

All-male Afghan cabinet formed including minister wanted by FBI

Country will once again be officially
known as an Islamic emirate



Sirish C Mohanty

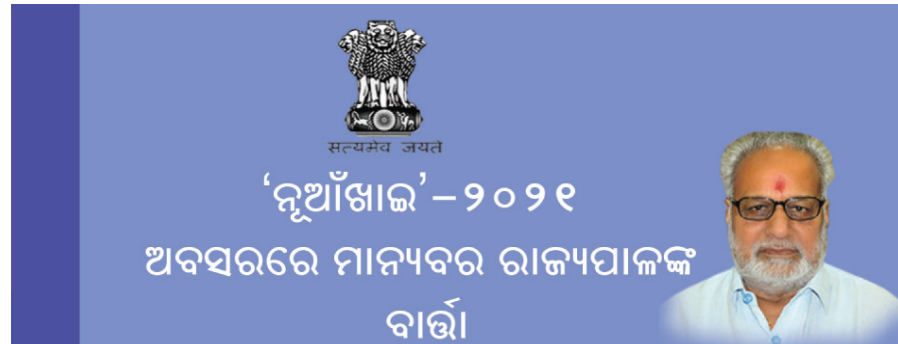
The leadership unveiled on Sep 7 is drawn entirely from Taliban ranks, despite promises of an inclusive cabinet, and many of its senior figures are on UN sanctions lists, which is likely to



complicate the group's search for international recognition.

Late on Tuesday, a US State Department spokesman said: "We note the announced list of

names consists exclusively of individuals who are members of the Taliban or their close associates and no women. We also are concerned by the affiliations (Page-11)



DADLS-17 ସୁଖ, ଶାନ୍ତି, ମୈତ୍ରୀ ଓ ଆନନ୍ଦର ପବିତ୍ର ପରମ୍ପରା ଓ ପର୍ବ 'ନୂଆଁଖାଇ' ପାଳନ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି । ଏହା ଏକ କୃଷିଭିତ୍ତିକ ପର୍ବ; ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟର କୃଷକ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କର ସୁଖ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି କାମନା କରିବା ସହ କୃଷି କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାକୁ ଏକ ଅଗ୍ରଣୀ ଓ ପ୍ରଗତିଶୀଳ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ପରିଣତ କରିବାକୁ ଆହ୍ୱାନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।

'କରୋନା' ମହାମାରୀ ବିରୋଧରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଲଢ଼େଇରେ ସାମିଲ ହୋଇ ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ସରକାରୀ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶ ଓ ପରାମର୍ଶ ପାଳନ ପୂର୍ବକ ଧୈର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଓ ସାହସର ସହ ମୁକାବିଲା ନିମନ୍ତେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର ସହଯୋଗ କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

ଶଶିକାନ୍ତ ମିଶ୍ର
(ଗଣେଶୀ ଲାଲ)

OIPR- 15001/13/0036/2122



DADLS-17 ସ୍ନେହ, ଶ୍ରଦ୍ଧା, ସମ୍ମାନ ଓ ଭାଇଚାରର ଅନନ୍ୟ କୃଷିଭିତ୍ତିକ ଗଣପର୍ବ 'ନୂଆଁଖାଇ' ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ମୁଁ ପଶୁମ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ତଥା ରାଜ୍ୟର ସମସ୍ତ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଓ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି । 'ନୂଆଁଖାଇ' ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ସୁଖ, ଶାନ୍ତି ଓ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି ଆଣିଦେଉ ଏହା ହିଁ ମୁଁ ମା' ସମଲେଶ୍ୱରୀଙ୍କଠାରେ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା କରୁଛି ।

କୋଭିଡ ମାର୍ଗଦର୍ଶିକା ଅନୁପାଳନ ପୂର୍ବକ ସତର୍କ ଓ ସୁରକ୍ଷିତ ରହି 'ନୂଆଁଖାଇ' ପର୍ବକୁ ଆନନ୍ଦ ଭରସାର ସହ ପାଳନ କରିବାକୁ ମୁଁ ଅନୁରୋଧ କରୁଛି ।

ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ସୁମିତ୍ରା ଦାସ
(ରଘୁନନ୍ଦନ ଦାସ)

ଜଳସଂପଦ, ସ୍ୱଚ୍ଛତା ଓ ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

OIPR- 15001/13/0036/2122



DADLS-17 ପବିତ୍ର ନୂଆଁଖାଇ ପର୍ବ ଲାଗି ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର କୁହାର । ଇ ଅବସର ଥି ମୁଁ ଆପଣ ଓ ଆପଣଙ୍କର ପରିବାରର ସୁଖ ଓ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

ମା' ସମଲେଶ୍ୱରୀ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ଭଲରେ ରଖୁନ୍ ।

ନିତୀଶ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ମହାନ୍ତି
(ନବୀନ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ)
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

OIPR- 15001/13/0036/2122

Bhubaneswar Club Braces Up For Big Battle As Ex Odisha Chief Secys Lock Horns For Prez Post

Bhubaneswar, Sep 9: The much-delayed voting to elect officebearers of Bhubaneswar Club, Odisha's top recreational facility for the elites, will be held on September 25 and 26, club sources said. The decision to go ahead with the elections, which were stalled on the ground of COVID pandemic, was taken by the club's executive committee at a meeting here on Wednesday.

Two former chief secretaries, Bijay Kumar Patnaik and Asit Kumar Tripathy, are contesting for the post of president, which has been lying vacant since the death of Priyabrata Patnaik, a former IAS officer, in July 2000. The club's vice

president Sudipta Das, a former scientist with Regional Research Laboratory (now IMMT), has since been serving as acting president of the club. Das and club secretary Ashok Chinchela, a chartered accountant, have been office-bearers of the club for long and were known to be acolytes of Priyabrata, who was the undisputed boss of the club from 1989 onwards.

Both Das and Chinchela have been calling the shots for over a year despite the club's Executive Committee (EC) in June deciding to "keep in abeyance" their decision to grant membership status of 274 people by allegedly

flouting due procedure.

The controversy coupled with inordinate delay in conducting the elections, due since August 2020, had led to suspicion among club members that the duo and their coterie were deliberately procrastinating matters to brush their alleged wrongdoings under the carpet. "Elections had been kept on hold for months though the nominations were filed in April using the pandemic as an alibi. Elections in other organisations and bar associations have been successfully held despite the pandemic," pointed out a club member, preferring anonymity.

The polls were earlier

scheduled in early May but it had to be deferred due to the COVID second wave. However, several club members feel the voting could have been done online or in a staggered manner. "By delaying the process, certain vested interests have ensured the new set of office-bearers would not get a full term of one year as elections would be scheduled again in July-August next year".

Bijay-Kumar-Patnaik



This year's elections have raised the stakes as Bijay Patnaik, who was a 1976-batch IAS officer and batchmate of Priyabrata, and Asit Tripathy, who was a 1986-batch IAS officer; have locked horns for the coveted president's post. Interestingly, both Bijay and Asit are not only former chief secretaries also worked closely Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. While Bijay was formerly principal secretary to the CM, Tripathy is current principal advisor to CM and also chairman, Western Odisha Development Council.

Asit Kumar Tripathy

For the secretary post there are six contenders: Chinchela, Vishal Kumar Dev (finance secretary),



Dewa Shankar Tripathy, Partha Sarathi Panigrahi, Jyoshnamayee Panda and Damodar Pradhani. Five candidates, Jayanta Kumar Hota, Tapes Roy, Dewa Shankar Tripathy, Mahendra Kumar Gupta and Aroon Birla, are vying for the vice president post while Koushik Mohapatra, Jyotirmoy Mohanty and Ashok Kumar Mishra are battling it out for joint secretary.

Attabira Bursts Into Jubilation After Local Boy Pramod Bhagat Bags Gold Credit



Attabira, Sep 4: The last winning shot from the ace parashuttler Pramod Bhagat in the finals of men's singles SL3 category at the Paralympics 2020 held in Tokyo Japan against Briton Daniel Bethell made the small town of Attabira under Bargarh district erupt into celebrations on Saturday.

Family and friends of Bhagat who were glued to their TV sets during the final match against Bethell were ecstatic after the son of the soil brought the fourth Gold Medal of the tournament and first ever Olympic Gold in badminton for India.

Bhagat took the first game 21-14 and then went on to win the second game 21-17 by taking the game, match and tournament for a

Gold.

"I was going down by 4-11 in the second game despite winning the first game. However, I never allowed negativity creep into my mind. I focussed one point at a time and went on to win the second game as well," said a jubilant Bhagat after winning the medal.

Shiva Prasad Dash, Bhagat's coach broke into tears after watching his disciple's medal winning performance. "The entire credit goes to him. He got a Gold medal for the country but I got all the happiness in my life. Can't aspire for anything more," said Dash in choked voice.

Similarly, a jubilant Sekhar Bhagat, the younger brother of Pramod said that he is proud of his brother and it is great to see an Odia bringing Gold medal home.

A friend of Bhagat said, "We were quite confident that he will not settle anything less than the Gold. And we are elated with his performance." From an Indian perspective, just like the Olympics, the current edition of the Paralympics in Tokyo will never be forgotten. India have already registered their best ever performance at a single edition of the Paralympics, with the medal haul crossing double figures for the first time in the history of India at the Paralympics, in Tokyo.

Rourkela Felicitates State Hockey Stars



Rourkela: Felicitations for State's hockey Olympians are continuing at different places in the Sundargarh district. On 4th September, It was the turn of Rourkela to fete the four hockey Olympians, the pride of Sundargarh district, for their excellent performance in the Tokyo Olympic Games.

On this day hockey stars were felicitated by Rourkela Municipal Corporation, Rourkela Steel Plant, and State Bank of India at different venues.

Amit Rohidas and Birendra Lakra who were part of the Indian men's bronze-winning team and Deep Grace Ekka, and Namita Toppo who was part of also honored for the Indian women maiden Olympic semifinal entry team

were honored. RMC organized a felicitation program at Civic center. Rourkela MLA Sarada Prasad Nayak, ADM Dibya Jyoti Parida, SP Mukesh Bhamu, Padmashree Dilip Tirkey

honored the players. Along with the Olympians RMC also felicitated other international players of Rourkela and all hockey coaches of the district. They were also honoured by Rourkela Steel Plant officials in a brief ceremony. In the evening State Bank of India organised a programme to honour the four hockey stars. Chief General Manager (Bhubaneswar circle) Mrs. Vidya Krishnan presented gifts to them on behalf of SBI.

CEA stokes hope amid Asian gloom



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

After a long time, Chief Economic Advisor Subramanian Krishnamurthy boosts the confidence of the nation with his assertion that the Indian economy is poised to grow as macro-economic fundamentals are strong, reassures Chief Economic Advisor Subramanian Krishnamurthy.

The CEA is categorical that the country can march on despite the withdrawal of stimulus globally. He expects a double-digit growth - though it would be on minus 23.9 percent growth of 2020-21. It is reassuring for a nation that has stagnated for almost 18 months on a decelerated growth during the previous two years. At this stage, any positive growth boosts the confidence of the businesses and creates a

favourable political atmosphere.

The Economic Survey (ES) estimated growth of 11 percent and the budget 10.5 percent. UN ESCAP predicts a troubled 'K' shape recovery. The latest RBI Monetary Policy puts it at 9.5 percent. And the first quarter recovery is stated to be 21.4 percent, an improvement over the forecast made in June over the 18.5 percent. The CEA, however, is modest and says that the growth will be higher than the pre-covid19 level and possibly "the budget and ES predictions should be achieved".

The nation hopes that the nation comes out of a negative psyche and sprints on. The first sign has come with the eight-core sector's continued expansion of 9.4 percent.

The CEA says that he agrees with the April-June quarter growth rate. He says there is a base effect. At the same time, it has happened during a much more intense second wave. There is across-the-board improvement in a lot of high-frequency indicators.

The recovery is "V" shaped, he says, and would continue to be so. He revels on the 49.6 percent year-on-year growth of the manufacturing sector compared with a 36 percent contraction last year. The construction grew 68.3 percent. Even the farm sector did better in April-June with 4 percent growth and against 3.5 percent posted earlier.

What Subramanian indicates is that the nation has come out of a gloomy period and now is poised to grow positively. He does not disagree with some hiccups but the 9.4 percent recovery of coal, crude oil, natural gas, petroleum & refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement, and electricity is far better than the contraction of 7.6 percent in June 2020. The core sector has maintained growth for the fifth consecutive month.

There are positive indicators but still, a lot needs to be done as overall there is a financial crunch and the budget deficit at the end of July was at Rs 3.2 lakh crore - 21.3 percent of the full-year

target. It is stated to be modest as the figure a year ago was Rs 8.2 lakh crore and the pre-covid level of 5.5 lakh crore.

But there are other problems. The GST realization and other revenue realizations are lower. The economy has not yet come back to health so that revenue realizations, the key to further recovery, growing at a healthy pace. The personal citizen economy is still not in a happy state with the loss of jobs, wages, and salary cuts. This also affects purchasing capacity, a necessity for increasing market activities. Besides, repeated and sporadic surges of covid19 fears often put activities at bay.

The private equity and venture capital (PE-VC) deals have tapered in early August despite a bullish stock market crossing 57000 points at the Sensex. It has raised questions on the nature and quality of investments. Total PE-VC deals were 112 against 126 in July. Despite the optimism, the investors are yet shy of entering into deals as the investors have still problems with cash flow. Investments flows are dependent on how the line-up IPOs performed. The liquidity has not hit its peak yet. There are more offers for sale and the buyers are not revving up to the offers.

Another not-so-good indicator is diesel sales. It has recorded the sharpest

fall in monthly sales since May. It is ascribed to monsoon conditions having hit demand from the farm, trucking, and construction sectors majorly. August data show minor gains in sales over 2020 but it remains 9.7 percent less than 2019. Even LPG sales fell marginally - 1.7 percent less than in July 2019 and 2.4 percent less than August 2019. This shows that at the household level the recovery is not bright. All eyes are fixed on the ensuing festival season when overall activities and demand are expected.

So amid this scenario, a 4 percent dip in GST is not surprising. The July collections were Rs 1.16 lakh crore. It dipped to Rs 1.12 lakh crore in August. July collections were 30 percent higher than last year and 14 percent more than in 2019. On average, the collections were over Rs 1 lakh crore a month. The compensation formula for the states will be decided on September 17, when the GST Council would meet in Lucknow. Still, experts are cautious on the recovery path indicated by the moderation in the August purchasing managers' index (PMI).

Overall unless the individual financial status improves, the demand would continue to vacillate.

The UPI transaction value officially is showing improvement but from

June to August it has decelerated. The growth rate of transaction value was also moderated. There are also apprehensions that even the actual transactions show is not real in many cases.

Overall manufacturing activities are hit by PMI. It hovers around 52.3 in August. The 50 points mark separates the contraction from expansion. It is an indicator that not everything is that glorious as it made it out to be.

Global and Asian trends are yet not positive. Japan's government offered a bleaker view of the economy in August. It says the downside risk is heightening - it means overall growth is falling though for August.

Overall Asian economy sees the corporate profits declining, falling sales of cars in China and Toyota cutting September production. Factory activity in the Asia Pacific contracted sharply in July. There are signals of slowing down in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Asia's largest firms are likely to post a profit decline of 6.2 percent, according to a calculation of RefinitivElkon.

Amid such a scenario, the CEA's statement keeps hopes alive for the Indian economy. The market would like to see Subramanian's prediction coming true despite all odds. Would it happen?

Second unit of NTPC Darlipali Become operational



State-run country's largest power generator NTPC Ltd's Darlipali Super Thermal Power Station's second unit in Sundargarh district has become operational on 1st September. It started commercial operation of the 800 MW second unit of the plant. The first Unit of the Darlipali power project had started commercial operation on 1st March 2020.

The 1600 MW power plant is one of the coal-based power plants of NTPC Limited. For this plant, coal will be obtained from Dulanga and PakriBarwadih coal blocks.

Odisha is entitled to receive 50 percent of the power generated by the Darlipali project and the remaining will be sold to Bihar, Jharkhand, Sikkim, and West Bengal.

With the commencement of commercial production at Darlipali the commercial capacity of the NTPC and the NTPC group would become

53,225 MW and 66,650 MW respectively. The power major has already spent over Rs13, 500 crores on the project that is estimated to cost Rs13, 700 crores. According to the power purchase agreement with the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, the cost of generating power from the Darlipali plant will be Rs 2.90 per unit.

Work on construction of a railway line for transportation of coal and a merry go round (MGR) that will link to the railway sidings at Laikera and Kechobahal stations in Jharsuguda district for coal dispatch to the plant is being expedited. It is expected that these will be completed by next June.

Installation of flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) system to curb emission of sulfur oxide is under progress and will be completed by next year. The pit head-based thermal power plant is currently sourcing its requirement of fossil fuel from its Dulanga coal mines in Sundargarh. With a daily requirement of about 25,000 tonnes, the Dulanga mine has the capacity to meet 20,000 tonnes. The balance requirement will be met from Mahanadi Coalfields by road, the NTPC said. Water for the plant is sourced from the Hirakud reservoir through a pipeline, covering a distance of about 45 km from the project site.

RSP bags GreenTech Energy Conservation Award

Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has bagged the prestigious GreenTech Energy Conservation Award- 2021 in Platinum category. The coveted award was presented by the GreenTech Foundation for outstanding initiatives and practices adopted to conserve energy in RSP. A K Dasgupta CGM (Utilities & Environment), K KPandey, GM In-charge (EMD) and S C Mohanty, GM Incharge (SED) of RSP received the award on behalf of RSP from KamleshwarSharan, Chairman and CEO (GreenTech Foundation) and D. Singh, Chairman and MD (Indian Rare Earths Limited) in a function organised at Sonmarg, Kashmir recently. Rourkela Steel Plant was awarded for its outstanding contribution towards achieving the highest Blast Furnace Gas yield since inception, increased power generation from Power Blowing



Station and minimisation of low uncontrol BF Gas pressure to Coke Ovens Battery - 6. EMD team after studying the entire system and conducting pressure survey of BF Gas line to Battery - 6 with respect to BF grid pressure in the modernization zone and with the help of Instrumentation Department redesigned and replaced the orifice with the help of Coke Ovens. Working with the Blast Furnace Department, the EMD team had also increased BF-5 flare stack PVC set point from 800

mili metre of water column (mmwc) to 900mmwc.

Because of their efforts the BF gas yield increased to 1685Nm³/ 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 25MW, coal consumption was reduced to the tune of 3000 to 4000 tonnes per month in CPP-I, and chimney smoking was prevented. All these had led to substantial savings for the company.

Public Hearing for expansion of OCL Cement and JSW Shiva Cement Plant Conducted

Land acquisition to set up new industry or for expansion of the existing industry has become a tricky issue nowadays everywhere in the country particularly in tribal-dominated districts. Public hearing and their approval have become mandatory that has made such issues more complex. Political activists and NGOs become hyperactive in these public hearings. People interested to part their land for a better deal are forced by political activists not to agree and oppose it.

Last month Sundargarh district witnessed such public hearings involving two cement companies of the district. Dalmia Cement Group's OCL India Limited, located at Rajgangpur, and JSW-Shiva Cement located at Telighana of Kutra Block had to acquire land for expansion of their captive mines, and for the approval by affected people public hearing meetings were convened by



district administration.

Sundargarh district collector issued notification for a public hearing for the acquisition of land for Dalmia cement groups OCL India limited on two days 23rd and 25th August. On 23rd August public hearing meeting was convened to listen to the views of Kukuda GP (162.96 acres) in Rajgangpur Block, Alanda GP (164.82 acres), and Bihabandh (29.79 acres) in Kutra Block. On 25th August public hearing was organised to seek the views of Keshramal (293.25 acres)

Raiberna (57.80 acres) and Jhagarapur Gram panchayat's (8.48 acres) of Rajgangpur Block.

OCL India Limited has to acquire the land in the above-mentioned GPs for the expansion of Lanjiberna limestone mines. District administration, had handed over a report prepared by NabkrishnaChoudhary Centre for Development Studies (NCDS) to assess the impact of land acquisition to Sarpanchs of the affected GPs and sought the views of the affected families.

Sundargarh Sub-Collector AbhimanyuBehera and other officials along with heavy police personnel were present during the meeting.

Villagers gathered in large numbers vehemently opposed the proposal in both the meetings. The protest was stronger on 25th August when government officials were not allowed to reach the hearing venue. Rajgangpur MLA Dr.RajanEkka stood with protesting villagers.

But government officials not deterred by protests

conducted the hearing where they were stopped. AbhimanyuBehera later told the media that he heard the views of the families. He said others who couldn't put forth their views can give their views in writings.

JSW-Shiva Cement

The public hearings for the proposed expansion of JSW Group's Shiva Cement plant at Telighana were conducted on 24th and 26th August Khatkulbah and Mango Bagicha, Telighana respectively. Both the meetings were conducted comparatively in a peaceful manner. Here protesting villagers demanded better deals, facilities for the area, and employment opportunities.

They complained that the company is neglecting the development work in the area. They alleged that the company management had taken no step towards providing basic facilities like health services and water and

power supply to them.

Countering the villagers' allegations, company representatives assured that management of the cement plant was committed to the development of the area and its people besides the protection of the environment.

Additional collector BiswajitMohapatra presided over the meeting where sub-collector AbhimanyuBehera and other local officials were present. It is to be mentioned here that Shiva Cement was established in 1985 and began commercial production in 1986. JWS Cement group bought a major stake in Shiva Cement in 2018 and now planning to expand the production to strengthen its presence in Eastern markets. The Board of directors in a meeting on 22nd October 2020 approved an investment of Rs.1500 crore to enhance the production at the newly acquired Telighana plant.

Sea engulf Siali beach and view tower, administration moves for protection

Jagatsingpur : The sea waves have engrossed into Siali beach under Padmapur Panchayat in Erasama coastline and its adjacent village Ramtara causing impact of the low-pressure area formed over the Bay of Bengal past three days. The giant sea waves have devoured the basement of the beach view tower likely raze to the ground at any time.

Taking stock of the situation to protect the area from sea erosion and care for view tower civil administration has entrusted water resource department south division Cuttack to act urgently implementing remedial



measures.

The government has done nothing for the development of the Siali beach except building a view tower and a rest shed

since getting official affiliation, no permanent works had done to protect the area from sea erosion, rued Khetrabasi Behera former Sarpanch of

Padmapur Panchayat. If nothing is done the villages and hamlets of neighbouring areas likely be submerged in the sea in coming days and the region will lose its geographical identity, Behera added.

The report said that this coastal region is bearing the brunt of sea-level rise as well as tidal surge and residents are demanding that something be done but no tangible efforts have been taken to protect the coastline. Few years back stone barricading works had started on the coast to check sea erosion, sadly the work runs incomplete, uncertainty is looming large

its further continuance, informed Sridhar Maiti a resident of Padmapur village, the sea is moving forward taking our lands.

Construction and industrial activities, depletion of forest cover in the coastline and Paradip offshore have an impact in seawater ingress. Moreover study found that rising sea levels coupled with changing patterns, frequent cyclones and low pressures are causing tidal waves and inundating habitable areas in the coast, this is the result of sea forwarding in Siali beach, sources inform.

However people complained that the seawater incursion has

contaminated wells and increasing salinity in the soil, making its less fertile, people who use water from wells for drinking water and bathing have also reported health problems like jaundice, stomach ailments, digestive issues as well as skin infections, informed Prasanna Hati a resident.

Reports said that mounting pressure from several quarters past three days, sand filling and stone packing adjacent to Siali view tower has started in a war footing, engineers from Mahanadi south division have visited Siali beach on Thursday to chalk out a plan to protect the view tower.

Villagers up in arms over government land acquisition in Biridi Tahasil

Jagatsingpur: The revenue officials including Tahasildar Biridi Tahasil have begun facing stiff opposition from villagers while launching demarcation and acquisition drive over government land in Tentulia village under Biridi block 20 km away from here, the report said that tension erupted between officials and villagers and the demarcation drive was suspended.

Report said that in Tentulia revenue village two pieces of government land measuring 3.89 acres had been reported and Jagatsingpur administration had handed over the land to IDCO for establishing industrial ventures

Ironically although land transfer had been observed in the paper but no physical possession had been given to the occupant IDCO till

date. Meanwhile, IDCO approached to Jagatsingpur administration for getting physical possession of the land as a consequence collector asked Biridi Tahasildar to conduct a demarcation of the said land and taking physical possession.

Acting on the event Biridi Tahasildar Sagarika Priyadarshini accompanying other revenue officers and police rushed to Tentulia village recently and launched a demarcation drive over the said land and found few areas of land have been encroached by villagers and cultivating paddy.

After knowing the administration initiative hundreds of villagers converged at the spot that obstructed the administration sponsored demarcation drive citing pleas that although we

have encroached few areas of the land cultivating the paddy, the demarcation drive should be deferred till the end of harvesting season at least four months to avoid huge paddy loss.

On the other hand, Tahasildar Sagarika Priyadarshini admitted that the demarcation drive has been stalled due to resistance shown by villagers, informed that two years back the disputed government land had been transferred to IDCO but san demarcation getting physical possession, the villagers had given consent when the said land had been acquired by the government but now pressing objections citing different pleas, meanwhile we are negotiating with villagers and the matter would be resolved amicably soon, Tahasildar added.

BJP leaders booked hosting a road blockade over Dushmanta Das death issue.

Jagatsingpur: The Kujanga police have lodged an FIR against BJP leaders and few others who had been hoisted a road blockade at Manitripatana near Pankapala on Cuttack-Paradeep state highway -12, demanding compensation and justice for the Dushmanta Das, a youth who died during treatment in SCB Medical College and hospital in Cuttack after he attempted to commit suicide near the Odisha Assembly. The alleged police complaint has been lodged by one Rajani Kanta Das, a sub-inspector Kujanga police station, alleging that the BJP leaders and few villagers had unlawfully converged blockade the Cuttack-Paradeep road at Manitripatana created inconvenience over traffic movements on the road about four hours, when the law enforcing officials magistrate accompanying police force reached the spot the irate



saffron leaders and their supporters scolded them using filthy language and threatened with criminal intimidation, the FIR revealed. Moreover, the agitators and BJP leaders have violated Covid 19 protocols undergoing force in state and were blatantly dishonored guidelines meant for Coronavirus spreading prevention measures during the road blocked agitation. The accused persons prominently figured in the FIR reported as BJP leaders as former minister

Manmohan Samal, Ramaranjan Baliarsingh, EX MP Bibhuprasad Tarai, Surama Padhi, Paradeep BJP leader Sampad Swain, Jagatsingpur district BJP president Satya Brata Mohapatra and several others. Basing on the complaint police have registered a case in Kujanga police station against accused persons under section 143/283/294/506/149 IPC and section 169/171 Covid Act and Rules and investigation is on, police said.

A Baripada man plants more than 10,000 saplings; has a mission to make the town green

Baripada, 30 August: A man of Baripada town has planted saplings voluntarily to make a healthy environment. Now he is an example in the town for his dedication to making the town beautiful and green. He has been continuing such noble practice for 31 years and planted more than 10,000 saplings in the town and its adjoining areas. The man is Swarup Mishra of Tulasichoura, Ward No-14 in the town.

He has planted more than 10,000 saplings including herbal, decorative, and varieties that have a long life span as well as provide sufficient oxygen that is needed every

day in the life. He has planted such valuable saplings at Medians (divider) on the roads at Station Bazar, BijuPatnaikGolei near Urban Cooperative Bank, MKC High School to Bus Stand and Bus Stand to DarogadahiGolei in the town besides embankment of multipurpose Subarnarekha Irrigation project at Laxmiposi, at inspection roads, Shiva temple near Tulasichoura, roadsides near KabarKhana, KC Circle to Barunei road at Madhuban and adjoining areas of the town. Two medium forests outside the Shiva temple at Tulasichoura and Debendrapur survived due to his devotion.

"I have started such a mission in 1990 when it was my final year in Mayurbhanj Law College and I was a students' President in the college. I had planted a couple of 'Baula' saplings or it's known as 'MimusopsElengi' in front of the Law College where students are taking a rest under the trees. Since then it has become a habit for me. I planted more than 60 Baula and Ashok trees in Baripada District Court premises and lawyers are taking rest and practicing their job under the trees" said Swarup Mishra.

He encourages many shopkeepers in the town and people to plant herbal and decorative saplings on pots in front of their shops



which help to provide oxygen and makes beautiful. He contributes saplings, compost, and soil to the shopkeepers free of cost. Only the shopkeepers have to treat them carefully, but some have responded to it. He gets pleasure from this practice and continues it till his mind and body will be permitted.

JyotiPrakashRath, a senior lawyer said that Swarup's devotion to the preservation and plantation of trees has been inspiring not only the lawyers but people in the district. The district Court premises have greenery and are beautiful due to his dedication. The lawyers are appreciating him for his service, he said.

Malaria woes in Mayurbhanj district



Baripada, September 8: The malaria menace worries the health department as the cases are not checked in both rural and urban pockets in the tribal-dominated Mayurbhanj district. As many as 957 persons were tested malaria positive for the last two years despite of the department's efforts.

As per two years, the epidemiological report of the malaria department

revealed that as many as 3, 54,029 blood samples were tested, and it found 485 persons were malaria positive in 2020 and 492 persons were found positive when 415528 blood samples were tested in 2019 in the district. Though the positive case was reportedly found a little check comparatively over these years the epidemic threat is a major challenge in the tribal

district. In comparison to 2017, in 2018 total of 92.39% decline of malaria cases were reported in the district. In 2019, a total 77.82% decline in malaria cases was reported as compared to 2018, which is a great achievement. The district Annual Parasite Incidence (API) reduced to 0.81 in 2018 and 0.18 in 2019 and 0.17 in 2020 with a comparison to 10.75 APIs in 2017. Such a reduction of API is the first time reported in the district. In 2020 there was also a 1.42 % reduction of malaria cases as compared to 2019.

Mostly the positive cases were reported on the inhabitants living in Similipal foothill pockets in Jashipur, Thakurmunda, Bijatala, Kaptipada, and Bangiriposi blocks. While

around 10 to 12 percent of positive cases were found in the five blocks, and all the rest reported below two to three percent, said official sources.

District Malaria Officer Dr.BanamaliPradhan said that the gradual check is the only possible awareness and integrated approach of different interventions of National Vector Borne Disease Control Programmes (NVBDCP). And the use of Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLIN), mass screening of the population was done in high malaria endemic inaccessible villages that help decrease the asymptomatic caseload in the community and seal the transmission of malaria.

Bangiriposi-Gorumahisani railway link demanded

Baripada, 8 August: The demand for the Bangiriposi-Gorumahisani railway line has gained momentum in the tribal-dominated Mayurbhanj district. Bamanghati Rail VikasSamiti and BhanjaSena, two outfits from the District, have demanded the Ministry of Railway and State Government to fulfill the outfits' demand for the interest of tribal-dominated Mayurbhanj district. If the railway link is established, it will make a positive impact on the development of tribal people in the district. Moreover, the proposed railway line could serve as the lifeline of the Mayurbhanj district as it would connect to the New Delhi route via Baripada, Bangiriposi, and Rairangpur, and as well as the Puri-Delhi distance would be reduced by about 150 km. Though the proposal was controversial in 2013-14, it is yet to be carried out due to the Centre's negligence and indifferent attitude of the State Government, said Rakesh Singh the Secretary of the outfit.

Singh along with members of the outfit walked from Bangiriposi railway station on Friday and reached Rairangpur as a part of a protest to intensify their demand. The last year alinement made by South Eastern Railway, it will be needed Rs.756 crore for the proposed project work but the government is not showing any positive sign over the execution of the project despite the district has adequate infrastructure facilities and land, he said adding that while the State Government has been offering free-of-cost land and a share of the construction cost for other railway projects in Odisha, it is not showing similar interest towards the Bangiriposi-Gorumahisani rail line that will be more demand for the reduction of Puri-Delhi distance.

Crime Against Women Rises In Odisha During Lockdown, Shutdown



Bhubaneswar, Sep 6: Despite the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown and shutdown, crimes against women in Odisha soared in 2020 as compared to 2019, Minister of State (Home) Captain Dibya Shankar Mishra told the State Assembly on Monday.

In a written reply before the Assembly, the Minister said, as many as 786 minor girl gang rape cases had been registered till June this year as against 1635 in 2019 and 1646 in 2020.

Similarly, 1563 rape cases including six rape and murder cases were reported till June 2021, the minister informed. A total 9,999 rape and 41 rape and murder cases registered in the last three-and-half-years, he said.

On the other hand, 1, 34,230 criminal cases had been registered in various police stations across Odisha during 2020 as compared to 1, 21,525 cases in 2019. It would mean the crime cases increased by 10.45 per cent in the State during 2020.

As per Mishra's reply, the maximum of 7,858 cases were registered in Ganjam district while 1,235

cases in Deogarh district during 2020. The Odisha Crime Branch has registered 149 cases in 2020 whereas 474 and 255 cases were registered by railway Cuttack and railway Rourkela police wings in the same year, respectively. Similarly, 13,297 cases were registered by the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Police Commissionerate in 2020, which is a jump of 272 cases in comparison to the cases lodged in 2019.

As many as 7,024 cases were filed in Angul district, 6591 in Jajpur, 6216 in Sambalpur, 6154 in Puri, 5848 in Mayurbhanj, 5578 in Balasore and 5401 in Bolangir. All other remaining police districts have recorded below 5,000 cases during 2020, as per the statement of the Odisha Home Minister.

Targeting the ruling BJD government over deteriorating law and order situation in the State, the Opposition parties said the government must take necessary action to curb the crime rate. "The government should be more concerned about the law and order situation in the State and take necessary measures," said BJP MLA Mukesh Mahaling. Echoing the similar opinion, senior

Congress leader Sura Routray said, "The government should modernise police department and fill vacant posts. Moreover, new police stations and outposts need to be set up in the State."

Mishra further said 11,456 posts are lying vacant in the Odisha police department, of which 3 are IG posts, 13 DIG, 15 SP and 16 Additional SP posts. Similarly, 248 inspector, 1327 sub-inspector, 693 ASI, 449 havildar, 3489 constable and 2115 sepoy posts also remain vacant in the state, the Minister added.

During the Question Hour in the Assembly, MLAs across party lines have raised questions related to setting up of new police stations, outposts and police beat houses in their respective areas. Participating in the discussions, Congress Legislature Party leader Narasingha Mishra said 60 MLAs had proposed the state government to set up 68 new police stations, 103 police outposts and upgrade three police stations. Although, the Speaker had given a ruling on this, the ruling Biju Janata Dal government is yet to take any steps, he added. After listening to questions from the Assembly members, Speaker SN Patro has directed the Odisha MoS Home to hold a meeting with DGP, DIG Crime Branch and the Home Secretary on the issue and release a statement.

Odisha Govt's Public Debt Up, Capital Expenditure Down In 2019-20 Fiscal: CAG

Bhubaneswar, Sep 9: The total public debt and other liabilities of the Odisha government have gone up to Rs 1,26,084 crore by the end of 2019-20 financial year, according to the CAG report tabled in the Assembly on Thursday.

The report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India stated that the public debt of the state government went up to Rs 68,438 crore in 2019-20 financial year from Rs 58,2534 crore in the previous fiscal.

Of the total public debt in 2019-20 fiscal, the internal debt was Rs 60,595 crore while loans and advances from the Centre were Rs 7,843



crore. The public debt stood at Rs 33,757 crore in 2015-16 fiscal.

The CAG also pointed out poor capital expenditure of Rs 25,586 crore during the year which brought down the investment in vital sectors like irrigation, rural development, power infra, roads and

bridges. The annual growth of capital expenditure has dropped from 52% to minus 13% in 2019-20.

The report stated that the expenditure on salaries, pensions and interest payments now account for 40 per cent of the total revenue receipts of the government.

Odisha Police Arrest Ex-YSRCP MLA Malla Vijay Prasad Over Chit Fund Case



Prasad-owned Welfare Buildings and Estates Pvt Ltd. has been accused of duping thousands of depositors from Odisha, Andhra

Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. In Odisha, the company had bought landed property worth crores of rupees in Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Rairangpur, and Semiliguda but it has not provided a single plot to investors to date. A team of the Crime Branch of the Odisha Police raided his residence and office in Visakhapatnam yesterday and seized Rs 45 lakh and several documents. Many cases against the firm were lodged by the victims at various police stations in Odisha. The Odisha Police had booked a case against him in 2019. Later in 2016, the CBI had searched his office and residential premises in connection with alleged chit fund scams to the tune of hundreds of crores.

Gold loan company manager arrested for keeping mortgage of looted gold

Bhubaneswar, Sep 4: The manager of a Gold loan providing company has been arrested in the capital city of Odisha on Saturday for accepting mortgage of looted gold. Kharabela Nagar Police held the manager along with two looters.

As per reports, Ashis Kumar Gaya, the manager of Mannapuram Gold Loan Company in Chandrasekharpur was arrested. Police also seized gold ornaments worth more than lakhs of rupees and a bike in this connection.

Earlier, on August 25 at about 7.30 pm in the evening two miscreants had looted gold from a brother-sister duo from near IG park in Bhubaneswar when they were on their way to the Railway station on a bike. The loot had been committed in film style. The miscreants snatched the vanity bag from the girl. Following the loot, the victim had lodged a complaint about it in Kharavel Nagar Police Station.

Later, it was found that the looters had



managed to take loan keeping this looted gold as mortgage at the Mannapuram Gold Loan providing company in Chandrasekharpur.

It has been learnt that Police will conduct TI parade of the looters for further investigation. And for that Kharavel Nagar Police have started the process.

As per reports, many cases are pending in different police stations in the name of the two looters namely Bibhuti Pradhan and Subhrajit Devta. Police will take Ashish Kumar Gaya on remand for further investigation of the case.

Back To Square One



Sirish C. Mohanty

In Odisha, as its longest-serving chief minister, the enigmatic Patnaik remains the least understood politician as he rarely gives a clue as to what is playing in his mind. In the last two decades, he has changed the face of the state, but the jury is still out on his successes and failures.

When he took charge of the cyclone-battered Odisha in March 2000, the state's finances were in tatters due to the profligacy of the previous regimes. By the end of 2001-02, the state had become a revenue deficit to the extent of 6.06% of its Gross State Domestic Product. The state was heavily dependent on Ways and Means advances and overdrafts of the Reserve Bank of India for day-to-day cash requirements. The situation had become so bad that the 10th Finance Commission put Odisha under the category of fiscally stressed states. Things started looking up when the state government enacted Odisha Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act in June 2005 leading to large-scale

fiscal consolidation. After adhering to the FRBM Act, Odisha's revenue deficit and fiscal deficit improved with the state becoming revenue surplus by 2009-10. In the last two decades, Odisha's economy has grown 13 times as its GSDP reached Rs 5.34 lakh crore (\$75 billion) in 2019-20 (an estimate) from Rs 46,756 crore in 2000-01.

A little over 43% of its cultivable land is covered by irrigation while the all-India average is 51.9%. Lack of adequate irrigation frequently results in crop failures and famine-like situations. Despite the rise in Odisha's productivity in major crops like paddy, groundnut, gram, and lentils, it is still below those of some of the best states in India. It still imports a large part of potatoes, eggs, pulses, and meat from neighbouring states. Potato Mission, launched a few years ago to make the state self-sufficient has been a non-starter.

Despite Patnaik's avowed aversion for corruption, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in its 2017 report showed Odisha registering the

second-highest number of cases of corruption in government offices in the country after Maharashtra.

While Maharashtra topped the list with the registration of 925 corruption cases in 2017, Odisha registered 494 such cases. "Up to 2010, most disproportionate assets cases against government officials were not more than a few lakhs. But since last seven to eight years such assets tend to run in crores.

Despite the rise in industrialization over the last two decades and clocking GDP growth of over 8%, rising unemployment has taken the sheen off the high growth as thousands of educated youths continue to leave the state for jobs. As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey done by the National Statistical Organisation between January and March 2019, Odisha had the highest unemployment rate of 32% among the youth in the 15-29 age groups.

As per the annual economic survey 2018-19, the unemployment rate in Odisha was more pronounced in urban

areas (8.4%) than in rural areas (6.9%). Though the share of the services sector to Odisha's GDP continued to rise, it did not see a commensurate rise in employment.

In the last two decades, the state saw two of the biggest scams- mining scams and chit fund scams. The two scams brought out Patnaik's government's systemic inability in stopping the plunder of its precious natural resources and loot of people's savings. Between 2004 and 2012, iron and manganese ores worth Rs 1.99 lakh crore were extracted from Odisha's mines, but much of it was above the allowed limit set by the various government agencies like the Indian Bureau of Mines and Odisha Pollution Control Board.

Though mining is a highly regulated sector, the justice MB Shah Commission of Inquiry that probed into the irregularities, pegged the scam at Rs 59,000 crore. The culprits of the scam in the meantime have managed to get into their old business while keeping the all-powerful Babus and politicians in good humour. Pilferage of minerals has again become a day-to-day affair that warranted again forming another task force in Keonjhar's mining area.

Women have been the principal supporters of the Naveen Patnaik government over the last two decades, yet when it comes to their safety, Odisha lags behind other states. As per the latest statistics

released by NCRB, crimes against women are on the rise in the state as 20,098 cases in 2017 as against 17,837 cases in 2016. With 94 complaints per one lakh population, Odisha recorded the second-highest number of crimes against women in the country after Assam in 2017.

Since 2014, Odisha is consistently topping the list in case of "disrobing of women" leaving the states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar far behind. In 2018, Odisha topped the list of states in cases of "use of child pornography or storing child pornography material". As per NCRB, the conviction rate of crime against women in Odisha was a paltry 6.2% against a national average of 18.7% in 2016.

Despite economic recovery, the state appears slowly moving towards a debt trap. The report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India stated that the public debt of the state government went up to Rs 68,438 crore in 2019-20 financial year from Rs 58,2534 crore in the previous fiscal. The CAG also pointed out the poor capital expenditure of Rs 25,586 crore during the year that brought down the investment in vital sectors like irrigation, rural development, power infra, roads, and bridges. The annual growth of capital expenditure has dropped from 52% to minus 13% in 2019-20.

Therefore, it's not inappropriate to say "Back To Square One".

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Your last editorial deals with the long chequered history of Indian Hockey from the days of Major Dhyanchand.

As rightly said, Naveen Patnaik has a great vision & noble mission in promoting Hockey. He has already declared the extension of his

sponsorship for another 10 years. Odisha is going to host World Cup hockey in 2023. Country's largest hockey stadium going to be completed in Rourkela.

With a view to nourish the budding hockey talent of Sundargarh, there is a proposal of constructing mini stadium in each block.

It goes without saying that, the pioneering role of

Naveen Patnaik for Hockey is unparalleled in our country.

Therefore, the name of Naveen Patnaik deserves to be written in golden letters in Indian sports History.

Bharat Patra
Rtd Banker & Social activist, Keonjhar

Brainstorming Unemployment In Odisha



Sirish C. Mohanty

When a child is born in Odisha, he carries on his head a debt burden of Rs 23,761.83. Per Capita debt burden has more than doubled in the last 10 years in Odisha. From Rs 9,144.40 in 2011-12, per head debt burden reached Rs 23,761.83 by the end of 2020-21 financial years. The debt is good when the assets are more than the debt in modern economics. The debt has to be repaid by increasing the gross agricultural and industrial production. In other words, by increasing the employment potentials the gross product of the state can be increased. Despite having abundant mineral resources for industries, alluvial soil with water resources for agriculture, and about 500 km of coastline for fishing and ports for trade, the state couldn't utilize these to achieve its desired development. Due to lack of employment opportunities, Odia youths move far away to Gujarat, Karnataka, and other developed states. Agriculture being the major employer for the state's workforce is failing to generate employment; rather the workforce engaged in agriculture is shrinking rapidly to increase the rate of unemployment. Industry and mining is the second largest employer faces the same fate. Due to the policy flaws of the government, workers from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Andhra come to the state and get well-paid

employments while the local half-starved youths loitering around towards which the government has a blind eye. Let's have a look at the employment potentials of the state and how it fails to employ its people.

The state's working-age population (15-59 years) is expanded to 25.8 million in 2011 from 21.5 million in 2001, growing annually at 2%. The rising working-age population is of course a challenge before the Government to provide employment. 2017-18 indicates that the labor force participation in the State was 51.7%, whereas it was 53.0% at all Indian levels. The proportion of workers in the informal sector combining self-employment and casual labor constituted more than 80%. The agriculture, forestry, and fishing sector were the highest source of employment across the states. It accounts for 48.76% in Odisha and 44.14% at all India levels, while the other half was distributed between the Industries and Services sectors.

The government is contented in vain to have done everything by DMF or the OMBARDC funds on the apex court's order. These funds can improve the living but cannot provide a living.

Policy to promote the faster expansion of labor-oriented industries in the services and industry sector is a must for providing great job opportunities with decent remuneration. Both educated and uneducated individuals with skill training (formal or informal) are more likely to find jobs. The Government is continuously making strides in creating employment opportunities

and improving the employability of the youth. Initiatives, like Make in Odisha to attract private investment in diverse sectors and the Odisha State Employment Mission's (OSEM) placement-linked training program, aim to work in this direction, but due to several flaws yet to be transformed into result.

The basic indicator of employment is the proportion of the working-age population (15-59 years)



who are employable. The state's working-age population is expanded to 25.8 million in 2011 from 21.5 million in 2001, growing annually at 2%. The share of the working population to total population is 61.5% in 2011, up from 3.1 points from 2001. The working-age population will grow to 30.4 million in 2021 (projected). The rising working-age population is of course a challenge before the Government to provide employment.

As regards employment in rural areas, the proportion of workers under self-employment among rural males was as high as 61.6%, whereas rural female workers constituted 52.6%. Both male and female regular wage earners in rural areas were 11.3% and 9.5% respectively. In rural areas, the share of under casual laborers was 27.1% among male workers

and 38% among female workers. In the regular wage/salary category, the share in rural Odisha was 11.3% for male workers and 9.5% for female workers. On the other hand, in urban areas, the share of workers in regular wage/salaried workers was 40.5% among male workers and 46.5% among female workers. That initiates a shift of workers from rural to urban areas in the state.

The distribution of workers across industrial

classification highlights that agriculture, forestry, and the fishing sector was the highest source of employment across the states. It accounts for 48.76% in Odisha and 44.14% at all India levels, while the other half was distributed between the Industries and Services sectors. The industry was the second-highest source of employment in Odisha with 26.44% followed by the services sector with 24.80%.

As in the case of all-India level, Odisha economy also has shown structural changes with a share of agriculture and allied activities falling from 26% in 2000-01 to 19.9% in 2019-20. Despite its declining share in total GSDP, these activities continued to be the main source of livelihood in the State. Around 49% of the total workforce is dependent on agriculture in 2017-18 as against 44% at the all-India

level. However, the gross cropped area continued to decline from 90.10 lakh ha in 2014-15 to 85.41 lakh ha in 2016-17 and 83.38 lakh ha in 2018-19. As a result, there is growing pressure on the productivity of the land.

Given the high dependence on agriculture for employment, the sector can play an important role in the overall development of the State as it impacts on two critical goals - eliminating poverty and ending hunger. Unfortunately, the growth of agriculture and allied activities are often adversely affected by various natural phenomena like cyclones, floods, pest attacks, drought, etc. The second reason is the manmade-neglect. The state planners have never been serious about irrigation, modern agricultural practice, and Agro industries. Right from the 1950s, Punjab concentrated on agriculture and Agro industries. Subsequently, many industrial towns flourished across the state generating huge employment potentials. Odisha lacks a strong agricultural base to help sustainable industrialization. Thus, the Agri sector in Odisha is heading towards a phase of lost employment opportunities.

Like any other industry today in Odisha, the mining sector is also passing through a phase of lost employment opportunities. With government support and much-needed reforms, the mining and allied sector have the potential to provide employment opportunities to about 50 lakh people directly and indirectly in the state. In the past, the mining industry has emerged as the third-largest employment generating sector. Growth in the sector should always benefit job creation in relatively backward areas of

the state like Keonjhar, and Sundargarh. But as of now, the contribution of the mining sector in job creation is fast decreasing due to flaws in the policy framing.

Hence, the system of mining auctions urgently needs to be fixed to help job creation. Many miners have quoted abnormally high rates that resulted in job cuts and growth of malpractices to cheat the government revenue. In the meantime, due to unworkable rates, several miners now have no way to survive but to surrender the lease. While fixing the terms and conditions of the mining lease or enhancing the production limits of the lease, the government ought to keep in mind that minerals and men coexist in the mining area. And the inhabitants are sufferers of pollution, loss of flora and fauna, and face a dire deficiency of clean water due to rampant mineral excavation. They need to be enticed by the provision of jobs in the mining. The government must treat the dwellers in the mining area as partners of the lease. There can't be progressive mining when surrounded by a half-starved population. The dwellers of the area pin a high hope to earn a living from the mine. The government is contented in vain to have done everything by DMF or the OMBARDC funds on the apex court's order. These funds can improve the living but cannot provide a living. Paradoxically, contrary to the themes of the apex courts directives, these funds are regulated arbitrarily by the never-accountable Babus. Nevertheless, it is to be kept in mind that the growing discontentment may explode at any time if not addressed in time.

Our Intimacy With Slangs

SLANG IS A POOR MAN'S POETRY.

Slangs do not mean use bad language words or foul language. Rather these are a set of colloquial words and phrases. They are regional languages or terms, mostly using typical vernacular style of usage and applied where intimacy is present in a conversation or is expected or planned. It could also mean use of absolutely bawdy language to describe something drastic and fall under uncivilised communication.

Slangs can also have cultural ties and are often intelligently arranged or thought of. Many times certain slang words express what normal, formal language fails to convey.

Whenever slang is used, it is for good. Life is not always about formal communication. Inventive, alternative vocabulary is more than essential to vent feelings truly, without veneer. That's when slangs flow out spontaneously. Because feelings, despite everything, are spontaneous and need the help of free will to be independent of 'eco systems'. Every generation has its own slangs. There is a parallel language movement of slangs.

But for now, let's be restricted to Odia language. Probably not, we had much slanged prior to the late

1970s and early 1980s. Possibly because that was the time when urban Odisha took roots and rural Odisha met urban Odisha. There were lots of words for 'surprise' or 'new experience' or 'greenhorn'. This was obvious. ଇଲୋ ବରଲୋ (Oh mother), ରାଶି (promise), ଆବାବା (oh my!), ବାଲ ନା? (disbelief), ବାଲଭଳିଆ (worthless), କଦଳା (banana, but used to explain dismissal of something), ଉତୁରୁଛି (indulgent or show off), ରୁଡ଼ା (rustic or greenhorn), ବେଧୁଆ (cheeky or naughty), ଘଣା (intimate or close), ଧଳୁଆ (loser), ଧାଲୁ କିରି କିରି (hasten up, in Puri), ଜାଲମ (wicked) were some of the words and phrases commonly used. These are now less used by Gen Y or Z, but ଛରୁ (decimated/blown/wonderful), କାବ (wonderful/beautiful) continue to be in vogue. Slangs go through complete metamorphosis. They reflect the changing trends and times. There are many words and


expressions which actually do not mean anything, but they have shock value, or they fill in the silence when one would struggle to find filler. କଣ କଲା ସିଏ? (What has s/he done?) is a more recent phrase, which is borrowed from a movie, but is quite a blather. There are many such words or phrases which must have been born out of khatti during 'doing nothing'. Like ଶଳା is a regular word across the state. Hence, they are pure gibberish but surprisingly they are helpful linking words or sentences which stitch conversations together. Slangs need not necessarily be an urban syndrome. It is everywhere and takes the elements of the prevailing context. Like ଗୋଟେ ବାପୁଡ଼ା ଦେବି ଯେ ବାପାକୁ ମରାବା ତାଙ୍କିରୁ (With one slap you will start addressing your father as uncle) is less used now in urban areas but is said in smaller towns. କୋଉଠି ଥୋଇବି (Literal translation

is 'where do I keep'? was once a rage and was lifted from a popular movie dialogue. But today it is out of use. It was gibberish, meaningless but was used to rile in khatti when anyone spoke 'big'.

The unconventional Akshaya Mohanty experimented with many terms which created waves in Odisha of 1970s and 1980s. He contributed to Odia language, simplifying and making day-to-day Odia easier and less orthodox. That is why his ମଣି, ପଡ଼ିଯିବ କି? ଫୁଲେଇ ରାଣୀ, କଣ ବମକୁଛି? have been in the mainstream for a longest span of time.

Puri accords high status to discipline, physical fitness and wrestling. Life starts with JegaGhara (the local gymnasium). People love to see beefy youngsters like ଛଇଛାଡ଼ି ଟୋକ, ଗରଦନ ଅଛୁ (muscular boy with thick neck/nape. When

you say ଅଛୁ one flexes his neck muscles with a sense of pride). Thick neck refers to their workouts and wrestling practices. ବନ୍ଧା ଟୋକା (celibate and strict youngster) is to describe the favourite boy who is disciplined in his habits and primarily preserves his energies, abstaining from sexual activities.

Slangs are used consciously, or they quite naturally establish and reinforce social identity or cohesiveness within a group or with a trend or fashion in society. That is why they are dynamic and keep changing. More importantly and closer to life, slangs help build an instant intimacy and informality. This is how a film is explained when it is good or a hit: ବହି ଜଳିଲା। ମାକ ହଲ ଛରୁ। Or the impactful explanation of an action hero: ଟୋକା ଯଦି ଉଡ଼ି କରି ନ ବଜେଇଲା, କୋରି ନ ଦେଇଗଲା। ତା ହେଲେ ସେ କି ବହି? 

Women can't be ministers, they should give birth: Taliban

Women in Afghanistan have taken to the streets to protest against the all-male government

Kabul, Sep 10: Quashing all possibilities of women being included in the government under the Taliban in Afghanistan, a spokesperson of the group said women should restrict themselves to giving birth.

Outraged by the formation of a hard-line, all-male Taliban government, scores of Afghan women, risking their lives, have taken to the streets to protest against the same.

Reacting to the protests and the outrage over the all-male government, the Taliban

spokesperson Sayed Zekrullah Hashimi, in an interview to Tolo News, said, "A woman can't be a minister, and it is like you put something on her neck that she can't carry".

He went on to say that it is not necessary for a woman to be in the cabinet, adding that women "should give birth".

"Women protesters can't represent all women in Afghanistan," he added.

Afghan women have been reeling under the fear of losing all the gains they have made



over the past two decades in terms of civil rights since the Taliban rule returned in the country in August.

While the Taliban vowed to honour women's rights,

several instances of brutality against women for protesting against being denied the freedom to work and doing things that the group considers are out of their


boundary.

When they last ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, women could not work, girls were not allowed to attend school and women had to cover their face and be accompanied by a male relative if they wanted to venture out of their homes.

According to reports, Afghan women, who were protesting against the all-male Afghanistan's new interim government in Kabul, were driven away by the Taliban on Wednesday.

The Taliban used whips and sticks against the women protesters in the crackdown on dissent, media reported.

Videos and pictures showed the women chanting, "Long live the women of Afghanistan". Some held placards that read: "No government can deny the presence of women" and "I will sing freedom over and over."

The Taliban, according to witnesses, also beat up journalists covering the demonstration, the report said. 

Govt relaxes green norms for projects connecting mines

New Delhi, Sep 6: The ministry has, however, cautioned that all forest clearance proposals for mining shall have an additional column for the project proponent to certify that they have critically examined the mineral extraction pathways and that no new extraction path outside the mining area shall be proposed during the next five years.

Roads, conveyor belts, railway infrastructure etc. that connect mines to ports or other destinations can now be considered as standalone projects that can be approved by the regional offices of the union environment ministry, the ministry said in a letter to state governments.

"The State Government/User agency shall ensure that dispensation considered by the Ministry is not misused in any way and likely tendencies to detach linear projects from the main proposal of mining



should not be encouraged. To the extent possible, linear infrastructure such as roads/railways/conveyor belts, etc. ancillary to mining should be included in the main proposal and under inevitable circumstance only, such proposals submitted by the user agency should be considered as standalone projects," the letter, dated August 23, stated.

It has, however, cautioned that all forest clearance proposals for mining shall have an additional column for the project proponent to certify that they have critically examined the mineral extraction

pathways and that no new extraction path outside the mining area shall be proposed during the next five years. As far as possible existing roads, railway infrastructure should be strengthened to minimise forest and tree cover loss, the letter states.

The letter states that the ministry of coal had requested the environment ministry to consider the possibility of constructing new linear projects linking mines to dumping or loading sites. The ministry of coal launched an auction for mines last year. In the first tranche 38 were listed and in the second tranche 67 mines in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand,

Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh were listed for commercial coal mine auctions.

"Based on the recommendation of the FAC and approval of the same by the competent authority, the ministry hereby conveys that supplementary linear project linked to mining that are conceived after the start of the original mining, should be considered as a standalone linear project and decisions on according approval for those shall be made at the REC/IRO (regional empowered committee/integrated regional office of MoEFCC) concerned as

per provisions provided in the Forest Conservation) Rules, 2003," the letter stated.

Transportation of coal is a contentious issue in many parts of the country where locals have opposed it due its large pollution footprint. For example, locals in Odisha's Sundargarh district have been opposing transportation of coal through their villages because heavy dust pollution caused by the transportation has been damaging our crop production continuously and children are avoiding school for the fear of being run over according to their petitions submitted to the forest advisory committee.

"This delinking of linear infrastructure has to be seen along with the changes in mining laws that allow for mineral extraction without specifying end use. This means that evacuation routes and all the related impacts can continue to shift throughout the life of a mine. Our regulatory

appraisal, compliance and monitoring protocols are not designed to address this dynamic demand. In the present case, the enabling conditions are drafted more as a request to user agencies not misuse this privilege and minimize damage. They also give a lot of discretion to the ministry's regional offices to determine the form and future of linear infrastructure linked to mining projects," said Kanchi Kohli, legal researcher, Centre for Policy Research.

"All linear projects are considered by regional offices. In this case the ministry has very specifically said that the need for supplementary infrastructure shouldn't arise at least for the next five years because transportation should be considered by the mining project. If it does arise then regional offices can critically examine the impact of such supplementary projects," said a senior environment ministry official.

From Page-1

All-male Afghan ...

and track records of some of the individuals."

"We understand that the Taliban has presented this as a caretaker cabinet. However, we will judge the Taliban by its actions, not words."

The State Department renewed its call on the Taliban to offer safe passage to US citizens as well as Afghans looking to leave.

Afghanistan will once more be officially known as an Islamic emirate, as it was under Taliban rule in the 1990s, and its chief, Hibatullah Akhundzada, will be supreme leader.

The Taliban have also brought back the ministry for promotion of virtue and prevention of vice, a notorious enforcement body that was one of the most hated institutions when they last controlled Afghanistan. Its main function was to police the Taliban's extreme interpretation of Islamic law.

The prime minister will be Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund, one of the founding members of the group who was close to its original leader, one-eyed Mullah Mohammed Omar.

He has had far less international exposure than other senior Taliban leaders, but as head of the group's powerful leadership council he is one of its most influential members. Mullah Omar's son Mullah Yaqoob will be defence minister, and the acting

interior minister is Sirajuddin Haqqani, who is on the FBI wanted list with a \$5m bounty on his head.

The Taliban face a major economic crisis, domestic pressure from political opponents and an uprising in the Panjshir valley that has not been entirely stamped out despite their capture of the provincial capital.

The internal pressures were highlighted by protests in Kabul that drew hundreds of people and which - although initially peaceful - ended in the Taliban firing guns into the air, beating protesters and journalists, seizing equipment and detaining some people. A smaller protest in western Herat ended with two dead and at least four injured, according to the Afghan newspaper Etilaatroz.

With domestic reserves frozen, and the country long dependent on international aid, there is also a desperate search for international legitimacy that may allow funds to keep flowing. The government lineup is unlikely to offer progress on any of those fronts.

The new cabinet is also heavily dominated by the Pashtun ethnic group that formed the Taliban's original power base but which makes up only about 40% of Afghanistan's population. Just three appointees appeared to be from other ethnic groups.

It was unveiled by the government spokesperson, Zabihullah Mujahid. Asked about the lack of inclusivity, he could offer only vague promises that the minor portfolios

outstanding may be awarded in a way that broadens the government.

For two decades Pakistan provided the Taliban with safe haven, and the head of its influential Inter-Services Intelligence agency spent three days in Kabul this week as negotiations about the new government were hammered out, but the Taliban and Islamabad deny any significant ties.

There was no immediate response to the new government from the countries that have bankrolled Afghanistan's aid in the past, and now face the prospect of engaging with a leadership dominated by figures that are on UN sanctions lists for terrorist activities.

There is pressure for the international community to work with the Taliban to try to stave off disaster for the most vulnerable of the country's 38 million inhabitants. The United Nations has warned that access to food aid and other life-saving services is close to running out, as concerns mount that the country is facing a looming humanitarian catastrophe.

The grim assessment from the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs came amid an appeal for an extra \$200m in emergency funding in Afghanistan after the Taliban's takeover sparked a host of new problems.

The UN says 18 million people are facing a humanitarian disaster, and a further 18 million could quickly join them.

Jharkhand allots namaz hall in Jharkhand Assembly, BJP wants Hanuman temple



Ranchi, Sep 5: Stating that MLAs in the ruling camp openly support the Taliban, BJP leader Raghubar Das said the latest move was a result of this ideology.

A controversy has erupted in Jharkhand after the HemantSoren-led Jharkhand government ordered the allotment of a "namaz hall" on the Assembly premises. The order was issued by speaker RabindraNathMahto on September 2 and became public two days later.

A notification, signed by the Jharkhand legislative assembly deputy secretary Naveen Kumar by order of the speaker, read, "Allotment of room number TW 348 as Namaz Hall for offering Namaz in the new Assembly Building."

Soon after the BJP demanded a Hanuman temple on the Assembly premises be built and worship halls be earmarked for people of other religions, while the ruling Jharkhand MuktiMorcha and Congress welcomed the move.

BJP leader Raghubar Das said the BJP will launch an agitation if the speaker's decision of allotment of a separate namaz hall was not withdrawn. Stating that MLAs in the ruling camp openly support the Taliban, Das said the latest move was a result of this ideology. "Otherwise any person who believes in democracy would not commit such an act. The Soren government is also tarnishing the dignity of constitutional institutions for appeasement and vote bank politics. This is not a good sign for Jharkhand," he added. The former chief minister threatened to sit on a hunger strike if the speaker's order was not withdrawn. BJP chief whip Viranchi Narayan has written to the speaker demanding he withdraws the order as he is "expected to protect constitutional values".

BJP leader BabulMarandi said this was an unconstitutional step. "If the speaker of the Assembly had to take it then he should build a

grand Hanuman temple in the Assembly premises for Hindus. Worship halls must be earmarked for people of other religions. The temple of democracy should remain so," the former chief minister said.

BJP leader CP Singh said, "The speaker should immediately get a grand Hanuman temple constructed on the assembly premises so that Hindu devotees can recite Hanuman Chalisa there."

In his letter, Narayan wrote, "You cancel your order of September 2 and take the trouble of withdrawing this unconstitutional, unparliamentary and irreligious order of Muslim appeasement while protecting the constitutional values, standards. If you are unable to set aside this order due to any pressure or appeasement, then I will be compelled to approach the court in this matter."

Marandi said, "The temple of democracy should remain the temple of democracy. We are against any such order."

Earlier, the ruling Congress

and JMM issued a statement welcoming the Speaker's move. Congress MLA Irfan Ansari, who had recently courted controversy by welcoming the Taliban occupation of Afghanistan in the Assembly, said, "The BJP has a habit of doing politics of religion. It just keeps on talking nonsense."

JMM general secretary Divya Kumar welcoming the speaker's decision said earlier too such an arrangement was made in the Bihar assembly. "There is nothing new in allowing a namaz hall in the Jharkhand House Assembly," he added.

Meanwhile, the speaker said there was nothing new about the latest and there was a practice of adjourning the House half an hour before the usual time so that Muslim legislators can offer Friday prayers.

Mahato said, "We respect everyone. This is a matter of faith. Why should we put a hindrance in it? And this is not a new thing. There is a practice in the Assembly that the House is adjourned half an hour before to offer Friday prayers."

Responding to a question on the BJP's accusations that the speaker is acting on political instructions, he said, "What can I do if someone speaks like this. Everyone has the right and freedom to express their views. There's no constitutional provision that one has to ask me before saying anything. It's their view."

Raipur Pastor, Accused Of Conversion, Thrashed By Mob In Police Station

The police have filed cases against seven persons for the assault on the pastor accused of religious conversion.

Raipur, Sep 5: A Christian priest was beaten up by a right-wing mob inside a police station in Raipur today over allegations of forced religious conversions. This followed heated arguments between members of the angry crowd and those who had accompanied the pastor to the premises after they were called in for questioning.

The incident took place at the PuraniBasti police station in Raipur. The police had received complaints of forced religious conversions being carried out in the Bhatagaon area. A few local

right-wing Hindu leaders, too, reached the police station shortly after.

The complainants were furious and gheraoed the building demanding action against those carrying out such conversion.



The arrival of the pastor, along with some other members of the Christian community of the Bhatagaon area, sparked a furious exchange of words between the mob and those called in for questioning.

The pastor was then taken into the station in charge's room where the tense situation only worsened. Soon the pastor was subjected to physical assault, officials said. A video of the incident shows some members hitting the priest with slippers and shoes.

"We hadn't received any complaints earlier. There was no damage done to the police station during the quarrel between the two groups. We are now looking into the complaint (of conversions). Based on what we find, we will take action," said Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Tarakeswar Patel.

Taking cognisance of the attack on the assault, the police have filed a case against seven persons.

BJP's Varun Gandhi lends support to agitating farmers, calls for 're-engagement'

New Delhi, Sep 5: The BJP leader also shared a video recording of hundreds and thousands of farmers gathered at Muzaffarnagar for the KisanMahapanchayat on Sunday

BharatiyaJanata Party (BJP) leader Varun Gandhi voiced his support for the ongoing farmers' protests. The parliamentarian representing Pilibhit Lok Sabha constituency called for "re-engagement" with the protesting farmers, urging for the inclusion of

their point of view in working out a common ground. Calling farmers "our own flesh and blood", Gandhi insisted their hardships should be taken into consideration.

"Lakhs of farmers have gathered in protest today, in Muzaffarnagar. They are our own flesh and blood. We need to start re-engaging with them in a respectful manner: understand their pain, their point of view and work with them in reaching common ground," Gandhi tweeted on Sunday. The BJP leader also



shared a video recording of farmers gathered at hundreds and thousands of Muzaffarnagar for the

KisanMahapanchayat on Sunday. Gandhi had earlier criticised KarnalKarnal sub-divisional magistrate AyushSinha for instructing on-duty police personnel last week to "break heads" of protesting farmers if they breach the barricade. "I hope this video is edited and the DM did not say this... Otherwise, this is unacceptable in democratic India to do to our own citizens," Gandhi said in a tweet on August 28.

The Samyukta KisanMorcha (SKM) had

called for a Kisan Mahapanchayat in Muzaffarnagar on Sunday to protest against the three controversial farm laws. BharatiyaKisan Union leader RakeshTikait declared at Sunday's Mahapanchayat that the agitations would continue till their demands are met. Varun Gandhi did not directly mention the NDA government in his tweets but he is the first leader from the ruling dispensation to voice his support for the ongoing farmers' agitation.

Shortage of staff cripples state Police tooth to tail

For around 800 people, there is only one cop to guard. The state has only 17 civil policemen to cover every 100 square km area

Here is a reality check on how safe is aamaadmi on Odisha's roads. When over 45,000 new criminals (first-time offenders) were on the prowl during the year 2020, there were a mere around 26,200 civil policemen to guard against. It's no wonder then to see criminals feeling emboldened and the State registering around 315 cases of crimes per one lakh population in 2020.

As per the data with State police, last year police have arrested over 45,000 criminals under various IPC sections. And as per police records, they had been arrested for the first time. In the police lexicon, such arrestees are termed as first-time offenders. Against the backdrop, the MoS (Home) Dibyashankar Mishra informed the house that Odisha police is grappling with a vacancy of over 11,400. Why the yawning



vacancies are seen as hurting policing in the State, as per sources, the serial offenders (in police lexicon offender arrested more than once) are only a handful - below five percent of the total arrests made last year. The data on the arrest of serial offenders indicate how policing has a salient effect on crime control and vice versa.

Police and Public

The data tabled by MoS Mishra throws many bizarre

statistics that drop a telling comment on the state of policing in Odisha. Consider the numbers that nail the deterioration. As per the data, the sanctioned strength of the police force, including civil and armed, in Odisha stands at 67,761. But the actual strength in 2020 was 56,305. The vacancies stood at 11,456.

A thorough glance at the data placed shows that civil cops, who are responsible for

maintaining law and order, stood at over 26,000. In the year 2019, as per BPRD data, the sanctioned strength was 66,161 and the actual strength was 58,455. The vacancies stood at 7,706. The 2020 numbers vis-a-vis 2019 reveal a sharp rise in vacancies at various levels in the State police, which marks a deterioration of the manpower the State police have.

As a consequence, for around 800 aamaadmi, there is only one cop to guard. The state has only 17 civil policemen to cover every 100 square km area. 0.17 civil cops per square km in Odisha

Odisha Police Lacks Teeth and Tail

As per the facts placed in the State Assembly, Odisha police neither have enough teeth to bite nor a long tail to tighten the noose around the anti-socials. Crime detection

and analysis play the clincher role in preventing galloping crimes. For that, proper staffing between senior supervisory, immediate supervisory, and field personnel need to be maintained. And in the police lexicon, that proper proportion is termed as teeth to tail ratio.

A calculation puts Odisha's teeth to tail ratio at 1:13.5:83.6, which means for every one senior supervisory staff (above DSP level) there are only 13.5 inspectors/ASIs and only 83.6 constables.

Odisha Vs Neighbours

The states like Bihar, Assam, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand have higher constables per inspector and above DSP level staff. The constable proportion in the states ranges over 123 per 1 above DSP level officer.

Odisha fares poorer because the State police are

saddling with a massive 3489 vacancies at the constable level in 2020. The vacancy at the DSP level has been 92. The high level of vacancy at the DSP level gets reflected in vacancies at the SP level in the State. The vacancies at the SP level stood at 15.

Outcome on Law and Order

When around ten girls/women in every one lakh female population are being kidnapped in the State, the national average is only eight. Similarly, when over 22 females per lakh women population are subjected to the outrage of modesty in Odisha, it's only around 11 nationally.

And the rate of murder and attempt to murder in Odisha is over 3.5 percent and 5.2 percent respectively, which is also a notch higher than the national average.

In every 24 hours, on average, the State records over ten IPC crimes.

India shines at the Paralympics 2020

With five gold, Eight silver, and six bronze medals at the finishing mark, India has shot past its best-ever tally at the Tokyo Paralympic Games 2020. The world's biggest sporting event for the disabled

him and records. India's para-athletes, undeterred by deficits and the challenges of Covid-19, deserve greater recognition and celebration.

With the agenda of social inclusion, the Paralympic Games

key role in changing attitudes towards disability while restoring the belief that sport is accessible to all.

In 1968, India sent its first delegation of para-athletes to Israel for the Games but returned empty-handed. In 2021, after breaking records, displaying personal bests, smashing past tallies, and overcoming all odds for a place on the podium, India can hold its head high. But it cannot end there. The numbers are telling: India has won more medals (already, for they are still ongoing) in the Paralympic Games than the Olympics this year. This should lead to more funding and the creation of sports facilities that promote disabled athletes. Para-athletes are living proof that the human spirit is indomitable. India must promote sport for all, as a symbol of equity in society and the recognition of its most courageous athletes.

have, over the past 50 years, ensured fair competition irrespective of physical, visual, and mental limitations. They have raised the bar of "disabled sport", paving the way for para-athletes to be recognised as sportspersons in their own right. They promote accessibility (an important factor in building equitable societies) and play a



is seeing India shine brighter than ever before. With two gold, four silver, and two bronze medals at the halfway mark, India has shot past its best-ever tally at the Tokyo Paralympic Games 2020. Rifle shooter, Avani Lekhara has become the first Indian woman to win gold, and javelin thrower, Devendra Jhajharia, has outdone

Deadline For Filing Income Tax Returns Extended Till Dec 31

New Delhi, Sep 9: Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on Thursday further extended the deadline for filing Income Tax Returns (ITR) and various reports of audit for Assessment Year 2021-22. The due date for income tax returns for those whose accounts are not to be audited has been extended a second time this year to December 31. The earlier extension was till September 30. "The due date of furnishing of Return of Income for the Assessment Year 2021-22, which was 31st July, 2021 under subsection (1) of section 139 of the Act, as extended to 30th September, 2021 vide Circular No.9/2021 dated 20.05.2021, is hereby further extended to 31st December, 2021," the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

The due date of furnishing of report of audit under any provision of the Income-Tax Act for 2020-21,



which was earlier extended to November 30 from October 31, has now been further extended to January 15, 2022, the ministry stated.

The deadline for furnishing a report from an accountant by persons entering into international transactions or specified domestic transactions under section 92E of Income-Tax Act for 2020-21 has been extended to January 31 next year.

The due date of furnishing of belated/revised income tax return for Assessment Year 2021-22 has now been extended to March 31 next year from January 31, 2022. The Income Tax department had informed that several technical issues on the new ITR portal are being

progressively addressed.

"It is reiterated that the Department is continuously engaged with Infosys to ensure a smooth filing experience to taxpayers," CBDT had said on Wednesday.

The Finance Ministry had last month summoned Infosys CEO Salil Parekh to explain the issues resulting in disruption of the portal developed by the Bengaluru-based software company, which was awarded a contract in 2019 to develop next-generation income tax filing system to reduce processing time for returns from 63 days to one day and expedite refunds.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had expressed "deep disappointment" over regular glitches since the portal was launched and gave Infosys a September 15 deadline to resolve the issues.

Odisha Teachers Who Left Classes For Masses

Bhubaneswar, Sep 5: Albert Einstein famously remarked, "Politics is more difficult than physics." But several teachers in Odisha have proved him wrong by leaving the chalk and duster behind to plunge into politics with ease.

On Teachers' Day, the IMO gives a round of applause to some of these educators-turned-politicians in the state.

Binayak Acharya



rags-to-riches tale. Born a Brahmin in a humble family in 1918, Acharya was a good student deeply influenced by the major Communist leaders of the state, mainly Bijoy Chandra Das, the founder of the Communist Party in Orissa. Acharya joined the Congress in 1961 but first entered the political limelight in 1967 when he defeated his powerful Jana Sangh rival by a huge margin. He remained in power for a very short time but left his mark for being a passionate educationist and freedom fighter.

Fondly referred to as 'Bino Master', Odisha's first teacher-turned Chief Minister Binayak Acharya started his professional career as an assistant teacher in a municipal school. His story reads like a political

Kalindi Charan Behera



A former minister and ex-vice president of BJD, Kalindi Charan Behera taught Odia in private colleges before joining politics. A five-time legislator, Behera had held several important portfolios in the late Biju Patnaik-led ministry as well as in Naveen Patnaik's cabinet. A multi-faceted personality, Behera had authored several books and also took a keen interest in social, cultural and sports activities.

Sheikh Matlub Ali

A veteran Congress leader and former minister, Sheikh Matlub Ali taught Odia in private colleges. He was also a well-known writer who was popular in literary circles of Odisha and outside the state. He is also credited with steering much needed reforms during his tenure as the Higher Education Minister of Odisha.



Jayadev Jena

Jayadev Jena was a school teacher before he joined politics. Jena is a former president of Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) and an ex-minister. B.A (Arts) Appeared from Utkal University in 1977, Secondary Teacher Training CERT in 1975



Saharai Oram



Saharai Oram started his carrier as a school teacher. Known for his work towards the development of tribals, Oram was first elected to the Odisha Assembly from Champua constituency in 1971 as an Utkal Congress candidate. A close associate of late Chief Minister Biju Patnaik, he was elected from Champua as a Janata Party candidate in 1977, in 1980 as Janata-S candidate, 1990 as Janata Dal candidate, and in 2000 as an Independent. Took keen interest in sports activities, the tribal leader played a significant role in the construction of several mini-stadia in the Champua area.

Lekhasri Samantsinghar



An Odisha BJP spokesperson and party general secretary, Lekhasri Samantsinghar holds a PhD in Environmental Science. After 16 years of teaching botany at government colleges and Ravenshaw University, Lekhasri joined the saffron party. She had triggered a political furore last year for her statement that people from other parts of the country came to know about Puri being in Odisha only after BJP leader Sambit Patra contested the 2019 Lok Sabha election from the seat.

Badri Narayan Patra

A former lecturer in economics, Badri Narayan Patra was brought into politics by late Chief Minister Biju Patnaik. An ex-minister and current BJD legislator of



Ghasipura Assembly constituency, Patra was elected as MLA for the first time in the Year 1990, the second time in 2000 then after the 2009, 2014 and 2019 elections.

Abani Boral

A former state secretary of CPI, Abani Boral was also teachers' leader. Boral's contribution to the education sector, especially his movements to ensure that the genuine rights of teachers in Odisha were fulfilled, He steadfastly struggled against various government policies and strove to improve facilities for teachers and students in the state.



Bhabanipur by poll: BJP fields lawyer who moved HC on post-poll violence

Kolkata, Sep 11: The BJP on Friday chose its youth wing leader and advocate Priyanka Tibrewal to take on West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for Bhabanipur Assembly constituency, which goes to bypolls along with two other seats in the state on September 30.

The party named Milan Ghosh for Samserganj and Sujit Das for Jangipur seats. Voted

will be counted on October 3.

Tibrewal, 41, vice-president of BJP's youth wing in Bengal, was one of the petitioners in Bengal post-poll violence cases in Calcutta High Court. The court had ordered a CBI probe, which BJP considered a victory for its stance.

According to party leaders, BJP wants to ensure that Tibrewal consolidates party's cadres to register a good turnout

against the Chief Minister. Sources in state BJP said Tibrewal was picked also keeping in mind the Hindi-speaking and women voters in the constituency.

Speaking to the media in Kolkata, Tibrewal said, "We (Mamata and she) are both candidates, and both are contesting an election after losing one." She was referring to Banerjee's defeat to BJP's Suwendu Adhikari in Nandigram,



Priyanka Tibrewal

and her own defeat to TMC's Swarna Kamal Saha from Entally seat.

Tibrewal also said, "She (Banerjee) had said that there was no violence in the state

(after the elections this summer), but I defeated her (claim) in High Court - I proved there was violence."

"We approached some BJP leaders but many refused to contest," Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh said, according to PTI. "Priyanka Tibrewal is a fearless leader, very hard working, and an excellent taskmaster. She is a very good orator. We are confident that she will win."

In an apparent bid to dismiss Tibrewal's stature, state minister and senior Trinamool leader Firhad Hakim asked, "Who is she? What's her contribution to the society?"

While the Congress is not contesting Bhabanipur bypolls, the Left Front has named CPI(M) leader Srijib Biswas as its candidate from the seat. Banerjee has time until November 5 to get elected to the Assembly.

Preparations underway for PM's possible visit to US this month



New Delhi, Sep 5: The first face-to-face meeting of leaders of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, after their maiden virtual summit in March, was being seen as the centrepiece of a visit to the US by Modi.

A visit to the US by Prime Minister Narendra Modi this month is being linked to clarity on the holding of the first in-person summit of Quad leaders following Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga's decision to step down, people familiar with developments said on Saturday.

The first face-to-face

meeting of leaders of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, after their maiden virtual summit in March, was being seen as the centrepiece of a visit to the US by Modi. However, Suga's surprise move led to confusion and uncertainty about the Quad meet to be hosted by Washington, the people cited above said on condition of anonymity.

The Indian side has begun advance preparations for a possible visit by the prime minister, and some of the grounds were laid during foreign secretary Harsh Shringla's three-day visit to

Washington this week. There has been no formal announcement from the Indian side, though dates between September 22 and 27 were being looked at for the visit.

If the visit does go ahead, Modi is also expected to address the annual UN General Assembly in New York and hold his first bilateral meeting with US President Joe Biden.

"There is some amount of confusion and lack of clarity on whether the Japanese PM will travel to the US following his decision to step down. The Indian side has begun the spade work but a call will have to be made at a higher level," one of the people cited above said.

The people said the latest reports from the Japanese side indicated that Suga is not expected to visit the US. Earlier, Japan had proposed holding the Quad Summit in a hybrid format, with Suga joining virtually. There were also suggestions to hold the summit after the election of a

new Japanese prime minister. It is learnt that not all Quad members were keen on holding the summit in a hybrid format.

Asked about the possibility of the political developments in Japan affecting the Quad Summit, foreign secretary Harsh Shringla told reporters in Washington on Friday: "If there is a summit, Prime Minister Modi has already said he would be happy to attend that summit. I think other leaders have also said that they will be ready. So, it's all a question of...getting the leaders together and going ahead."

The people also noted the US recently asked more than 150 countries planning to send a leader or a minister to speak in person at the UN General Assembly to consider giving a video address in order to prevent the meeting from becoming a super-spreader event.

The Quad comprises India, Australia, Japan and the

US. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison is expected to travel to the US in September to join Biden for events commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Australia, New Zealand and US Security Treaty, or ANZUS Treaty.

On Friday, Suga announced his decision not to seek re-election as leader of the ruling Liberal Democrat Party (LDP) in the face of mounting criticism over his handling of the Covid-19 crisis. Suga took over just under a year ago after Shinzo Abe resigned citing ill health.

Opposition to his leadership among LDP lawmakers has diminished his chances of winning a second term in the LDP's presidential election on September 29. Suga is also expected to be preoccupied with campaigning for the party election, which will begin on September 17.

The political developments in Japan have also raised the possibility of

the annual bilateral summit with India being cancelled for the third straight year. The meet couldn't be held in 2019 because of violent protests against the amended citizenship law in Guwahati, the proposed venue, and it wasn't held last year because of the pandemic.

The planned Quad Summit was aimed at giving fresh impetus to several key initiatives, including the grouping's vaccine partnership and measures to ensure an open and free Indo-Pacific. The four countries plan to distribute one billion doses of US-developed vaccines produced in India across the Indo-Pacific but the move hit a road block after India was hit by a devastating second wave of infections.

In March, Biden hosted the first virtual Quad leaders' summit that pledged to work for an open and inclusive Indo-Pacific anchored by democratic values and unconstrained by coercion, an apparent signal to China.

The next step for Indian para sports; need International classifiers

Indian para-athletes now have to go to international competitions to get classified since there are no certified classifiers at home.

Javelin thrower Tek Chand's world turned upside down the moment he learned that his classification had been changed to F55 from F54 in Tokyo, with less than a week to go before the Tokyo Paralympics began.

The difference between the two classifications is subtle but critical - F54 athletes (F stands for Field) have full use of their arms but no power in their abdominal muscles and typically no sitting balance (and by extension, no function in the lower limbs). F55 athletes have full use of their arms and partial to full use of their trunk but no movement in the lower limbs.

Chand met with a traffic accident in 2005 and sustained spinal cord injuries that paralyzed him. He had to go through an exhaustive classification review for nearly three hours in Tokyo - where every detail of his impairment was examined by medical professionals who also watched

older videos of him throwing and compared them to his current action.

How can India become an athletics powerhouse?

For para-athletes with spinal cord injuries, classification is often a fluid process that needs periodic reassessment, because, for them, the functionality of parts of the body can get better or worse with time, depending on responses to treatment and other things.

In Chand's case, the classification change meant dropping the javelin and picking upshot put because F55 did not have a javelin event in Tokyo. Chand had not thrown a shot put for close to three years, and at the biggest stage of his life - after training in the javelin and competing in international events - he had no choice but to do a different sport. He was devastated but showed Great Spirit to compete in the shot put, where he finished eighth among eight

throwers.

In Para sport, classification is all-important for athletes. It is a complex, multi-layered, and sometimes divisive system that decides who can compete with who depending on the type and extent of their disability.

The classification for a sport is done by a panel that includes a minimum of two "classifiers" - physicians, physiotherapists, coaches, or sports scientists who have been certified by the international federation of that particular sport. International classifiers are trained for one specific impairment category - either for intellectual, physical, or vision impairment.

It is here that India runs into a problem - the country does not have a single international classifier. Indian Para athletes have to go through the tedious, difficult, and sometimes, like in Chand's case, the deeply disappointing experience of getting



themselves classified at international competitions.

"It is not even that a Para-athlete can go to any (international) event and get themselves classified," said Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) secretary-general Gursharan Singh. "We have to apply and get slots and then decide on who we want to send for classification. We cannot send more than five to six athletes for classification. The way forward is to have international classifiers at home."

Becoming an international classifier is a long process involving coursework, fieldwork, and four levels of examinations. It is the PCI's responsibility to manage classifiers.

India currently has six

national-level classifiers who have cleared two levels of examination in December 2017. "We wanted to have international classifiers before the Paralympics but because of COVID everything stopped," said Singh.

PCI had invited two international classifiers at the National Para Athletics Championships in March but they could not come because of travel restrictions during COVID. More than a thousand para-athletes competed in the event but there were only two national classifiers.

"Most of them who competed were already classified but still there were more than 200 who had to be reviewed," said Dr. GB Shetye, the head of physiotherapy at Sports Authority of India's center at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Delhi, who was one of the two national classifiers at the nationals. "For a country with a large population like India, we should have, and we

require a few international classifiers."

As was evident from India's unprecedented and historic medal haul at the Tokyo Paralympics, there have been significant improvements in both funding and access to infrastructure for para-athletes in the country. One result of that change is the promising increase in the number of athletes at the para nationals, who have more than doubled over the last five years.

"Sometimes I am looking at 200 to 300 athletes during a competition which is not feasible," said Shetye. "You can't look at more than 10-15 people in a day. The basic step is to classify our budding athletes from the start and train them accordingly. We need at least 25 to 30 national classifiers and six to seven international classifiers."

Having international classifiers is the logical next step in India's transformation as a Para-sporting nation.

Bell Bottom: Akshay Kumar delivers a racy, pacy entertainer

Bell bottom directed by Ranjit M Tewari

Movie cast: Akshay Kumar, Adil Hussain, Zain Khan Durrani, Vaani Kapoor, Huma Qureshi, Lara Dutta, Denzil Smith, Dolly Ahluwalia, Sunit Tandon

Movie director: Ranjit M Tewari

Movie rating: 3 stars

Remember the faintly ridiculous bell bottoms, those massively flared trousers sported by fashionistas and plebs alike in the 70s and 80s? Akshay Kumar's RAW agent, Code Name Bell Bottom, carries them off with cheerful comic book flair. That's exactly the tone of the film, which doesn't make the mistake of taking itself too seriously, despite the seriousness of its subject. It is fashioned

as a racy, pacy entertainer from start to finish, and never loses sight of its objective, exaggerated situations and characters happily to the fore.

Akshay Kumar in a still from the movie.

This loosely fictionalised actioner, based on a clutch of real-life hijackings of Indian Airlines planes in the 80s, has Akshay Kumar fronting it, with a bunch of supporting acts -

Adil Hussain is tops - managing to grab their bit of the limelight. It is a let-our-hair-down-caper which embraces its upbeat, silly spirit, and turns into a worthy outing for the big screen in these Covid times.

One of the things that Bollywood has always grappled with is just how to simplify complex things, because otherwise we would lose interest, see? So, we get a potted history of the time, when, we are told, India and Pakistan were having a rare amicable moment, but it was not to last too long. Of course. Punjab was hotting up. Khalistani insurgents were being backed by the ISI; so

was the JKLF, and the best way to teach India a lesson, according to the wicked wily ISI, was to hijack Indian planes, and use hostages to barter terrorists incarcerated in Indian jails, while 'phaelaoing' general 'dehshat'.

A good patriotic Indian hero's love for his motherland knows no bounds. It is only the love for his 'bebe' (Dolly Ahluwalia) that can give it competition. Our BellBottom is given a loving mother, who meets a sorry fate in one hijack: it is in another that our hero gets a chance to avenge both. Two for the price of one Pakistani hijacker: what can be better? A

Akshay Kumar film is a let-our-hair-down-caper which embraces its upbeat, silly spirit, and turns it into a worthy outing for the big screen in these Covid times.



ramshackle plot that headlines our hero's exploits, with the actual hijack scrunched into a small but energetic section, that's what.

The action moves between Delhi, London, Lahore, Islamabad, and Dubai, as RAW chief (Adil Hussain, stealing every scene) tells an emergency cabinet meeting headed by the PM Indira Gandhi (Lara Dutta in a jaw-dropping doppelganger avatar. The artists responsible for this makeover must be lauded), that the only guy who can save the Indian hostages is their 'star analyst' BellBottom. Cue Akshay, file under arm, camera trained on his billowing trouser bottoms, striding into the PM's office, and taking it from there.

Akshay Kumar and Vaani Kapoor in Bell Bottom.

One of the advantages of claiming that the story

is just 'inspired' by real-life events is that you can stuff it with lots of make-believe: Bellbottom and comely wife (Vaani Kapoor) get to exchange flirty dialogue, and a song; a let's-hunt-the-bad-guys in a London outpost, where Bellbottom shows us multiple uses of a Coke

. Your eye begins to roll, but the scene shifts swiftly: anything goes, if you keep it moving fast enough.

'Bellbottom' works on its stated metrics of see, no complexities, everything easy. Fun and games and rat-a-tat action, and no hostages lost, just as they didn't in real life after the rescue operation was pulled off successfully. We get the flag, but no strident flag waving. We get Bad Pakistani Terrorists who brainwash Hapless Indians, but no loud jingoism. Bad guys lose. Good guys win. Jai Hind.

