

CM lays foundation stone for Jagannath Temple Corridor in Puri

The project will be implemented by the state government at an estimated cost of Rs 3,200 crore



CM Naveen Patnaik lays the foundation

PURI, Nov 24: The foundation stone of the Srimandir Parikrama Yojana (Sri Jagannath Temple Corridor project) was laid by Gajapati Dibyasingha Deb on Wednesday here in the presence of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on the last day of the three-day Mahayagna in the 12th-century shrine.


"Today is a historic day for all Jagannath devotees across the globe and indeed a sacred day for the people of Odisha," the Chief Minister said after the foundation stone was laid for the project. He also felicitated 10 persons, who have

donated their land adjacent to the corridor project.

Conceived in 2016, the Puri Temple Corridor project was first launched in December 2019. The project will be implemented by the state government at an estimated cost of Rs 3,200 crore. Under this, 22 projects will be executed in three phases. Official

sources said Rs 800 crore will be made available from the Augmentation of Basic Amenities and Development of Heritage and Architecture (ABADHA) scheme initially followed by Rs 265 crore more in the first phase.

Around 15.65 acres of land have been acquired for the heritage corridor. Land has been purchased directly from 115 families, while 512 shops and 24 lodges were evicted for the 75-metre corridor project. Besides, properties of 25 mutts have been acquired for the project. The government has so far paid Rs 289.34 crore for acquiring land for the purpose.

The Yojana envisages construction of a security corridor around the temple with green cover. Besides, renovation of all maths and temples around it will also be taken up. The office of the Chief Temple Administrator will also be renovated. A reception hall will be constructed for 6000 devotees. 

Tata Steel commissions it's largest iron ore processing plant



Sirish C Mohanty

Joda, Nov 24: Tata Steel commissions 8 million tonne per annum crushing and washing plant at its captive Khondbond Iron and Manganese Mine 8 kms from here in Keonjhar district of Odisha. This is considered as the biggest Iron Ore processing unit of the state so far.

The state of the art plant design includes three stage crushing and screening. To reduce the inherent alumina

from the ore, two rotary drum scrubbers have been installed which can reduce the alumina of the incoming ore, thereby improving the ore quality.

Tata Steel CEO and Managing Director, T V Narendran, launched the programme in the presence of D B Sundara Ramam, Vice President (Raw Materials), Tata Steel, Avneesh Gupta, Vice President (TQM and Engineering & Projects), Tata Steel, Atul Kumar Bhatnagar, General Manager (OMQ Division), Tata Steel, Mukesh Ranjan, Chief Projects OMQ Division, Tata Steel, Pervez Akhtar, Chief Projects Raw Materials, Tata Steel and other senior officials and vendor partners of the Company. Speaking on the occasion, T V Narendran emphasised upon the need to focus more



Tata Steel CEO and Managing Director, T V Narendran

on resource efficiency, productivity and technology with the requirement of raw materials growing in line with the growth of the Company. He congratulated the OMQ Division and the Engineering & Projects team for achieving this great milestone.

The iron ore processing plant will cater to the rapidly growing raw material requirements of Tata Steel and will provide raw material security. In line with the Company's core objective of building sustainable mining and manufacturing (Page-11)

Govt decides to extend free food grains scheme till March 2022

New Delhi, Nov 24: The union cabinet has decided to extend the free ration scheme till March 2022, Union Minister Anurag Thakur said on Wednesday. The extension of the scheme under phase 5 would cost Government of India an estimated ₹53,344 crore.

It was widely believed that the union government will not extend the free ration scheme that was launched as a social net for the poor during coronavirus pandemic.

The Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMKGAY) was announced in March last year to




ameliorate distress caused by Covid-19. Initially, the scheme launched for the April-June 2020 period but later was further extended till November 30, 2021.

Under the PMKGAY, the

government has repeatedly touted that more than 80 crore people are being provided 5 kg free wheat/rice per month along with 1 kg free whole Chana to each family per month. The free ration to 80

crore ration card holders are identified under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). The free ration is given over and above the subsidised grains distributed to them via ration shops. The government has been giving rice and wheat to bulk consumers under the OMSS policy to improve availability in the domestic market and check prices.

Anurag Thakur said the cabinet has also completed the formalities to repeal the three farm laws. "During the upcoming session of the Parliament, it will be our priority to take back these three laws," Thakur said. 

Every Household In Keonjhar To Get Drinking Water Supply: Naveen Patnaik



Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday

announced that his government will provide safe piped drinking water supply

to every household in the mining-affected Keonjhar district by December 2022.

Patnaik said this while distributing smart health cards to Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) beneficiaries of Keonjhar district through virtual mode. He said the state government aims to develop Keonjhar as a prosperous district of the state. All villages, towns and families of the district would be provided with piped drinking water by December 2022, he said.

Patnaik also launched various development projects worth Rs 2,037 crore for the district. While 142 projects worth Rs 458 crore have been inaugurated, foundation

stones laid for 257 projects worth Rs 1,201 crore. The projects include healthcare, education, roads and bridges, sports infrastructure and livelihood projects.

To further accelerate the infrastructure development, the Chief Minister also announced 13 new projects worth Rs 378 crore for the district. This includes a mega poultry farm project worth Rs 36 crore which will benefit 30,000 people from tribal communities in the region.

Around 4.20 lakh people of the district can avail the benefits of the smart health card. With this, the BSKY

health cards programme has been implemented in 13 out of 30 districts of the state.

Under the BSKY scheme, each family can avail treatment cost up to Rs 5 lakh per annum. However, the women members can avail this benefit up to Rs 10 lakh every year.

Meanwhile, in another programme, Patnaik has dedicated 158 transformed high-schools in five districts. Of the total transformed schools, 60 are in Mayurbhanj district, 38 in Khurda, 29 in Kalahandi, 25 in Jharsuguda and 6 in Malkangiri.

Is Andhra Eyeing Odisha's Deomali After Kotia? Visit By Over 50 AP Officials Sparks Speculation



Bhubaneswar, Nov 22: At a time when the dispute between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh over Kotia panchayat in Koraput district is far from getting resolved, visit of more than 50 officials of the neighbouring state to Deomali area in the district yesterday has given rise to speculation regarding emergence of similar issue over the tourist spot.

As per reports, as many as 57 officials, including the Vizianagaram Collector Surya Kumari, arrived in

Deomali area in 22 cars on the pretext of picnic. They were accompanied by several policemen of Andhra Pradesh.

On being informed about the development, Odisha Police officials started keeping a sharp watch on the activities of the visitors. Soon, media persons reached the spot for reporting but were stopped from doing so by the Andhra policemen.

Later, several officials of the Koraput district administration also reached the spot and their presence

prevented the possible escalation of the untoward incident.

After picnicking at Deomali for around four hours, the AP officials also visited Galigabadar waterfall and spent two hours there, before returning via Pottangi-Sunki road.

The unexpected visit of large number of Andhra Pradesh officials to Deomali has certainly raised the eyebrows of many. More surprisingly, they didn't inform the Koraput district administration before the visit.

Odisha government launches road safety initiative

Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: The Odisha government has launched a scheme, Rakshyak, which aims at training 30,000 people who would serve as First Responders to road accidents. The volunteers will be equipped with first aid boxes to provide the medical treatment required in the first 30 minutes after an accident. All of them would be trained in the next 30 weeks. In a bid to improve road safety, the state government's transport department on Thursday signed a MoU with Save Life Foundation (SLF), an NGO working towards road safety in the country.

"We will take steps to reduce the road fatality as per the remedial measures suggested by SLF. We will try to create a zero fatality corridor which aims at reducing the number of accident-related deaths," said transport commissioner, Arun Bothra.

According to the government's plan, these 30,000 people will be selected mostly from

The state govt would give a cash prize of Rs 2,000 to the good Samaritans who save human lives

among those working in roadside eateries, business establishments and would be trained as first responders.

Under the initiative, experts from Automotive

Rs 50,000, officials said.

Commerce and transport minister Padmanabha Behera told media, "We will provide financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh to the legal heir of the accident victims who die in



Skills Development Council (ASDC) will train 300 master trainers. Later, they will move across the state to train other people.

The state government would give a cash prize of Rs 2,000 to the good samaritans who save human lives. People critically injured in accidents will be entitled to receive a compensation of

the accident from the Solarium fund."

The rising number of road accidents in the state has become a major cause of concern. It has gone up by 21 per cent. "The rakshaks will serve as life savers" said officials. The number of deaths in accidents has gone up from 3,931 deaths in 2014 to 4,738 in 2020.

Scrapping of farm bills to recoil on poll-bound politics, economy



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

Finally, the three farm bills are to be withdrawn as the nation goes to polls in UP, Punjab, and three other states. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement will lead to a sea change in the gamut of a year-long struggle by the farmers.

Yes, it would now be a direct battle for votes with the farm issues and the prime minister taking the centre stage.

It is not an issue of who wins and who loses but calls for a process where none has to go for an adamant attitude that has caused over 800 deaths, innumerable conflicts, and a political atmosphere that had led to strong verbosity and millions of hours of media debate.

The farmers may be happy but may wait to

withdraw their agitation till the bills are formally withdrawn in Parliament.

Prime Minister lamented that despite his concern for the farmers he "We couldn't convince a section of farmers despite best efforts. The goal of the three farm laws was to empower farmers, especially small farmers". There is a general relief and Modi can do more by also taking this opportunity to scrap the whimsical NGT order of scrapping 10-year-old cars, tractors, and other vehicles.

The three bills in question are the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill and The Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm

Services Bill, 2020, and the Essential Commodities Act amendment bill. The first is on agricultural market reforms, while the second is about contract farming provisions.

As the bills are withdrawn the intense political battle that seemingly would continue is to pitch the campaign plank for the elections. The opposition may get emboldened as also the farmers. The government would come out with the plank of a responsive government and sabka sath sabka vikas. It is not that only the Delhi borders were sealed by farmers and police of Haryana, Delhi, and UP, it has also created an atmosphere of uncertainty. The Republic Day rally in January 2021 led to many apprehensions and a situation of conflict that was never envisaged.

The reverberating slogans and counter slogans may warm up the poll pitch with curious voters observing each of the movements. It would be yet another move to reestablish the brand Narendra Modi by the BJP-NDA. The opposition may try to do the contrary. Ultimately it would turn the elections into an interesting phenomenon.

Possibly it would also make any government not act in haste as it happened with the June 5, 2020 farm ordinances, at the height of lockdown, leading to fears that corporate stranglehold to rise as MSP to be withdrawn. In reality, the

government increased MSPs on all farm products.

Whether the Bharatiya Kisan Union makes an impact in the coming polls with its possible allies SP - RLD or just withers away also needs to be seen. Since 2018 and during the past year BKU has been in the news in the northern states and particularly UP, where all the parties have high stakes.

The bills had generated enough corporate and foreign investor interest. It increased the hope of more investment in warehousing though the farmers have the reservation of losing to corporate and finally loss of livelihood. Several rounds of talks and its failure had led to a kind of desperation as they feared that returns would continue to fall.

Farmers refused to accept the government's offer of a written guarantee on minimum support price (MSP) and offer of levying cess on the new private mandis outside the APMC mandis.

Over the years, between 2013-14 and 2017-18, as farmers' return on their produce starts reducing, the foreign portfolio investment (FPI) is booming, and funding for silo - giant steel structures for storing grains for a longer duration - construction increases.

Since 1967, when APMC Act was enforced, never have farmers been in such distress and confusion. Normally, despite not being able to

sell at MSPs, they were not unhappy at the returns. The MSP decided on a floor price and provided the bargaining strength to them against the market forces. In 2013-14, the paddy price was 58 percent higher than average input and labor costs. This margin shrank to 41 percent in 2018. The difference in maize reduced from 43 percent to 25.6 percent.

Indian farmers have reasons to be unhappy. Their yields are low. The world average for rice per kg per hectare in 2018 is 4679, maize 5924, all pulses 964, arhar 852, soybean 2791, groundnut 1611, wheat 3425, barley 2951, and gram 965. The Indian average is rice 2638, maize 3070, all pulses 757, arhar 757, soybean 1192, groundnut 1422, wheat 3371, barley 2693, and gram 956. The prices they get are less and as the cost is high, approaching international markets is not easy.

Against this backdrop, if it is linked to foreign portfolio investment (FPI), the trend is surprising. In June 2020, the FPI was Rs 11,736 crore. It doubles to Rs 22,866 crore in July. The three farm laws were introduced as ordinances on June 5, 2020. In August as the farm bills were introduced for passing by Parliament, the investments jump to Rs 1,30,576 crore. About half the investments surprisingly came from two tiny countries, Mauritius and Singapore. Another large investor

was not Netherland.

The State of Indian Agriculture 2015-16 (SIA15) of the Ministry of Agriculture says in its preface, "in recent years the agriculture and allied sector has been facing numerous challenges. The sector remains constrained by low productivity, excessive dependence on monsoon and weather conditions, continuing fragmentation of land, and preponderance of fragmented markets. A combination of these factors has led to episodes of agrarian distress which have been widely reported".

Various other issues like toll roads, the building of silos, and the falling farm GDP to 14 percent may become poll issues. How it would recoil on different political parties would be interesting to watch. It might raise debate in all political parties, including the ruling combine.

The election plank interestingly may become farm issues though the BJP may like to keep it focused on Ram Mandir. In that case issues of decline in GDP in the farm, sector can take the centre stage.

As it appears now farm growth and structural changes in the economy would be at the center stage but many new political issues may be added to the vexed problem impacting the 2022 election results.

67 Govt High Schools Revamped in the District

Sundargarh, Nov 24: CM Naveen Patnaik dedicates 142 Govt High Schools across 5 districts of Odisha under 5T initiative in Phase 1 on 11 November. This includes 67 High Schools in Sundargarh district which got revamped as part of the transformation program. The Chief Minister graced the occasion from Lok Seva Bhawan through VC. Secretary to CM (5T) VK Pandian who moderated the entire program appreciated the transformation work done in Sundargarh district. In the 1st phase of transformation, the 67



schools are included from all 17 blocks and 3 ULBs

namely Sundargarh, Rajgangpur and Birmittapur.

The district level program was held at

Bhawani Shankar Government High School at Sundargarh. Students, Teachers, Parents, Alumni, School Management Committee Members, People's Representatives, District Collector and other senior officials were present at the event.

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Principal Secretary, School & Mass Education Satyabrata Sahu, Chairperson Mo School, Susmita Bagchi and other senior officials of the state government were present at the occasion from Lok Seva Bhawan end.

Sundargarh Collector Nikhil Pavan Kalyan while moderating the district level program at the ground said that the program shall help students of the district realise their potential and explore their dreams.

Under 5T Initiative, the state government is transforming govt high schools and making them future ready. Facilities like smart class, modern science lab, e-Library & ICT Lab, adequate sports infra, drinking water and clean toilets etc are being built while focusing on imparting quality education to fulfil the aspirations of the students.

RSS- GMM Combine Dethrones RIKKS in Union Election

Rourkela, Nov 24: the INTUC-affiliated Rourkela Shramik Sangh (RSS) have regained its status of being the recognised union of Rourkela Steel Plant after seven years as it won the support of the workmen in Union election. The voting for the election was held on 15th November.

But this time RSS have won the election in alliance with Gangpur Mazdoor Manch (GMM) led by tribal leader and former Birmittapur MLA George Tirkey. GMM had emerged as the third powerful union in the previous election held in 2017 after RIKKS and RSS.

While the official declaration of the election result would be made after permission of the Orissa High Court, sources said RSS - GMM combine secured more than 50% votes in Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) union recognition election. They got 5,242 votes against 3,859 bagged by RIKKS. RSS-GMM combine have won the election by a margin of 1383 votes.

Out of total 11,058 workers eligible for voting, 10,366 cast their votes workers in 16 booths (14 inside plant and 2 outside plant). The counting was held in eight rounds. As revealed by agents of different unions while RSS-GMM combine has got 5,242 votes, the Rourkela Ispat Karakhana Karmachari Sangh (RIKKS) an affiliated wing of BMS got 3,859 votes.

The Rourkela Mazdoor Sangh (RMS) an affiliated wing of HMS got 677 votes, Steel Employees Trade Union (SETU) an affiliated wing of CITU got 272 votes and other seven unions got total 326 votes. Odisha High Court has imposed a stay on declaring the result basing on petitions of Ispat Labour Union (ILU) and Kalinga Ispat Shramik Sangha (KISS). Of course, the tenure of three years will be considered from the date of getting recognition.

In the last election RIKKS had won getting 4,861 votes out of 12,423 polled but this time equation was in favour of RSS and GMM combine from beginning as last time RSS fetched 3,730 votes and GMM 2,353 votes. Besides, inordinate delay in wage agreement in NJCS (for 58 months) and uncertainty marking release of arrears after the wage revision agreement RIKKS lost popular support of workers.

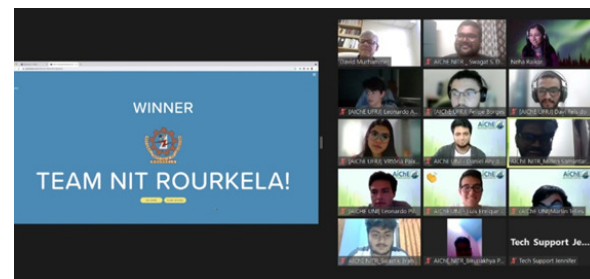
NIT-Rourkela Wins International ChemE Jeopardy Competition

Rourkela, Nov 24: NIT Rourkela has topped the International ChemE Jeopardy competition at the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) Annual Student Conference 2021. The team, comprising four pre-final year Chemical Engineering students - Swagat Subhakanta Das, Millen Samantaray, Birupakhyia Patro and Swastik Brahma - produced an outstanding performance to bring home the title of 'International ChemE Jeopardy Champions' and a cash prize of

\$400.

In the final round, NIT Rourkela beat the challenge of teams from Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and National University of Engineering, Peru.

AIChE, a professional organization for chemical engineers with over 60,000 members from 110 countries, organizes the annual ChemE Jeopardy competition where champion teams from all over the world vie for glory at the Annual Student Conference.



This year, it was organized in Boston - in person from November 6 to 8 and in virtual mode from November 13-15. The NIT Rourkela team participated virtually on November 14.

Thanking NIT Rourkela for backing the team at every step, team member Swagat Subhakanta said that Team AIChE NITR represented the entire south-east Asia at this prestigious conference.

Sundargarh Emerges Best District in Odisha in Swachh Survekshan

Rourkela, Nov 24: Sundargarh has emerged as the best district in Odisha in Swachh Survekshan Ranking -2021 announced by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in New Delhi on 29th November. According to the latest annual survey, Sundargarh scored 57.54 in cleanliness in urban areas. A total of 659 districts of 13 states participated in the survey.



the survey was conducted in 372 cities. In the all-India ranking, Rourkela stood at 57th position. The city was ranked 156th in Swachh Survekshan 2020 and placed at 353rd position in 2019.

Bhubaneswar too has improved its ranking to 144. The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation held 288th and 274th positions in 2018 and 2019 respectively in the annual cleanliness survey. It may be noted that Swachh Survekshan was launched as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which aimed at making India clean and free of open defecation.

Rourkela is the first city from Odisha to bag 'One Star' status in garbage-free cities with one lakh to 10 lakh population category. The

DIC Amarendu Prakash, address employees on World Quality Day

Rourkela, Nov 24: "Quality is an endless journey of continuous improvements, it is not a destination. There is no limit to how much we can perfect a system," said Amarendu Prakash, DIC, BSL & RSP, while speaking at the World Quality Day program organised at SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) on 11th November, 2021. The event was organised at the Safety, Quality and Environment Corner of the scenic 'Shilpa Konark' enclave near the Main Gate of the Plant. A.K.Kundu, ED (Mines), S.R.Suryawanshi, ED (Works), A.K.Pradhan, ED (Projects), P K Satapathy, ED (P&A) C.R.Mohapatra, CGM Incharge (MM & Marketing), Dr. B K Hota, CMO Incharge (M&HS), other CGMs, Senior Officers and employees of the Steel Plant were present on the occasion. Exhorting the RSP collective to imbibe a 'Culture of Quality', Mr. Prakash elaborated on the theme of this year's Quality day observation, that is 'Sustainability: improving our products, people and planet'. Elucidating on the Triple bottomline concept, the DIC emphasised that the 3 parameters are intrinsically linked and an organisation has to focus on all of them to be successful and sustainable. Mr. Prakash also stressed on reuse, reduces and recycles of waste and said that effective waste management can lead to a significant improvement in the organisation's bottomline. Earlier, the DIC unfurled the Quality Flag. A.K.Kundu administered the Quality Pledge in English while S R Suryawanshi and P K Satapathy administered the pledge in Hindi and Odia respectively. Ms.Chaitali Das, GM (Business Excellence) welcomed the gathering. While Mr. A Choudhury, GM(Pipe Plants) proposed a formal vote of thanks.

It is worth mentioning here that the month of November is celebrated as Quality Month and the second Thursday of the month is being observed as World Quality Day.

Bumps ahead of the JSW project in Paradip coast



Jagatsinghpur, Nov 27: Defending numerous complaints that the civil administration has been trying to sabotage people's voices on the proposed JSW project, the Jagatsinghpur district administration had organized four public hearings at project site villages in different locations. The endeavor of

meetings aims to hear the genuine grievances from locals creating hurdles for the project.

Apart from the meetings held in four locations at Gadakujanga and Nuagaon, Dhinkia and Govindapur, no signal indicates smooth progress of the project in a near

future. Sources informed that public hearings held at Dhinkia had drawn severe oppositions as the region renowned as an epicenter for anti-industry since Posco.

The report said that the first meeting was held in Gadakujanga Panchayat office and the second one at Nuagaon Panchayat, in both meetings collector Parul Patwari, SP Akheleshvar Singh, water resources and I&PR minister Raghunandan Das, Block Development Officers and Tahasildars of Erasama and Kujanga, PRI members, JSW Co Ranjan Nayak and officer Bibhudatta Panda and hundreds of residents living in the proposed JSW

project site attended.

While the project antagonists at Dhinkia vowed their 'Go back JSW' slogans at meeting sites, later administration officials had convinced and asked them to raise their objections. Later few anti-JSW people spoke on the occasion and a memorandum carrying signatures of hundreds was submitted to the collector who assured to take needful on their gripes patiently and take it up with the Odisha government.

The Jagatsinghpur administration sponsored the 4th public hearing for the proposed JSW project in Erasama coast was held at Govindapur village. The meeting overall responded

pro-industry atmosphere among the villagers but they urged before launching the JSW project their 11 points charter demands should be fulfilled. State water resources and I&PR minister Raghunandan Das attended all four meetings spelled out that we are well aware of the issues raised by villagers before the JSW projects. He said locals' complaints would be addressed, government disallows the opening of any industrial project against the interest of people and by force, the minister said.

Now locals fear that JSW proposed projects are more advanced than earlier Posco ventures included as 13.2 MTP crude steel plants,

900 MW captive power plants, 10 MTP cement plant, and 12 MTP jetty in their vicinity. The villages Polanga, Bhuyanpal, Bayabandha, Nuagaon, Balisahi, Mathasahi, Patana, and Mahala are likely to be affected by the JSW project, overall public responses are ostensibly not cheering for the go-ahead of the project.

However, Collector Parul Patwari participated in all the four meetings clarified that we first gather the grievances against the JSW project, then efforts would be taken to fulfill utmost demands of people, the administration will perform an intermediary role between people and JSW, Collector assured.

Lawyers cease work, protesting a colleague arrest

Jagatsinghpur, Nov 24: The Jagatsinghpur district bar association resorted to a day-long cease work in judicial and civil courts functioning here. The agitated legal professional protested against police for its illegal action arresting a lawyer colleague on the charge against him in a dowry torture case.

According to district bar association president, Gagan Chandra Dash, that one of the bar members and a working lawyer Ramananda Panda was arrested by Jagatsinghpur police without complying with the legal

formalities. The victim's lawyer was booked based on his wife Lipi Panda's complaint occurring out of a dowry torture case.

Cops had picked up him from his residence at midnight and brought him to the police station for interrogation where he got ill-treated by police custody later forwarded to court from where he was shifted to jail. Later Panda's bail pleas were heard in Jagatsinghpur district judge court who granted bail to the victim's lawyer.

We condemned the illegal act of police who desecrated

Supreme Court guidelines on the arrest of a working lawyer.

Angered over the incident alleged misconduct of police, the bar association reported to cease work and abstained from judicial proceedings, later apprised the bar council of Odisha and lawyers associations across the state.

However, bar association general secretary Naresh Das informed that we have decided to lodge a lcc case against police in SDJM court, after legal interpretation of the incident next course of agitation would be decided, general secretary Das

informed.

Sources informed that causing lawyers agitation the litigants coming to courts were suffered entire day, lawyers disallowed entering into judicial complex here moreover judges and judicial staff were allowed to go into the court building. Senior lawyers Rabi Narayan Mohanty, Souri Prasad Swain, Pitambar Panda, Subrata Satapathy, Dushmanta Barik, Sarat Chandra Nayak, Dolagovinda Dash, Rajkishor Behera participated in the agitation.

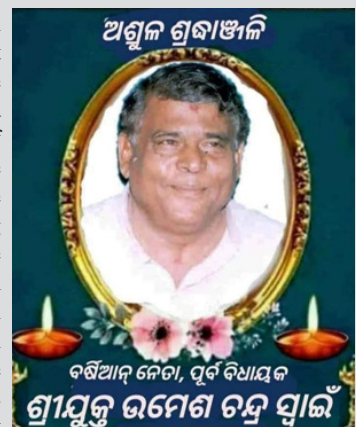
Balikuda bids tearful farewell to ex MLA Umesh Swain

Jagatsinghpur, Nov 27: Thousands of grieving supporters on Wednesday night bade a tearful adieu to former legislator Umesh Swain. His mortal remains consigned to flames at his native Machhagaon village under Balikuda block from where he began his political carrier five decades ago.

A sea of humanity including hundreds of moist-eyed women converged at Machhagaon on the outskirts of Balikuda for the last glimpse of the illustrious son of the soil. Earlier, when late Swain's body was being transported to the native village from Bhubaneswar on Wednesday afternoon hundreds of people were paid floral tributes to the departed leader at

Swain was born in an affluent family in Machhagaon on November 15, 1946, and was the youngest son of late Kartika Swain. He studied in village school after graduation pursued his law at M S Law College in Cuttack. And he was elected as Law college students union president. He began his political carrier in 1972.

His proximity with the



Sikhar Ghat, Deriki, Naugaon, Alanahat, Balibhuanri Chhak, and Balikuda headquarters.

Former MLA Umesh Swain was passed away following a cardiac arrest at his residence in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday morning; he was 76, survived by his wife and a son.

late Biju Patnaik made him contest the elections for the Balikuda assembly constituency and got elected in the year 1977 by defeating congress veteran Basudev Mohapatra. Later became unsuccessful in two consecutive elections held in the year 1980 and 1985.

SPCA meeting held

Jagatsinghpur: The district Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals [SPCA] meeting was held in the collector's office here, collector Parul Patawari chaired the meeting.

Speaking at the meeting collector informed that the state government has launched extensive schemes to provide adequate safeguards for stray and destitute

animals., the scheme will provide financial assistance to eligible organizations towards capital infrastructures support for establishing Goshala, cattle shelters, homes for stray animals, health care facilities, operation theatre, medicines, vehicles for transportation of animals.

The animal birth control program and Animal

helpline will be strengthened and implemented in Jagatsinghpur district, the collector assured. The schemes will implement under the supervision of the state animal welfare board in close coordination with the district fisheries and animal resources development department, urban local body, SPCA, and NGOs involved in animal welfare activities, the

collector said.

Among others, CDVO Dr. Birakishor Parida, ADM Satchidananda Sahoo, police personnel, Executive officer Jagatsinghpur municipality, members from Goshala's functioning in the district, few NGOs activists participated and viewed that these schemes will provide welfare of the stray and destitute animals in the district.

Forest officials gear up for national tiger estimation in Similipal Tiger Reserve

Baripada, Nov 24: The forest officials of Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) gear up for the seven-day long national tiger estimation which will be held from 26 January 2022. The national tiger estimation is carried out every four years in the country. The forest personnel including Assistant Conservator of

estimation inside the STR. At least 13 ACFs along with 21 Ranger Officers, 89 Foresters, 209 Forest Guards, and 380 Protest Assistants will engage for the seven-day long tiger estimation drive inside the STR. A mock drill orientation was held on Tuesday for them and they will be received two-



Forests (ACFs), Ranger Officers, Foresters and Forest Guards in Mayurbhanj district here had attended a mock drill orientation was held by the experts on Tuesday at Chahala inside the STR in presence of Deputy Director of STR North and Karanjia wildfire division Sai Kiran and ACFs, Range Officers, Foresters, Forest Guards and Protection Assistants said Regional Chief Conservator of Forest (RCCF) and Field Director of STR M Yogajayanand.

The RCCF said on Wednesday that the national tiger estimation is carried out every four years in the country. The national tiger estimation will be held for seven-day long inside the STR from 26 January 2022 with help of ACFs, Ranger Officers, Foresters, and Forest Guards, and Protect Assistants. The circle-level orientation programs were carried out by the experts. For the first time, the elephant and leopard estimation will be included with the national tiger

day-long training programs soon before conducting the national tiger estimation drive in the STR, the RCCF said that two methods like camera traps and transect walk will be adopted in the driver. The science survey will follow by the end of January or the first of February before the estimation report given to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), he said.

Besides the trained staff and protection assistants, 500 cameras will be used for the national tiger estimation. The department has already installed cameras inside STR to shoot the animal's movements.

As per the report of NTCA the last national tiger estimation report, 2018 revealed that the big cats (Royal Bengal Tiger (RBT) between 16 and 21 were living in the STR. The upcoming national estimation will confirm the exact number of big cats, leopards, and elephants inside the STR, he said.

Forest department to involve SHGs in forest fire management

Baripada, Nov 24: In a bid to combat fire in Similipal National Park and its adjoining forests, the forest department of Mayurbhanj district has to introduce comprehensive district forest fire management called 'Similipal Parikrama' with the joint effort of the Mayurbhanj district administration. Under the plan, the forest department is planning to involve women Shelf Help Groups (SHGs) and youth clubs along with district officials from different departments.

Regional Chief Conservator of Forest (RCCF) and Field Director of Similipal National Park M Yogajayanand said that a second circle level meeting was held on Friday in presence of

DFOs of five divisions and ranger officers at Baripada on the preparedness of forest fire management. On seeing in different angles and manpower across the five divisions, the department had decided to involve women Self Help Groups (SHGs) and youths clubs in forest fire management besides involvement of Vana Surakshya Samitis(VSS), Non - Government Organisations(NGOs), Forest Protection Assistance, Panchayat level representatives, media, public representatives, local community leaders, and community involvement.

He said that Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACFs) and Ranger Officers

were sensitised in completed readiness over the forest fire management and its preventive measures. The department will hold a meeting in the coming week with the chairmanship of Mayurbhanj Collector Vineet Bhardwaj over an action plan which the officials of different departments will give their responsibility on the readiness of forest fire management.

Based on the last two to three years' historical records, the RCCF said that the department will be aware and keep its eyes on some sensitive areas where the frequent fire had taken place.

"We are planning to conduct massive awareness program on forest fire management to villagers of

more than 130 villages who are located around Similipal with involvements of stakeholders, NGOs, PRI members, officials in different departments.

The Majhihadam and Dehuri tribal priests will be felicitated by the department in a massive awareness program that will encourage to make aware the tribal people to save the forest to commence from January next year, he said.

In last year, a large-scale fire took place in Similipal National Park and its adjoining forests were a major challenge to the forest department. It was a major issue in last time following which a Central team and a team from State had visited the National Park to take stock of the situation.

Road blocked, staffs of Tata Company detained over Subarnarekha port project

Balasore, 19 November:-As many as eight staff of Tata Company had been detained by members of 'Vitamati Surakshya Committee' VSC when the staffs were on way to the port project site at Chowmukh in Baliapal block in the district recently.

The VSC members along with hundreds of villagers who were residing in Dagara, Chowmukh, Nuagaon, Bedgadia, Kaladiha, and Jambhirai villages led by Arun Jena the coordinator of the committee organised a 'Praja Meli'a mass meeting peacefully to stop the project work.

The committee coordinator protested against the decision of the State Government over the port work at Chowmukh. He said that though the project will be given benefits to the Government it has caused great loss to the villagers



around 6 panchayats in the block. While farming activities are major sources of income, the project is not provided as an income source for people, even the lands will be effected within a radius of around 20-kilometer once the port project develops. The quality farmlands, sand piles, gharbaris, village forests will be buried under the project beside more than 40,000 people who have lost their daily income and their valuable properties. After losing

these valuable they become beggars once the project will be developed, he said that despite the Supreme Court had aware the Government over non-intervention of forest, forestlands, and fertility lands, the State Government is violating the decision and knowingly snatching the income source and displacing to people who are residing the project area.

"We are strongly protesting for the port

project," he charged that the committee will not allow any work on the port project through the company until the Government does not listen to their grievances.

Baliapal IIC Parshuram Sahoo said that the staff of the company had been rescued by police around 11 am when the staff had assured them not to come to the site again and informed their higher authorities about the issue of the committee. No case had been registered

Eggs hurled at Odisha CM Navin Patnaik's convoy in Puri

Eggs were hurled at Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik's convoy in Puri when the chief minister was returning after laying the foundation for Srimandir Parikrama Project.



Eggs were hurled at CM Naveen Patnaik's convoy in Puri

Puri, Nov 24: Sources said BJP workers not only hurled eggs but also waved black flags at the chief minister's convoy near Hospital Chhak in Puri. The activists shouted "Naveen

Patnaik Down Down" and opposed his visit.

Sources said opposition leaders of BJP and Congress are on an egg-hurling spree over the alleged complicity of minister of state for Home,

Dibya Shankar Mishra, in the murder of Mamita Meher.

Earlier in the day, members of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) and National Students' Union of India (NSUI) activists were

taken into preventive custody for waving black flags at Patnaik on Bada Danda in Puri.

Following the incident, BJYM, Odisha president Irasis Acharya said: "If 'tainted' minister Dibya Shankar Mishra is not expelled or no action is taken against him, the protests will continue."

Earlier on Wednesday, Puri Gajapati Dibyasingha Deb laid the foundation stone of Srimandir Parikrama project amid hymns chanted by priests of Shrotriya Brahmin community in the presence of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on the last day of the three-day Mahayajna at the Jagannath Temple.

'Those who drink don't lie': MP official on mandatory vaccination to buy liquor

Khandwa, Nov 19: A district excise officer in Madhya Pradesh said that verbal assurance of being fully vaccinated against coronavirus disease (Covid-19) will be enough to purchase liquor after a directive was issued restricting the sale of alcohol to only those people who have received both doses of Covid-19 vaccine. Clarifying on the "verbal assurance" part which was not mentioned in the directive, Khandwa district excise office RP Kirar said "those who drink don't lie" reported news agency ANI.

"No vaccination proof is required, just verbal assurance of being fully vaccinated is enough. Those who drink don't lie..." ANI quoted the excise officer as saying. The district administration had earlier

instructed all liquor stores in Khandwa to sell alcohol only to those fully vaccinated against the virus.

"According to the instructions given in the meeting called by the district administration Khandwa, at present every citizen has to be vaccinated under the mega vaccination campaign being run for the prevention of coronavirus infection in the district. For this it is directed that the sale of liquor from all the 55 country and 19 foreign liquor shops operating in the district should be done only to those persons/consumers who have got both the doses of the vaccine," the order read.

Governments around the world are trying to combat vaccine hesitancy by announcing various incentives or making it



Khandwa district excise office RP Kirar

mandatory to avail particular services.

India's Covid-19 vaccination coverage crossed the 115 crore milestone on Thursday evening as more than 65 lakh vaccine doses

were administered till 7pm. The ministry of health and family welfare said in a statement that the tally was expected to increase with the compilation of the final reports.

Is India An Islamic Nation?

Fans Slam BCCI For Making 'Halal' Meat Compulsory For Players

Mumbai, Nov 22: The Indian cricket team started its new era under Rahul Dravid and Rohit Sharma on an emphatic note, registering a 3-0 clean sweep over New Zealand in the T20I series. Having won the previous two matches while chasing the target, Team India decided to defend the total and opted to bat first. Leading by example, skipper Rohit scored yet another half-century as cameos from Harshal Patel and Deepak Chahar helped the side reach an imposing total. The visitors came hard at the Indian bowlers but the

variety to keep them fit and healthy," read a report in Sports Tak.

"If anyone wants to have meat then it should be only in halal form, players can't eat any other form of meat whatsoever," it added.

For the unversed, there are two ways of slaughtering an animal. The 'Halal' method is the one where the animal is given a cut and left to die by slow bleeding, while the other method known as 'Jhatka' means that the animal is slaughtered in one go.

Now, eating Halal meat is prohibited in Hinduism and Sikhism, while Muslims



quality bowling ensured that pressure kept mounting and they eventually fell short of the target by 73 runs.

Amidst all this, there was one more piece of news that led to a huge debate on social media. People were furious after reports suggested that the Indian players have been asked to follow a strict diet plan.

They will not be allowed to eat pork or beef in any form. But what irked some fans was the fact that the players are only allowed to consume 'halal' meat and nothing else. "According to the new dietary plan of the Indian cricket team, "players aren't allowed to eat pork and beef in any form and

eat only Halal meat and for them, any other form of meat is strictly prohibited.

Therefore, people questioned the move, saying that when the majority of the players in the Indian team are Hindus and as per their religion eating 'Halal' meat is strictly prohibited, how could the BCCI or the Indian team management force them to go against their religion.

The latest diet plan issued by the Indian management, if true, will lead to a huge controversy, and the only way to avoid this is by revoking it and giving the players the choice to decide for themselves what kind of meat they want to consume.

Odisha Lost A Chance To Come Out Of Punjab Shadow!



Sirish C. Mohanty

Punjab procures 89.6% rice from mandis. But Odisha procures only 55%. Marginal farmers in Odisha account 74% farmland strangely it's only 2.3 % in Punjab. MSP is linked to yield rate. Punjab tops the country, Odisha at third from the bottom.

Even before harvesting, the new crop of farm laws in the country's landscape stood aborted when PM Narendra Modi in his televised address to the nation announced the withdrawal of the much-publicised agri laws to bring reform in the country's farm sector.

"Today I have come to tell you, the whole country, that we have decided to withdraw all three agricultural laws. In the Parliament session starting later this month, we will complete the constitutional process to repeal these three agricultural laws," announced PM Modi.

Highlighting why the government brought these three Farm laws, PM said, "The objective of the three farm laws was that the farmers of the country, especially small farmers

should be strengthened, they should get the right price for their produce and maximum options to sell the produce."

Justifying the rationale behind the repeal, PM Modi said, "While many farmer organisations have welcomed the new laws, a section of farmers opposed the reformative laws." The large-scale protest against the new laws was led mostly by farmers from Punjab, and topped-up by farmers from Haryana and Western UP. The farmer organisations in Odisha too were up in arms.

"The new law will put farmers under the mercy of big corporate houses. The Centre is trying to destroy the mandi system, so that the big corporate houses can buy the produces from farmers at an ultra cheaper rate. We, therefore, had demanded the complete rescinding of the bills," said Akshaya Kumar, coordinator Nabanirman Krushak Sangathan. The farm leader is pointing finger at the following law.

The Farmer's Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020:

The act is primarily aimed at giving freedom to the farmers to sell their product outside the present Mandis as established under the respective States APMC (Agricultural produce marketing committee).

In the SBI report, Tusharkanti Ghosh, Chief Economist, SBI, had observed that many states levy fees/cess on-farm produces that are to be sold outside the mandis. The law was enacted to provide a level playing field. It gives the farmers the freedom to sell anywhere they want.

On Farm Laws, Odisha Tells A Different Tale

In the backdrop of the above explainer, how the new laws could have played a wonderful role for the State farmers have been given below.

When it comes to rice procurement, Odisha could procure only 55 percent of its production, and Punjab procures 89.6 percent of its rice produced via the mandis and Haryana (88%). The number of farm landholdings in Odisha, as per the 2015-16 Agriculture Census had

been 48.66 lakh, whereas the total farm landholdings in Punjab stood at 10.93 lakh, and the farm landholding in Haryana had been 16.28lakh.

The gap between total farmers and those who availed sale at mandis in the State is very huge. In Odisha, only around 24 percent of farmers sold their produce via the mandis managed by APMC. In Odisha, the marginal farmers account for a whopping 74 percent of farmland. In Punjab, marginal farmers constitute 14 percent of total farmers, and small farmers form another 19 percent. In Haryana, the marginal farmers constitute around 49 percent of total farmers and small farmers take a share of another 19 percent.

And the small farmers in Odisha take a pie of around 18 percent. The marginal and small farmers account for a total of 92 percent of landholding in Odisha.

But when it comes to procurement via the Mandis, the numbers are quite eye-popping. In 2020-21, of every 10 benefitted from MSP, only 2 belong to the marginal farmer group in Odisha and another 4.8 (approx 5) belong to the small farmer group. The marginal farmers in the State hold over 44 percent of land area in hectares, their contribution to the procurement quantity in the State in 2020-21 has been a mere 23.5 percent. In Odisha, the procurement is only 71 percent of the marketed surplus. Punjab procures 90 percent of its marketed surplus. Haryana procures over 89

percent of its marketed surplus.

The quantity procured per farmer stood at 4.2tonn/hect in Odisha whereas Procured quantity per farmer in Punjab stood at 10 tonn/hecter.

The MSP is meant for safeguarding the interest of marginal and small farmers. But procurement via mandis in Odisha is not going the Punjab and Haryana way. Odisha farmers reaping loss at current MSP that decides the price basing on Punjab and Haryana yield rate. When Punjab has the highest yield rate in the country and Haryana at 5th, Odisha fares a poor third from the bottom. As MSP is linked with yield rate per hectare, Odisha farmers sustain a huge loss due to lower yield, while the investment to raise crops remains almost the same as that of Punjab and Haryana.

The Naveen Patnaik-led Odisha government has been asking the CACP (Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices) to detach Punjab and Haryana from Odisha while calculating MSP. The incumbent government strangely supported the protest of farmers against the new farm Laws. But the number-cruncher shows how they were drafted exclusively for the benefit of farmers in states like Odisha. Odisha farmers don't need giveaways, but economic acumen in planning to reap maximum farm benefits. However, now it's all bygone, a leaf in history.

Winter wedding booms back



Bhubaneswar, Nov 26: This year's winter wedding season began with a bang after Covid-related restrictions were recently relaxed. As per the present rules, the number of guests for weddings across the state could be not more than 250. Following low-key celebrations over the past two years, people are spending huge on venues, food, jewellery, clothes and hospitality.

"Most of the venues are booked for the season and people are really making it big this year. They are conducting the weddings for a few days. Some are even holding the celebrations for a week, including mehendi, sangeet and other functions, which are originally not part

of the Odia culture," said Dushman Panda, owner of Sai Jyoti Wedding Planner and Convention.

"If the booking scenario continues to be like this, then business may reach the pre-Covid period level by March-end," Panda added.

"Many people have waited for the past two years to get married in a ceremony of their choice. As the pandemic situation is improving, they don't want to compromise on anything," said another wedding planner. "Not only venues, people are also keen about a particular kind of decoration, make-up artist, photographer and videographer. It is very difficult to get dates for our

clients as most of the professionals have already been booked for the season," said Panda.

Sailesh and Radhika, engaged for more than a year, postponed their wedding date last time due to the second wave of Covid-19 in April.

"We waited so long for the D-day. We have decided to make it memorable in every possible ways. We are not inviting many people but the quality cannot be compromised in anything," said Sailesh, who has planned a destination wedding at Puri and is going for a royal honeymoon in Rajasthan. However, some people are giving equal importance to following Covid-19 precautions at the ceremonies.

Modi's journey- Majbuthi to Majboori; a saga of political noxious



Sirish C. Mohanty

end?

Modi was indeed facing dogged resistance from a resourceful, politically well-connected and economically powerful clique in implementing laws that follow two decades of discussion and procrastination. Yet, he had pan-national support and open backing from a majority of farmers in the country.

If he had shown determination and stood his ground, the prime minister would have further burnished his image as India's reformer-in-chief, freed the agrarian economy and implemented measures in the agricultural sector that are similar in impact to the 1991 economic reforms. Modi's kowtowing before Audi-driving, chopper-riding landowners led by a bunch of thuggish middlemen undid all the hard work, sent all the wrong signals and achieved nothing at the cost of grave damage to his political capital.

One of the reasons Modi



Farmers protest at the Singhu border, near Delhi.

Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020; and The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 - were passed in the Parliament in September 2020 by elected lawmakers from the party that had won an overwhelming majority in general elections. The government that passed these bills had a democratic mandate and carried the will of the people.

The way a set of exceptionally organised, rich farmers from practically just two states of India managed to undermine and scuttle laws meant to empower millions of voiceless, small, poor and marginal farmers - it is hard to escape the conclusion that it is a resounding defeat for democracy. Important reforms have been sacrificed at the altar of politics.

During his speech announcing the repeal, Modi said: "Many farmers were happy with the reforms and we are grateful to them. We could not explain to some farmers despite our efforts."

If a party that has over 300 seats in the Lower House of Parliament cannot achieve objectives that are unambiguously good for the country due to the objection of a few who fear the loss of power, it is evident that the democratic political system has been hijacked or rendered ineffectual by the most treacherous interest group.

Validation of street veto

If the state with all its might and veto over violence capitulates before street thugs who ran riot during Republic Day, unleashed violence against the state's law and order machinery and were accused of carrying out "gangrapes", lynching and

Throughout the protests, interests of those farmers who are not wealthy and do not own vast tracts of land were missing. With the U-turn, Modi has condemned them to another quarter-century of economic subjugation.

The much-needed disruption of the rural hierarchies has been stalled; the transformation of India's agrarian economy from a locally managed to an industrialized one where small and marginal farmers would have emerged as partner-

implemented. The BJP, which had so far argued in favour of the implementation, will now have to carry out intellectual gymnastics to justify the decision taken by the prime minister.

Appeasement is not a good policy

During his speech, Modi apologized to the section of farmers who had opposed the laws, blamed himself for not being able to convince them and requested the protesting farmers to withdraw their



The kowtow of democracy

entrepreneurs by tapping into the myriad opportunities has been scuttled. And all this has been done by a relatively small group of rich landholders and middlemen who see in the reforms an erosion of their political and financial clout and had staked their lives on thwarting the liberalization.

Body blow to policymaking

Modi's kowtowing before the thuggish middlemen has set back policymaking on this contentious issue by at least a

movement since the laws have been repealed. The formality, he said, will be completed during the Winter Session.

But this capitulation was never going to be enough, and the prime minister has another thing coming if he believes that he has bought peace with the protestors by acceding to their demand. One of the farm leaders, Rakesh Tikait, has announced the "protests" will carry on. He has presented the government with a new set of demands which includes a minimum support price mechanism to be made into statutory law.

While this may be true, it is unclear how surrendering to political blackmail helps the Centre in mitigating these challenges. The Khalistanis, if anything may get bolder and the rich farmer-middlemen ecosystem will have increased further its political clout. If the BJP took this decision to cut its losses ahead of UP elections, then history should have told the party that submission and flip-flops are not signs of leadership, and it never pays.



On a tractor to support

had won successive elections with a massive mandate is that people admired his courage to implement tough and risky reforms. He has now squandered that goodwill. There are several reasons why the rollback feels morally wrong, politically noxious and logically unjustifiable.

A defeat for Parliamentary democracy

It is said that in a democracy, the squeaky wheel gets the grease. It is for the state not to give in to an interest group that uses blackmailing, khap panchayat tactics and coercion to achieve its objectives.

Long in the discussion, these laws - The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; The Essential

Small, marginal and poor farmers left in the lurch

These laws were meant to bring free-market choices for the average farmer who would now get the opportunity to enjoy the freedom to directly sell their farm produce intra-state or inter-state



Pride of the nation breached

at a market price to private players outside the physical premises of markets notified under state Agricultural Produce Marketing legislations. That also meant that the influential interest group that had so far controlled this ecosystem would be loathed to let this disruption happen.

few decades. If a government at the Centre that enjoys an overwhelming majority is hobbled at policymaking, there is little hope of these measures - that would have benefitted farmers who do not own vast tracts of land - getting ever

PM Modi lays foundation stone of Jewar Airport

Jewar Airport: Located at a distance of about 72 km from the IGI airport in New Delhi, the new airport will be India's largest after its completion, according to officials. The first phase of the development of the airport is being done at a cost of over Rs 10,050 crore.

Noida, Nov 26: Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the Noida International Airport (NIA) in Jewar, Gautam Buddha Nagar, on Thursday. With this, Uttar Pradesh will become the only state in India to have five international airports.

Located at a distance of about 72 km from the IGI



PM Narendra Modi with UP CM Yogi Adityanath and Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia airport in New Delhi, the new airport will be India's largest after its completion, according to officials. The first phase of the development of the airport is being done at a cost of over Rs 10,050 crore. The construction of this airport comes just weeks after the prime minister inaugurated the Kushinagar international airport in Uttar Pradesh to boost the country's aviation sector.


Another international airport is presently under construction in Ayodhya.

Spread over more than 1,300 hectares of land, the airport will be the second international airport to come up in Delhi-NCR. The first phase of the airport is scheduled to be completed by 2024 and will have the capacity to serve around 1.2 crore passengers a year. The airport will expand to serve 70 million passengers by the end of phase 4, depending on passenger growth and traffic.

In stage 1, there will be a two runways airport of 1,334 hectares for which an agreement has been signed. In the following stage, the

third runway in a 1,365-hectare area will come up for which land acquisition is under process. The 4th runway is on a 1,318-hectare area while a 5th runway has been proposed in the second stage.

It will be executed by international bidder Zurich Airport International AG as concessionaire, PTI reported. According to officials, groundwork for the first phase has been completed already.

It will also be India's first net zero emissions airport. According to officials, land has been earmarked to be developed as a forest park using trees from the project site. 

History goes on repeating


Shivaji Sarkar

A new discussion is rocking the wings of the Lucknow Mahapanchayat. Who does the central agency help?

Largely the discussions among the participants and leaders debated that the central agencies help new leadership emerge. They drew many parallels in seeking to find that whosoever central agencies harass they become the new rulers, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Do central agencies help politically? The answer is clear, they discussed. Who should know it best? Who else but PM Narendra Modi. When he won over India, he faced various investigations and probes from the central agencies under control of the UPA government.

So it is a surprise that despite suffering himself, under his government the agencies have not changed and the opposition parties continue to allege their partisan behaviour. Or perhaps, it is no surprise. It happened before and it will happen always. During Emergency state agencies were let loose against the opposition. Yet they did not help Mrs Indira Gandhi win.

The Janata government did not learn any lesson. Possibly the temptation of making Mrs Gandhi taste her own medicine was too strong. And Mrs Gandhi returned after the premature end of the Janata experiment. But History goes on repeating itself. In UP, Mulayam Singh used the forces against Kar Sevaks in 1990 and two years later BJP emerged winner. 

Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Raps BJD Chief Naveen Patnaik For Acharya Vihar Attack Incident

Bhubaneswar, Nov 26: Aday after an attack incident on her programme reportedly by BJD workers near Achary Vihar area, Member of the Parliament from Bhubaneswar, Aparajita Sarangi on Friday expressed that she 'feels unsafe as a female lawmaker in the constituency'.

Sarangi lashed out at the BJD leadership especially Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik while asking him to take responsibility for the attack incident as the head of the ruling party. If CM Naveen did not know about the attack incident, it would be really unfortunate.

A day after an attack incident on her programme reportedly by BJD workers near Achary Vihar area, Member of the Parliament from Bhubaneswar, Aparajita Sarangi on Friday expressed that she 'feels unsafe as a female lawmaker in the constituency'.

Calling upon the police and administration to bring the perpetrators to the court of law within 24 hours, Sarangi has said that she would rake up the case in front of the entire country during the upcoming Winter Session of the Parliament.



Attack On Aparajita; Says Feeling Unsafe

"I have provided all evidence and video footages of the attack case to the police. I hope the

women and girls as, by sponsoring attack on me and my supporters, it seems the State government is hell-bent on sending it to the first position, said the Parliamentarian while addressing a press conference today.

Sarangi questioned if the Odisha government is also following in the footsteps of West Bengal.


Earlier on Thursday night, Sarangi held a programme with several elderly citizens of Bhubaneswar and in presence of her party supporters near Acharya Vihar. However, a group of Opposition party reportedly BJD workers protested and pelted stones and

eggs at her programme. Soon a scuffle broke out between the countering BJP and BJD workers with the pelting of stones and eggs from both groups.

When the situation escalated out of proportion, teams of police in presence of Bhubaneswar DCP intervened and pacified the warring groups and rescued MP Sarangi from the spot.

Some local residents who were also present at the spot during the event have reportedly sustained injuries during the scuffle. A case has been lodged with the Saheed Nagar Police in this connection by the representatives of the Parliamentarian.

Meanwhile, citing the incident as 'utter goonism', Sarangi targeted Odisha government and alleged that the BJD is intentionally not allowing her to reach out to people and do her duties.

She has further alleged that the organiser of the event was not allowed to hold the program at the council hall and warned not to invite me and so the event was conducted at a local residence, claimed the MP. 

A new, ultra-low-cost Indian airline 'Akasa Air' is all set to spread wings Placed a \$9 billion order with Boeing to lift up the country's entire aviation segment



32 years old Judith Philip is among millions of travelers waiting in the wings to cruise Indian skies as the country's aviation sector braces for a shake-up. At the heart of this shake-up stands to be her freshly minted airline, Akasa Air. Ever since its public debut in July, Akasa has become the most talked-about airline in the country. And on November 16, it placed a \$9 billion order for 72 Boeing 737 MAX jets. The airline could potentially lift up the entire Indian aviation segment, which has been grappling for several years, industry analysts say.

Unlike airlines that ground their fleets in capital Delhi or financial hub Mumbai, Akasa's fleet stands to be mostly based in the Indian tech capital of Bangalore. While Akasa's exact routes have not yet been announced, they are expected to reach less-travelled destinations at less expensive fares.

Backed by billionaire investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala - nicknamed India's Warren Buffett and Big Bull for his smart investments - the carrier aims to be the resurrection of a turbulent domestic market in Asia's third-largest economy.

But Jhunjhunwala and Akasa are entering the aviation industry at a historically difficult time: The pandemic is far from over, and the market is

crowded, plagued by collapsing carriers, and difficult to turn a profit in.

Room for growth

Until the turn of the decade ending 2010, air travel was luxury only affordable for the affluent in India. A country of about 1.4 billion people, India has about 650 passenger jets. Domestic airlines carried 144 million flyers in 2019, according to the regulatory body Directorate General of Civil Aviation. By comparison, the US (population 333 million) has over 5,000 civilian aircraft, while China (population 1.44 billion) operates close to 3,700 passenger jets.

Today, trains remain the preferred mode for the long-distance journeys of the masses in India. In the 12 months ending March 2020, Indian trains ferried over eight billion travelers.

But as India's middle class grows and competing airlines keep the price of domestic airfare low, air travel is slowly becoming a viable mode of transport for more people. Delhi aims to unveil over 200 new airports across the vast country in the next four years and is rapidly expanding the existing airports. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration expects civil aviation to play a crucial role in its ambitious goal of making India a \$5 trillion economy by 2024.

A volatile market

Until the second half of

2018, India was home to the fastest-growing aviation market in the world, with passenger numbers ballooning. Growth nosedived in 2019 due to factors including crew shortage, taxes on jet fuel, and unsustainable business models.

At the heart of India's spiraling airline crisis was the collapse of Jet Airways, the country's oldest and first successful private airline. Mounting debts, poor acquisitions, and cheaper prices offered by rivals killed the 26-year-old Jet Airways.

The Indian aviation market is so volatile that about 50 players have shut shop in the past three decades and changed billionaires into millionaires. And this was all before the pandemic decimated the industry. But a troubled industry also means abundant talent in the market for hire, low asset costs, and weakened competitors, factors that could play a role in Jhunjhunwala's favor.

A market dominated by low-cost carriers

Unlike the aviation markets of the western world, where the segment is multi-layered and caters to a wide range of travelers, carriers in India need to keep a close watch on ticket costs. About 80% of the market share in India is cornered by low-cost carrier models (LCC), which make a profit through volume by selling seats at cheap rates.

Six large airlines dominate the domestic skies in India: IndiGo, SpiceJet, GoAir (which rebranded as GoFirst), AirAsia India, Vistara, and Air India. While Vistara and Air India are classified as no-frills carriers, the rest operate as LCC.

Unlike all other existing market players, Akasa is an ultra low-cost carrier (ULCC), which means every little space inside the plane - from paper cups or luggage bins - is for sale for

advertising. Further, Akasa can cut back on all expendable costs and fly more hours a day while keeping the seat fares separate from all other related services like food. It's basically like the Spirit Airlines of India.

Akasa is expected to launch operations by early or mid 2022, if the speculation in the industry is proved right. Akasa has been busy hiring industry veterans including Vinay Dube, the former CEO of Jet Airways, and Aditya Ghosh, the former CEO of Indigo. Regulatory approvals are on track.

Yet, the fate of Akasa depends on more than a billionaire backer and experienced leadership. Other variables at play in the airline's success include how it manages its fleet composition, distribution models, and the choice of flying destinations.

Airbus dominates the Indian skies: The A320 family makes up 70% of all passenger aircraft in the country. The advent of Akasa means an opportunity for American planemaker Boeing to make a breakthrough in a crucial market.

Akasa hopes to operate a fleet of 70 aircraft in four years, Jhunjhunwala told in a television interview in July. Boeing's market outlook, meanwhile, predicts there will be demand for 2,200 commercial jets in the next two decades.

Industry experts say Jhunjhunwala's Akasa appears set to take Indian civil aviation to new heights, but they add caveats. For instance, fixed costs like lease, parking, maintenance, and staff salaries make up 40% of an airline's cost structure. To be successful, Akasa must get the combination of these correct.

India Must Be Proud Of Akumjung Pongen

Every year, the Rhodes Trust selects over 100 students from across the world to pursue post graduate studies at the University of Oxford. Among past winners of the Rhodes scholarship is one Bill Clinton, 42nd president of the United States.

Five Indian students have been selected this year from among thousands of applicants from over 60 countries for the prestigious scholarship. Akumjung Pongen is the first student from Nagaland to have secured this scholarship to study at Oxford in 2022.

"I got to know of the scholarship only after joining college," Akumjung, currently in the final year studying philosophy at St Stephen's College, Delhi.

"There are many capable and fitting students here (in Nagaland) as well; it is only because it isn't known that many people do not apply," explains the young achiever who lives in Kohima with his parents -- his mother is an assistant professor



at a college while his father is self employed.

As Akumjung aspires to pursue a degree in philosophy at Oxford, he explains the rigorous application process which he cleared to win one of the most prestigious scholarships on the planet.

He hopes to hope that in the years to come education is made accessible and available to every person. Education not in the sense of just the ability to regurgitate information, but education as understood as the ability to think critically, reflect deeply, and consider varying perspectives and opinions, and also helping us appreciate the vastness of human thought and thereby softening our temper with regards to accommodating differing perspectives.

From Page-1

Tata Steel ...

processes, the state-of-the-art facility incorporates latest technology for ore processing, enabling efficient resource usage and reduced wastage. The slurry from the scrubbing screens is processed through hydro-cyclone clusters, maximising ore recovery and reducing wastage. The overflow from the hydro-cyclone is fed to a high rate settling thickener which facilitates recovery of process water from the slime. To further minimise wastage of water, the water recovered from the thickener is recycled back in

Tata Steel to raise iron ore production to 45 mtpa in 5 years

the plant for recirculation, minimising the requirement of makeup water for plant operation. In-plant rainwater harvesting reservoir has also been created to store and reuse the rainwater runoff from the hill slopes for dust suppression, plant operations & ground water charging in and around Khondbond. A paste thickener facility is also being set-up within the premises for further improving the recovery of water. The plant is equipped with Dry fog dust suppression system and water sprinklers for controlling fugitive dust emissions within the product stockpiles. The total iron ore production from the steelmakers' captive mines in Noamundi in Jharkhand and in Katamati, Joda, and Khondbond blocks in Odisha, is about 30 mtpa, and the company will focus on augmenting iron ore production from 30 million tons per annum to 45 mtpa in the next five years. "In the next five years, we will focus on increasing iron ore production capacity to 45 mtpa in line with the expansion in the steel making facilities in the country," company's ore, mines and quarries (OMQ) division general manager Atul Kumar Bhatnagar said. He, however, claimed that the present capacity is sufficient to meet the iron ore requirement in Tata Steel's manufacturing facilities in Jharkhand's Jamshedpur and Odisha's Kalinganagar. The steelmaker had started its iron ore mining operation at Noamundi in 1925 and the mine will turn 100 in 2025. During the 5th National Conclave on Mines & Minerals in New Delhi on November 23, Noamundi iron ore mine was accorded the 'five-star rating' for three consecutive years from 2017-18 for sustainable development.

Centre can't control us with new BSF law: Mamata Banerjee



Kolkata, Nov 22: West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee said she will raise a strong objection to extension of Border Security Force's (BSF) jurisdictional area in the state from 15 to 50 km from the international border with Bangladesh when she meets Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi on Wednesday.

"I will never allow them (the Centre) to control us. Law and order is a state subject. We have respect for the BSF but we will not allow it to control our areas. The BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) is using Central agencies to establish its authority," Banerjee said at the Kolkata airport before boarding a Delhi-bound afternoon flight. She will be staying in the national capital for four days.

On November 17, the Bengal legislative assembly passed a resolution against the Centre's October 11 order that extended the jurisdiction of the BSF in Punjab, Bengal and

Assam. Punjab, which shares border with Pakistan, has already passed a resolution in its assembly against the amended BSF law. Bengal's international border is the longest among all Indian states. BJP-ruled Assam, which also shares border with Bangladesh, has raised no objection.

"At the meeting with the PM, I will also raise issues related to development of Bengal," added the Trinamool Congress (TMC) president. Banerjee also expressed concern about the alleged attacks on her party workers in Tripura ahead of the November 25 civic body elections in the state.

"After reaching Delhi, I will meet my members of Parliament who are staging an agitation outside the office of Amit Shah. The Union home minister refused to meet them. I will not take part in the agitation but only express solidarity with our MPs. They

wanted to hold an agitation outside Shah's home but I stopped them in view of security issues. He (Shah) is a BJP leader but he is sitting in the chair of the home minister. We have the right to talk to him," said Banerjee.

Drawing a comparison between the alleged attacks on the TMC in Tripura and NHRC probe into post-poll violence in Bengal, the chief minister said: "We did not stop any BJP leader from campaigning in Bengal in the recent assembly polls. There was one minor incident involving J P Nadda's convoy and all commissions arrived in Bengal. Fake news was circulated against us on social media. People will give a befitting reply to what is happening in Tripura."

"It is unfortunate that they (BJP) are not even following the orders of the Supreme Court. The BJP is scared. It will ultimately be defeated. Tripura issue will not remain confined to Tripura only. It will be raised in Mumbai, Delhi and all over India," said the chief minister.

The Supreme Court, while hearing a petition filed by the TMC, recently asked the Tripura government to ensure free and fair elections. The TMC, however, moved the apex court again on Monday alleging court orders have been violated.

Villagers Detain Govt Officials In Odisha's Sambalpur

Sambalpur, Nov 21: The residents of Samsingha village under Rairakhol Police Station in Sambalpur district allegedly detained the Sub-Collector and Tehsildar while the government officials had visited the village for a land acquisition process on Saturday evening.

As per reports, Rairakhol Sub-Collector Pabitra Behera and Tehsildar Bercious Dungkund along with a team of government officials had visited the village at around 5.30 pm yesterday to

Irate over the move, the villagers, who were opposing the land acquisition for a long time, held the officials' hostage. They were released at least after two hours following the intervention of local police who reached the village and pacified the angry villagers.

acquire some government lands and hand it over to a land bank.

Irate over the move, the villagers, who were opposing the land acquisition for a long time, held the officials' hostage. They were released at least after two hours following the intervention of local police who reached the village and pacified



the angry villagers.

Sarat Kumar Pradhan, a protesting villager alleged, "The officials had come to the village at around 5.30 pm. We have been opposing land acquisition for a long time. Despite our opposition, the government officials came to the village to review the land. They should assure us that no land acquisition will take place in the village." On the other hand, Rairakhol Sub-Collector Behera refused to visit the village for any land acquisition purpose. "We had come to review the unused government lands and not for any acquisition process. I got to know that they are opposing the land acquisition. The matter is being discussed with the villagers and we assured them that without their approval no land will be acquired," informed Behera.

Housing For All In Odisha In Muddy Water

The slogan of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to provide a pucca roof on every head seems to be a house of cards as the State's ambitious Vasundhara scheme looks stuttering even after 13-years of implementation. Besides, both the housing and land schemes are bugged by corruption.

The State is going to fall by yards in accomplishing the national goal of Housing to All by 2022 when it has the second-highest landless households (as per permanent waiting list) in the country. And the Naveen Patnaik govt's much-acclaimed Vasundhara scheme that was implemented since 2005-06, as of date could provide homestead land to only 13 percent of landless households during the last 13-years.

As the scheme plays the key clincher in achieving housing to all in the State, and when the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin today completed five years since its launch, the time is ripe to take a reality check on the State government's endeavour to achieve the 'Housing For All goal'.

Vasundhara- a tortoise move

This ambitious scheme of the Government of Odisha was launched in 2005-06 to provide homesteads of up to 10 decimals of land to homesteadless families. And the eligibility criteria to get a homestead under the scheme is, one cannot own any other homestead plot and has an annual income of less than Rs15, 000. Besides, the individual should not possess more than one standard acre of agricultural land.

However, the scheme hit the first big bump when the State government slashed the land size to 4 decimals in the year 2018 on account of land paucity in the State.

Even providing the four decimal lands to the landless households is taking a tortoise walk, when of a total of 60,798 landless



beneficiaries in the permanent waiting list in the State, the land was provided to only 8,067 beneficiaries to date.

As a consequence, the PMAY-G in the State is grappling with backlogs, said a Parliamentary Committee report.

PMAY - G Progress Report

The scheme's rate of progress in the State can well be ascertained from the fact that the number of beneficiaries registered under the scheme is less than the target set by the Ministry of Rural Development.

As per the data available with MoRD, the total target of PMAY-G houses for Odisha has been fixed at over 16.76 lakh. But the total beneficiaries registered in the State stands at 16.67 lakh.

As Corruption Bugs Vasundhara, PMAY-G, only 13% was provided with homestead land during the last 13-years under Vasundhara scheme's permanent waiting list. PMAY-G Houses quality poor with ineligible beneficiaries galore, finds the Central probe team

On the contrary, states like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu have a beneficiary count exceeding the target of MoRD.

While the completion rate in the State has been around 92 percent, the beneficiary registration in the State has nosedived during the last three consecutive years. The outcome is obvious because the targets under PMAY-G are set annually on the basis of the availability of eligible beneficiaries. Less registration will lead to a

lesser allocation of PMAY-G houses for Odisha.

Scams Hits Vasundhara And PMAY-G

When the State is grappling with the gigantic task of housing for all, the key housing schemes in the State are riddled with corruption.

Recently, Odisha Vigilance had detected a scam in the Vasundhara scheme in the Jagatsinghpur district. It had arrested a Tehsildar, the approving authority, under the scheme.

Moreover, the Union Rural Development Ministry had recently constituted a Central Team that visited the State from 9th -11th February 2021 to conduct an inquiry into irregularities in the housing

scheme. As per the Team's major findings, the houses constructed under the scheme in the State are of poor quality, incomplete houses are shown as completed in MIS of the PMAY-G Scheme and above all houses were sanctioned to ineligible beneficiaries.

Highly placed sources revealed that the Vigilance action on the Vasundhara scheme is being seen in the backdrop of the State's affidavit in July this year to the Centre over initiating appropriate action on the irregularities reported by the Central team.

STA Odisha Fixes Speed Limit On National Highways, State Highways

The State Transport Authority (STA), Odisha has fixed speed limits for different categories of motor vehicles on all National and State highways in the State. As per the order issued by the State transport commissioner, the speed limit for motorcycles has been fixed at 60 kilometre per hour (kmph) on the four lane and above divided carriageway (roads with median strips/dividers). On stretches of National and State Highways passing through Municipal and NAC area, motorcycle can move at a maximum speed of 30 kmph. Similarly, the limit is set at 50 kmph for motorcycle in other NHs and SHs in the State. Motor vehicles



used for carriage of persons comprising not more than eight seats in addition to the driver (non-transport) can run at a speed of 100 kmph on four lane and above divided carriageway (roads with median strips/dividers), 50 kmph on stretches of National and State Highways passing through Municipal and NAC area and 60 kmph on other NHs and SHs. The maximum speed limit of motor vehicles used for carriage of persons/passengers comprising nine or more seats in addition to the driver (transport and non-transport) has been fixed at 80, 50 and 60 kmph respectively for different categories of roads. Vehicles used for carriage of goods can run at a maximum speed of 60, 30 and 50 on such categories of roads. Three wheeled (passenger/goods) vehicles speed limit has been set at 40, 30 and 30 kmph for four lanes and above divided carriageway, stretches passing through Municipal and NAC area and other NHs and SHs respectively.

The speed limit for motorcycles has been fixed at 60 kilometre per hour (kmph) on the four lane and above divided carriageway (roads with median strips/dividers).

World Odisha Society's Indian Chapter Formed : Bipin Mishra becomes President and Bijay Senapati General Secretary

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: (Kishore Dwivedi) The Indian Chapter of World Odisha Society (WOS) has been formed. Renowned Philanthropist, Founder of Suryakheta Charitable Foundation, and Chairman of Mumbai Odia Mahasangha Dr Bipin Mishra have taken over the Charge of Presidentship of WOS's Indian Chapter. President of Vizag based Utkala Sanskritika Samaj and Chief of Shri Jagannath Temple Management Committee at Vizag, J.K.Nayak has assumed Office of Vice -

President of WOS's Indian Branch. President of Kolkata-based Utkaliya Milita Mancha Ravi Mahapatra would be the other Vice - President of WOS's Indian Wing. Hyderabad-based Entrepreneur and General Secretary of Kalinga Cultural Trust, which manages the Shri Jagannath Temple at Banjara Hills, Bijay Kumar Senapati has been nominated as the General Secretary of the Indian Chapter of WOS. The Two Joint General Secretaries of the Newly formed Indian Branch of WOS would be New Delhi-based Think tank



group Odisha Forum's Joint Secretary Nivedita Giri and Founder of Bhubaneswar based Kriiaa Foundation Lili Jenamani. The International Chairman of World Odisha Society Kishore Dwivedi extended a warm and hearty welcome to all the newly appointed Office bearers of the Indian Chapter of WOS.

In a Statement, Shri Dwivedi exudes confidence that the Indian Chapter will initiate all-out dedicated endeavors to accomplish the Missions and Visions of WOS to unite Odia Community WorldWide under one Platform, ensure all-round advancement of our Mother State Odisha and rebuild Golden Odisha when our State would be celebrating Hundred Years of her Foundation. With the series of noble initiatives now being taken up by World Odisha Society, very soon WOS would be a familiar name to each Odia household, Shri Dwivedi added.

DSYS conducts tri-series friendlies to promote football



Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: Sports and Youth Services Department, Odisha in association with the Football Association of Odisha (FAO) has conducted tri-series friendlies to promote and

strengthen football. The match was between Odisha Senior Men's Team, Sikkim Team and the U-19 National team (Indian Arrows) here at the Kalinga Stadium, as part of the

preparatory camp ahead of the Santosh Trophy.

This series allowed coaches to experiment with team selection and tactics before the Santosh Trophy and give exposure and game practice to the young players of the home and visiting state.

Indian Arrows bring with them a strong set of skills and experience that will benefit the players of both the State and test them against some tough opponents.

Secretary Sports, Odisha, R Vineel Krishna, interacted with the teams and their coaches prior to the match today and assured them of full support and encouraged them for their respective campaigns ahead.

It is probably the first in the country where a state is conducting exhibition matches for the preparation of its team for the Santosh Trophy, a gesture lauded by FAO Secretary, Ashirbad Behera.

Farm laws repealed: Just like when Centre revoked land acquisition bill 2013

New Delhi, Nov 20: The union government's decision to repeal the three contentious farm laws that were passed in Parliament in 2020 is a throwback to the time when the government was similarly coerced by protests from its political opponents, allies and affiliates within the larger Sangh Parivar into rolling back the land acquisition bill. And in both cases, the primary opposition came from farmers.

In 2015, a year after the Narendra Modi-led government rode to power at the Centre with an unprecedented majority; the government had to accept the demand to revisit its contentious land acquisition law.

On Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced



Odisha Lagging Behind In Housing For All?

that the government has decided to repeal the three farm laws that are being opposed by a section of farmers in Punjab, Haryana and parts of Uttar Pradesh. The pronouncement was similar to the one that the PM made in 2015 when he declared that the land acquisition ordinance that was intended to simplify the acquisition process of

agricultural land for companies will not be re-issued.

Many similarities

Just as the unwavering protest by a section of farmers became a rallying point for the opposition parties to join forces in 2015, the protracted protests by farmers saw the possibility of an opposition coalition taking on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)

as it prepares for the crucial assembly elections in five states including Punjab and UP where the issue has a larger resonance.

In 2015, the government's agreement to bring back crucial clauses related to consent of affected families and social impact assessment in the acquisition bill came weeks ahead of the Bihar assembly elections in 2015.

The government brought nine major amendments to the land acquisition law, 2013 through an ordinance and subsequently as part of the Bill. However, a joint committee of Parliament that was set up to discuss the issue could not evolve a consensus. Though the Land Acquisition Bill was cleared in the Lok Sabha, it met with stiff

opposition in the upper House where the BJP and its allies fell short of numbers.

Announcing the decision of not going ahead with the land acquisition law, the prime minister assured the country that the government was not against farmers. On Friday, he reiterated that the three farm laws were drafted with the intent to empower farmers, particularly those with holdings of less than two hectares. In 2015, too, he had stressed on the government's aim being to improve the Land Acquisition Act of 2013.

Both times that government faced not just a combative opposition but also heat from its allies such as the Shiv Sena and Shiromani Akali Dal (both are out of the NDA fold) and from the affiliates of

the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) such as the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh and the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh.

Earlier, the government also had to put on hold the proposed amendment to the Seeds Bill over concerns about the use of genetically modified (GM) seeds. It was put on hold following allegations that it was also anti-farmer and could impact the BJP's prospects in several states, which included Gujarat, Haryana, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan where permission for field trials of GM seeds was denied. The bill was mooted as a pro-farmer legislation that would regulate seed and planting material to ensure quality, but affiliates of the RSS were vocal in their criticism of it.

First woman Swedish PM resigns 12 hours after appointment: What happened?

Stockholm, Nov 24: What should have been a celebratory day for the Sweden instead ended with political confusion on November 24. The elected Social Democrat leader, Magdalena Andersson, became the first female Prime Minister of Sweden, but ended up resigning only 12 hours later. Why?

Andersson did so because her budget failed to pass in the Parliament and the junior party in her government's coalition, Green Party, resigned.



Magdalena Andersson

Up until Andersson's election, Sweden was the only Nordic country to not have a female Prime Minister. After her election, she was given a standing ovation by sections

of the Riksdag (Swedish for Parliament). Andersson was previously the Finance Minister in the Parliament.

WHY DID SHE RESIGN: Instead of her budget, the Parliament voted for her opposition's budget, which is known to include the anti-immigrant far-right. The Green Party, her government's coalition, then said that it could not accept a budget that was "drafted for the first time with the far-right" and subsequently resigned. The opposition's


budget is known to be drafted by conservative Moderates, Christian Democrats and far-right Sweden Democrats.

Andersson told reporters at a news conference, "I have asked the Speaker (of Parliament) to be relieved of my duties as Prime Minister. I am ready to be Prime Minister in a single-party, Social Democrat government."

She went on to explain the reason for her resignation, "There is a constitutional practice that a coalition

government should resign when one party quits. I don't want to lead a government whose legitimacy will be questioned."

The likelihood for her to be elected again is high because the Green Party has promised to support her.

The Speaker, Andreas Norlén has said that he has accepted Andersson's resignation and is going to speak to other party leaders before deciding on how to proceed. 

Malala Yousafzai graduates from Oxford



London, Nov 27: Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai graduated from the University of Oxford in philosophy, politics, and economics on Friday. Malala graduated from the esteemed institution back in May, 2020, but due to the ongoing pandemic, the graduation ceremony had to be postponed. In a recent post on Instagram, Malala's husband, Asger Malik, shared beautiful

photos of Malala in her graduation robes and with her parents. The youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner also took to Instagram to share a slew of pictures highlighting some delightful glimpses from her special day.


Asger shared a picture with Malala where she can be seen dressed in black and white robes for the graduation ceremony. He also shared a picture with

Malala and her parents.

"The place we first met felt a little more special on Malala's graduation day," Asger captioned the post.

Malala also shared some snippets from her graduation ceremony. She posed with her friends, family and of course her husband Asger.

"Some Latin was said and apparently I have a degree," she wrote.

Malala Yousafzai and Asger Malik tied the knot on November 9. Malala Yousafzai is a Pakistani activist for girls' education and the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner in history. In 2012, she gained global recognition when she was shot in the head by the Taliban in north-west Pakistan for advocating the basic right of education for girls. Her husband, Asger Malik, is an entrepreneur and is the General Manager High Performance for the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). 

'Father of the year': High school graduate dad turns scientist to make medicine for dying son

Kunming, Nov, 25: A 2-year-old toddler in China has only months left but his father has left no stone unturned in finding a treatment for his 'rarest of rare' ailment. The boy, Haoyang, suffers from Menkes Syndrome, a genetic disorder where body doesn't properly process copper which is crucial for the development of the brain and nervous system. People with the ailment rarely live beyond three years of age.

The medicine found helpful with Menkes was unavailable in China, and his father, Xu Wei was unable to fly out and procure the elixir for his son with international borders shut due to COVID-19. Xu, a small-time online businessman with a high school education, felt as helpless as a parent would. While most would have given up, he decided to try the impossible and make the medicine himself.

Xu decided to learn everything known about the Menkes Syndrome online. When he found out

that a compound called copper histidine would help, Xu Wei decided to set up a chemical laboratory at home. He recalled to AFP,



"I didn't have time to think about whether to do it or not. It had to be done."


Xu created the DIY home lab in a gym in a high-rise apartment in southwestern Kunming in China. However, the only medicine that would relieve symptoms of his son's incurable disease was a complex pharmaceutical procedure. Xu taught himself how to make medicine through research. His family and friends were against his decision, telling him it was impossible.

Nevertheless, he procured the ingredients copper chloride dihydrate, histidine, sodium

hydroxide, and water and set about to create copper histidine. The self-taught chemist was able to extract the medicine and then set

about ensuring it was safe for his son, trying it first on rabbits and then himself.

His son began to show improvements a couple of weeks after he began the treatment. Xu said his blood reports returned to normal with the treatment. He now administers Haoyang a daily dose of the source of copper that his body is unable to process through his copper histidine medicine made at home.

The Menkes Syndrome is extremely rare and affects one in 100,000 babies. It is seen more in boys compared to girls. 

Man says 63 chickens died due to 'loud music'; complaint filed



Balasore, Nov 24: The queer case of wedding and 63 funerals is playing out at Kandagaradi village in Odisha's Balasore district, leaving local police bemused. The wedding was that of Ramachandra Parida's daughter. At 11 pm on Sunday night, the wedding procession entered the village. As is the norm these days, even in villages, there was a DJ, loud music, even fireworks.

The deaths (not funerals), were of 63 chickens in a poultry farm belonging to Ranjit Parida, Ramachandra Parida's neighbour, who claims his birds died of shock from the loud music. He also claims that he argued with the wedding party about the loudness of their music, but to no avail. The roughly 2000 birds in his poultry farm were agitated by the music, he adds. And 63 died. On Monday, he filed a complaint at the Nilagiri police station alleging that the birds died of shock from the loud music and the fireworks.

Ramchandra Parida claims that the allegation is frivolous. "So many broiler chickens are transported on the road every day amid blaring horns. How is it possible that the birds in his farm died due to DJ music? In any case we lowered the volume of the music."

Nilagiri police station

inspector-in-charge Droupadi Das said she has called both Paridas for a discussion on the complaint. "Such a case is completely new for me. We are yet to register the case and may to have consult a veterinarian."

Parida, 22, an engineering graduate who in 2019 borrowed Rs. 200,000 from a local cooperative to start his farm said he tried to revive the chickens after they collapsed. He adds that he checked with a veterinary doctor who said that it was the loud noise that killed the birds.

He initially sought compensation from his neighbour, but after it was refused, filed the complaint.

Prof Suryakanta Mishra, a zoology professor who had authored a book on animal behaviour, said that loud noise does increase the risk of cardiovascular disease in birds. "Chickens are governed by a circadian rhythm that is controlled by the natural light/dark cycle of day and night. As such, chickens mostly rest and are inactive at night, especially when it is dark. Sudden excitement or stress due to loud music could disrupt their biological clock."

No details are available on what music the DJ was playing.

26/11 Mumbai attacks: Pakistan not showing sincerity in delivering justice

November 26, 2021, marks 13 years since the series of dreadful terror attacks in Mumbai when 10 members of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), a jihadist outfit based in Pakistan, carried out 12 coordinated attacks lasting as many as four days across major locations.

As many as 166 people from 15 countries were killed in the attacks at the iconic Taj Mahal Palace hotel, the Nariman House, the Metro Cinema, and the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, among other places. The November 2008 Mumbai attacks, also referred to as 26/11 attacks, perhaps for the first time drew widespread global condemnation at a scale hitherto unseen and prompted the central government to critically heighten its counter-terrorism operations and re-examine several aspects of its already straining ties with Pakistan.

Ajmal Kasab, who was the sole surviving attacker captured by the security forces, later confirmed the assault was planned, coordinated, and conducted by the LeT and other Pakistan-

based terror modules. In testimonies acquired by the intelligence agencies in the country, Kasab was quoted as saying all the attackers came from Pakistan and their controllers, too, were all operating from that country.

Ten years after the attack, former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif - in a series of sensational revelations - also indicated that Islamabad played a role in the 2008 Mumbai attacks. Current evidence suggests that Pakistan's state-sponsored terrorism in the 26/11 attacks has been proved during the interrogation accounts of three men terrorists - Ajmal Kasab, David Headley, and Zabiuddin Ansari.

Despite its own public acknowledgment as well as the availability of all necessary evidence, including those shared by India, Pakistan is yet to show sincerity in delivering justice to the families of victims even on the 13th anniversary of the 26/11 attacks. On November 7, a Pakistani court freed six terrorists, including those involved with the dreadful attacks, mentored by Hafiz

Saeed - the United Nations designated terrorist who is the founder of the LeT outfit and its charity wing, the Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD).

Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, LeT commander and ringleader of the 2008 Mumbai attacks,

scrutiny and contest claims, as the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Organisation has amplified its watch.

Earlier, in April this year, a New York-based Artificial Intelligence start-up revealed that Pakistan has silently



had also been on bail since 2015 after he was arrested, on terror-financing charges by the counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of the country's Punjab province.

Lakhvi, also another UN-designated international terrorist, was arrested once again in Pakistan earlier this year in January, but counter-terror watchers indicate that political interference in the country often gets in the way of justice. Terror outfits in Pakistan also keep changing their names in order to escape

removed the names of almost 4,000 terrorists from its terror watch list. The removed names include LeT leader and Mumbai attack mastermind Zakir ur Rehman Lakhvi and many others.

According to International Forum for Rights and Security, in terms of international terrorism, the Mumbai attack underscores the threat posed by a few well-armed and well-trained individuals who could carry out an unconventional attack on unarmed civilians and soft target civilian population.

India has more women than men for first time: survey

Survey of 650,000 households finds falling reproductive rate, suggesting population boom is ending

New Delhi, Nov 25: India has more women than men for the first time in its recorded history and is no longer experiencing a population boom, according to a government survey that indicates significant societal shifts in the country.

The fifth National Family and Health Survey (NFHS) carried out by the government between 2019 and 2021 have found India now has 1,020 women for every 1,000 men.

The survey of about 650,000 households also found that India's reproductive rate had dropped to an average of 2, which is the first time it has been below replacement fertility levels. In urban areas, it was even lower at 1.6.

This means that not enough children are being born to replace the older generation, suggesting that India's population of close to 1.4 billion may be near its peak, and is a significant shift for a

country where in the 1950s women had an average of six children.

India's swing towards a predominately female population is also a remarkable moment for a country which for centuries has been one of "missing women", referring to the millions of girls killed before or just after being born due to a societal stigma to giving birth to a daughter. It indicates strides are being made in tackling sex-selective abortions, female foeticide and neglect of girls and women, which have deeply impacted on the female population.

In 1990, when the Indian Nobel prize-winning economist Amartya Sen first wrote of India's 37 million missing women due to these factors, the ratio of women to men was 927 women to 1,000 men.

Poonam Muttreja, the executive director of the Population Foundation of India,

said: "It is heartening to see the improvements in the overall sex ratio. It reflects the strides that the country has made towards gender equality and women's empowerment."

Muttreja emphasised that a full picture of India's shifting sex ratio would not become clear until the census, which was due to happen in 2021 but currently postponed. India's last census occurred in 2011.

Despite apparent progress, according to the survey, the gender ratio at birth still remains at 929 women for every 1,000 men, indicating that the issue of sex selection and female foeticides has not been eliminated.

"With greater access to literacy and education, the aspirations of women are fast changing," said Muttreja. "Girls are asserting themselves and taking charge of their lives, and will play a critical role in the growth and development of the

country in the future."

The findings on India's falling fertility rate may also have political implications. Several Indian states, such as Assam and Uttar Pradesh, have floated population control bills, including limiting access to state benefits, ration and government jobs to those who have more than two children.

They have been proposed on the basis that India's population needs to be brought under control. Yet these bills are also considered to have a communal tinge, and play to fears of the Hindus that the Muslim population in India is surging and creating a "dangerous demographic imbalance".

India is still not expected to experience a fall in its population, currently the second largest in the world, for another 30 or 40 years, in part because more than 30% are between the ages of 10 and 30 and are likely to have children over the next two decades.



PARADIP PORT TRUST THE PREFERRED PORT



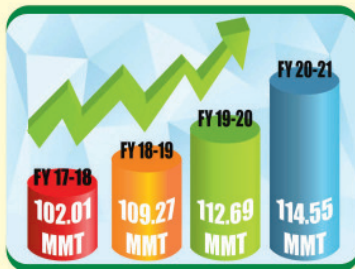
An ISO 9001 : 2015 certified and ISPS code compliant Port

Best wishes to all the stakeholders on the occasion of celebrations of

Port Day

on
19th November, 2021

- STRATEGICALLY LOCATED MARITIME GATEWAY ON THE EAST COAST OF INDIA.
- SINGLE WINDOW SYSTEM.
- MODERN CARGO HANDLING AND BULK MATERIAL HANDLING EQUIPMENTS.
- EFFICIENT & COST EFFECTIVE SERVICES.
- PRESENTLY PPT HANDLES CAPE SIZE VESSELS INSIDE HARBOUR AND 3,50,000 DWT VESSEL AT SINGLE POINT MOORINGS (SPM).
- PPT HANDLING FERTILIZER.
- WELL CONNECTED BY RAIL AND ROAD TO ITS MINERAL RICH HINTERLAND HAVING STEEL, POWER, FERTILIZER AND CEMENT PLANTS.
- AVAILABILITY OF DRY DOCK FACILITIES.
- COMPUTERISED SERVICES HAVING EDI AND PORT CONNECTIVITY SYSTEM.
- EQUIPPED WITH VESSEL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (VTMS).
- 114.55 MILLION TONNES OF CARGO HANDLED DURING THE YEAR 2020-21.
- THE CARGO HANDLING CAPACITY OF THE PORT WILL REACH 367 MILLION METRIC TONNES BY 2025.
- PARADIP PORT RETAINS ITS 2ND POSITION IN CARGO THROUGHPUT AMONG ALL MAJOR PORTS.
- THE PORT HAS STARTED HANDLING REGULAR EXIM CONTAINERISED CARGO MOVEMENT TO PORT KLANG AT ITS CLEAN CARGO TERMINAL (PICT)



paradiport.gov.in www.paradiport.gov.in [paradiport](https://twitter.com/paradiport)

One in every three in Odisha is Poor, 42% in mineral rich Keonjhar is poor: Aparajita Sarangi

Keonjhar, Nov 28: She however didn't blame the district administration, recollecting her experience blaming the state government. The IM Observer editor Sirih C Mohanty requested Sarangi not to blame the state government alone as the mineral-rich and poor inhabited Keonjhar remains a victim of apathy from both Union and state governments. The intercity



the ninth spot among all states in the country mentioning that it has 29.35 pc of the population which is multidimensionally poor. Aparajita has attacked the Naveen Patnaik government by terming it 'long term yet failed government. Speaking about Odisha's place in the poverty index, she said, "Though the Naveen Patnaik government has ruled the State for 22 years, it has failed to implement all government schemes. They could not create employment opportunities, as a result of which, Odisha languishes at ninth place in the index. Similarly, the MP said, "The welfare schemes of the government are not reaching the lower levels of the society. All welfare projects in the Keonjhar district are funded entirely by the DMF funds, and the district is deprived of any funds from the state budget. express is only rail connectivity of the district to state capital has been snapped on the onset of the COVID-19 and is yet to be restored, while the connectivity to Kolkata has been restored long back. On the road connectivity, Sri Mohanty said that although the progress of building NH 520 is far behind the schedule, and yet to complete, the construction of the toll gate is already completed. Because of the change in the mining policy, local appointment in the mines has been forgotten. Over three lack tribal mining workers have lost their jobs, and strangely they have vanished, and their whereabouts are not known. Therefore, the Union government must ensure the local tribal workers get their due share of benefit in the mining in the shape of jobs.

THE INDUSTRY & MINES
OBSERVER

Vol.-15
Issue -15
December 01

Editor : Sirish C Mohanty
Our correspondents at

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

Editorial office

LIG 491, NeeladriVihar PH II, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar 751021, R.O: Uplands, Banspani, Joda 758034, Odisha
Editorial: 9437072248, Circulation and subscription: 9938229429
Email: imobserver@rediffmail.com,
Our offices at: New Delhi, Raipur, and Mumbai