians, activists, and journalists.

Union minister V Muraleedharan moved a motion for Sen's suspension saying the TMC lawmaker's behavior brought "disrepute" to the house.

Sen refused to leave the House even as he was asked to exit multiple times by Rajya Sabha chairperson M Venkaiah Naidu. Naidu earlier allowed the motion, which was subsequently passed in the House.

TMC's chief whip, Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, objected to the motion, saying it was not on the list of business of the House. Roy said TMC was given no time to prepare. "We have had no opportunity to react to the government's motion to suspend Shantanu Sen," he said. Naidu countered Roy's objections. He said the motion was approved as it was a question of the "dignity of the House". TMC lawmaker Derek O'Brien raised the issue of "hooliganism" by members of the ruling party. Naidu refused to entertain the allegations and adjourned the Rajya Sabha until 12:30. Sen continued to refuse to leave the House even after it resumed, prompting the deputy chairperson Harivansh to ask him to leave.

Sen snatched the papers from the minister, tore them, and flung them in the air amid a heated exchange with Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri. The TMC alleged that Puri abused Sen and complained to Harivansh. Sen said he was surrounded and threatened.

Harivansh asked the members to desist from unparliamentary behavior, before adjourning the House for the day on Thursday. The government sought Sen's suspension under Rule 256 (2). The rule says a lawmaker, who "disregards the authority of the Chair or abuses the rules of the Council" through "wilful" disruptions can be suspended from the House for up to the remainder of the parliamentary session if the Rajya Sabha chairman "deems it necessary". Once the motion is moved, there can be no debate or adjournment allowed, the rule says. Last year, the same rule was applied to suspend eight opposition members from Rajya Sabha for a week after their protests against the farm laws.

Protests have rocked Parliament over the alleged targeting of phones with military-grade spyware, the controversial farm laws, and income tax raids on the premises of a newspaper group. They have forced repeated adjournments and allowed little business in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

### Protests have rocked Parliament over the alleged targeting of phones with military-grade spyware, the controversial farm laws, and income tax raids on the premises of a newspaper group

# 6 Assam Cops Killed In Border Violence With Mizoram

**Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga sought Home Minister Amit Shah's intervention, saying it "needs to be stopped right now".**

New Delhi, July 26: Six police officers from Assam were killed in the fresh violence that broke out today at the disputed Assam-Mizoram border, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has said. There were reports of firing from the border area -- which lie over Assam's Cachar district and Mizoram's Kolasib district -- and attacks on government vehicles.

The violence took place two days after Union Home Minister Amit Shah met all Chief Ministers of the northeast at Shillong. Shah has dialed Chief Ministers of both states and asked them to resolve the border issue, reported news agency ANI quoting sources.

The Chief Ministers of the two states had clashed on

Twitter and tagged Amit Shah in their posts.

Tweeting a video of the violence where people armed with sticks can be seen, Chief Minister Zoramthanga sought Shah's intervention, saying it "needs to be stopped right now." "Innocent couple on their way back to Mizoram via Cachar manhandled and ransacked by thugs and goons. How are you going to justify these violent acts?" read another tweet. "Innocent couple on their way back to Mizoram via Cachar manhandled and ransacked by thugs and goons."

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma tweeted: "Honble @ZoramthangaCMJi, Kolasib (Mizoram) SP is asking us to withdraw from our post until then their civilians won't listen nor stop the violence. How can we run the government in such



circumstances? Hope you will intervene at earliest".

Sarma later tweeted that he has spoken to his Mizoram counterpart. "I have just spoken to Chief Minister Zoramthanga I have reiterated that Assam will maintain status quo and peace between the borders of our state. I have expressed my willingness to visit Aizawl and discuss these issues if need be (sic)," his tweet read.

Zoramthanga, however, shot back, "As discussed I kindly urge that Assam Police be instructed to withdraw from Vairengte for the safety of civilians". Three Mizoram districts - Aizawl, Kolasib, and Mamit - share a 164.6 km long inter-state border with Assam's Cachar, Hailakandi and

Karimganj districts. There have been skirmishes at the "disputed" areas of the border for years, with the residents on both sides accusing each other of intrusion.

The last incident was reported in June when security forces of both states exchanged allegations of "intrusion".

The Mizoram government has constituted a boundary commission to deal with the demarcation of the border. The boundary commission will be chaired by Deputy Chief Minister Tawnluia and will have Home Minister Lalchamliana as vice-chairman.

Assam has border disputes with Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh as well.

## Odia Loco Pilot In Mumbai Halts Train To Save Life Of An Elderly Man



Mumbai, July 25: An Odia loco pilot's quick thinking and prompt action has saved the life of an old man crossing rail tracks at Kalyan station in Mumbai on Sunday. The Odia loco pilot identified as Sushant Pradhan

belongs to Arunpur village from Ramagada Panchayat under Ganjam district. A video of the shocking incident, shared by the Ministry of Railways on social media, showed the train coming to a stop just in time

as the old man, who had got stuck on the track while trying to cross it escaped unharmed.

As the video of the entire spectacle went viral on the internet, millions of users and the Railway Department took to social media to applaud the loco pilot.

According to reports, the incident happened at around noon when the train started from platform number 4. The elderly man, who was crossing the track at the time inattentively, fell and got stuck under the train.

The Chief Permanent Way Inspector (CPWI) shouted and cautioned the loco pilot and his assistant. In no time, Pradhan

immediately applied emergency brakes, and later he along with his assistant pulled up the elderly man from under the train.

"Luckily I could apply the emergency break-in time and pull up the old man unhurt. It was satisfying to rescue the senior citizen safely," said Pradhan.

The Central Railway has announced a cash reward for the two loco pilots and CPWI for their timely act of saving the man's life. After the incident, the Central Railway issued an advisory warning people not to cross rail tracks at unauthorized locations as it could prove fatal.



# Yediyurappa matters for the BJP in Karnataka



Bengaluru, July 26: Exactly two years after he assumed the chief minister's post in Karnataka, BS Yediyurappa has tendered his resignation. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is yet to name its successor. The fact that there is no obvious front-runner despite Yediyurappa's resignation being in the works for

months underscores his importance in Karnataka's political landscape. Two key challenges are facing the BJP at the moment. One, making sure that Yediyurappa does not rebel against it as he did in 2012, and two, maintaining the party's support base in the Lingayat community, of which the outgoing CM is the tallest leader. Here are three charts which explain

this. BS Yediyurappa.

## Lingayats voted overwhelmingly for the BJP in 2019

The BJP achieved its best-ever performance in Karnataka in the 2019 elections winning 25 out of the 28 Lok Sabha seats. While the party had high levels of support across Hindus, it was an overwhelming 87% among Lingayats, who account for almost 16%-17% of the state's population. The Congress-JD (S) government fell immediately after the 2019 Lok Sabha elections and Yediyurappa, a Lingayat, was made the chief minister.

Lingayats have been the core supportbase of the BJP in Karnataka, but they are also loyal to Yediyurappa.


Karnataka is the first and only southern state so far where the BJP has been able to capture power on its own. The BJP's success story in the state is tied with Yediyurappa who has mobilised the Lingayats for the party. In the 2013 assembly elections, the BJP party realised the hard way that it cannot take Lingayat support for granted if Yediyurappa is not on board. Yediyurappa parted ways with the BJP and formed the Karnataka Janata Paksha (KJP) after he was made to resign as the chief minister in 2011. The KJP did massive damage to the BJP in the 2013 assembly elections in which its performance was the worst since the 1994 state polls.

A comparison of community-wise vote

shares from the 2008 and 2013 CSDS-Lokniti surveys shows that the Lingayats deserted the BJP in a big way in the 2013 elections. The Lingayat support returned in the 2014 elections (it was 63% according to CSDS-Lokniti), by which time Yediyurappa had been brought back into the BJP fold.

## BJP's social engineering problem in Karnataka

Caste politics has always been important in Karnataka. In its heydays, the Congress, under the leadership of Devraj Urs perfected what it called the AHINDA coalition which included minorities, backward classes, and Dalits. The Congress fell between two stools in the 2018

elections, while trying to play the AHINDA card on the one hand and wooing Lingayats with a separate religious status on the other. While it did gain some ground among the Lingayats, it lost the support of other sections. The BJP, which is enjoying the peak of its political popularity in Karnataka if the 2019 results are any indication, will face a similar problem. It cannot alienate the Lingayats who are its most loyal supporters but must also be seen as offering a bigger share of power to other Hindus. Whether or not Yediyurappa's successor is a Lingayat is the BJP's first challenge on this front. We will know soon enough. 

## Opposition Questions Minister's Nationality, BJP Calls Row 'Baseless'

Assam Congress president and Rajya Sabha lawmaker Ripun Bora have sent a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the issue even as Parliament's monsoon session began on Monday. Pramanik is yet to respond. Sources in the BJP say that his silence is providing oxygen to Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress. The matter is also gaining traction in Cooch Behar.



MoS Nisith Pramanik

they said.

"Nisith's birthplace is Bhetaguri, a town in Cooch Behar district of West Bengal," a BJP leader said. "He is a teacher at Balakura Nimna Buniyadi Vidyalaya. His mother Chhanda Barman Pramanik is a resident of Bhetaguri. And his father's descendants live in the village of Harinathpur in undivided Kamatapur. The allegation that the union minister of state for home affairs is a Bangladeshi is completely false."

Several newspapers published from Dhaka reported jubilant celebrations in Nisith Pramanik's "ancestral village" on his new appointment


**Why is Nisith Pramanik silent on the question of his nationality? This is an issue many are raising these days in West Bengal's Cooch Behar district, while the Bharatiya Janata Party has termed the matter "baseless".**

in the Indian home ministry. His kin distributed sweets among the people, they claimed. Publications like Bangladesh Pratidin, Bhorer Kagoj, Prothom Alo, etc, carried extensive pieces on Pramanik's entry into the Narendra Modi cabinet. According to these reports, the elder brother of the minister's father still stays in the Velakopa area of Bangladesh's Gaibandha district.

Trinamool Congress leader Udayan Guha said, "There are questions in the minds of the common people about the educational qualifications and citizenship of the union minister of state. He told all that to the people. Everyone knows what

it means to be silent."

Ripun Bora claimed that Nisith Pramanik was born in Bangladesh. He also questioned Pramanik's silence on the issue. "I got this information from some media in Assam. Many suspect that Nisith is not an authentic Indian citizen. He was born in Harinathpur village under Palashbari police station in Bangladesh," he said.

However, senior BJP leader Tathagata Roy countered these charges. "Trinamool ministers and Assam's Ripun Bora don't know that he has to give evidence to bring such serious allegations? What has been said in favor of Nisith being a Bangladeshi is nothing but gossip," he tweeted. 

## Odisha BJP Slams Chief Electoral Officer Over Delay In Municipal Polls


Bhubaneswar, July 25: The BJP in Odisha lambasted the Chief Electoral Officer over the inordinate delay in conducting municipal elections in the State. In a media address on Sunday, senior party leader Pitambar Acharya said, "There are no public representatives in the municipalities and this is not a good sign for a democracy. Hence, the civic and panchayat polls should be conducted as soon as possible." He said elections to as many as five municipal corporations and 109 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) are pending for the legal tangle over Odisha Municipal Rules-2016. The Chief Electoral Officer should move Orissa High Court



in this regard, he said, adding, "else we will knock the doors of the court." "Since 2018, no municipal election has been held in the State. The civic polls must be conducted before panchayat elections," Acharya demanded.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Orissa High Court had struck down the Odisha Municipal (Delimitation of wards, Reservation of seats and Conduct of Elections) Amendment Rules, 2016 after the reservation of seats crossed 50 per cent.

The reserved seats as per the 2016 Odisha Municipal Rules had touched 66 per cent. Though the State Government moved the Supreme Court, the latter upheld the HC judgment.

To keep the reservation within the 50 per cent limit, the Odisha government needs an amendment to the Odisha Municipal Act and get it passed in the Assembly. 



# How owls bring up their babies



With their gigantic staring eyes, phantom flight, and wide range of calls - deep bass hoots to witch-like shrieking - owls have always been a personal favorite. Among each other, they also seem to be hugely affectionate: One will never forget the time when watched a pair of barn owl smooch passionately at the entrance to their Gulmohar tree residence one foggy-day sunrise, while their three woolly youngsters watched goggle-eyed ("Babies, pay attention: this is what the suryanamaskar is really about!"). The familiar little rotund spotted owlets, too,

like a cuddle and, sometimes, whole families cozy up on a branch. Images are galore on social media of hand-reared owls affectionately kissing their human caregivers - and, sometimes, even other pets, like dogs. If you ever rescue a fledgling, feed it till it can fly and let it out every night so it can learn to hunt on its own (of course, keep a dead mouse ready just in case it flies back still hungry).

The owl clan serves as a wonderful example of different ways of childcare. Most owls make exemplary parents - the adults usually bond for life and both parents take care of the

brood. While the "man" of the family goes hunting, the mom stays back and guards her babies (cheering die-hard patriarchs, hang on!) When the male comes back with a delectable rat in his talons, he hands it over to his partner who then feeds the chicks.

Now, barn owl (most widespread) chicks may be born several days apart because the eggs were laid that way. The first-hatched are naturally bigger than their siblings. In many raptor families (eagles and kites), sibling rivalry is fierce and bloody. Especially in tough times, the elder chick kills its sibling to hog all the fare. In barn owl families, the larger siblings let the little ones feed first, but, since there's no free lunch, the little ones have to groom the older brothers and sisters in return.

Among the big eagle-owl, the fiercely protective mom won't allow her partner to come to the nest with his hunting spoils but


will take it from him to dismember and feed her babies. She's afraid that in a fit of macho-swagger he might just gulp down his babies (in how many human families have intrepid moms sheltered their children from drunk dads?) Alas, déjà vu, Mr eagle-owl might have a second missus tucked away in a mansion nearby and must feed two families.

But there's at least one species where the much-worshipped "maternal instinct" is happily completely absent! Ornithologists in the UK were tracking the movements and breeding of short-eared owls (a winter visitor to India) using long-life solar-powered trackers and found something unexpected. A lady owl duly settled down to the nest, laying her eggs and dutifully incubating them as her husband kept watch. Once the last little chick broke out of its egg, the mom packed her bags and

left! She flew 14 hours, all the way to Norway, where she found another dude and began a family - which again she deserted once the babies hatched! Back "home", her erstwhile partner/s diligently picked up the gauntlet and raised the babies. Now, this was not a "one-off" by an exceptionally liberated lady short-eared. This is what they do as a species.

Of course, the most liberated of owls must be the little burrowing owl - very similar to our little owlet who would be scandalised to learn what went on with this decadent Western relative! The burrowing owl - found in the Americas - nest in the burrows of prairie dogs in colonies cheek by jowl with one another. The lady of one burrow may take a fancy to the beefcake next door while her own partner happily makes eyes at the delicious young dish across the pathway. The result: no one knows whose babies are whose and no one seems to

care.

The adults continue with their wanton ways and the babies, usually, half-siblings, waddle into burrows at random and are affectionately fed and looked after by whoever's burrow they enter! After all, a baby is a baby and must be cared for! Actually, this could have survival value: say you're a baby owlet chilling with your friends and are checking out the neighborhood. A coyote approaches: naturally, you're going to dive into the nearest burrow asap and not attempt the long hike home! Burrowing owls would be appalled to know what went on in the families of many "higher" carnivores and even primates - where a newly arrived Rambo slaughters the babies of the lady he's wooing - after tearing her erstwhile partner to shreds! Their genes - which are behind this kind of self-promoting fanaticism - need education, and could learn a lesson from this little golden-eyed owl! 

## Pakistani fighters, Taliban told to target India-built assets: Report

As per estimates and inputs, more than 10,000 Pakistanis have entered the war zone in Afghanistan to openly support the Taliban's offensive against the Ashraf Ghani-led Afghanistan government.

With the Taliban being joined by Pakistanis in Afghanistan in large numbers, their fighters have been instructed by the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to target the Indian-built assets in the war-torn country, over the last many years.

The Indian government

has invested over \$3 billion in the Afghanistan reconstruction effort since the last two decades and the 218-km road between Delaram and Zaranj Salma dam; and the Afghan Parliament building which was inaugurated in 2015, is the biggest symbols of the Indian contribution to the Afghan people.

As per estimates and inputs, more than 10,000 Pakistanis have entered the war zone in Afghanistan to openly support the Taliban's offensive against the Ashraf Ghani-led

Afghanistan government.

As per inputs, the Pakistani and the Taliban fighters there have been sent in with specific instructions to target the Indian built assets and remove any signs of Indian goodwill work there, government sources monitoring Afghanistan told ANI here.

India had made an immense contribution towards the education sector in Afghanistan and had played a big role in training their teachers and support staff.

The Pakistan-backed

Islamic terrorist groups including the Haqqani network have been highly active for years against India there.


The Indian side is also in a fix on the issue of whether they would be allowed to retain its presence in Kabul as so far no assurance or indication has been given by the ultra-radical Islamist group which has been seen as opposed to India.

Indian agencies are also closely monitoring the situation at the Kabul airport which is not going to be under American



guard for very long now. Many airfields under Americans including the Bagram airbase which have been vacated due to the ongoing power tussle with the Taliban.

The Indian workers involved in civil works have also been asked to

move out. Indian public sector company WAPCOS had some officials there for dam projects. India had recently also announced works worth around \$350 million including the Shahtoot dam for providing drinking water to the city of Kabul. 



# From lifting firewood to the weight of a nation: a journey



**'She carried India on her shoulders' Mirabai's mother and childhood coach recall the tough upbringing and hard work behind the Olympic silver.**

become the junior national champion in Chhattisgarh in 2009 before breaking into the national camp in 2011.

With training at the academy held twice a day, Anita

and it would mean that she had a lot of carbohydrates and it helped her in a way. While we started her weightlifting training with pieces of wood, within days she would lift

which she did not lack was willpower," she said.

At the Rio Olympics in 2016, Mirabai only managed one clean lift, 82 kg in snatch, resulting in a Did-Not-Finish result. "When I got the call from Mirabai and she told me about the result, I fainted. The whole family cried. Mirabai told me that she was nervous and wanted to quit the sport. But we told her that we will give full support but she shouldn't stop trying. It's a struggle and you can't quit in the middle of your struggle. Whenever she would get

In NongpokSekmai, a village in the eastern corner of Imphal Valley, 60-year-old SaikhomTombi Devi recalls the days when MirabaiChanu, her youngest daughter, would collect firewood and carry it on her head to their leased half-acre paddy field.

On Saturday, carrying the weight of a nation on her shoulders, the 26-year-old became India's first medallist at Tokyo 2020, her silver opening the country's account on Day 1 of the Games. Mirabai's elder brother RanjanSaikhom said: "People started coming in early in the morning, ready to watch the event on TV. We never had such a large number of guests."

Tombi said she was sure her little girl would deliver because she could always be relied upon. "While my other children would spend time studying and weaving, Mirabai would carry the firewood on her head to support me. Sometimes, we would spend 3-4 hours in the morning and a similar duration in the evening at the farm. And she would be only concerned about reducing my burden," she said.

Raising Mirabai and her five siblings, she said, was tough

since family resources were meager. With many mouths to feed, father SaikhomKriti Singh's income from his job as a construction worker in the Manipur Public Works Department wasn't enough. Tombi would run a small tea kiosk on the village main road to support the family.

"All our ancestors were small farmers and we did not even have our land. My husband would earn Rs 2,000-3,000 per month. We could not even afford a proper diet for Mirabai or her siblings," Tombi said.

While young Mirabai wanted to be an archer,

according to Tombi, a chance encounter with a weightlifter would ignite interest in the sport.

It would see her traveling to Imphal, a city 20 km away, with her father to enquire about training at the KhumanLampak Stadium. Former Asian medallist Anita Chanu was the weightlifting coach at the center where Mirabai took the trials to be selected as one of the trainees.

"Her body muscle mass was good. I remember seeing her for the first time and thinking that she can be a good weightlifter," Anita recalled.

The youngster would



**Mirabai with mother**



**Mirabai on return with silver at Delhi**

said Mirabai would avoid the return journey to her village and spend the afternoons at the academy with homemade steamed black and white rice, rich in carbohydrates and minerals, and boiled vegetables.

"Unlike other kids, she would stay at the academy post the morning session and would return to her village only after the evening session. She would always bring steamed black rice as lunch

more than 70 kg, almost double her weight," Anita said.

Tombi would wait eagerly for her youngest daughter in the evenings. "Sometimes, she would travel on sand trucks or cycle to Imphal. There were days when she would have the fare for only half the distance and would walk back home. Sometimes, her elder sisters would save money from their weaving and give her money for fare or other training expenses. The only thing

injured, I would pray and not sleep for days," Tombi said.

Congratulating the weightlifter via video link, Chief Minister N Biren Singh assured Mirabai that the state would provide her a suitable job in addition to the promised Rs 1 crore award. Mirabai returned to India on 26 and was greeted with cheers at the Delhi airport. As assured, she is going to be appointed as an Addl SP in the police.

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