



ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳଙ୍କ
ବାର୍ତ୍ତା



DADLS-54

ପବିତ୍ର ବଡ଼ଦିନ ପର୍ବ ହେଉଛି ଶାନ୍ତି, ମୈତ୍ରୀ ଓ ମାନବତାବାଦର ପର୍ବ । ଏ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ବିଶେଷତଃ ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟିଆନ୍ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଇବା ସହ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର ଶ୍ରୀ, ଶାନ୍ତି ଓ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

ଶଶେଶୀଲାନି
(ଶଶେଶୀ ଲାଲ)

ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

OIPR-15001/13/0093/2122



DADLS-54

ବଡ଼ ଦିନ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା

ପବିତ୍ର ବଡ଼ ଦିନ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି ଏବଂ ଏକ ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଗଠନରେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ସହଯୋଗ କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

କରୋନାର ଭୟ ଏବେ ବି ଦୂର ହୋଇନାହିଁ । ସତର୍କ ରହିଲେ ଆମେ ଏହାର ମୁକାବିଲା କରିପାରିବା । ତେଣୁ ମୋର ଅନୁରୋଧ, ନିଜର ଓ ନିଜ ପରିବାରର ସୁରକ୍ଷା ପାଇଁ ଆପଣମାନେ ସମସ୍ତେ କୋଭିଡ଼ ନିୟମ କଡ଼ାକଡ଼ି ଭାବରେ ପାଳନ କରନ୍ତୁ ।



ନବୀନ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ
(ନବୀନ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ)

OIPR-15001/13/0093/2122



ପବିତ୍ର ବଡ଼ଦିନ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ
ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

DADLS-54

ପବିତ୍ର ବଡ଼ଦିନ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟର ସମସ୍ତ ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟିଆନ୍ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଇବା ସହିତ ସେମାନଙ୍କର ସୁଖ, ସମୃଦ୍ଧି ଓ ଶାନ୍ତି କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

କୋଭିଡ଼ ନିୟମାବଳୀ ଅନୁପାଳନ ପୂର୍ବକ ବଡ଼ଦିନ ଉତ୍ସବ ପାଳନ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ମୁଁ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ନିବେଦନ କରୁଛି ।

ଜଳସଂପଦ, ସୂଚନା ଓ ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

OIPR-15001/13/0093/2122

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

THE INDUSTRY & MINES
OBSERVER WISHES HAPPY
NEW YEAR-2022 TO ALL IT'S
READERS, WELL WISHER,
ADVERTISERS & PEOPLE OF
ODISHA.




Sirish C. Mohanty
Editor

"The past 12 months brought us yet more Covid, grinding climate anxiety and endless fatigue. But in spite of it all, we found a way to live, love, and watch. 'The future's uncertain, the end to this thing unknown, and the lack of being able to place ourselves at a definite point in the Covid narrative has led to a hunger for the recent past.' If 2020 was novel - like the virus itself - then 2021 took on a darker, darker tone. The virus and associated restrictions continued to apply a blowtorch to many aspects of our lives. The shapes that emerged from the heat were not always pretty. The futures uncertain, the end to this thing unknown and the lack of being able to place ourselves at a definite point in the Covid narrative has led to a hunger for the recent past."

The most noteworthy events in India

The year 2021 was a sequence of unexpected events for India's 1.3 billion people. The entire year was filled with life-changing and paradigm-

shifting events, from the coronavirus to farmer protests, poll violence, Olympic gold, and economic turmoil. The news was dominated by pride,

pandemics, protests, and political squabbles. As the year 2021 draws to a close, here is a recap of the most controversial events. 

2021 Indian farmers' Republic Day violence




Thousands of Indian farmers protesting agricultural reforms descended on New Delhi's historic Red Fort on January 26 (India's Republic Day),

breaking through barriers and battling with police.

Protesters scaled the historic monument's walls, raising a banner beside India's national flag.

Over 300 barriers were shattered, and 17 government cars were destroyed.

Many people, including farmer leaders, were outraged by this deed, which they described as an unfortunate incident. 


2021 Bengal post-poll violence

Bengal post-poll violence refers to the alleged murders, rapes, and vandalism that happened in numerous West Bengal districts following the announcement of the results of the 2021 West Bengal Legislative Assembly election.

The violence erupted just hours after the Trinamool Congress (TMC) won a

third term in office in May.

It was a continuation of the statewide election-related violence.

The West Bengal government failed to properly investigate accusations of alleged violence during the assembly elections in May and April, according to the Calcutta high court. 

Parliament passes bill to repeal controversial farm laws


India's parliament passed a bill to repeal three laws aiming at deregulating agricultural markets, bowing to pressure from farmers who have protested for over a year to

demand that the rolled back of laws. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration introduced the farm bills last year through an executive order; traditionally reserved for



emergency legislation, triggering India's longest-running farmers' protest. Parliament then passed the legislation via a voice vote, drawing widespread criticism

that it had rushed through the laws without proper debate. In a bid to end the protests ahead of the state assembly election in India's most populous Uttar Pradesh state early next year,

Modi declared his government would repeal the laws in the parliament. The move is said to be one of the biggest setbacks of the Parliamentary system of democracy in India. 


COVID-19: India's Oxygen Crisis



The demand for hospital beds, oxygen, and medicines skyrocketed in April,

causing India's health system to disintegrate.

During a devastating second wave in April and May, hospitals around the country ran out of oxygen, with daily reports of people dying from a shortage of oxygen.

However, the Union Health Ministry claims that the states have not submitted any data on Covid patients who died in hospitals due to a lack of oxygen. 

Khel Ratna Award renamed after Major Dhyan Chand


The country's highest athletic accolade, the 'Khel Ratna Award,' was renamed the 'Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award' by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 6.

The award was previously known as the 'Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.'

His opponents referred to it as a "political game," rather than the will of the people.


Congress spokesperson Randeep



Surjewala has accused Modi of wanting to erase lines drawn by others since he did not know how to draw his own. 

Lok Sabha passes constitution amendment bill to restore states' rights on OBC list



The Lok Sabha passes the 127th Constitutional Amendment Bill, which gives states the ability to create their own Other Backward Class lists and overturns the Supreme Court of India's Maratha quota decision from May 5, 2021. 

India to monetise \$81 billion worth of state assets over next 4 years

India stated on August 23 that it would monetize 6 trillion rupees (\$80.90 billion) in public assets over the next four years, as part of a strategy unveiled earlier in the 2021/2022 budget to increase infrastructure expenditure

and drive economic growth in Asia's third largest economy. Tokyo Olympics 2020: India finishes 48th, best in four decades; India finished 24th in the medal tally with a total of 19 medals. 

Neeraj Chopra, Mirabai Chanu, Ravi Dahiya, PV Sindhu, Lovlin

5 gold, 8 silver, and 6 bronze: This is how well the Indian contingent performed at the Tokyo Paralympics, winning 19 medals to register their best-ever haul the mega event. Moreover, Sumit Antil, while smashing multiple world records, Manish Narwal, and Pramod Bhagat also clinched the top honours. On the final day, Krishna Nagar bagged another badminton gold as India finished 24th in the medal tally with a total of 19 medals.



World economy: India remains key to recovery



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

Even as India's macroeconomic situation improves, it may not yet be the time to celebrate. The possible third wave is being watched by IMF, World Bank, and the government of India.

World Bank sees a rise in global extreme poverty, and a large number of people are subsisting on \$1.90 a day, below the WB standard of \$ 2 a day.

However, the IMF says India's economy is poised for a rebound after enduring a second wave of COVID-19 infections this year that further constrained activity and took a heavy toll on its people.

"What happens in India has a big impact, both in the region and in the

world," Luis Breuer, IMF's senior resident representative to India, says. "You're talking about a large slice of humanity and the global economy."

India's broad range of fiscal, monetary, and health responses to the crisis supported its recovery and, along with economic reforms, are helping to mitigate a longer-lasting adverse impact of the crisis, according to the latest annual review by IMF.

Though policy steps helped mitigate the pandemic, it's still likely to result in greater poverty and inequality. And the path of recovery will follow the path of the virus.

New infections have fallen significantly and vaccination rates have risen

to surpass a billion doses, although another resurgence is not impossible even if it seems unlikely today. "There's a lot of uncertainty about COVID," Breuer said. "We cannot rule out future waves".

Despite large increases in India's central budget, the state budgets are presenting problems with the contraction of revenues and rising deficits. It contracted by 16 percent in 2020-21. It has been falling since 2018-19 by 13.1 percent.

In the face of dwindling revenue receipts, RBI observes, states took recourse to expenditure compression. As a result, developmental expenditure on crop husbandry, water supply, and sanitation, social security and welfare housing, and rural development was squeezed. Simultaneously capital expenditure was cut in key social and economic services including medical and public health, irrigation and flood control, transport, and rural development. This underscores the need for raising additional resources.

Director of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) Pinaki Chakraborty, expressing concern says inflation may remain at an elevated level as there was a significant fiscal and monetary expansion in the last 18 months. It simply means money circulation has increased and inflation may

not be easy to check. So the country has to make strides amid high prices and not-so-high income levels. Once again the government as it has done now may have to extend the dole to the public on various counts and income support.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman precisely for this reason placed the second batch of supplementary demands for additional spending of Rs 3.73 lakh crore. This involves a higher than expected cash outgo of Rs 2.99 lakh crore. The rest would be through a cut in expenditures.

The items of additional expenditure include Rs 62057 crore for past liabilities of Air India, Rs 58430 crore for fertilizer subsidies, Rs 49,805 crore for the department of public distribution and food. A significant recovery of Rs 13901 crore recovery was made from fugitives Vijaya Mallya, Nirav Modi, and Mehul Choksi.

Despite this Chakraborty points out that in the fiscal year 2020-21, the deficit of all levels of government is estimated to be 14 percent of GDP, and the same is estimated to be around 10 percent of GDP in 2021-22.

A fiscal deficit may exceed Rs 15.1 lakh crore, according to ICRA despite the proposed cut in many expenses termed as savings. The high borrowings may have an impact on finances and would require high-paced growth to check the

difficult effects on finances and economic conditions in the years ahead. It means the sailing for the common man may not be easy with a possible impact on the consolidation of the economy due to higher debt servicing costs and a further increase in the process of running the government.

The greatest problem is in increasing consumption demand. It accounts for 50 percent of the total GDP. In the second quarter private final consumption expenditure registered a growth of 8.64 percent year on year compared to an 11 percent contraction a year back. It indicates an enhanced economic performance. This is followed by an increased government financial consumption expenditure growth of 8.7 percent against a contraction of 23.9 percent in 2020-21.

Agriculture shows a growth of 4.49 percent and manufacturing 5.5 percent.

Everything however is not in shape. The World Bank finds that debt loads in emerging markets and developing economies have spiked during the pandemic. The challenge is acute, says Global Economic Prospects, and comes after a decade that saw the fastest, biggest and broadest expansion of debt levels around the world.

A concern is that developing economies will need to be careful as they would have to withdraw post-pandemic fiscal


support and look to increase the efficiency of public spending.

The WB says that debt burden will be felt long after the virus abates, as servicing costs rise, slowing recoveries and hindering efforts to address other development challenges. The concerns are equally good for India.

In reality, it says that there is more debt than what meets the eye because "it is not a very straightforward exercise".

Global debt surveillance today depends, WB Says, on a patchwork of databases with different standards and definitions. They contain large gaps: the report shows that publicly available tallies of debt stocks in low-income countries can vary by as much as 30 percent of a country's GDP because of divergent definitions and standards in local and international databases.

India's most projects are having high debt and have their problems. Meanwhile, the continuing farmer agitations in various ways in Ghaziabad, Noida, and elsewhere in northern India may have their impact.

Omicron is being watched carefully. It has its impact on the stock market and if another lockdown is the cost could be higher. India remains important to the world economy, as IMF representative Luis Breuer says. So a positive growth for India would decide the future. The New Year has hopes, concerns, and the key to unraveling it. 

RSP Wins People First HR Excellence Award

Rourkela Steel Plant while saying goodbye to the calendar year 2021 brought another moment to rejoice for the organization by winning the prestigious People First HR Excellence Award - 2021 in 2 categories namely 'Leading Practices in Pandemic Response' and 'Leading Practices in Internal Communications'. The awards were announced in the function held online on 22nd December 2021.

The team comprising Dharendra Mishra, GM Incharge (Personnel - Works), S K Mehrotra, GM(Personnel), S K Deo, DGM (Personnel), S K Behera, Manager (Personnel), Somadutta Tripathy, Manager (Personnel) helped in bringing laurels for the company.

The application document on 'Leading practices in Pandemic Response', elaborated the way Rourkela Steel Plant scaled its response to the Covid-19 pandemic to prevent and minimize the spread of the virus by addressing the 4 key areas viz. intensifying communication initiatives, strengthening medical facilities, setting protocols in workplace, township, engaging with employees, other stakeholders, and the local community to break the chain. It also highlighted Rourkela Steel Plant's

response to the call of the nation during the second wave of covid 19 by supplying liquid medical oxygen to every corner of the country. The document elucidated the massive steps taken up by the mammoth organization for the welfare of its employees, contract labor, as well as the poor and underprivileged living in and around Rourkela. Ms. S M Sindoor, Manager (Personnel - CLC) had made the presentation on this theme.

'Leading Practices in Internal Communication' highlighted the various communication initiatives taken by RSP across all levels of the organization to strengthen stakeholders' involvement and ownership in the affairs of the company. Ms. Simpi Patel, Assistant Manager (Personnel) had made the presentation before the jury on this theme.

This year more than 150 nominations were received in the overall categories from across a cross-section of industries including Manufacturing, Automobile, Telecom, IT, Banking, Financial Services, Insurance & Hospitality. Amarendu Prakash, DIC, Bokaro Steel Plant & Rourkela Steel Plant has congratulated the Team RSP for winning the awards and said that this reinforces the care, concern, and commitment of RSP towards its greatest asset, i.e 'People'.

RSP and STPI Signs MoU for Promotion of Innovation & Start up Activities

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP), and Software Technology Park of India (STPI) for Industry 4.0 Centre of Entrepreneurship (CoE) on Emerging Technologies (Em Tek) and promotion of Innovation & Startup activities.

The MoU was signed on 23rd December in a program organized at Electropreneur Park, Bhubaneswar.

SR Suryawanshi, Executive Director (Works), RSP, and Manas Panda, Jurisdictional Director, STPI-Bhubaneswar (Odisha, Bihar & Jharkhand) signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations in the presence of senior Officers from STPI & SAIL RSP.

The primary objective of the MOU is to forge a strong and meaningful alliance between STPI and RSP to

support the upcoming STPI CoE on Emerging Technologies in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela known as EmTek which is being established with funding support from the Ministry of Electronics & IT, Government of India (MeitY) and Electronics & IT Department, Government of Odisha.

The MoU envisages strong cooperation in mentoring, access to infrastructure and facilities, networking, and funding. Both STPI & SAIL RSP will encourage the smooth exchange of information and knowledge and work out a plan of action to leverage mutual strengths, viz. rich experience of STPI in technology implementation and SAIL-RSP with strong industry perspective strengthened by excellence in industrial production, research



& manufacturing, R&D and so on. The state-of-the-art facilities to come up in Bhubaneswar (with a satellite center at BPUT Rourkela) as one of the leading Centers of Entrepreneurship (CoEs) of STPI would be the focal point of all initiatives by both the organizations under this MoU. The collaboration

between the two giants will help build a strong platform and boost Innovation & Promote Start-up Innovation, as well as boost Innovation-led Entrepreneurship in the State. Further, the MOU is envisaged to provide catalytic improvements in the Digitalization drive and implementation of Industry 4.0 Standards at RSP.

RSP Sponsors Local Youth for Skill Development at CIPET



As a part of its CSR initiatives, SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has sponsored 10 local youth drawn from periphery villages for undergoing skill development training at Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology (CIPET), Bhubaneswar under

the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India. CIPET will impart a 6 month long Skill development training in Plastic Processing to the beneficiaries, who have been chosen from the Colonies and peripheral blocks of RSP. During the training, the students will learn the theory as well as the practical aspects of the sophisticated plastic technology in the state-of-the-art Laboratories of CIPET. Right from preparation of the designs in computer software to

programming it in lathe machines, learning the injection molding techniques to operate blow molding machines, extrusion processes to the maintenance of machines, the course will cover various aspects of plastic technologies. The program also offers placement after training through CIPET's Training and Placement cell for the sustainable livelihood of these youngsters. Besides the skill development, the program shall also help impart entrepreneur skills to the trainees.

Tribals Up in Arms Against Land Acquisition Process for Cement Companies

OCL Cement Ltd and JSW Shiva Cement Ltd's mining expansion proposal in the Lanjiberna area are vehemently opposed by the local tribal people. District administration has notified the land acquisition of Bihabandh and Kukuda (under Rajgangpur block) and Lanjiberna (under Kurta block) area for Dalmia Cement Bharat Ltd (erstwhile Odisha Cements Limited) on 3rd November. This notification has added salt to the wounds of the tribal people as they fear thousands of families would be uprooted from their lands. Expressing their



concern thousands of tribal villagers took out a huge protest rally under the banner of "Adivasi- Mulavasi Bachao Manch" (AMBM) on 10th December at district headquarter Sundargarh. Tribal leader and former Birmipur

MLA George Tirkey led the huge protest rally at the District Collector's office to oppose the land acquisition for the mining projects. They submitted a memorandum for Governor Professor Ganeshi Lal urging him to cancel the so-called land

acquisition process to acquire the land. In the memorandum AMBM said

Sundargarh district is a scheduled district and comes under the fifth schedule of the Constitution. But despite this the district administration, with hands in gloves, helping corporate houses to acquire tribal lands overlooking the laws and provisions of the Fifth Schedule of the constitution.

AMBM accused the administration adopted the wrong methods while conducting the so-called Gram Sabha to take the approval of

the villagers for their land acquisition. The process was in contravention of the spirit of the Gram Sabha as per PESA Act 1996.

The central Act of LARR-2013 was violated in the affected Gram Panchayats of Alanda, Bihabandh, Jhagarpur, Kukuda, Keshramal, Khatang, Khatkulbahal, and Telangana. They apprehend that due to land acquisition around 70 thousand people would be uprooted which will further deplete the tribal population in the district. The tribal population stands at 50.75% as per the 2011 census. Further

erosion in the tribal population will de-schedule the Sundargarh district and change the character of the Sundargarh district. Keeping all these facts and as custodian of the Constitution AMBM urged the Governor to interfere to cancel the land acquisition process to save the interest of tribal people. George Tirkey later made a whirlwind tour of affected villages on 21st and 22nd December. He addressed 21 corner meetings and urged the villagers to be united to wage a long battle to save their lands from going into the hands of corporate houses.

CM Naveen launches BSKY smart health cards distribution in Jagatsinghpur



JAGATSINGHPUR: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik virtually launched the distribution of Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana [BSKY] smart health cards in the Jagatsinghpur district. The initiative will benefit as many as 2.38 Lakh families 8, 77,060 people of the district.

Inaugurating the distribution of BSKY cards in Jagatsinghpur district over video conferencing Chief Minister stated that BSKY will be given to 3.5 Crore people of 96 Lakh families in the state. Cards distribution in 28 districts is completed. The cards will be provided to the beneficiaries of the schemes of National and state

food security, Annapurna and Antyodaya enlisted people.

The chief minister also laid foundation stones of various development projects worth around Rs 742.45 crore and inaugurated 148 several projects of Rs 51.67 Crore. Speaking virtually to people the chief minister said that his government aims to transform Jagatsinghpur as one of the developed districts in the state.

The state government is giving importance to the drinking water supply to people. The foundation stone of a mega water supply project worth Rs 478.38 Crore was laid by the chief minister. It will

benefit about 544 villages under Raghunathpur, Tirtol, Kujanga, and Erasama. State water resources and I and PR minister Raghunandan Das, school and mass education minister Samir Ranjan Dash, MP Dr. Rajashree Mallick, MLA Prasanta Muduli, Mo college Abhiyan chairman Akash Das Nayak, OTDC chairperson Srimayee Mishra, Collector Parul Patwari, and officials from district administration, PRI representatives and few BSKY cardholders were present in collector office parade ground here and connected with chief minister virtually.

Rs 1047 crore plan outlay approved at Jagatsinghpur DPC meeting for FY 2021-22



JAGATSINGHPUR, Dec 24: The District Planning Committee [DPC] meeting approved Rs 1047.21 Crore plan outlay for the Jagatsinghpur district for the 37 departments and 2 municipalities for the financial year [FY] 2021-22, the meeting was held in Sadhabana Sabha Gruha inside collector office here, the district planning committee chairperson MLA Prasanta Muduli presided the meeting.

The district planning and statistic department deputy director Sabita Sahoo presented the proposed blueprint of district plan outlay for the year 2021-22 at the meeting and revealed that a sum Rs 1047.21 Crore has been estimated to spend in different departmental works. The works department is being allotted Rs 106 Crore, School and mass education department Rs 75.80 Crore, Panchayati Raj Rs 138.12 Crore,

water resources Rs 14.56 crore, agriculture Rs 51.22 Crore, rural development Rs 93.13 Crore, Cooperative Rs 43.40 Crore, Social Security Rs 85 crore.

The proposed plan outlay of the district was discussed at the meeting, minister Raghunandan Das emphasized making a plan for the development of both agriculture and industry sectors. District Planning committee chairman MLA Prasanta Muduli said that the plan outlay would be forwarded to the state government for consideration and approval, then fiscal allotment will provide. Among others collector, Parul Patwari, MLA Bijaya Shankar Das, Zilla Parishad president, ZP members, and departmental officers were present on the occasion and expressed their views. Later DRDA project director Saroj Kanta Mohanty proposed a vote of thanks.

Betel vines clearing initiated, the situation turning favourable for JSW

JAGATSINGHPUR, Dec 27: The situation is gradually tilting towards the JSW Utkal steel limited that is proposing to establish a 13.2 million tonne steel plant. The projects include a captive power plant, 10MPTA cement plant, and a jetty at an estimated investment of around Rs 55,000 crore on the land previously acquired for the project of Posco in Dhinkia, Govindapur, Nuagaon, Bayanala, Polanga, and Jatadhari under Erasama coast near Paradeep.

Based on four tripartite discussions held recently with proposed plant site residents and civil administration, the JSW came up with revised compensation packages for betel vines, prawn cultivators, and employment guarantees for the affected villagers.

An overwhelming section of people living in the proposed project site areas, including representatives of several political parties, social activists, senior citizens, and youth mass are moving fast to support the project's starting.

Reports indicate that several meetings and campaigning has been held in the project site at the village

level in the past two weeks in a bid to woo disgruntled people opposing the project. Amidst protests by anti-JSW residents in Dhinkia village, betel vines dismantling, trees felling drive have started in the proposed JSW steel project site Govindapur village under Erasama block since December 21. The JSW authority has put a yardstick that those who will give up their vines early within 15 days would be awarded Rs 50,000 extra as a bonus excluding their compensation.

The betel growers of the locality have agreed to give their land for the JSW project voluntarily. The drive is monitored by civil administration and JSW authority awarding compensation to the land givers as per new compensation packages have been announced by JSW, informs Erasama Tahasildar Choudhury Pragyananda Das.

However, sources reveal that a group of villagers from Patana, Mahala and Govindapur areas recently met Jagatsinghpur superintendent of police Akheleshvar Singh at Paradeep, and expressed their willingness to give up their betel vines, unauthorized land



to the JSW. They have also expressed insecurity and threat from the project opponents. SP Singh however, assured them of police protection. He requested the villagers to participate in the land acquisition drive fearlessly.

According to sources, pro-JSW meetings have been organized differently in project site villages regularly and keeping a close watch on the situation. Overall responses from residents indicate that JSW compensation and rehabilitation packages are acceptable by them, which divulges better than erstwhile Posco, but we urge government its strict implementation and monitoring, opine many

villagers.

However on the flip side, the JSW opponents in Dhinkia villagers were firm in their stand that would not take any compensation, betel vine farmers are earning much more than industry, according to their views the JSW project would wipe out villages and affect thousands of habitats, therefore no industry should be set up at the cost of agricultural lands that threatens to take away the livelihood of the people. So we are resorting to our stir indefinitely and threatened of not giving betel vines and land to JSW's proposed project in their area, villagers rued.

Delay in paddy procurement; gains to middlemen and traders

Baripada/Balasore: The traders and middlemen of West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh gain in trading when they are procuring paddy at a throwaway price from the small and marginal farmers due to the delay in paddy procurement in north Orissa's Mayurbhanj and Balasore districts.

While a few numbers of paddy procuring centers were opened in Nilagiri block of Balasore district, the district administration of Mayurbhanj has decided to launch paddy procuring from the registered farmers through concerned procure centers from 27



December. So, the delay in the procurement of paddy triggers resentment among small and marginal farmers in the district.

The farmers expressed that due to delay in procurement of paddy through the procurement centers, they have been

forced to sell the paddy to middlemen and traders at a throwaway price. While the government has fixed the price per quintal of paddy at Rs. 1,940, the middlemen and traders procure this quantity between Rs.1100 to Rs.1150. They are

considering the price per quintal of paddy as per the quality which either small or a marginal farmer is getting net loss between Rs. 790 to Rs. 840.

The middlemen and traders of Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal are procuring the paddy at the

throwaway price when they directly reach farmers. As the small and marginal farmers have needed money for payment of labor charges and repay their debt, they do not wait for the opening of the government procurement centers, and receiving net loss is a major concern.

Balasore Civil Supply Officer (CSO) Pradimna Routray said that the administration has targeted procuring at least 17 lakh quintal paddy from the registered farmers of 12 blocks while as many as 90,000 tokens had been received by the farmers. The Government has directed involvement in women Self Help Groups(SHGs) through

RMCs for the procurement of paddy from the farmers in the district. The speedup of the paddy procurement drive commenced next week. At least 21 lakh quintals of paddy had been procured last year and the price for a quintal paddy fixed Rs.1, 868.

Mayurbhanj CSO Rajkishore Panigrahi said that it has been targeting to procure paddy at least 10, 8,000 quintals from the registered farmers in the district. DRCS Damayanti Singh said the procurement of paddy will commence from 27 of this month. The registered farmers will receive the message a day before the paddy procurement.

Inter-state coordination meeting for elephant movement and database for wildlife crime

Baripada, December 27: An inter-state coordination meeting was held in the office of Regional Chief Conservator of Forest (RCCF) at Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) Office in Bhanjpur of Baripada town on Thursday about the elephant movement and database on wildlife crime raised in inter-state. The RCCF and field director of STR M Yogajayanand, RCCF of Singhbhum in Jharkhand State Ravi Ranjan, Chief Conservator of Forest (CCF) of West Circle West Bengal AP Singh along with Deputy Directors of STR South Samrat Gowda, DFOs of Baripada, Karanjia and Rairangpur along with DFOs of Jamshedpur, Chaibasa, Kolhan, Saraikala and Saranda in Jharkhand State and DFOs of Kharagpur and Jhargram of West Bengal and members of State Wildlife Board were attending the coordination meeting. The RCCF of STR M Yogajayanand said that a major discussion was held on the elephant movement to the inter-state. The elephants were frequently moved from one forest to another forest in these states. The previous report revealed that the elephant of STR came to a human settlement to search for food. During their movement to human settlement, the human casualty and properties damaged were reported. But over some years, the elephants of Jharkhand and the West Bengal States are frequently moved to Mayurbhanj and Balasore district under the STR circle. Once the coordination among the forest staff of the three States will develop, the department will ensure to take preventive measures to control the movement of elephants, he said adding that the department of three states will develop a crime database on wildlife that will help the forest officials to know about poachers who have been active in inter-state.

461 year-old Sri Gouranga Jew temple wallows in neglect

Baripada, December 24: Government apathy is taking its toll on the oldest Sri Gouranga Jew temple in Baripada town of Mayurbhanj district. Uday Kumar Nayak(60) of Chipat-Astia village close to Baripada town who knows Mayurbhanj history said that it is one of the oldest temples built in 1560 by Maharaja Nilakanta Bhanj wallows neglect due to the apathy of the State Government and district administration. Maharaja Nilakanta Bhanj built the temple at a time when he received Baishnav dharma from his Guru Rashikanada Debagoswami.

The oldest temple is located in the heart of the town and it was built within a space of around 45 decimals. The district endowment department is taking charge of the temple after the end of the kingship. A priest and two assistants take services for Radha, Krushana, Aditya, Nityananda, Gadadhar, and Srinibas in the temple. The

Holi festival is grandly celebrated besides the temple conducts marriage programs and the endowment department also takes the fee for the programs.

Despite the endowment department earning revenue from the programs, the department does not take steps for the renovation and restoration of the 461-year temple when it has found a lot of cracks in the interior and outer of temple as a result the rainwater soaked many portions of the temple. The cement plasters were removed on the outer of the temple walls for the generation of weeds due to lack of proper care by the endowment department, said Debabrata Praharaj the priest of the temple.

The endowment department provides Rs.600 to a priest and Rs.400 each to two assistants as monthly remuneration is not sufficient to cater to their family needs, so they demanded to hike their remuneration.

The endowment



department provides a quantity of Dal-115 gram, paneer 30 gram, sweet 60-gram Chuda 200 gm for morning bhugo every day, and Rs.10 for vegetables. To cater to the daily rituals problem, the priest adjusts the crisis from prasad orderly given to devotees.

Rabindra Prasad Mohanty a devotee of Madhuban ward no-8 said that due to irregular care by the endowment department, a good number of plants and

litter obstruct the beauty around the temple and it also helped for the nesting place of snakes. The endowment department should take initiative for the renovation, regular cleaning around the temple, and at least a seating place for devotees to perform the religious programs.

Contacted, Baripada Sub-Collector and authority of the endowment department Anya Das said that she will look into the matter.

'Death comes to every human': T Raja Singh replies to Owaisi for his remark on PM Modi, CM Yogi



Belgaum, Dec 27: BJP MLA T Raja Singh took a swipe at All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) Chief Asaduddin Owaisi over the latter's remarks at a poll rally allegedly cautioning the Uttar Pradesh Police. In the video clip shared by him, Owaisi could be heard saying that Yogi Adityanath will not always be the chief minister and Narendra Modi the prime minister.

"We will not forget the injustice. We will remember this injustice. Allah will destroy you through his strength. Things will change. Who will come to save you then? When Yogi returns to his math and Modi retreats to the mountains, who will come," Owaisi is heard saying in the video.

Reacting to the above remark, BJP leader T Raja Singh said, "Death comes to every human being. But whether you will be alive

before the death of Modiji or Yogi"

Earlier, Asaduddin Owaisi had said that a clipped video of his speech against alleged provocative and communal statements made against minority communities during a three-day "Dharam Sansad" or religious assembly held in Uttarakhand's Haridwar is being widely circulated.

Referring to works done by the BJP government, T Raja Singh added, "Our dream was the removal of Article 370. We achieved that. We wanted Ram temple in Ayodhya. That was done as well. Just a few days ago, Modiji took up (development) work of Kashi as well."

The BJP leader, who was in Belgaum, also praised the Karnataka government for bringing the anti-conversion bill.

China conducts experiment to create 'artificial Sun': ten times hotter than real Sun

Top scientists from China have claimed to have created a 'fake Sun', according to the reports of the Daily Mail. According to the media reports, the artificial Sun created by China is about ten times hotter than the real Sun, around which our planet revolves.

The scientist working on these experiments have said that in the span of ten seconds, the temperature of this artificial Sun can reach are 16 crore degrees Celsius, which makes it ten times hotter than the real Sun! When the experiment was conducted, the temperature remained 16 crore degrees Celsius for around 100 seconds.

Li Miao, Director of the Physics Department in the Southern University of Science and Technology in Shenzhen, said that the team will try to keep the

temperature in the project stable for the next few weeks. For now, maintaining this temperature for just 100 seconds is an achievement in itself, Miao added.

The artificial Sun experiment is being developed through a



reactor, with the help of nuclear fusion. Usually, this technique and science are used to develop a hydrogen bomb. A strong magnetic field is used to fuse hot plasma in this method, which produces excessive heat. Song Yuntao, deputy director of the Institute of Plasma Physics at the Hefei Institute of Physical Science, said, "Five years from now, we will start to build our fusion reactor,

which will need another 10 years of construction. After that is built we will construct the power generator and start generating power by around 2040."

Till now, China has spent around 6 billion yuan (\$893 million) on a large doughnut-shaped installation known as a tokamak, which carries out the process of fusion of plasma. If the energy produced during this experiment is utilized fully, it will require only tiny amounts of fuel and create virtually no radioactive waste, according to the scientists.

The main aim of this experiment being conducted by Chinese scientists is to make the artificial sun or the auxiliary heating system "hotter" and more "durable." It is expected that the project will be complete in a little less than 20 years.

402 Criminal Cases A Day In Odisha: Tough Job Ahead For Next DGP Sunil Bansal

Criminal cases filed by women in the State in 2021 are around 98 per day. The State Headquarters district Khordha tops with over 14 cases per day

With Odisha figuring prominently at the twelfth position among states in India where the rise in criminal cases in the last two years (2020, 2021 till Dec 13) has been over 2 lakh, the task is cut out for the DGP designate Sunil Bansal.

As per the data available with the National Judicial Data Grid, the average number of criminal cases filed per day in the State during the last 2-years has been around 402. During the years 2020 and 2021 (till Dec 13), the total criminal cases taken up by the subordinate courts across the State has been over 2.932 lakh. Odisha is the 12th such state in the country



Odisha sees Women Filing 98 criminal cases per day!

where the rise in criminal cases in the last 2-years has been over 2 lakh.

On the contrary, the rise in Civil cases in the State during the same period has been slower. The rise in the last 2-years is estimated at 78,011. With a lesser rise, the

State didn't figure in the top 15 states in the country that has seen a rise in Civil cases during the last 2-years.

The growth pace of criminal cases vis-a-vis civil cases in Odisha hints big. Crime in Odisha is rising at a galloping speed. And the

Odisha police have to identify the grey districts in the State that carry the crime load.

Crime Prone Districts

The data with NJDG reveals that in November the State saw the registration of 21,244 criminal cases. Nayagarh tops among districts with 2842 cases. The other districts in the top -10 include Cuttack (1809), Sundargarh (1484), Sambalpur (1420), Khordha (1346), Angul (1227), Jajpur (1152), Bhadrak (1024), Mayurbhanj (886) and Puri (884).

The year till date has seen the registration of a whopping 35,866 criminal cases filed by

women in the State. And the State Headquarters district Khordha tops with a massive load of 5,256 cases. Other top-10 districts are Balasore (3,990), Cuttack (3,631), Sambalpur (3,054), Bhadrak (2,759), Ganjam (1,738), Jajpur (1,482), Mayurbhanj (1,459), Puri (1,442) and Sundargarh (1049).

As per a BPRD report, crime mapping of districts/ areas is essential for the police to bring down the rate of crime in a region. And in order to accomplish the objective, the police have to activate its LIUs (local intelligence unit) in the crime-prone districts/ regions, the report added.

Odisha Versus Neighbours

When it comes to criminal cases, neighbouring Andhra Pradesh saw an increase of 1.703 lakh in the last two years in 2020 and 2021 (till Dec 13), Chhattisgarh witnessed a rise by 1.47 lakh, West Bengal (3.62 lakh), Jharkhand (1.47lakh).

The data shows more criminal cases in the states of Odisha and West Bengal. Though Odisha has a higher population than Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, it is lower than Andhra Pradesh (5.46 cr) and West Bengal (10.9 cr).

The comparison, thus, shows that the crime load in Odisha is higher than its biggest neighbours.

BJD now at 25 a full grown to craft its destiny



Sirish C. Mohanty

As the unvanquished BJD turns 25, many give credit to the newly formulated 5-T. But if we go deep into the secrets of success- the key lies with the 5-S. So if 5-T is the new administrative mantra, BJD's success is based on 5-S. The 5-S which has defined the BJD over the years is namely: 1. Stability & Solidity (at the top), 2. Schemes from cradle to grave, 3. Solidarity with weaker sections, 4. Shock-therapy- strong response to indiscipline, and 5. SHGs

Stability and solidity at the top have been some of the most valuable assets of the BJD. Despite the roller coaster ride of the party, Naveen Patnaik as the BJD president for 25 years has lent much solidity and direction to the party.

The prime strength of the BJD has been Biju Babu's legacy and Naveen Patnaik's image. In the initial years, towering Biju Babu's legacy powered BJD's growth and strengthened its support base. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's unblemished persona and high-

pitched clean image subsequently bolstered the BJD. As the years passed, BJD was strengthened further by overweening support mainly from women and vulnerable sections of society. The BJD's strength has also been its ideological flexibility so that people professing different political beliefs were attracted towards the party.

While Naveen Patnaik at the top has exercised command and control to steer the party. Many young leaders in their 30s and 40s have occupied key positions in the organizational structure. The party structure now reflects a combination of veterans and new blood which is essential to give the much-required impetus to scale new heights.

Now, let's turn to the second S. The BJD and the conch symbol have made deep inroads in rural areas of the state mainly because of delivery to the vulnerable sections of the society through a slew of welfare schemes. And the schemes are often launched based on scientific surveys

and the needs of the people. For example, there was a compelling reason to launch the BSKY smart card scheme for free medical treatment of the beneficiaries. A recent report by World Health Organisation released on December 12 said, "New evidence compiled by the World Health Organisation and the World Bank shows more than half a billion people were pushed into extreme poverty because they have to pay for health services". It is a different matter the Critics of the scheme relate it to Panchayat Polls, but nobody denies its need.

We can cite another example. On the sports schemes, even Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a meeting with MPs from Uttar Pradesh advised them to organize sports tournaments in their constituencies. Even the PM's thinking on popularising sports is quite similar to what the BJD Government has been doing in the last few years. Odisha is the first state in the country to sponsor the national Hockey team. He becomes the only

CM to organize International Hockey matches in the state.

Schemes from cradle to grave have been the mainstay of the BJD in the last 25 years.

Now, the third S- that stands for 'Solidarity'. The schemes are intrinsically connected to the party's solidarity with weaker sections of society. From Re 1/kg rice to Covid assistance of Rs 1000 each to 96 lakh persons, from transforming government high schools to arranging free pilgrimage trips for senior citizens, the BJD has been able to mobilize support from people cutting across both rural and urban areas.

Shock therapy has emerged as a very effective weapon in BJD to deal with gross indiscipline. Naveen Patnaik has always displayed steely resolve to deal with those who create internal discord or willfully damage party reputation.

In these 25-years, Naveen Patnaik has foiled several machinations. He has made several stunning comebacks by outmaneuvering rebels within the party. Naveen is known for his soft persona and savoir-faire behavior, but he's not shy of taking hard decisions to keep party discipline intact. In the initial years, many underestimated Naveen's political dexterity as he was a greenhorn and the initial tussle flared up with those who wanted to see Naveen act only as a mascot to fetch votes. But the Biju scion wanted his writ to run in the party and administration with equal

determination.

And Naveen Patnaik has not looked back since 2000 to build the BJD as an impregnable fortress. In the face of tough challenges, Naveen has always remained unfazed. He does not indulge in a slanging match with his political rivals to score political brownie points. The BJD on several occasions charted its course through choppy waters, but the unfazed captain never allowed the ship to become rudderless.

Now see the fifth 'S' which stands for SHGs. Even the worst critics of BJD will concur that Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) have contributed immensely to bolster the party's support base among women. In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Pramila Bosoyi, a prominent face of SHGs in the Ganjam district, was made the MP candidate from the Aska Lok Sabha constituency. The nearly 5000-crore worth of government business is now being routed through women's SHGs. The SHG movement has acted as a catalyst for the economic empowerment of nearly 70 lakh women members. And it's needless to add that SHGs have played a pivotal role in the electoral success of the BJD in successive elections.

BJD has indubitably become an invincible political force. It is appropriate time Naveen mustn't have a blind eye on the growing arrogance, hubris, and complacency in the party which can ultimately become catalysts of fail and disintegration that history teaches us. 🇮🇳

'His master's voice': Harish Rawat hits back

New Delhi, Dec 25: Reacting to the comments made by Singh and Tewari, Rawat said that they are following the voice of their masters. He was referring to the BJP leadership. "I accept his (Amarinder Singh) best wishes. I think somewhere he is still feeling that quitting Congress was a mistake. And Manish Tewari is just following his master's (Amarinder) voice, as Amarinder Singh is following his master's voice," said Rawat.

It may be recalled that Rawat had declared a virtual rebellion, saying the leadership had abandoned him and he felt he had had enough. Soon after his tweets, the party high command had called a meeting of senior



Rawat had declared a virtual rebellion, saying the leadership had abandoned him.

leaders in Delhi.

Reacting to Rawat's 'hand-tied' tweet, Captain Amarinder Singh had said, "You reap what you sow! All the best for your future endeavors (if there are any) Harish Rawat ji." Rawat was

Congress in-charge of Punjab and was assigned to resolve the internal turmoil surrounding Captain Amarinder Singh who was then CM of Punjab and had to resign later.

On the other hand, Tewari

A day after meeting with Rahul Gandhi, former Uttarakhand Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Harish Rawat today hit out at Captain Amarinder Singh and the party's MP Manish Tewari over the duo's remark targeting him.

had taken a veiled dig at Rawat saying that people like him will act a final nail in the coffin of Congress.

Singh and Tewari are considered close to each other.

Rawat had yesterday declared that he would lead the party's election campaign in Uttarakhand. The Congress party, however, made it clear that its chief ministerial

candidate will be picked only after the election outcome. Talking to the media after the meeting, Rawat said that the Congress president has the special right to decide on the leader of the Congress Legislature Party after talking to elected legislators. Uttarakhand goes to assembly polls early next year and the Congress is trying to return to power in the hill state. 🇮🇳

22 Odisha Polls Initiate Big Fight To Prove Decisive For 24



Sirish C. Mohanty

BJD celebrates its 25th foundation day with jollity on 26 December amid Naveen's uninterrupted rule for the fifth term without the presence of any founding members. The event was filled with only sanguinity, and the first person singular, and plural numbers. There was little space of realities; the emerging pertinent challenges of 2022. Politics in Odisha takes a turn after the 2017 Panchayat Polls. Till 2017, Panchayat polls were quite dull, never attracted eyeballs on television and the outcomes were easily foretold. 2017 Panchayat Polls for the first time marked the rise of BJP as a major political force in the State by relegating Congress to the third position, and thereby tilting the BJD as the undisputed winner in Odisha.

In the 2014 Assembly polls, BJD had won 117 seats with a 43.41% vote share, Congress won 16 seats with 25.71% votes and the BJP won 10 seats with 17.99% votes. Congress had garnered nearly 8% more popular votes than BJP in 2014 Assembly polls. But in the 2017 Panchayat polls, BJP zoomed ahead of the Congress by winning 297 Zilla Parishad seats as compared to 60 ZP seats for the Congress. The BJP cemented its position as the second most important political force in the state after 2017.

The quinquennial Panchayat polls are hardly two months away. Odisha is waiting with bated breath for the outcome this time. Panchayat polls will be followed by Urban Polls. Results of these twin polls are important for BJD and BJP as they will have a direct bearing on the 2024 general elections. The 2022 Rural and

As a venerated reader please accept my sincere salutations on the eve of the New Year.

Urban polls will determine whether State politics has become distinctly bipolar. In other words, the poll results will tell us whether it will be a direct fight between BJD and BJP in the 2024 General Elections with the Congress not in the reckoning in the state. In the Pipili by-election held on September 30, 2021, Congress got only 2.35% (4228) votes while the BJD got 53.55% (96,196) votes and the BJP 42.08% (75,589) votes. The Congress is increasingly becoming a fringe player with the state witnessing mostly a direct contest between the BJD and

projects.

The results will show the impact of the vociferous Opposition attacks, especially against two ministers after two gruesome murders rocked the state. In 2021, two grisly murders sparked off relentless attacks on two BJD ministers by the BJP and Congress. If Dibyashankar Mishra in Junagarh and Pratap Jena in Mahanga bite the dust in the forthcoming twin polls, the Opposition will vindicate and fire fresh salvos to nail the government.

But if the two ministers can win a majority of ZP

seats in 2017, many thought the saffron party was within the striking distance of power. Before the BJD could come to terms with the stupendous BJP performance in Panchayat Polls, the BJP decided to go for the jugular. BJP held its National Executive in April 2017 at Janata Maidan, Bhubaneswar which was addressed by PM Narendra Modi, party President Amit Shah, UP CM Yogi Adityanath, the then Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis, and a host of top leaders and CMs. PM Modi also did a roadshow in Bhubaneswar. The full might of the most feared electoral machine in the country was unleashed in Odisha after the 2017 Panchayat Polls to deny Naveen Patnaik a fifth term as CM.

If the BJP does an encore in 2022 or improves its tally further, we can expect renewed aggression from the BJP to thwart the BJD juggernaut in 2024. If the BJP tally plummets, it's likely to trigger the blame game within the state unit and the rumblings within the party



BJP's Odisha team gets ready for the great fight

the BJP. The 2022 Panchayat and Urban poll results will present a clear picture of whether Congress can still make a political comeback or become a forlorn entity in Odisha. The Congress slide began in 2017 and 2022 will tell us whether it has completely crumbled or staged a comeback with renewed support.

The Panchayat and Urban poll results will be largely seen as a referendum on the performance of the Naveen Government since 2019. People will give their verdict on the government's handling of the Covid crisis, providing much-needed succor to needy persons during lockdowns and shutdowns and mitigating income loss for a vast majority of people. The government can also gauge the popular mood on the BSKY smart health cards, high school transformation schemes, and heritage redevelopment

seats/sarpanch & block chairpersons, the Opposition campaign will run out of steam and the BJD can shrug off such attacks in the future as well. If the results go off-center for any party, it will trigger internal convulsions within the party. The 2017 panchayat results propelled CM Naveen Patnaik to make required changes in the ministry. New faces were brought in and a few ministers were shown the exit doors for their lackluster performance. After the 2017 panchayat polls, the internal feud within the Congress exacerbated further, and demands to change Prasad Harichandan intensified. And ultimately, Niranjan Patnaik replaced Prasad before the 2019 polls.

Similarly, the BJP emboldened by the 2017 performance stepped up its attacks to dislodge the BJD government in 2019. After the BJP won 297 Zilla Parishad

can lead to the clamor for a new state unit chief. Most sidetracked leaders of the BJP state units are likely to come to the fore and force Dharmendra Pradhan to fill up their place in the back bench.

The twin polls are of utmost importance for the BJD. Party leaders are quite upbeat about besting the Opposition, but no opinion poll can accurately capture the pulse of the people as an



sNaveen Patnaik perspiring from BJP's growth and begins to bank on youth power

actual election. The BJD has to win much more than 473 Zilla Parishad seats which it won in 2017 to convey a strong message to its rivals. The Congress had won 60 ZP seats in 2017. If the tally plummets to a new low, the ongoing tussle between Niranjan Patnaik and his detractors within the party will escalate further.

We can draw appropriate conclusions about the mood of the farming community in the state after the panchayat polls. If there is acute mismanagement in the procurement of paddy or failure of the government to provide the required assistance to the farmers, then their anger will be reflected in the BJD tally. Also, it will

of 297 will decline by 50-60 seats, it may be construed as the dwindling faith of the farming community in the BJP especially after the Delhi standoff.

The elections are of vital importance for the younger leaders within the BJD who are gradually being entrusted with key responsibilities. In 2014 polls, several young MLAs were made ministers. But after the 2017 jolt, they had to resign. Now, several young BJD leaders are in charge of the party organization. If the party can vastly improve its 473 tallies in 2022, the position of the younger leaders will get strengthened and we can see more young blood manning key party posts with renewed vigor.

After the 2017 polls, it was believed that BJD lagged in social media campaigns as the party was not tech-savvy like the BJP. The 2022 panchayat polls will offer an opportunity to judge how the BJD has traversed the social media distance in the last 5 years. And it will be a key component of the campaign for 2024.

The role of several top bureaucrats creates whisper across the state for unaccountability, mismanagement, corruption, and overshadowing the legislature. The Babudom will either get strengthened further or draw flak and back to square one depending upon the nature of the verdict in the twin polls. But one thing is likely sure; Naveen will adopt a modus Vivendi in governance to make it legislature-driven, and possibly that is the right solution for him.



Odisha's babudom on toes

Governance Index 2021

Where Odisha stands?



While MP outsmarts Odisha in Agriculture governance, Rajasthan scores higher in public safety governance. Odisha tops in economic governance

As per the composite index scorecard, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand secured 4.862 and 4.763, respectively, vis-a-vis a score of 4.578 by Odisha.

No news of comfort for CM Naveen Patnaik. When it comes to governance, Odisha has been ranked second from the bottom. States like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar ranked higher than the State.

As per the report released by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, among 18 other states, Odisha, along with MP, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, UP, Bihar and West Bengal have been included in the Group - B states. And with a score of 4.578, Odisha finished second from bottom in the Group-B states, only ahead of West Bengal.

The State fares second poorest in citizen-centric governance. This comes as a shocker when the government is harping big on 5T governance. Since good governance has been CM Patnaik's hallmark in winning elections after elections, the report by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) that has put Odisha in such mean ranks is being seen as a major embarrassment, especially when neighbouring states Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand scored high in Good Governance Index 2020-21.

Good Governance Index Pillars

The Good Governance Index -2021 Framework covered ten sectors and 58 indicators. The sectors are:

Agriculture and Allied Sectors, Commerce & Industries, Human Resource Development, Public Health, Public Infrastructure & Utilities, Economic Governance, Social Welfare & Development, Judicial & Public Security, Environment, Citizen-Centric Governance, Odisha Governance And Farmers.

When it comes to agriculture governance, Odisha presents a dismal show. As per the report, the agriculture

governance of a state is calculated from the indicators like:

Compounded Annual Growth Rate of Agriculture and Allied Activities, Growth Rate of Food grains Production, Growth rate of horticulture produces, milk and meat..

In the segment of the coverage of crop insurance Madhya Pradesh tops the ranking table.

Farmers in Odisha turned out to be poorest because the compounded annual growth rate of agriculture and allied activities in the State had been 0.08 percent in 2020 against 0.06 percent in 2019. The scores of Madhya Pradesh stood at 7.3 and 7.0 percent in 2020 and 2019, respectively. In the indicator of growth rate of food grain production, the State recorded a slower growth of 0.4 percent vis-a-vis 0.5 percent in 2019.

In contrast, MP secured a growth rate of 6.5 percent and 1.5 percent in 2019 and 2020, respectively. Odisha recorded negative growth in horticulture production for two consecutive years. MP posted 10.4 percent and 8.2 percent, respectively. In milk production growth rate, MP clocked a high of 11.3 and 10.2 percent, respectively, Odisha could achieve a rate of 2.9 percent and 5 percent in 2019 and 2020.

In meat production, Odisha achieved a rate of growth of 4.5 percent and 5.6 percent, respectively, MP growth rate stood at 17 percent and 13.4 percent.

Crop insurance coverage in Odisha increased to 35.5 percent in 2020 vis-a-vis 46.3 percent in MP.

In farm and allied sector, Odisha has posted the lowest annual growth rate. Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand were placed in a better position than Odisha.

Industrial Governance

Even as the State shines in this section, Odisha finished second to Uttar Pradesh in commerce and industry indicator. The rate of growth of industries in Uttar Pradesh has been 12.90 percent in 2020-21. In Odisha, the growth rate has been estimated at 11.32 percent. In the ease-of-doing-business (EoDB) portal, Odisha scored 96 vis-a-vis 99 by Uttar Pradesh. As a

consequence, UP scored 0.680 in the composite Industrial governance, whereas Odisha accomplished only 0.66.

Human Resources Governance

Even as Odisha scored the highest in the indicator of the quality of education, the State has the following blips:

Odisha has a higher dropout rate than Chhattisgarh. The retention rate at the elementary level in Odisha is 77.8 percent, vis-a-vis 81 percent in Chhattisgarh. Odisha, however, has a better placement rate. The placement rate for the State is estimated at 47.78. Rajasthan topped the Group B states in placement ratio.

SC/ST enrolment was poor in Odisha. Uttar Pradesh topped the list of group B states in SC/ST enrolment.

Health Governance

West Bengal topped the Group - B states with a score of 0.522 out of 1. Odisha placed at 4th with a score of 0.255. Bihar notched up a higher score than Odisha.

In the indicator of the availability of doctors at Primary Health Centres, Odisha had recorded a decline in 2020 vis-a-vis 2019. Only 64 percent of PHC s has doctors in 2020 against 69 percent in 2019. UP has topped the table of doctor's availability. A high of 77 percent PHCs have doctors from a mere 29.8 percent in 2019.

Public Infrastructure Governance

Bihar topped the table with a score of 0.754. Odisha languishes at the bottom -3 in Group B states.

Economic Governance

Odisha topped the ranking list with a score of 0.487. The State marvelled in the economic governance due to low debt to GSDP ratio and fiscal deficit, though it has a slower compounded annual growth rate of per capita income (per capita GSDP) and low own tax revenue to total revenue.

Social Welfare And Development Sector Governance


Chhattisgarh topped the table of low unemployment rate, high MNREGA employment, high health insurance coverage and economic empowerment of women. This is seen as a major embarrassment for CM Naveen Patnaik when women empowerment has been his pet theme.

Public Safety Governance

When the State is saddled with crime against women instances like Nayagarh minor murder case, Mamita Meher murder and Mahanga double murder, in the Good Governance Index 2021 rate Odisha is third from bottom with a score of 0.278. Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh occupy the top-3 ranks in Group-B states.

Odisha Pitfalls

The Conviction rate in Odisha stands at 21 percent in 2020. Rajasthan's conviction rate stands at 57.20 percent in the same year. Only 8.9 percent court cases saw disposal in 2020. The number in Rajasthan stands at 25.3 percent. Disposal of cases by consumer courts in Odisha at 1.32 percent. The same in Rajasthan stood at 8.87 percent.

There is a respite for Odisha as it fares better in availability of police personnel and representation of women in police force. 

4-day work-week, change in salary: India's new labour codes likely in FY 2022-23

If the new labour codes are implemented, there's likelihood that employees in India may be able to enjoy a four-day workweek from next year.



There would be a reduction in the take-home pay of employees

New Delhi, Dec 20 India is likely to implement four new labour codes on wages, social security, industrial relations, and occupational safety by the next fiscal year beginning 2022, according to a senior government official cited by the PTI news agency. Under these new codes, a number of aspects related to employment and work culture, in general, might change - including the take-home salary of employees, working hours, and the number of weekdays.

If the new labour codes are implemented, there's a likelihood that employees in India may be able to enjoy a four-day workweek from next year, as opposed to the current five-day workweek. In that case, however, employees will have to work for 12 hours on those four days since the labour ministry has made it clear that even if the proposal comes through, the 48-hour weekly work requirement has to be met.

The labour codes also attain added significance in

light of the fact that once these are implemented, there would be a reduction in the take-home pay of employees and firms will have to bear a higher provident fund liability.

Less take-home salary, more PF

According to experts who are assessing the proposed labour codes, the new laws will bring about a major change in the way employees calculate their basic pay and the provident fund (PF). Under these new codes, the contribution of employees to

their PF account every month will increase but the monthly in-hand salary would get reduced, in turn.

The regulations restrict allowances to 50 per cent, which implies that half of the salary would be basic wages and contribution to provident fund is calculated as a percentage of basic wage that involves the basic pay and dearness allowance (DA).

Under the current labour regulations, the employer's percentage-based contribution towards the PF

balance depends on the employee's basic pay and dearness allowance. Say, if an employee's salary is ₹50,000 per month, their basic pay could be ₹25,000 and the remaining ₹25,000 might go into allowances. However, if this basic pay is increased, more PF will be deducted, thus decreasing the in-hand salary and hiking the contribution of the employer/company.

Labour codes finalised, likely to be implemented next fiscal

The central government has already finalised the rules under the four labour codes and now states are required to frame regulations on their part as labour is a concurrent subject.

"The four labour codes are likely to be implemented in the next financial year of 2022-23 as a large number of states have finalised draft rules on these," the senior government official was quoted by PTI as saying.

"The Centre has completed the process of finalising the draft rules on these codes in February 2021. But since labour is a concurrent subject, the Centre wants the states to implement these as well in one go."

At least 13 states have pre-published draft rules

At least 13 states have pre-published draft rules on these laws, the official said.

Union labour minister Bhupender Yadav, too, had said in a reply to the Rajya Sabha earlier this week that the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code is the only code on which the least number of 13 states have pre-published the draft rules.

The highest number of draft notifications is pre-published on The Code on Wages by 24 states/UTs followed by The Industrial Relations Code (by 20 states) and The Code on Social Security (18) states.

Odisha approves four infrastructure

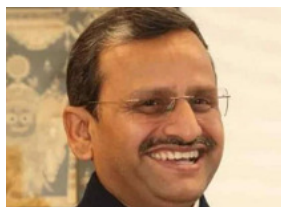
development projects

The Chief Secretary also reviewed progress of the infra development projects approved earlier in two phases during the current year.

BHUBANESWAR, Dec 18: The State government on Friday approved four infrastructure development projects worth Rs 51.92 crore for different industrial estates in the State. The decision was taken at the inter-departmental coordination committee meeting on Industrial Infrastructure Development Fund (IDF), presided over by Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra virtually. The approved projects include the proposals for external water

supply to different industrial estates at Balasore estimated at around Rs 27.45 crore, external wide approach road for heavy vehicles and containers to the sea food park at Deras from Baranga-Pitapali road estimated at around Rs 4.43 crore. External water

supply to textile park at Dhamnagar from Akhupada barrage on river Baitarani and laying of treated water pipe line and commissioning of water supply to Andharua bio-tech park estimated at around Rs 11 crore were also approved. The Chief Secretary also reviewed progress of the infra development projects approved earlier in two phases during the current year. In the first phase, the projects worth Rs 48.29 crore were approved. Similarly, projects worth Rs 40.95 crore were approved in the second phase. The Chief Secretary directed the officials to ensure basic infrastructure like good road, quality power supply, piped drinking water and drainage to all the industrial estates.



AMNS India's Rs 1.02 Lakh Crore Steel Plant Gets Odisha Govt Approval



The Odisha government on Friday approved steelmaker AMNS India's proposal to set up a 24 mtpa integrated steel plant in Kendrapara district at an investment of Rs 1.02 lakh crore.

BHUBANESWAR, Dec 18: The ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel (AM/NS) has revised its plan to set up a steel plant in Odisha at Mahakalpada block of Kendrapara district with a huge investment of Rs 1,02,275 crore.

The proposal for the 24 million tonne per annum capacity plant was cleared at the meeting of the High-Level Clearance Authority (HLCA) headed by CM Naveen Patnaik on Friday. The mega project is expected to generate direct employment opportunities for 16,000 persons and create significant indirect employment opportunities through ancillary and downstream industries and services.

The project will be

completed within seven years in phases. The logistic infrastructure, power and water utilities and all the clearances for the project will be provided in a time-bound manner by the government agencies, which will be monitored by a high power committee headed by the chief secretary.

The approved project is the largest project in the manufacturing sector in the country. At its Kendrapara complex, the AM/NS will produce 24 million tonne of various grades of steel with its latest green steelmaking technology. It will also produce high value-added steel downstream products.

This is for the second time that Mittal is trying to set up a steel plant in Odisha. Earlier in

2013, the company had withdrawn from a steel project in Keonjhar district due to land acquisition, raw material and other issues.

The proposed facility will also produce 18.75 MT of cement annually, making it one of the largest cement manufacturing plants in the country and will boost the infrastructure development in the region. Official sources said that along with the steel complex, the company will also develop a downstream industry park to promote the MSMEs and help import substitution. A large number of ancillary manufacturing companies are expected to put up their units in this region to support the huge steelmaking facility.

If the project comes up,

this will be the first big industry in Odisha. This will give a boost to the logistics and overall development of the region. The modern, green and environment-friendly steel making facility will put Kendrapara and Odisha on the world steel map. A number of international equipment manufacturers will be stakeholders in this project and catalyse more employment opportunities for the state.

With this massive investment, Odisha has garnered investments worth INR 2.70 Lakh crore in the past 12 months, creating potential employment opportunities for over 1.6 Lakh persons.

New cooperative policy soon: Amit Shah

Union home and cooperation minister Amit Shah on Sunday announced that the Centre will soon unveil a new comprehensive cooperative policy to widen the reach of cooperatives at the grass root level.

If all the PACs work in a transparent manner, they will directly benefit farmers and the economy shall get a boost.

Pune, Dec20: He also said that the government has decided to amend the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act 2002 to establish an effective regulatory mechanism for multi-state cooperative societies and remove the loopholes in the existing act.

Addressing the annual convocation ceremony at the Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (VAMNICOM) in Pune, he said that the government shall soon computerise the Primary Agriculture Societies (PAC) and link these with the District Central Cooperative Banks that in turn will be linked with State Cooperative Banks and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to establish a seamless and transparent financial system for cooperative banks. Currently there are at least 95,000 PACs in the country out of which 65,000 are active, he said. If all the PACs work in a transparent manner, they will directly benefit farmers and the economy shall get a boost, he said. Shah said there are several government schemes in 23 different departments for various sectors like fisheries, micro irrigation, which will all be brought under the common umbrella of the Cooperation Department. At present, there is a lot of talk about organic farming but there is no proper system for validation because of which farmers do not get the right prices for their produce, he said. The minister said that the government is working to establish a



If all the PACs work in a transparent manner, they will directly benefit farmers and the economy shall get a boost.

laboratory in the country that will audit land and certify organic products so that farmers get more prices. Amul and others are working on it. This will encourage organic farming, he said. Cooperatives like IFFCO, Amul, Lijjat Papad and KRIBHCO have achieved a milestone in areas like milk and fertilisers, he said, adding that cooperatives have played a stellar role in the development of the nation.

Referring to the role played by VAMNICOM that is presently a grant-in-aid institution under the Union ministry of cooperation, the minister said that the government shall soon establish a university for cooperation with colleges in every state to offer courses for training in cooperatives. He however, did not state if the university will come up in Pune. Earlier, VAMNICOM director Hema Yadav urged the minister to grant the institution the status of a university. He urged the students to not to regret their career choices and said that big changes are slated to happen in the cooperative sector. The cooperative sector can empower crores of farmers and the common man, Yadav said.

Amarinder meets Amit Shah ahead of Punjab polls, seat-sharing talk likely

It is being speculated in the political quarters that Captain Amarinder Singh's meeting with Amit Shah is likely to further take forward the talks of a possible seat-sharing arrangement.

New Delhi, Dec 27: Former Punjab chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Monday arrived at Union home minister Amit Shah's residence in New Delhi for a key meeting ahead of the upcoming assembly elections in Punjab.

According to officials familiar with the matter, cited by the PTI news agency, the ex-chief minister of Punjab is also likely to meet Bharatiya Janata Party national president JP Nadda later in the day amid speculation over a possible seat-sharing arrangement between Singh's Punjab Lok Congress (PLC) and the BJP.

Amarinder Singh, who founded the Punjab Lok Congress following a split with the Congress and him quitting the post of the chief minister, has indicated an



intention to contest all 117 seats in the 2022 Punjab assembly polls.

However, he confirmed two weeks ago the decision to form an alliance with the BJP and Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa's Shiromani Akali Dal (Sanyukt) has been taken in principle and that the seat adjustment will be announced soon. It is being speculated in the political quarters that Captain Amarinder Singh's meeting with Amit Shah is likely to further take forward the talks of a possible seat-sharing arrangement. They may also explore a broad

understanding of other issues.

Elections to the 117-member Punjab assembly are scheduled to be held early next year, either in February or March, according to those familiar with the matter. The term of the current assembly elected in 2017 will expire on March 27, 2022, unless dissolved earlier.

In the 2017 Punjab assembly election, Congress won an absolute majority in the state by winning 77 seats and ousted the SAD-BJP government after ten long years.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) emerged as the second-largest party winning 20 seats in the 117-member Punjab legislative assembly.

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) could only manage to win 15 seats while the BJP secured 3 seats.

BJD will reduce Odisha's poverty rate to 10% in 5 years: Naveen Patnaik

Asserting that the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) does not have a "boss in Delhi", Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said that his party will continue to work for people, and pledged to reduce its poverty rate to 10 per cent in the next five years.

Bhubaneswar, Dec 27:

Addressing party workers and leaders on BJD's 25th foundation day, Patnaik, in a virtual address, said that the party is accountable to the people of Odisha, who have turned the party into a social movement. Attacking the state's two main opposition national parties Congress and BJP, the chief minister said, "We (BJD) don't have a boss in Delhi. Whatever we do is for the people of Odisha, who are our boss." "Behind the success of BJD was the dream of the people for a prosperous and strong Odisha. The party will work for the next 100 years with the support of all residents of the state," the regional outfit's founding president said.

With BJD preparing for rural and urban elections early next year, Patnaik said that the party has achieved success with the support of the people of Odisha. "Born with the vision of the legendary Biju Patnaik, the BJD has now turned into a social movement. The party is a symbol of the trust and belief of 4.5 crore people of Odisha," he said. Claiming that BJD is the only party whose popularity is growing with each passing day, he said that 1 crore of the 4.5 crore people of Odisha are its members.

Highlighting his government's successes, the chief minister said that Odisha has undergone a sea of change since 2000 and the poverty rate of the state has come down from 63 per cent to 29 per cent



and over 80 lakh people have been brought above the poverty line.

"Odisha will create history by further reducing the poverty rate to 10 per cent in the next five years. Our government will take all measures to achieve the goal," he said. Patnaik said that in terms of food grain production, Odisha has become third in the country from primarily being a buyer from other states. Giving credit to farmers for bumper crop production and ensuring Odisha's food security, he said that this reflects the state government's commitment towards expanding irrigation facilities. He said that the BJD, which is in power in the state since 2000, has successfully managed natural calamities like cyclones. "Odisha leads the country in disaster management, and has even been praised by United Nations and Niti Ayog among others for its exemplary work," the chief minister said.

Noting that the welfare of women, SCs, STs and OBCs are his government's priority, he said, "Odisha is providing 50 per cent reservation to women in panchayat and civic body

elections. Over 70 lakh women have been empowered through Mission Shakti."

The chief minister said that during the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic situation, Odisha has received investments worth Rs 4 lakh crore, which is the highest in the country. "This has opened new employment opportunities for lakhs of youths," he said. Stressing the role of 5Ts (Transparency, Technology, Teamwork, Time and Transformation) of his government, Patnaik said this formula is taking every sector, from education to farming, to new heights.

The day was marked by celebrations in district and block levels. Senior party leaders and members of women, youth and student wings participated in functions in various towns. The events were also attended by panchayat presidents, block coordinators, zone committee and panchayat committee members.

The party, named after former chief minister Biju Patnaik, was founded on December 26, 1997.

Arrest Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution staff: DCDRC Jagatsinghpur to police

JAGATSINGHPUR, Dec 18: The District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (DCDRC) Jagatsinghpur has directed Biridi and Raghunathpur IICs to arrest two staff members of Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Ltd (TPCODL) under their jurisdiction for failing to appear before the commission despite repeated reminders.

They were instructed to produce the duo before the Commission by January 17, 2022. The direction came after a junior engineer (JE) of TPCODL Biridi section and SDO, electrical under

Raghunathpur failed to appear before the commission despite repeated reminders and issue of show cause notices.

Sources said that the power officials had made a routine visit to the house of one Rahemat Ali Khan of Hazipur within Biridi police limits on September 22, 2020 and instructed him to install a new metre in place of the existing one citing fault in it.

Despite Khan putting in a request with the JE of Biridi, power supply to his house was disconnected on September 24.

Frequent visits by Khan



for resumption of electricity connection fell on deaf ears, forcing him to file a writ petition with DCRDC on October 6, 2020. He also stated in the complaint that he reportedly was not being given the electricity bills.

Basing his complaint, the commission directed the

authorities of TPCODL to restore power supply to Khan's house after providing him with monthly bills. But neither was electricity resumed to his house nor did the officials of TPCODL attend any of the hearings.

As Khan knocked the doors of DCRDC again

Sources said that the power officials had made a routine visit to the house of one Rahemat Ali Khan of Hazipur within Biridi police limits on September 2020.

alleging negligence on the part of TPCODL, the commission issued a show cause notice to the JE and SDO for failing to appear before the commission on March 15, which is punishable under Section 72 of the Consumer Protection Act 2019.

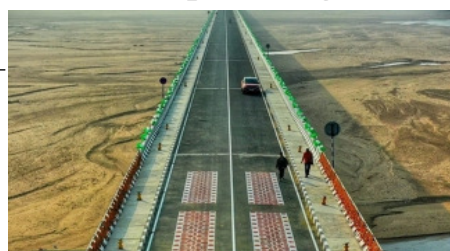
On April 5, 2021, the commission again directed the power supply company to restore Khan's power supply

till a decision is taken on the case. Although supply was resumed immediately, it was again disconnected on November 29, 2021.

The commission once more asked the officials on December 7 to restore power within three days but no action was taken. The officials also reportedly ignored another show cause notice issued to them on December 13.

CM Patnaik inaugurates Odisha's longest bridge over Mahanadi

Hundreds of Congress and BJP workers were detained by the police before Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik visited for protesting with black flags at Banki.



Cuttack, Dec 20: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday inaugurated the state's longest bridge over Mahanadi River at Gopinathpur in Cuttack district.

The 3.4-km-long bridge, connecting Singhanath Pitha and Baideswar in Cuttack district, will reduce the distance by 45 km, benefitting around five lakh people, officials said.

The bridge, constructed in T-shape, is built

at a cost of ₹111 crore, they said.

Patnaik had laid the foundation stone of the bridge on February 28, 2014.

Ahead of Patnaik's visit, the police detained hundreds of Congress and BJP workers, including former MLA Debasis Patnaik, as they were protesting with black flags at Banki.

The opposition activists were demanding the dismissal of Minister of State for Home DS Mishra for his alleged link with the prime accused in the Kalahandi woman teacher's kidnap and murder case.

Patnaik had in July 2017 inaugurated the 2.88-km-long Netaji Subash Chandra Bose Setu over Kathajodi River at Trisulia, which till now held the title of the state's longest bridge. The bridge connects Bhubaneswar and Cuttack via Barang.

Centre froze all bank accounts of Missionaries of Charity: Mamata

The TMC supremo said 22,000 patients and employees of the Kolkata-headquartered charitable group were left without food and medicines over the Central government's move.

New Delhi, Dec 27: West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said all bank accounts of Missionaries of Charity, founded by Mother Teresa, were frozen by the Centre. Expressing her shock, the Trinamool Congress supremo said 22,000 patients and employees of the Kolkata-headquartered charitable group were left without food and medicines over the Central government's move. "While

the law is paramount, humanitarian efforts must not be compromised," Banerjee added. While there has been no statement yet from the organisation or the Centre, a case had been filed earlier this month in Gujarat's Vadodra district against the charity-run home for girls over reports of alleged forced conversion of inmates.

Police spoke about allegations that girls were being



asked to read the Bible and some marriages of those belonging to other communities being conducted as per Christian rituals. However, a nun working at the institute had refuted the allegations.

"Moved Step Back, Will Move Forward Again": AgriMinister

Last month Prime Minister Narendra Modi - in a stunning announcement just three months before elections in UP and Punjab - said the farm laws would be withdrawn

Nagpur, Dec 25: The three farm laws - withdrawn by the government last month after they sparked furious (and sometimes violent) protests nationwide by lakhs of farmers - could be re-introduced at a later date, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said at an event in Maharashtra yesterday.

Mr Tomar blamed "some people" for the scrapping of the controversial laws - repealed in Parliament with the same lack of debate and discussion that heralded its passing - and then seemed to suggest that all three "black" laws - as they were called by its critics - could re-appear at a later date.

"We brought the agriculture amendment laws. But some people did not like these laws, which, after 70 years after Independence, were a big reform

under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership," the Agriculture Minister was quoted as saying by news agency PTI.

"But the government is not disappointed- we moved a step back and we will move forward again because farmers are India's backbone," he said, according to PTI. Two days before it scrapped the farm laws, the government issued a note on 'Objects and Reasons'. The note, signed by Mr Tomar and released to members of Parliament, blamed a group of farmers for standing in the way of "the endeavour to improve the condition of farmers", and said the government "tried hard to sensitise farmers on the importance of the farm laws". Last month Prime Minister Modi

- in a stunning announcement just three months before elections in UP and Punjab (where farmers' votes are key) - said the three farm laws would be withdrawn. The government's surprising U-turn - after senior figures, including the Prime Minister and the Agriculture Minister, spent months verbally attacking the protesting farmers and defending the three laws - raised questions from the opposition, who pointed to elections on the horizon. As part of the protest, thousands of farmers from Punjab and UP (as well as Haryana and Rajasthan) had camped on the Delhi borders since November last year. The BJP, in power at the centre and in UP, and hoping to oust the Congress from Punjab - faced massive anger from voters in these states.



Smriti Irani's daughter gets engaged: warns' son-in-law to deal with a saas'



Actor-turned-politician Smriti Irani on Saturday evening revealed that her daughter Shanelle Irani got engaged to Arjun Bhalla recently. The Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu actor shared the news on Instagram along with some pictures. While one photo captured Shanelle's perfect proposal moment, the other photo was a cute selfie of Shanelle and Arjun.

New Delhi, Dec 26: Sharing the photos, Smriti wrote, "To the man who now has our heart @arjun_bhalla welcome to our mad cap family ... bless you for you have to deal with a crazy man for a father in law & worse me for a Saas ... (you have been officially warned) God bless @shanelleirani ?#newbeginnings"

As soon as Smriti Irani shared the photo, her fans and friends congratulated the couple. Ekta Kapoor commented on the post, "U prayed so hard for this sooo

happieeeee." Smriti replied to Ekta's comment writing, "She deserves all the happiness." Sikander Kher, Anaita Shroff Ajania, Mouni Roy and others dropped congratulatory messages for the couple.

Smriti's on-screen saas aka Aparna Mehta also congratulated the actor. "Congratulations Smriti on becoming a saas," she wrote, which sure brought back a lot of memories for Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi fans. Fans also congratulated Smriti for finally becoming a mother-in-law. "Congrats! Now you are officially - Kyunki Saas bhi kabhi Bahu thi," read a comment. Another user wrote, "Congratulations Ma'am for officially becoming a saas now in the real world too!"

Smriti Irani married Zubin Irani in 2001. The couple has two sons - Zohr and Zoish. Shanelle is Smriti's step daughter who was born to Zubin and his former wife Mona.

What PM Modi announced during his address to nation.

New Delhi, Dec 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday addressed the nation for 14 minutes and 21 seconds. While speculations were rife regarding a possibility for lockdown amid consistent rise in cases of Omicron variant of coronavirus disease (Covid-19) in the country, PM Modi instead made three announcements regarding the vaccination for citizens.

During his address to the nation, PM Modi applauded the healthcare and frontline workers of the country for their fight in the ongoing pandemic. He also said that more than 61 per cent of India's adult population is fully vaccinated against Covid-19, while around 90% of the adult population has received a single dose of the vaccine shots.

He added that on the occasion of former Prime

Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth anniversary and Christmas, he decided to make the announcements on December 25.

Here's a list of the announcements PM Modi made during his address:

India will start Covid-19 vaccination for people between 15 and 18 years from January 3, 2022 onwards.

For the precaution of healthcare and frontline workers, the Indian government will start 'precaution dose' (booster dose) against Covid-19 for healthcare and frontline workers from January 10, 2022 onwards.

Citizens who are aged above 60 and have co-morbidities will now have the option of getting administered with the 'precaution dose' as well. These people can start



getting jabbed with their booster doses from January 10 on the "advice of their doctor." PM Modi also cautioned the citizens of the country against Omicron, highlighting that the Covid-19 pandemic is still "not over." However, he asked people not to panic and take precautions and follow Covid-19 protocols such as wearing masks and washing hands in order to keep themselves safe.

PM Modi said that the

experience in the fight of the Covid-19 pandemic till now has shown that the biggest weapon against it is adhering to all Covid-19 norms, and the second weapon is vaccination.

The Prime Minister further stated that India has crossed its target of administering 141 crore Covid-19 vaccine doses, and it's all because of the "collective effort and will" of the citizens of the nation.

Vikram Misri is new deputy NSA



New Delhi, Dec 27: China expert and former Indian envoy to Beijing Vikram Misri was today appointed deputy national security adviser in the national Security Council secretariat. Misri, a 1989 batch IFS officer, will come in place of Pankaj Saran who demits office on December 31, 2021. Saran was a

former envoy to Russia. While Vikram Misri joins the NSCS, Pradeep Kumar Rawat has taken over as India's envoy to China. Misri has worked in the prime minister's office before and is well versed with the strategic environment in Indo Pacific. Vikram Misri will report to national security adviser Ajit Doval.

The 'Tare Jamin Foundation' observes third anniversary

New Delhi, Dec 19: (L. N. Beborita) The Tare Jamin Foundation, a leading social voluntary organization in Delhi, organized its third Anniversary at the Subhadra Kala Mandap of the Shri Jagannath Temple located at Tyagarajanagar, New Delhi on 19th December 2021 (Sunday) with great enthusiasm under strict adherence to

the Covid19 guidelines and protocols.

Dr. Himansu Sekhar Mahapatra, Professor, and Head of the Department of Nephrology at Atal Bihari Bajpayee Institute of Medical Science and Dr. R.M.L.Hospital, New Delhi, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest of the function, lauded the various people-oriented programs, which

were organized by Tare Jamin Prathisthan and wished them success in their future endeavors. Another Guest, Scientist Rupashree Das underlined the importance of social welfare in terms of hygiene, cleanliness, and health awareness at the community level, highlighting the key role which can be played by the non-governmental

organizations. The event, held under the supervision of the Organisation's Chairman, Bishikeshan S, was graced by the Professor and Head of the Department of Jaipuria School of Commerce Dr. Tapan Kumar Nayak, Senior Journalist, Laxmi Narayan Beborita, social activist, Rajender Kaur, and the President, of the Vijayini Foundation Rita

Patra. The meeting conduced the sad untimely demise of Shri Rabi Kalara, the pioneer of Tare Jamin Prathisthan. On this occasion of the third anniversary of their organization, Tare Jamin Prathisthan honored the guests with various work of handicrafts, made by the students of the organization. A colorful cultural program under the

supervision of Rita Patra, President, Vijayini Prathisthan, was excellently presented by the child artists of the organization.

The Associate Professor of A.I.I.M.S, Raipur, Dr. Ramchandrani, Isa Kapoor, Pradumna Palei, The Joint Secretary of Shri Jagannath Temple, Tyagraj Nagar also graced the program.

THE INDUSTRY & MINES
OBSERVER

Vol.-15
Issue -17
January 01

Editor : Sirish C Mohanty
Our correspondents at

New Delhi, Rourkela, Jaipur, 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

'Paniki' Still Rules Odia Kitchens

In the Indian subcontinent, especially in the eastern region of Odisha, and Bengal, this is a typical posture. For centuries, the cook and her assistant have remained firmly grounded on the kitchen floor. Paniki or Bonti is the pride of both Odia and Bengali kitchens. In the age of modern knives and peelers, women in many households still follow the practice of squatting on the floor, raising one knee while the corresponding foot holds down the base of the Paniki, cutting vegetables and fish with dexterity. Some homes may even boast of two-three of them. One for amish, or non-vegetarian items, and the other for niramish, or vegetarian food. The third one is reserved for the thakur ghar, a room meant for the gods. The blade is made of iron and demands to be cleaned and dried after every use. It may also come with a round serrated piece of metal on its tip to grate coconut, called kuruni. On the streets of rural as well as urban Bengal, and Odisha skilled men roam on cycles to sharpen the blade of the Paniki.

Enter the paniki, or the Bonti in Bengali a cutting instrument on which generations of our womenfolk

have learned to peel, chop, dice, and shred. Despite the recent incursion of knives, peelers, graters, and other modern, Western-style kitchen utensils, the paniki is still alive and well in the rural and urban kitchens of Odisha.

The paniki is nothing more than a curved blade rising out of a narrow, flat, wooden base. Sometimes the blade is mounted on a small iron tripod to increase its height. Its versatility comes from the many different types and sizes of both blade and base. The uniqueness comes from the posture required to use it: one must either squat on one's haunches or sit on the floor with one knee raised while the corresponding foot presses down on the base. As in other "floor-oriented" cultures, such as Japan, the people of Odisha were accustomed to squatting or sitting on the floor for indefinite periods.

To use a knife of any size or shape, the cook must bear down with one hand on the item being cut, at the same time holding the food with the other hand to prevent it from slipping. But unlike the more familiar knife, the paniki uses horizontal, rather than vertical, force. To those used to working with a knife, the delicacy with which the



rigidly-positioned blade cuts seems miraculous: it peels the tiniest potato, trims the tendrils from string beans, splits the fleshy stems of plants, chops greens into minute particles for stir-frying, and even scales the largest fish. Like knives, paniki comes in many different sizes, with blades varying in height, width, and shape. Women using the instrument at home generally have two medium-sized panaki, one for cutting vegetables, the other for fish and meat. Professional cooks dealing with large volumes of food use considerably heavier panakis than housewives.

In the heydays, we have seen that the elderly grandmother or widowed aunt was responsible for cutting the vegetables, while the younger women took on the

more arduous task of cooking over the hot stove. Some of my fondest childhood memories involve sitting near my grandmother on the floor of the large central space as she peeled and sliced the vegetables for the day's main afternoon meal. A grand array of shapes and colors surrounded her: purple and greenish-white eggplants; green-and-white striped patols - pointed gourd; leafy greens with their fleshy, rhubarb-like stems; yellow crescents of pumpkin; pale-skinned potatoes.

The woman at the paniki, however, is not always an elderly teller of tales. The young, nubile daughter of the family and the newly-married bride sitting at the paniki are also part of the household story. As they joyfully manipulate food against the

versatile blade, the young woman epitomizes feminine abilities. When marriages were arranged in rural Odisha, the bridegroom's family would come to look over the prospective bride, asking to see her kitchen skills and noting how well she could chop with the paniki. At times the future in-laws often demanded that she sit at the paniki and cut a bunch of shag to a very fine cut before stir-frying. The ideal bride had to be able to reduce the bunch into minute particles of green.

The Paniki is also known as a lethal weapon of self-defense for the lone women. An angry woman with Paniki in hand chills the blood of the intruder compelling him to retreat. Recurring images portray her as young and demure, sitting with her head bent, concentrating on her hands as she moves the vegetable or fish toward the lethal blade. Often a married woman is pictured, her head modestly covered with the shoulder end of her sari, whose colorful border frames her face and hair. Men - whether a husband or a romantic interest - can expect many eloquent, sidelong glances cast with surreptitious turns of the head as the woman goes about her domestic tasks

with the paniki. The body language: the straight back, the bifurcated legs (one crossed, the other raised), the coy eyes peeking out from under the sari covering the head. To the creative eye the paniki, enforcing this posture, created a uniquely erotic vision of the female figure, rich in implication and suggestiveness. Despite its long history, it is probably inevitable that in the new global century the paniki will eventually vanish. The household kitchens are rapidly changing. Knives rather than paniki are becoming the cutting implements of choice. Tables and countertops are triumphing over the floor; chairs, tables, and couches are becoming as integral to the home as its doors and windows. Women no longer live in extended families, nor do their mornings consist of the leisurely ritual of vegetable cuttings session, when several women worked together, forming a sisterhood of the paniki. Now women are likely to work outside the home, which leaves little time for that kind of domestic fellowship. But for those of us who remember, the paniki will continue to be a potent symbol of multi-faceted femininity.

15th International Chausathi Yogini Festival Held



Bhubaneswar, Dec 28: (Kishore Dwivedi) The Fifteenth International Chausathi Yogini Festival was recently hosted by Nrutya Pratiba with pomp and splendor. The Art lovers and connoisseurs experienced the magic and mesmerism of Odissi Dance,

Odisha's Folk Dance, and devotional music during the spectacular mega cultural extravaganza at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar.

The Distinguished Guests of the evening Speaker of Odisha Legislative Assembly Dr. Surjya Narayan Patra, Former M.P.

Prasanna Kumar Patasani, Eminent Sculptor Sudarshan Sahoo, Chairman of world Odisha Society Kishore Dwivedi, Senior Engineer Bipin Kumar Nayak, and Director of Ardent Steel Dr. Subhashis Das lauded the role of the Chief Organiser of the massive Event and noted Odissi exponent Pratiba Panda for her huge contributions in promoting this Festival Worldwide. They wished further success of her noble endeavors.

The major attraction of the cultural program was scintillating and soul-soothing Bhajan and Ghazal recitals by Padmashri Anup Jalota and his disciple Kanchan Kiran Mishra. Shri Jalota received

coveted Chausathi Yogini Sangeet Samman for his lifetime musical contributions. Among other Awardees Odissi Guru Gajendra Panda was conferred Chausathi Yogini Nrutya Samman, Theatre Veteran Subodh Patnaik received Chausathi Yogini Natya Samman, Famous Painter Subrat Mallick was presented Chausathi Yogini Chitrakala Samman, Renowned Litterateur Dr. Padmaj Pal was conferred Chausathi Yogini Sahitya Samman and upcoming talented writer Suman Dash received Chausathi Yogini Yuba Sahitya Samman during the occasion.

The other highlights of

the Arts Jamboori include Group Odissi Dance Presentations by Pragnya Nrutyayan and Nrutya Pratiba, Gotipua Dance Performance by the artists of Aradhana Dance academy under the tutelage of Guru Chitrasen Swain, and Solo Odissi Dance by Guru Gajendra Panda. The climax of the creative excellence came within the outstanding articulation of Nabarasa through her superb Abhinaya by the superstar of the show Guru Smt Pratiba Panda.

Two Books entitled "The Yogini Poems: Love and Life" and "The Yoginis of Ranipur Jharial: Tantric Goddesses of Yore" written

by Literary Luminary Dr. Adyasha Das were released by Guests. The ace anchors Dr. Srinibash Ghatuary and Ms. Soma Mohapatra conducted and coordinated the entire proceedings smoothly and seamlessly.

The Technical support was extended by Nalini Nihar Nayak for Auditorium illumination and Smrutikanta Rout for stage visualization. The prominent personalities present include the President of Nrutya Pratiba Dr. Rajani Ranjan Dash, Nishikant Mishra, Manmohan Panda, Prem Nepak, Debarshi Mallick, Subhakanta Padhi, and Anurag Sahoo.

THE INDUSTRY & MINES

OBSERVER

Responsible Journalism

CALENDER 2022

RENTPLACES
OBSERVER

January 2022

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
52							1
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
3	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
4	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
5	30	31					

RENTPLACES
OBSERVER

February 2022

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5			1	2	3	4	5
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8	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9	27	28					

RENTPLACES
OBSERVER

March 2022

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9			1	2	3	4	5
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12	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
13	27	28	29	30	31		

RENTPLACES
OBSERVER

April 2022

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
13						1	2
14	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
17	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

RENTPLACES
OBSERVER

May 2022

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
18	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
19	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
20	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
22	29	30	31				

RENTPLACES
OBSERVER

June 2022

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
22				1	2	3	4
23	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
24	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	26	27	28	29	30		

RENTPLACES
OBSERVER

July 2022

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26						1	2
27	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
28	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
29	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
30	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	31						

RENTPLACES
OBSERVER

August 2022

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31		1	2	3	4	5	6
32	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
33	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
34	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
35	28	29	30	31			

RENTPLACES
OBSERVER

September 2022

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
35					1	2	3
36	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
37	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
38	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
39	25	26	27	28	29	30	

RENTPLACES
OBSERVER

October 2022

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
39							1
40	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
41	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
42	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
43	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
44	30	31					

RENTPLACES
OBSERVER

November 2022

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
44			1	2	3	4	5
45	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
46	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
47	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
48	27	28	29	30			

RENTPLACES
OBSERVER

December 2022

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
48					1	2	3
49	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
50	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
51	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
52	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Makar Sankranti/Sakrat/Push Parav-14th January, Republic Day-26th January, Basanta Panchami-5th February, Maha Shivaratri-1st March, Panchayatiraj Dibas-5th March, Dola Purnima-18th March, Holi-19th March, Utkal Dibas-1st April, Mahabishuba Sankranti/Dr. B.R Ambedkar Jayanti-14th April, Good Friday-15th April, Id-ul-Fitre-3rd May, Buddha Purnima/ Birthday of Pandit Raghunath Murmu-16th May, Sabitri Amabasya-30th May, Pahili Raja-14th June, Raja Sankranti-15th June, Ratha Yatra-1st July, Moharrum-9th August, Jhulana Purnima-11th August, Independence day-15th August, Janmastami-18th August, Ganesh Puja-31st August, Nuakhai-1st September, Maha Astami-3rd October, Maha Nabami-4th October, Vijaya Dasami-5th October, Kali Puja/Diwali-24th October, Rasa Purnima-8th November.