

Uddhav Thackeray resigns as Maharashtra chief minister hours ahead of trust vote

Uddhav Thackeray thanked Congress leader Sonia Gandhi and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) supreme Sharad Pawar for supporting the Shiv Sena.



Uddhav Thackeray addresses the state on Wednesday.

Mumbai, June 29: Uddhav Thackeray on Wednesday resigned as the chief minister of Maharashtra soon after the Supreme Court cleared the deck for a trust vote in the Assembly on Thursday.

Addressing the (Page-6)



DADLS-25

ରଥଯାତ୍ରା ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଅସ୍ଥିତା ଓ ସ୍ୱାଭିମାନର ପରିଚୟ ମହାପ୍ରଭୁ ଶ୍ରୀ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥଙ୍କ ପବିତ୍ର ରଥଯାତ୍ରା ଅବସରରେ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀ ତଥା ସମସ୍ତ ଭକ୍ତ ଓ ଶ୍ରଦ୍ଧାଳୁମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ।

ଜଗତର ନାଥ ଶ୍ରୀଜଗନ୍ନାଥଙ୍କ ଅପାର କରୁଣାରୁ ବିଶ୍ୱବାସୀଙ୍କ ମଙ୍ଗଳ ହେଉ, ବିଶ୍ୱନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଙ୍କ ପାଖରେ ଏହାହିଁ ମୋର ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା ।

ପ୍ରତିପଦା ପ୍ରମୋଦ

(ପ୍ରତିପଦା କୁମାର ଅମାତ୍ୟ)

ଜଙ୍ଗଲ, ପରିବେଶ ଓ ଜଳବାୟୁ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ,
ପଞ୍ଚାୟତିରାଜ ଓ ପାଳାୟ ଜଳ, ସୂଚନା ଓ ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

OIPR-15001/13/0075/2223



DADLS-25

ପବିତ୍ର ରଥଯାତ୍ରା ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳଙ୍କ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା



ବିଶ୍ୱ ପ୍ରସିଦ୍ଧ ରଥଯାତ୍ରା-୨୦୨୨ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ବିଶ୍ୱର କୋଣ ଅନୁକୋଣରେ ଥିବା ଶ୍ରୀଜଗନ୍ନାଥପ୍ରେମୀ ଭକ୍ତଜନଙ୍କୁ ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି ।

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

ଶଶେଶୀଲାନି

(ଗଣେଶୀ ଲାଲ)

ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

OIPR-15001/13/0075/2223



ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସହକାର



DADLS-25

ପବିତ୍ର ରଥଯାତ୍ରା ଶ୍ରୀଗୁଣ୍ଡିଚା ଅବସରରେ ମାନ୍ୟବର ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା

ମହାପ୍ରଭୁ ଶ୍ରୀଜଗନ୍ନାଥଙ୍କ ପବିତ୍ର ରଥଯାତ୍ରା ଶ୍ରୀଗୁଣ୍ଡିଚା ଅବସରରେ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି । ଓଡ଼ିଶା ତଥା ସାରା ବିଶ୍ୱର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଦେଶରେ ରହୁଥିବା ଓଡ଼ିଶାବାସୀଙ୍କ ସୁଖ ଓ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି ପାଇଁ ମହାପ୍ରଭୁଙ୍କ ଆଶୀର୍ବାଦ କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

ଦୀର୍ଘ ଦୁଇ ବର୍ଷ ପରେ ମହାପ୍ରଭୁ ଆଜି ଭକ୍ତମାନଙ୍କ ଗହଣରେ ଗୁଣ୍ଡିଚା ଯାତ୍ରା ଆରମ୍ଭ କରିଛନ୍ତି ।

ମୋର ଅନୁରୋଧ ଆପଣମାନେ ମାଧ୍ୟମ ପରିଧାନ କରି ଶାନ୍ତି ଶୁଖିଲାର ସହ ରଥଯାତ୍ରାରେ ଭାଗ ନିଅନ୍ତୁ ଓ ମହାପ୍ରଭୁଙ୍କ ଆଶୀର୍ବାଦ ଲାଭ କରନ୍ତୁ ।

— ଜୟ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ । —

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ନବୀନ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ନାୟକ
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

Race to take credit for Draupadi Murmu's Prez candidature begins in Odisha

On the other hand, in order to upset the BJP's apple cart and keep its tribal vote base intact, the conch party has already started working on its strategy

Bhubaneswar, June, 23: Following NDA's nomination of Draupadi Murmu as the Presidential candidate, both the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) have found themselves vying for the credit.

While it is being discussed in the political corridors that the saffron party has played a masterstroke by nominating a tribal woman from a nondescript area in Odisha ahead of the big game in 2024, the party too feels that it will definitely make a huge difference.

On the other hand, in order to upset the BJP's apple cart and keep its tribal vote base intact, the conch party has already started working on its strategy. As a part of



its strategy, immediately after the announcement of the name of Presidential candidate by the NDA, Naveen took to his Twitter handle to say the PM had earlier discussed with him about the candidature of Draupadi Murmu.

Subsequently, BJD

ministers and MLAs in their tweets referred Murmu as Odisha's pride and welcomed her. Most importantly, before the saffron party could ask for the support of all the parties, Naveen appealed to all MLAs, cutting across party lines, to extend unanimous

support to elect the daughter of Odisha to the country's highest office.

The conch party's strategies are being looked upon as its game plan to put a spoke in the BJP's wheel.

At the same time, it is being discussed in the political circles that by praising Murmu as 'Daughter of Odisha' and 'Pride of Odisha', the BJD are trying its level best to make it appear that it has a soft corner for tribals.

"He (Naveen) is neither in the BJP nor in the NDA. So he hasn't any role in selection of Presidential candidate. Besides this, on one day he had said he had no discussion with the PM regarding the Presidential candidate. Yesterday, he said he had

discussed with the PM regarding the topic. This suggests his penchant for taking credit in everything," said senior BJP leader Manmohan Samal.

The Congress alleged a kind of race to bag the credit of Murmu's candidature has already begun.

"The present episode is centered on both the BJP and BJD trying to take the credit of Murmu's nomination. The BJD is trying to dominate over the BJP. A kind of fear of losing the tribal voter base is also gripping them (the BJD)," observed Congress MLA Md Moquim.

On the other hand, the BJD termed the allegations of hankering after credit as baseless. "He (Naveen) has

been given credit for effective management of cyclones and pandemic. We always believe in work."

According to political analysts, the BJD is creating such an atmosphere with a view to keeping its tribal vote base intact.

"Since the NDA's Presidential candidate is a woman and a tribal face, the BJD fears it may lose its tribal vote base. In order to keep the vote bank intact, the party is now politically marketing it that it has full support for Murmu," said senior journalist Prasanna Mohanty.

It is to be seen how the present equation between the BJP and BJD will pan out after the Presidential election.

Raimohan Parida bids adieu; Ollywood stares at acute drought of villains

Bhubaneswar, June, 26: Many of such legendary actors carried the burden of the industry on their shoulders, and their demise has left a void, which indicates an unseen crisis in Ollywood. On top of all, the indication is towards Ollywood becoming villain-less after the demise of actors who had become household figures by portraying negative characters.

Ollywood industry and the entire state are yet to overcome the trauma of the recent death of actor Raimohan Parida, who had distinguished himself as an iconic villain and set several benchmarks in his career spanning over four decades.

Villain-less Odia cine industry!

Be it thundering dialogues or maniacal laughter with dreadful looks, actors like Raimohan Parida, Hara Pattnaik and Minaketan Das had created a specific identity as antagonists who drag the lead actor and actress into trouble. Noted actors like Mihir Das and Bijay Mohanty also stepped into the shoes of baddies and also succeeded. However, all

these voices fell silent one after another. Their voices will no more echo in theatres.

Their demise has brought down the curtains on the eminent actors who have left their marks in the Odia film industry with stupendous acting for over long years. Ollywood has lost several of such acting legends in these few years.

Will next-gen actors be able to revive the magic in Odia films?

Many of such legendary actors carried the burden of the industry on their shoulders, and their demise has left a void, which indicates an unseen crisis in Ollywood. On top of all, the indication is towards Ollywood becoming villain-less after the demise of actors who had become household figures by portraying negative characters.

As these noted actors of Ollywood have bid final farewell and have brought down the curtains, questions have been raised if the actors of the new era will be able to revive the magic in Odia films and fit into the shoes.

"There is no idea if



Ollywood will once again witness such an era, though we are working. We are acting but certainly won't be able to match with theirs as well as their personality. But, their demise certainly is an irreparable loss," said Manoj Mishra, Ollywood actor.

Meanwhile, eminent Odia filmmaker Basanta Sahu said, "Considering the current scenario, it seems, a great void has been created in the film industry. Odia industry is now sinking and soon it will disappear with no trails. It is high time when we should do something and find good actors or create good artists."

Irreparable losses in

Ollywood

Recently, Ollywood has lost several eminent actors that have left a deep void. It is not just Raimohan, Minaketan, Hara or Mihir, noted actors like Bijay Mohanty, Debu Bose, Dukhram Swain, Rabi Mishra, Salil Mitra, Ajit Das, Gloria Mohanty, Anita Das and Runu Mohanty have become history.

While many of the actors ruled the hearts of the audience as character artists, some of them sent chills down the spine with their onscreen entries as 'dark characters.' Everyone had a unique approach to their characters.

However, some lost lives in Covid while others passed away

owing to degraded health conditions and other unnatural deaths.

Their deaths have created a void in the industry and the loss is certainly irreparable. Undeniably, such noted actors were the backbone of the Odia cine industry and the loss is hinting at a huge 'unseen' crisis.

"There is a serious crisis of on-screen moms in Ollywood after Sujata Anand and Anita Das. Even father characters are being portrayed by many actors but not like Debu Bose, Mihir Das or Bijay Mohanty. The present actors are carrying out their part, but they lack the talents, and finding such talent is quite tough," said Pradyumna Lenka, veteran actor and producer.

On the other hand, cine critic Dilip Hali said, "Bijay Mohanty and Ajit Das died of Covid while Mihir Das passed away due to kidney ailments. Before them, Ollywood has lost several eminent actors. They were the backbone and it has weakened. Such actors will never come up again."

Sanjay Kumar Singh Heads I&PR Department In Odisha

Sanjay Kumar Singh has been appointed as the new principal and secretary of the Information and Public Relations Department and Yamini Sarangi as the officer on special duty.

Bhubaneswar, Jun 17 The Odisha government on Friday appointed Sanjay Kumar Singh as the new principal secretary of Information & Public Relations (I&PR) Department, and Yamini Sarangi as the officer on special duty (O S D), General Administration & Public Grievance Department.

A notification issued by the departments said that Singh, a 1997-batch IAS officer will also continue as the vice-chairman of Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA), and the chairman and managing director of Bhubaneswar Smart City Ltd.

Singh had earlier held the post of commissioner at Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC). He was succeeded by Ganjam district collector Kulange Vijay Amruta as BMC Commissioner.



Foreign Portfolio Investment bleeds Rs 2.71 lakh crore

LIC and MFs risks soar in a shaky market



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

The US deep recession, Federal Bank rate hikes, European Union uncertainties, and Russia-Ukraine war are bleeding stock markets of Rs 2.71 lakh crore in eight months posing a severe challenge to the Indian economy risking public deposits.

If the western economies slip into a recession, one additional challenge may arise for the Indian economy. It can severely hit its export prospects "This is an anticipated outcome of their policy response of raising interest rates to manage the unprecedented inflation levels that they are currently experiencing," Ernst and Young said in its recent update.

The risk of the US economy tumbling into

recession over the next year has doubled following the Federal Reserve's 75 basis-point interest-rate hikes last week, says Goldman Sachs. It says in a note that the chance of a recession hitting in the next 12 months has risen from 15 percent before the rate hike, to 30 percent as of this week.

As the economy slumps and the interest rates are hiked, foreign portfolio investors (FPI) are moving their investments back to the US. Heavy outflows of FPI money from India in the last year exceed that during the global financial crisis (GFC) of 2008, analysts at ICICI Securities said. The ongoing FPI selling in Indian equities is turning out to be the highest selling spree since the global financial crisis (GFC) of 2008 at \$36 billion

against \$28 billion during the GFC. However, inflows from domestic institutional investors into the shaky market have been constant while benchmark indices are down just around 10 percent compared to more than 50 percent in 2008.

The sell-off that began in August 2021 and with a brief lull in September continues since October. The FPI pull-out has hit the rupee, with its exchange rate against the dollar falling to Rs 781.8 despite heavy RBI intervention.

Bankruptcy in the Euro region is deeper than explained. The latest voyage of the world's biggest unfinished cruiser to a ship-breaking yard because of the lack of a buyer is a testimony that the malaise is deeper. The European economy is getting into the throes of crisis with the clogging of gas supplies from Russia, an expected food crisis, and wrecking of its growth and economy for just siding with NATO. The US has yet not found a counter to checkmate Russia except by giving some arms to Ukraine.

India despite being a friend of both the US and Russia is unable to save itself from the hazards despite maintaining a balance. It is signed by high global inflation, higher domestic inflation, high debt, and falling rupee vis a vis dollar. India's external debt rises by \$11.5 billion in October-December 2021 to stand at \$614.9 billion at the end of the quarter, according

to data released by the Ministry of Finance on March 31. The IMF has issued a caution. It says external debt, by supplementing domestic savings, can help countries grow faster. But a large stock of external debt can potentially create vulnerabilities and dent growth prospects. Since the onset of the pandemic, many countries have expanded public spending to support the recovery, which has led to a build-up of their external debt. In other words, it warns to check external debt in particular.

The total external debt, which fell below the pre-crisis levels in the immediate aftermath of the pandemic lockdown, crossed the pre-pandemic levels as of end-December 2020, and commercial borrowings crossed the pre-pandemic levels at end of September 2021, and short-term trade credit crossed the pre-pandemic levels as at end-December 2021, the RBI says.

As India aims at higher, sustainable, and inclusive growth, the RBI warns of keeping external debt flows within the estimated threshold limit for preserving overall macro-stability to ward off external vulnerability. It's a stern warning, more so as savings is also not growing to meet the critical demands.

The FPI investment is not considered a staple investment. But it is a kind of hedge against external

borrowings, forex reserves as also the need to maintain rupee stability. The majority of the external debt is private. General government external debt stood at \$131.4 billion as of December 31, down from \$132.0 billion at the end of September 2021. Non-government commercial external debt, meanwhile, rose to \$483.6 billion, 36.8 percent from \$471.4 billion. The official borrowings are from international institutions on soft terms with the lowest risks. During fiscal 2021-22, India borrowed the most from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development at Rs 22,362 crore, followed by Asian Development Bank at Rs 16802 crore and the Government of Japan at Rs 9835 crore.

During the week ended February 25, India's foreign currency assets declined by \$ 2.22 billion. Since then more of it was lost in managing the rupee and the external sector. The rupee remains under pressure. This is a call for severe caution. The void of the FPIs is being filled up by domestic institutional investors (DIIs), led by LIC, mutual funds, and insurance companies. They are absorbing most of the FPI sales to keep the stock market maintain a semblance but it is artificial support for virtually subsidizing the domestic companies, whose valuations are on an apparent roll. In other

words, public money is being pumped into shaky private operations further debilitating the public institutions.

The institutions are supposed to take independent decisions. But this kind of operation pushing them into risky operations is questionable. Most of these organizations, now particularly LIC, are at high risk of losing people's deposits. The RBI, SEBI, and other regulators need to step in to check such deals and purchases as the market value of many corporations with high ECBs as also domestic borrowings are suspect.

What appears innocuous withdrawal of some foreign companies has a deep sense of hurt. It calls for a decision at the level of top regulators as also the ministry of finance to check the quality of investments being made in the risky assets. Stocks prices are mostly notional and speculative - based on the premise that they would have gained. Since 1992, the innumerable crashes or scams were based on these premises. Severe caution is needed at this hour as even an innocuous repeat of a failure can shear the Indian economy of billions, if not trillions.

What looks like a US or Euro recession if not treaded cautiously could have a deleterious effect. Stitch in time is the best medicine.



Mines Related Conference organized at NITR



Rourkela, June 23: The department of Mining Engineering of NIT, Rourkela conducted a 3-day conference on 'Challenges in Safety and Environmental Management in Mines' at NIT premises from 17 to 19th June.

More than 100 delegates from different parts of the

country attended the conference. It included faculty members of IIT, Kharagpur, IIT-BHU, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, NIT-Surthkal, Government College of Engineering, Keonjhar, MECON-, Ranchi, Odisha Mining Corporation, Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd,

Central Coalfields Ltd, SAIL, Rungta Mines, Arcelor Mittal, Nippon Steel Ltd.

Prominent speakers who delivered keynote lectures at the conference included K.Umamaheshwar Rao (Director NITR), Prof. Ashish Bhattacharjee, (IIT-Kharagpur), D.B.Sundar Raman (V.P. TATA Materials-TATA Steel), Savyasachi Mohanty (Director Technical (Operation) OMC, Saikat Dey (Co-founder and CEO of Guardharat Inc USA), Sarah Ka khatm (CMO Guardharat Inc USA).

Dr. Bibhuti Bhusan Panda, Senior Geotechnical Engineer, AECOM (USA-based firm) was the chief guest

on a concluding day. In his address, Dr.Panda talked about different aspects of Engineering design in building tailing Dams for achieving zero accident rates. Tailing Dams are used to store water and waste that come as by-products from the mining process.

In addition to Keynote and Guest speakers, 44 papers were presented at the conference.

The recommendations of the conference include faster adaptations of advanced technology by the mining industries in India, including the Geographical information systems and remote sensing.

RCCI Delegates Meet Ministers and Officials

A delegation of the Rourkela Chamber and Commerce (RCCI) visited Bhubaneswar to meet the Ministers and top officials to apprise and discuss the city's developmental and industry-related issues.

RCCI delegation comprising its President Subrata Kumar Pattnaik, Vice President Rajesh Agarwal, General Secretary Sunil Kayal, and former Presidents P.C.Nayak and B.N.Pattnaik met Pratap Keshari Deb, Minister Energy, Industries, and MSME, Pritiranjana Gharai, Minister Skills Development, Education and Rural Development, Suresh Chandra Mohapatra, Chief

Secretary, Satyabrata Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, and Ms. Santosh Bala, Special Secretary, Home.

With Chief Secretary Mohapatra RCCI delegates discussed the overall development issues of Rourkela. Mr. Mohapatra assured them of starting the air services in Rourkela by November of the current year. Apart from this, they discussed transport hub, steel hub, and arranging more land banks for establishing industries in and around Rourkela. Mr. Mohapatra also informed the delegates about the progress of construction of a World-class hockey stadium, Science park, planetarium,



barrage in Koel river, and development of parks in Rourkela. RCCI representatives discussed industry and MSME-related issues with Minister Pratap Keshari Deb. RCCI extended an invitation to Minister to visit Rourkela. Mr. Deb accepted the invitation and

told the delegates to have a detailed discussion at Rourkela. He requested the delegates to keep preparing the issues related to industries of the region and effective solutions to the problem and scope of development in and around Rourkela.

NITR Student Get Fulbright-Kalam Climate Fellowship

Rourkela, June 17: Manoj Hariharan, a doctoral student in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences has received a highly competitive and prestigious Fulbright-Kalam Climate Fellowship for Doctoral Research for the year 2022-2023. Recipients of this award receive a fully funded fellowship to work with any host institution situated in the United States of America.

Being the first student of NIT Rourkela to receive the Fulbright Doctoral Fellowship, Mr. Hariharan also became the first fellow of NITR to undertake Research in Climatology at the National Centre for Atmospheric Research - NCAR Earth System



Laboratory. Hariharan is one among the 4 who has received this prestigious fellowship from India this year (2022-23). He will be spending 9 months at National Centre for Atmospheric Research - NCAR Earth System Laboratory, Colorado, and USA. NCAR is

the most advanced and well-equipped research institution for all atmospheric scientists across the globe.

US-India Educational Foundation (USIEF) administers the Fulbright-Kalam Climate Fellowships. The objective is to promote a wider exchange of knowledge and professional talents by engaging scientific and technical research scholars from both countries related to climate research and education. Fulbright-Kalam Climate Fellowships for Doctoral Research is for those Indian scholars who are pursuing a Ph.D. at an Indian institution.

Hariharan expressed his gratitude to his department for

extending their support in providing the right guidance at right time. He specially thanked his mentor Prof. Bhishma Tyagi and all other faculty members for his achievement. Prof. Tyagi in his reaction praised his pupil's constant efforts to learn things with perfection which has made him an ideal researcher.

The Head of the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Department, Prof. Jagabandhu Panda also congratulated him. Prof. Panda said that the state-of-the-art department would continue to provide the best education to NIT students so that more students get this kind of opportunity and global recognition.

RSP Organised 'Megha Mallhar' to Mark Raja Utsav



Rourkela, June 17: Megha Mallhar, an evening of Dance & Music heralding the monsoons was organized at the Civic Centre by SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) on 14th June to mark the popular festival 'Raja Utsav'. Atanu Bhowmick, Director In-Charge, RSP inaugurated the celebrations by lighting the ceremonial lamp.

The cultural program started with a mesmerizing Odissi Dance recital by the artists of Bhanja Kala Kendra. It was followed by spellbinding dance recitals presented by artists of Sagar Rhythms, Payal Dance Academy, and Kalyani Kala Kendra which showcased the various nuances of the festival. The fun and festivities, games, and merrymaking associated with the Raja festival and the joy at the onset of the monsoons after the harsh summer was splendidly depicted through the beautifully choreographed dances. A tuneful jugalbandi of Tabla & Flute on Raga Megha mallhara presented by the father-son duo of Mr. Bijaya Chandra Mohini and Gajraj Mohini was highly applauded in the evening.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Bhowmick reiterated RSP's commitment to the promotion of art and culture. "SAIL is celebrating 50 years of its formation as 'SAIL Swarna Jayanti', this year's Raja Utsav celebrations become even more special and the makeover of the Civic Centre makes the celebrations unique in every sense.

Parag Harshad Gavali becomes the new Sundargarh District Collector



Rourkela, June 23: Dr. Parag Harshad Gavali, IAS of the 2013 batch, joins as the new District Collector of Sundargarh district. On 23rd June, he took over charge from the outgoing Collector Nikhil Pavan Kalyan at the District Collectorate in Sundargarh. Senior officials from various departments of the District welcomed the new Collector.

After assuming charge Dr. Parag Harshad Gavali spelled out his priorities. He said that Sundargarh is a tribal-dominated district all possible steps would be taken for the overall development of the district with the cooperation and participation of the people. He said his focus would be on key sectors like Health & Nutrition as well as Education also. New Collector also added that making necessary preparations for the upcoming FIH Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup, 2023 in Rourkela would also be on his priority list.

Odia TV actress Rashmirekha's death family alleges murder by her boyfriend

JAGATSINGHPUR
The Odia television actress Rashmirekha Ojha whose body was found hanging in her rented house at Gadasahi in Nayapalli under Bhubaneswar police limits, the incident carried a new twist on Monday as the deceased family has alleged that the young TV star has been murdered by her boyfriend Santosh Patra.



Apalm of gloom descended on the village when the deceased body was reached at Tirtol village of Jagatsinghpur for performing last rites on Monday. The deceased cine artist's father blamed one of Santosh Patra's boyfriends of Rashmirekha, both were in an active live-in relationship in a former rented house for one and half months, and the man in question reportedly moved out of the station last few days.

The deceased father revealed that Rashmirekha had joined a financial company and was serving past two months, her performing TV serial concluded recently. She had come in contact with Santosh Patra who too works in the same financial company. According to the house owner's revelation, both were living as wife and husband and declared married couple but I was unaware of his daughter's affair with Santosh and their marriage, informed Rashmirekha's father.

Moreover, the ill-fated father informed that Rashmirekha had visited the village on June 13 and left the village the next day citing the reason that no leave was granted

by her employer to stay in the village but strangely Santosh telephoned him on June 18 and told him that Rashmirekha has committed suicide and asked to come to Bhubaneswar urgently. When he arrived at Rashmirekha's rented house found that police have broken open the room and recovered the body hanging and a suicide note was recovered from the spot revealed that none was responsible for her death, his father informed.

The house owner said that Santosh and Rashmirekha were residing as husband and wife but we had no knowledge about their marriage or she had ever informed us about their relationship, we have also no idea the purported suicide note recovered from the body and who has written it, we demand a probe that to book Santosh is the murderer, said the bereaved father. Meanwhile, Rashmirekha's body was cremated in the village on Monday after police handed over the body family after the autopsy. The former actress after completing plus two courses in Tirtol college had ventured into a career in acting and performed roles in a few TV serials and albums.

Government chief whip Prasanta Muduli gets a rousing welcome in J'spur

JAGATSINGHPUR,
June 23: The newly-appointed government chief whip Prasanta Kumar Muduli was accorded a rousing welcome by Jagatsinghpur BJD supporters, residents, and a few organizations here.

Muduli held a roadshow comprising of party sympathizers and leaders from Kandarpur, and was welcomed by thousands of party workers, a large number of party supporters lined up on roads with party flags, placards and banners and raised slogans hailing and praising him as the leader who made Jagatsinghpur proud after he assumed office as government chief whip in assembly.



Muduli stopped his cavalcade on the way for a minute and waved out to the party workers by standing on the vehicle, later the massive procession was converged at the collectorate, parade ground here on Sunday evening, and held a public meeting.

Addressing party workers Muduli extended his gratitude to the chief minister Naveen Patnaik who picked up him for the chief whip post recently

and district BJD supporters who gave him a rousing welcome on Sunday.

District BJD unit vice president Dipti Das chaired the felicitation event accompanying MP Dr. Rajashree Mallick, ZP president Manoj Bhoi, social activist Binayak Patnaik, BJD town unit head Priyabrata Mohapatra, Panchayat Samiti chairmen from several blocks, PRI's members, ZP members

and representatives from few several organizations.

However, sources added that although the district BJD unit arranged this welcome ceremony at headquarters, MLAs such as Bijaya Shankar Das, Sambit Routray and ex-minister Raghunandan Das, and former cashew development corporation chairman Amarendra Das and many prominent BJD leaders were absent at the event.

Beloved Somalika lodges a complaint against Tirtol legislator in PS



JAGATSINGHPUR,
June 23: in a major twist in Tirtol MLA Bijaya Shankar Das and his girlfriend Somalika Dash's marriage row, the latter lodged a complaint in Jagatsinghpur police station [PS] accusing the legislator of not turning up for the marriage in sub-registrar court Jagatsinghpur, cheating, harassing and threatening her and kin following the

matter.

Meanwhile, police have registered the complaint against MLA Das under sections 420, 195 A, 506 [B] 294, 509, 341, 120B under IPC and several sections coming under the Immoral traffic prevention Act 1956. Moreover, cops are tight lip speaking about the case, and the investigation process at underway; we are not supposed to be the authority

to speak over the case our seniors to brief the media at right time, informed Jagatsinghpur police station IIC Pravhat C Sahoo.

Sources informed that Somalia accompanying her father, aunt and a few relatives reached the police station on Saturday noon and lodged the complaint against MLA Das and sought justice for her. Speaking to Media persons Somalika dared talk

against her boyfriend legislator Das and expressed hope for the police and judiciary for getting justice in the case.

Earlier Somalia and MLA Das had approached sub-registrar Jagatsinghpur for marriage on May 17, marriage notices had been dispatched to both families and other stakeholders to legalize the marriage.

After completion of 30 days, Somalia and her family members were present in sub-registrar court on Friday but legislator Das did not turn up to court for marriage citing his personal and preoccupied works, further pleaded that the proposed marriage to get registered within 90 days still 30 days have been passed away, we still have 60 days left for marriage registration.

District electricity committee meeting held in J'spur.

JAGATSINGHPUR: A district-level electric committee meeting was held in Sadhabana Sabha Gruha here on, Jagatsinghpur MP Dr. Rajashree Mallick chaired the meeting.

The district-level electric committee aims to ensure the involvement of the people in the process under the government of India-funded

electrifying village and hamlet and each household schemes and study the oversight of the department.

Recently union government has approved a new scheme of Rs 3 Lakh Crore for strengthening the distribution systems and modernizing the electrification process to meet emerging challenges in the power sector.

So the committee to verify the impact of the works on the quality and reliability of power supply, performance of consumer services, and grievance redressal system.

Ironically the Jagatsinghpur electricity committee does not meet regularly, the member secretary collector did not convene the meeting times,

rued MP Dr. Mallick and she asked the district power department to reply their action plan and activities.

Speaking on the occasion superintendent engineer Amarjit Patnaik revealed that two electric divisions function in the district, 17 numbers of 33 VK fodders, 94 numbers 11 KV fodders, and as many as 2 Lakh 36 thousand

consumers have been supplying power in Jagatsinghpur district.

Many attending members criticized the energy department for irregular supply of power, low voltage, sporadic power supply, and frequent halts in electric supply. Answering queries superintendent engineer informed us that the

department is concerned with the matter and we are taking needful.

The meeting was attended by government chief whip Prashant Muduli, former minister and MLA Raghunandan Das, collector Parul Patwari, Project director DRDA, ADM Jagatsinghpur, executive engineers, and authority of TATA power.

Residents of Baripada municipality cry for incomplete of protection walls before rainy season

Rs.11 crore needed to complete protection walls of Jarali, Sarali and Sukhajoda rivers: Executive Engineer of Baripada Minor Irrigation Division

Baripada, 23 June: The long-standing demand for the erection of protection walls on both sides of three river systems -Jarali, Sarali, and Sukhajoda which take a major role to prevent flood threats in Baripada municipality. The project needs around 11 crores to complete the protection wall (embankments).

The incomplete projects remain a threat of frequent flooding during the rainy season that simmers anger among the residents of the town as lakhs of properties are damaged every year. The residents claimed that

the partial construction of the protective walls of the three river systems required immediate repair. The residents of more than eight wards within the municipality are affected due to the flood. They do not forget the flood that took place during cyclone Phailin in 2013. While Rs.25 core of property in Baripada district headquarters hospital was completely damaged. In 2016-17, the Water Resources Department, Government of Odisha allocated funds of Rs. 547 lakh for the erection of 2200 meters length of

protection walls (embankment) for both sides of the Jarali river, Rs.555 lakh for the erection of 2450 meter-length of protection walls for Sarali river, and Rs.496 lakh for the erection of 2175 length of protection walls for both sides of Sukhajoda River. The projects were to be completed in 2019. But, til now remains as it was.

The Executive Engineer of Baripada Minor Irrigation Division Mahesh Prasad Patnaik says that the remaining parts of the protection walls are yet to be completed due to a shortage of funds.



Forest department introduced early warning system to prevent man-animal conflict

Baripada, 23 June: With the human casualty reportedly ascending year to year due to man-animal conflict, the forest department of Baripada territorial division in Mayurbhanj district has introduced an 'Early Warning System' with help of residents. The initiative is introduced after a high-level meeting was held with Regional Chief Conservator of Forest and Field Director of Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) T Ashok Kumar, Deputy Director of STR South Samrat Gowda, Divisional Forest Officer of Baripada Territorial Santosh Kumar Joshi, and other officials in last month.

Under the initiative, the officials of the territorial department have started a cell phone number collection drive of the villagers of more than 150 villages affected by elephant havoc and the department has targeted to collect maximum cell phone numbers of 30,000 to 40,000 affected villagers which will help over the sharing of early warning among villagers and

officials on elephant movements. A toll-free number 8763378400 from the division office at Baripada had been spreading among the officials and people of the affected villages in this regard, the DFO Sanath Kumar Joshi said and added that as per the direction of the RCCF of the STR, the division is planning to engage at least five volunteers along with Gram Sathi from each affected village and the department will provide them torch and crackers to assist with the forest officials to keep watch the movement of elephants. The division will be ensured to provide some remuneration for their services. The division has set some temporary camps in important places where both residential and migratory elephants have frequently moved, the DFO said that the initiative for engagement of five volunteers including Gram Sathi will be executed once the Government approves it. The projects and their entire theme and merits were already submitted to the Principal

Conservator of Forest (PCCF) some days ago, he said.

DFO Mr. Joshi said on Monday that despite the existing manpower of the forest department in the division to keep watch on the movement of elephants both the residential and migratory, it was not enough to get advance information on the migratory and residential elephants' movement to human settlements. So it will need the early warning only which the rural people have a role in this regard. The human casualty reportedly ascended this year due to man-animal conflict when at least 10 persons succumbed in 2019-20. Several persons succumbed in 2020-21 and 7 persons reportedly succumbed in 2021-22, the DFO further said that presently the advance message on the movement of elephants was sharing both officials and villages whose phone numbers were already collected but it will need a collection of the phone number of more villagers of the affected villages that will bring a well respond.

From Page-1

Uddhav Thackeray...

state virtually, Thackeray said he will also resign as the member of legislative council. "In a democracy, heads are counted to show numbers. I am not interested in that. I don't want to play these games. Tomorrow, they will say that they have brought down Shiv Sena supremo Balasaheb Thackeray's son," he said.

"While taking a decision on renaming Aurangabad, the NCP and Congress did not oppose it. But what I feel bad is that only four Shiv Sena Ministers were present. Others we all know where they are."

"The Supreme Court has given the verdict on the floor test. I want to thank the governor who upheld the democracy by asking us to hold a floor test in 24 hours after a delegation met them."

Addressing MLAs whose rebellion, led by Eknath Shinde triggered the current crisis for his government, Thackeray said, "Who are you angry with me? Congress or NCP? Rather than going to Surat and speaking up you should have come to me at Matoshree. I still respect your feelings."

The Supreme Court said a floor test is the only way to settle all issues that have entangled the politics of Maharashtra following a rebellion by Sena leader Eknath Shinde leading to a survival crisis of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government.

The top court gave the verdict after hearing arguments on a petition filed by the Maharashtra government challenging Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's order asking the chief minister to prove his majority in the floor of the Assembly.

The top court said results of floor test will be subject to the final outcome of Sena Sena chief whip Sunil Prabhu Prabhu's petition against the governor's decision and issued a notice on the plea.

Earlier in the day, Thackeray held a cabinet meeting wherein a decision was taken to rename Aurangabad city as Sambhajinagar and Osmanabad city as Dharashiv, besides naming of upcoming Navi Mumbai international airport after farmer leader late DB Patil.

A blind student's 'blind' jab reopens admin's 'blind' eyes

Visually-impaired Jashobant Chhatria, who reads in Class-6 of the government run school, minced no words in criticizing the officials including the Block Education Officer (BEO) and police officers over a shortage of teachers in his school.

Dharmagarh, June 28: "Has the administration gone blind as well," the question of a divyang Class-6 student of Beheraguda Upper Primary School in Kalahandi's Dharmagarh ripped through the insides of the officials present at the school on Monday.

Visually-impaired Jashobant Chhatria, who reads in Class-6 of the government run school, minced no words in criticizing the officials including the Block Education Officer (BEO) and police officers over a shortage of teachers in his school.

As per reports, the Upper Primary School at Beheraguda has a total strength of 425 students and only seven teachers for which the students had staged a sit-in a few days ago demanding appointment of more teachers.

Following the protests, the BEO visited the school, but little did he know that he



will be confronted with some of the most unsparing darts by Jashobant. Not beating around the bush, Jashobant who could not see since birth, vented out his anger in some strongly worded questions.

Getting the authorities in front of him, he questions, "I am blind. I can't see what's happening around me. But is the BEO blind too? Have the DEO, Collector all of the district administration have

gone blind? Can't they see we do not have sufficient teachers at our school?"

"As per government guidelines, there should be a teacher for every 30 students. But the situation in our school is far from that," he said.

When the officials sitting in front of him assured to appoint more teachers as soon as possible, he again said, "You have been saying that for last 15 days, but nobody has

been appointed so far."

Pertinent to mention here that the School and Mass Education department rushed two new teachers to that school on Monday after Jashobant gave the officials the 'blind' jab.

Behraguda UP School gets new teachers thanks to blind student's 'blind' jab

Without delay, the administration appointed three teachers in the school and with the new recruitment, the total number of teachers is now 10, and they have already started teaching in the school.

Kalahandi district administration seems to have finally woken up from its deep slumber as it appointed new teachers at Behraguda Upper Primary School thanks to visually-impaired student Jashobant Chhatria.

Concerned over the teachers' crunch at his school, the Class 6 student of the government-run school criticized the officials

including the Block Education Officer (BEO) and police officers. He questioned the administration's lackadaisical attitude in recruiting teachers in the school saying, "Has the administration gone blind as well".

Without delay, the administration appointed three teachers in the school and with the new recruitment, the total number of teachers is now 10, and they have already started teaching in the school.

Due to protests over the shortage of teachers, the school was earlier shut for a few days. Following the protests, the BEO visited the school, but little did he know that he will be confronted with some of the most unsparing darts by Jashobant. Not beating around the bush, Jashobant who could not see since birth, vented out his anger in some strongly worded questions.

Getting the authorities in front of him, he questioned,

"I am blind. I can't see what's happening around me. But, is the BEO blind too... Have the DEO, Collector and officials of the district administration gone blind? Can't they see that we do not have sufficient teachers at our school?"

The video of Jashobant asking BEO went viral and the boy got kudos from all and sundry.

"As per government guidelines, there should be a teacher for every 30 students. But the situation in our school is far from that," he said.

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Odisha Congress won't support Murmu's candidature: Narasingha

As Murmu is inspired by the RSS ideology, Congress will never support her candidature for the position of a constitutional head, he said.



Bhubaneswar, June, 22: The MLAs of Odisha Congress will not support NDA's Presidential candidate Draupadi Murmu, said Odisha parliamentary party leader, Narasingha Mishra. As Murmu is inspired by the RSS ideology, Congress will never support her candidature for the position of a constitutional head, he said. "Moreover, the opposition parties at the Centre including the Congress have already chosen its candidate for the Presidential elections. So there is no point in turning back on our candidate and support another at this time," he said.

Mishra took a jibe at CM

Naveen Patnaik who had called upon to all the MLAs urging them to support Murmu as she is from Odisha. Mishra said, "If Naveen Patnaik has so much sympathy for Odia people, why did he send a non-Odia to Rajya Sabha? Did not he find any Odia suitable for the Upper House?" Though Mishra avoided mentioning the name of Non-Odia Rajya Sabha member he was referring to Ashwini Vaishnaw, current Railway Minister.

It is pertinent to mention here that, former Union minister Yashwant Sinha emerged as the consensus Presidential candidate of 13 opposition parties, including

the Congress, the TMC and the Samajwadi Party as opposed to NDA's Draupadi Murmu. Five regional parties considered non-aligned - TRS, BJD, AAP, SAD and YSRCP -- stayed away. These parties had also stayed away from the June 15 meeting convened by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Earlier, clearing the air over BJD's stand on the upcoming Presidential election, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday had appealed to all members of Odisha Legislative Assembly to extend unanimous support to elect the daughter of Odisha - Draupadi Murmu to the country's highest office.

Accident or murder? Mystery over youth's death on flyover

As per initial reports, Pati was staying in a rented accommodation at Kesura and was returning after attending a function at Chandrasekharapur

Bhubaneswar, June 27: Mystery shrouds the death of a youth, whose charred body was recovered from Acharyavihar flyover in Bhubaneswar last night. The deceased has been identified as Ambika Prasad Pati, a native from Jagatsinghpur district.

Pati was burnt alive along with his motorcycle under mysterious circumstances. It is still unclear whether Pati's death occurred due to accident or it is a murder.

As per initial reports, Pati was staying in a rented accommodation at Kesura and was returning after attending a function at Chandrasekharapur.

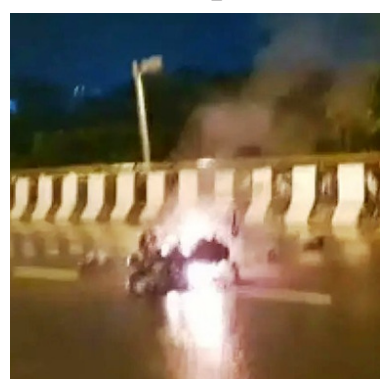
The entire incident is saddled in controversy as there was another accident on the opposite side of the flyover where Pati's bike was found. At least three persons including a minor boy suffered injuries after a speeding Hyva truck hit the

Tata ACE vehicle they were travelling in.

"I don't know what has happened to my son. How he and his bike caught fire, we have no information. My son always used to speak with his mother and recently he had visited our home to attend a function," said deceased youth's father.

One of the colleague said, "Ambika Pati was a good person and we are completely shocked over his death. Being in pharma sector, we used to return late night after work. He also did not have any bad habit or company."

Bhubaneswar DCP, Prateek Singh said, "Sahidnagar police got information that a person travelling on a bike got charred after the vehicle caught fire. PCR staff immediately rushed to the spot and fire tenders were



also intimidated."

According to Singh, an unnatural death case has been registered and we have asked motor vehicles inspector to ascertain under which circumstances the bike caught fire.

"It appears to be an accidental firing on bike. However, we will carry out necessary action as per the findings of the investigation," Singh added.

Maharashtra shows the anti-defection law to be ineffective, even counterproductive



Sirish C. Mohanty

Instead of providing stability, the law is undermining our democracy. Scrapping it would provide institutional leverage to express intra-party dissidence

The political crisis in Maharashtra has focused back on the anti-defection law. By all accounts, the law has failed to shore up the stability of elected governments. But the tale of Maharashtra is quite different. The Sivsena fought the elections in association with BJP and later joined with electoral opponents' congress and NCP. Many of the Sivsena members felt the association unnatural and repeatedly expressed their resentments which were unheard by the top leadership of the Sena. The top Sena leaders in pursuance of the NCP tried to threaten in vain the rebel Sindhe camp about the consequence of the anti-defection law. Had there been no support from BJP, the rebel Sindhe fractions would have been the latest victim of the misuse of the anti-defection law.

Not only have many governments fallen due to defections in recent times, but the defectors have not suffered any cautionary consequences. There are

many ways to thwart the provisions of the law: the Speaker can sit on the defection pleas for the term of the assembly; the beneficiary party can facilitate accretion of defectors through money and investigative agencies to hit the magic of two-thirds threshold. The voters don't seem to care about punishing the defectors either - 11 out of the 14 defectors who stood for re-election in the 2019 Karnataka by-polls won on the BJP ticket. Some have thus argued that the way forward is to amend the anti-defection law to fill these lacunae by mandating time-bound decisions by the Speaker and disqualifying defectors from standing for the next election as well. These proposed amendments like the original law want to consolidate power without necessarily putting in the requisite politics. They may thus help consolidate the leadership's intra-party power but the underlying aversion to ongoing politics leaves them vulnerable to bigger external powers.

First, it should be obvious that the practice of politics is too wide for any institutional process to

fully capture. Politicians are adept at subverting institutional processes for their ends and there are many possibilities for the payoff for defectors outside of elected office alone. Moreover, politics has a rich history of the exercise of power by proxy and the disqualified representative may simply choose to have a family member stand in their stead. It seems unlikely that these amendments can plug the gap in any substantive manner especially if the defections have been engineered by the threat of investigative agencies. The anti-defection law and proposed amendments approach the issue of defections from the prism of denying power to the defector, a framing that repeatedly comes up short in the face of a bigger and/or more punitive power. Beleaguered parties may denounce the BJP but in the absence of mobilization of public opinion, these condemnations have at best rhetorical value, moving neither the BJP nor the defectors.

Within this framework, if political parties want to resist defections, they must be able to project (imminent) power themselves. At the same time,

political parties must address organizational and ideological infirmities which have made them susceptible to mass defections in the first place. There are only about 4000 MLAs in a country with a population of almost 1.4 billion people. However, political parties tasked with representing the aspirations of crores of people are unable to find candidates who take themselves seriously enough to not cross over to political opponents. The bar is so low that the MLAs have to be physically corralled and phones confiscated to ensure alignment with the Party stand. This is not apolitical outrage but has pragmatic organizational value. It is one thing for a few individuals to be susceptible to threats and inducement, another for the organization to be vulnerable to mass defections. Individuals can be faulted in the former but the latter calls for urgent introspective and corrective measures at the level of the leadership.

Two measures with both short-term and long-term implications come to mind. First, political parties need ideological clarity and the ability to attract individuals with a sense of purpose and not a love for power alone. This ideological depth if reflected in the party organization and its political programs will give members the ability to withstand lean periods of power. Every party has committed individuals; internal party processes must be geared to identify and promote them into leadership positions. These tie into the second issue. Multiple analyses have attributed the political crisis in Maharashtra in part to Shiv Sena's

inability to accommodate the aspirations of its dissident MLAs. The rebel MLAs on their part have spoken of the Chief Minister's inaccessibility. The MLAs may be opportunistic but there is no question that political parties are failing to create intra-party forums where grievances can be expressed and resolved on an ongoing basis. Internal mechanisms for inner-party democracy - from elections to deliberative forums - are ultimately at the discretion of the party leadership. Scrapping the anti-defection law would provide some institutional leverage to express intra-party dissidence and although it may be more chaotic in the short term would lead to greater stability and political strength in the long term.

Finally, two there are fundamental questions. In trying to legislate political affiliation - key freedom in democracy - political parties are repeatedly giving primacy to legal instead of political battles since these issues inevitably end up in court. This repeated ceding of political power to the judiciary is a serious deviation from the democratic paradigm and must be checked. Second, the anti-defection law has undermined not just the very principle of representation but has also contributed to polarization in our country by making it impossible to construct a majority on any issue outside party affiliation. Instead of providing stability, the law has undermined our democracy. It is time to scrap the anti-defection law. 🗑️

Ambubachi Mela 2022: 4-day-long festival commences in Guwahati's Kamakhya temple



The four-day-long Ambubachi Mela has kickstarted today, June 23 at the famous Kamakhya



temple atop the Nilachal Hills in Assam's Guwahati after a gap of two years. Due to the devastating

floods in the state, the festival is being observed in a subdued manner this year.

Guwahati, June, 23: The annual Ambubachi Mela commenced at Assam's Kamakhya temple on June 23 and will continue for four days. This is the most important religious event of the temple and is also a significant part of the

state's tourism calendar witnessing a footfall of around 25 lakh each year during the festival. The doors of the temple remain closed for four days in association with the belief in a fertility cult. It is believed that during this time Goddess Kamakhya receives her annual menstrual cycle.

Murmur Is Not Rumor



Sirish C Mohanty

tour? The answer is not unknown. We hear through the grapevine that "people in the State believe Ministers have become too weak to transfer even a peon."

Earlier there was news that the CM led a Ministerless team abroad. The delegation, which Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik leads during his 10-day foreign trip to Rome and Dubai from June 20, does not include any minister, lending credence to Opposition allegations that it's the bureaucrats who call the shots in the Odisha government.

The delegation includes Chief Secretary Suresh Mahapatra, Secretary to CM (ST) V K Pandian, Principal Secretary Food and Civil Supplies V V Yadav, Principal Secretary Industries Hemant Sharma, Resident Commissioner in New Delhi Ravi Kant. But no one from the council of ministers, which was reshuffled a few weeks ago, has made it.

In Naveen's fifth term as Chief Minister of Odisha, bureaucrats have been reviewing development projects across the state while ministers, more often than



in action with officers and technocrats getting maximum attention.

The Opposition BJP and Congress have on different occasions alleged that bureaucrats in Odisha are "collaborators in political activities" in the state and functioning in a partisan manner while betraying political ambitions even when they are part of the premier government service.

BJD leaders in private conversations tell 'no-more-secret' stories of how IAS and at times IPS officers determine their fates, be it at the district or state levels. It is a common belief that all work in the state is transacted from the 'Third Floor' (as the CMO is popularly referred to) of the state secretariat. This has coincided with CM's private secretary V Karthikeya Pandian possibly emerging as the most influential factor in the ruling dispensation during the past 10 years. As Naveen's most-trusted person, he acts as his eyes and ears and assists him in key decision-making. His administrative acumen and political astuteness had contributed to the BJD's landslide victory, for the fifth consecutive time, in Elections

2019. He is also the 5T secretary of the state government and is said to have played a key role in organizing Naveen's second overseas trip in 22 years as CM.

state sustainably ensure food security.

During his stay in Rome, the CM also met Pope Francis, the Pope of Rome and Head of the Catholic Church, in Vatican City. Naveen has also met the Odia diaspora from various parts of Europe. On his way back, the CM met the investors from the Middle East and adjoining regions in Dubai. He is to extend an invitation to the potential investors to come and invest in Odisha and assure them of all the support and facilitation by the state government. It is also murmured that a veteran CM like Naveen should have taken concerned Ministers to get them acquainted in the matters of the state or in other words training the future leadership to carry forward the progress.

On March 27, 2022,

Body Elections. Chief Minister is reported to have thanked them for the gesture and asked officials to work with more commitment for the development and progress of the state.

The incident raises a few contentions of importance that merits a discussion. Success in elections is not new to Naveen Patnaik. He has been in power for 22 years and his party has been winning many elections, by-elections, and local elections. The recent victory, both in the Rural and Urban Local Bodies Elections, cannot be held as something unprecedented. True, Opposition Parties in the state now are in a state of disarray like never before, and BJP for unclear reasons is disinclined to grow in the state.

This situation and the liberal freebies flow have facilitated the spread of the BJD despite severe governance deficits and the exponential spread of corruption. Elections are fought by political parties; Government doesn't contest elections. In the recent elections to the Rural and ULBs, BJD secured a handsome win. But did it entitle it to receive accolades from the Bureaucracy?

While Government in a parliamentary democracy implements policies of the party in power, Bureaucracy cannot coalesce with the party. It must retain its political neutrality. It would witness the win or defeat of the party in power with the same sense of detachment. It would neither rejoice nor



5T secretaries in action

state? Notably, Samir Ranjan Dash was on a field visit to Balasore when he came across the sorry state of teaching in the school. The displeased minister held the class teacher and the Headmistress responsible for making students learn the minimum mathematics and sent the Head Mistress a show-cause notice. No doubt an inspiring action by a Minister, but ironically the job should have been done by a bureaucrat posted under his disposal. There is another point of contention; when a Minister is on an official visit to a school, he should have used his official vehicle during the visit? Or have they lost the courage to ask their Secretary for the official car for his

not, are conspicuous by their absence. Except for a few bytes to the media, they are almost found playing second fiddle. Even during the peak of the COVID pandemic health minister Nabakishore Das' was alleged to be missing



Naveen with Pope in Rome



Naveen meets Odia diaspora in Rome

Notably, Naveen's last foreign trip was in May 2012 when he toured the United Kingdom. Pandian had also accompanied the CM then and rose to prominence thereafter following the aborted coup bid by then Rajya Sabha member Pyarimohan Mohapatra in the BJD on May 29, which forced Naveen to abruptly cut short his visit and return to Odisha. Usha Devi was the lone political figure on this trip.

According to the CMO office, the World Food Program (WFP) has extended an invitation to Naveen to visit its headquarters in Rome and share the transformative initiatives of Odisha in the field of food security and disaster management. He will meet the Executive Director of WFP David Beasley and the senior leadership of WFP. He will have detailed discussions on Odisha's partnership with WFP and future projects, which will further help the

senior IAS and IPS officers including the Chief Secretary, Development Commissioner, DG Police, ADGs, Police Commissioner and Service



Senior Babus greet Naveen on electoral victory

Association representatives of OAS, OFS, OPS, Secretariat Service, Revenue Service, Constables and Havildars, Heads of Departments, Medical Service, Amala Sangha, Veterinary Service, Panchayat Executive officers, Gram Rozgar Sevak Sangh, Drivers, Contractual Employees met the Chief Minister and congratulated him for the spectacular success in the recently held Panchayat and Urban Local

grieve. It's an instrument of government, not of a party. The Bureaucracy must not only be apolitical but would appear to be so. Years ago, one veteran Bureaucrat late K Srinivasan, used to cite a saying in Tamil which said, "If you are drinking a glass of milk, but under a Khajur Tree, people would say you are drinking liquor". By way of mentoring, he would say, "You have to be not only impartial but appear to be so."

Udaipur murder: Citing Prophet 'insult', 2 kill man on video, threaten PM Modi

NIA team sent, internet snapped in Rajasthan, Section 144 imposed

Udaipur, June 28: A youth was beheaded by two men in the Maldas street area of Udaipur, Rajasthan, on Tuesday. The deceased had reportedly shared a social media post in support of suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma, a few days ago. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said both the accused youth were arrested from Rajsamand, adding investigation in the case will be done under the Case Officer Scheme to ensure speedy trial.



Protest over the murder

A team of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has been rushed to Udaipur amid as the daylight killing appears to be an act of terror, officials said. According to an ANI input, the killers posted a video of the beheading and even threatened to take Prime Minister Narendra Modi's life. Soon after, locals staged a

protest over the murder, following which shops in the area were closed. Internet services were suspended for the next 24 hours across the state to maintain law and order, while restrictions under Section 144 of the CrPC will remain in place in all the districts for the next one month. Initially, Section 144

was imposed in seven police station areas of Udaipur.

Police said a statewide alert has been issued to all superintendents of police and inspector general to increase the mobility of forces and to maintain officers on the ground.

An SIT, comprising SOG ADG Ashok Kumar Rathore,

ATS IG Prafulla Kumar, one SP and additional SP, has been constituted to investigate the matter. "We're assessing the law and order to take further decisions," the ADG (law and order), Rajasthan, was quoted as saying by ANI.

"Two ADGPs from Jaipur, one more SP and 600 additional police force have

been sent to Udaipur. The culprits will not be spared," the officer added.

Earlier, the chief minister promised to ensure strict action for those involved in the act and appealed to citizens to maintain peace and not share any related video. "It is a very sad incident. It is not a small incident, what has happened is beyond one's imagination. The culprits will not be spared," he told reporters.

"I condemn the heinous murder of a youth in Udaipur. Strict action will be taken against the criminals involved in this incident. I appeal to everyone to maintain peace and not share the video of the act," Gehlot wrote in a Twitter thread.

Police said thorough investigation will be conducted into the murder. "A few accused have been

identified. Police teams have been constituted to locate the accused. We will take action on the video of men claiming to have committed the act," the superintendent of police, Udaipur, was quoted as saying by ANI.

The collector of Udaipur collector said the affected family will be provided help from the government. "I appeal to all to maintain peace and law and order. Stringent action will be taken against the accused."

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Gulab Chand Kataria said he has spoken to the CM over the issue. "Those involved be arrested and assistance be given to victim family. This incident is not possible due to a single person, it could be because of some organisation. It's horrendous and failure of administration," Kataria said.

One Odia among 4 dead in Pawan Hans helicopter crash in Arabian Sea

All the deceased have been identified as ONGC employees. Odia geologist Satyambada Patra is also among them.



Mumbai, June 29: A brand new Pawan Hans chopper with nine people on board crashed into the Arabian Sea, about 50 nautical miles from the Mumbai coast on Tuesday, killing four people - including one Odia.

All the deceased have been identified as ONGC employees. Odia geologist Satyambada Patra is also

among them. Others have been identified as Mukesh Patel, Bijay Mandloi and Sanju Francis.

The tragic incident occurred during the emergency landing of the chopper in the Arabian Sea water near the Sagar Kiran oil-rig off Mumbai High Fields, around 175 km off the country's commercial capital.

The chopper was carrying at least seven passengers and two pilots. The rescue was carried out by ONGC vessel Malviya-16 and a boat from the oil rig Sagar Kiran, while the Indian Coast Guard also deployed its aerial and marine assets in the efforts.

Four of the nine pulled out were unconscious and airlifted in a Navy chopper to a hospital in Mumbai, where they were declared dead.

Notably, ONGC has several rigs and installations in the Arabian Sea that are used to produce oil and gas from reservoirs lying below the seabed. ONGC has ordered a probe into the incident.

Indian Cobra hatchlings found inside house in Puri

Though Braja Kishore released the snake in forest, he carefully kept the eggs and was eagerly waiting for the birth of the baby snakes. On Monday, all 19 snake babies were born.

Kakatpur, June 28: As many as 19 snake hatchlings were found in the house of a snake rescuer at Kunderi Panchayat under Kakatpur block in Puri district.

According to sources, snake rescuer Braja Kishore Sahu had rescued a King Cobra from the house of a local resident two months back. He took the snake to home and decided to release in the nearby forest the next day. On the very day when he was about to release the snake in the forest, he saw the mother Cobra delivered 19 eggs at his residence.

Though he released the snake in forest, he carefully kept the eggs and was eagerly waiting for the birth of the baby snakes. On

Monday, all 19 snake babies were born. Later, Brajakishore informed forest department to release all the baby snakes

local resident. The snake had swallowed a PVC pipe.

Snake Helpline member Sujit Mohanty, who rescued



in the nearby Golargada forest.

In a separate incident, Snake Helpline rescued a King Cobra from Jajiguda area under Sunabeda municipality on Monday. The snake was found in the house of Krishna Dera, a

the snake said, "When I went to rescue the snake, I observed that the snake was feeling uneasy. I could realise that the snake had swallowed something. I made the snake vomit the pipe following which I released the reptile in forest."

Pakistan Blocked Out of BRICS Event after India Asked China to Keep Islamabad Out



China Offers An Olive Branch To India; Blocks Pakistan

not a frontrunner to become a member of the organization.

INDIA GETS CHINA TO BLOCK PAKISTAN

Pakistani media is rife with reports which say India was the country that got

future engagement of the organization would be based on the principles of inclusivity keeping in view the overall interests of the developing world and in a manner that is devoid of narrow geopolitical

Khan was Prime Minister in February and Beijing hosted a handful of "world leaders" on the occasion of the opening of the Winter Olympic Games, Islamabad was told to cut down its ministerial entourage. China offered no loans or bailouts to Pakistan, and all that Imran Khan got was a short and inconsequential meeting with Xi Jinping.

THE CHINESE RESET

China is recalibrating its foreign policy. As a part of this temporary reset, China is looking to distance itself from both Russia as well as Pakistan. Antagonizing the United States and its allies in the West has cost Pakistan dearly.

US President Joe Biden, for one, had neither called Imran Khan after taking over the White House, and neither has he spoken to Pakistan's new Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif yet.

India, on its part, has made it a point to diplomatically isolate Pakistan. Having said that, getting China to block

Pakistan's entry at an event hosted by it is a big win for New Delhi.

To an extent, China also seems to be offering an olive branch to India, in wake of heightened tensions between the two Asian powers that has only proven detrimental to Beijing's interests. Amid an economic slowdown that threatens to derail China's ambitions of replacing the United States as the world's largest economy; the global reset being caused by the war in Ukraine and the CCP's heightened scrutiny of Xi Jinping's actions - Beijing is toning down its rhetoric and distancing itself from problematic partners.

For Pakistan, the loss of China as a friend, even momentarily, is not just a PR crisis, but is also an indicator of how Beijing might turn its back on Islamabad without blinking twice. That China has done so already by not inviting Pakistan to the HLDGD meet - that too at India's behest - will make many people in Islamabad and Rawalpindi perspire uncontrollably.

Many in Islamabad feel cheated as they see their all-weather ally China slowly drifting away as Beijing blocked Pak's presence at a BRICS event

Chinese President Xi Jinping hosted the High-Level Dialogue on Global Development (HLDGD) on June 24. This virtual meet was part of the BRICS summit that China recently hosted. This particular meeting included many non-BRICS members.

Apart from BRICS member states like Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, countries that attended the meeting were Iran, Egypt, Fiji, Algeria, Cambodia, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Guess who was not in attendance? Pakistan and its

Prime Minister, Shahbaz Sharif. Pakistan's absence in an important meeting that is being seen as a precursor to BRICS' expansion is no small deal.

The expansion of BRICS has been on the cards for quite some time now. The High-Level Dialogue on Global Development, meanwhile, represents all the countries that might be given entry into BRICS.

Pakistan has always wanted to be a part of the same, yet, its absence from the significant virtual meet points to the fact that Islamabad is

China to block Pakistan's entry into the High-Level Dialogue on Global Development.

In a statement, the Pakistani Foreign Office Monday said, "We have noted that this year a 'High-level Dialogue on Global Development' was held as a BRICS side event in which a number of developing/emerging economies were invited... Regrettably, one member (of BRICS) blocked Pakistan's participation." A spokesperson for the Pakistani Foreign Office said, "However, we do hope that

considerations."

That China reportedly succumbed to pressure from India, and blocked the entry of its "all-weather ally" into the important BRICS side-event has ruffled many feathers in Pakistan, with many in Islamabad feeling cheated.

Suddenly, Pakistan sees its only 'friend' drifting away from it to better position itself among the democratic world - of which India is an integral part. Pakistan is being continuously snubbed by China for quite some time now. In fact, even when Imran

Odisha receives investment intents worth Rs 21,000cr

Dubai, June 29: The Odisha government has received investment intents worth more than Rs 21,000 crore with employment potential for 19,000 people in different sectors during Odisha Investors' Meet held in Dubai on Wednesday, officials said.

The meeting, jointly organised with FICCI and the Embassy of India in UAE, was held under the leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. A delegation of senior officials from the Odisha government attended the meeting.

The state has received the investment proposal on sectors like infrastructure, hospitality, logistics, chemicals, food processing etc.

The Chief Minister held meetings with few UAE-based industry captains and invited them to visit Odisha and has also assured all the companies of unmatched facilitation and support. "Glad to meet PNC Menon, Chairman of @SobhaLtd at

The state has received the investment proposal on sectors like infrastructure, hospitality, logistics, chemicals, food processing etc.

#OdishaInvestorsMeet in Dubai. Sobha Realty has expressed intent to invest Rs 5,000 crore in metals, metallurgy and hospitality sector in Odisha. Assured all support for faster grounding of projects," Patnaik said in a tweet.

He also met Ibrahim Sharaf of Sharaf Group in Dubai and welcomed his proposal to invest in Odisha in the logistics sector.

The Chief Minister also met KG Abraham, Partner and MD of NBTC Group of Kuwait. The company has proposed to invest Rs 5,000 crore to set up a urea plant in the state. Patnaik assured him to facilitate and support with industry ready infrastructure

and skilled workforce.

In another tweet, Patnaik said: "It is a pleasure meeting Dr. Yousif Al Hammadi, MD of Tabreed Group at #OdishaInvestorsMeet in Dubai. Glad to share that the group expressed intent to invest Rs 1,000 Cr in an ICT Campus in Bhubaneswar. Assured all support for the speedier ground of the project."

On this occasion, Patnaik announced the third edition of Make in Odisha Conclave, 2022 to be held in Bhubaneswar during November 30-December 4, 2022.

During the meeting in Dubai, DP World and Hindustan Ports Pvt Ltd expressed its intent to launch projects related to ports, SEZ and ICD with an



investment of Rs 8,000 crore in Odisha. Similarly, Dubai-based Sobha Realty has agreed to set up projects worth Rs 5,000 crore in the state, Chief Minister's Office (CMO) informed in a tweet.

Kuwait-based NBTC has expressed intent to set up an ammonia urea plant with an investment of Rs 5,000 crore while Twenty14 Holdings, a Abu Dhabi-based hospitality company, has agreed to set up a 5 star hotel and wellness

centre in Odisha with an investment of Rs 500 crore.

The Lulu International Shopping Malls Pvt. Ltd. has proposed to set up shopping malls, hypermarkets & agri sourcing, and logistics hub in Odisha with an investment of Rs 1,500 crore. It will provide direct employment to 5,000 people and indirect employment to 10,000, it said.

Moreover, Abu Dhabi-based firm Tabreed, expressed intent to invest Rs 1,000 crore

to establish an ICT campus in Bhubaneswar while Sharaf Group and Hind Terminals Pvt. Ltd. has expressed intent to set up a logistics park in Odisha with an investment of Rs 750 crore, the CMO said.

Besides, Arab India Spices LLC has agreed to set up a pulse splitting unit in Odisha against an investment of Rs 50 crore which will provide direct employment to 300 people and indirect employment to 500 people.

My tribal vs your tribal

Chhattisgarh Congress tries to find way around the Murmu conundrum

Raipur, June 28: Droupadi Murmu's nomination as the first tribal Presidential candidate has put the Congress government in tribal-dominated Chhattisgarh in a spot. While it does not want to alienate tribal groups, it also cannot openly declare its support to a BJP nominee. Meanwhile, the state BJP is expected to put its full weight behind the decision.

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA)'s choice of fielding Murmu, who is a Santhal tribal woman from Odisha, was hailed by the state BJP, which has been highlighting that a tribal woman was chosen for the highest position in the country. In a statement to the press, Dharamlal Kaushik, the state's BJP's leader, congratulated the national leadership for picking an able



PM Modi with NDA Presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi.

tribal leader like Murmu.

On June 22, the state's Janta Congress Chhattisgarh (Jogi) leader Amit Jogi also extended his support to Murmu, recounting the

"respect" his deceased father and ex-chief minister Ajit Jogi held for her. "Chhattisgarh is a tribal-dominated state, hence I request all MLAs in Chhattisgarh to vote for

Murmu despite party lines to uphold tribal honour," Jogi tweeted.

With virtually no elbow room, CM Bhupesh Baghel has been trying to counter the

BJP by raising the case of another tribal leader. "The BJP ignored (Anusuiya) Uikey who is also a tribal leader and has worked extensively, just because of her background with the Congress," Baghel said on June 22 in reference to senior tribal leader and Chhattisgarh governor Anusuiya Uikey, who was earlier in the Congress.

Sources in the state BJP denied this, saying Uikey's name was only one among the many names in consideration.

While Baghel might be hoping to brazen it out, state Congress leaders, particularly its tribal MLAs, admit it is not easy for them to ignore Murmu's candidature, and that they are under mounting pressure from the tribal community in the state, especially the organisation Sarva Adiwasi Samaj, which has already opened multiple

fronts against the government.

On March 14, the Samaj had "gheraoed" the CM's house with a 20-point charter over various issues. It has in the past rallied behind implementation of PESA or Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, and protested against mining in Hasdeo, police excesses in Bijapur, and alleged Hindu-centric policies of the government. Earlier in June this year, the Samaj also indicated that they would nominate their candidates against the government in the upcoming election.

A source within the government said, "Not supporting a tribal candidate might cost the representatives more angst from the community, something that the BJP is counting on in the state."

Oppositions target Naveen for not taking ministers with him

Bhubaneswar, June 20: While Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has been in Rome as part of his second official foreign tour in his 22-year-reign, back in Odisha, Opposition parties Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday played him for not taking any ministers with him. His delegation comprises only bureaucrats.

The CM should have taken ministers in charge of Industries, Food Supplies or Revenue and Disaster Management departments along with him, the leaders opined.

"It suggests that the CM doesn't trust his

The CM should have taken ministers in charge of Industries, Food Supplies or Revenue and Disaster Management departments along with him, the leaders opined.

ministers. If he has trust on them, then the ministers of concerned departments should have also accompanied him along with the secretaries. It seems he is disregarding his ministers," said BJP leader Pradeep Purohit.

Senior Congress leader and Jatni MLA Suresh Routray said, "Ministers had accompanied him (Naveen Patnaik) during his last foreign trip to London in May, 2012. This time, he, ignoring them, has taken only bureaucrats with him. This is perhaps why people in the State believe ministers are not so powerful as to transfer even a peon."

In response to the Oppositions' criticisms, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Pramila Mallik said, "The CM is well aware of everything and can talk on anything. He is capable



enough to get things done by him. It is the job of the Opposition parties to oppose the government. So they are always digging up dirt on the government."

Notably, during his London visit, the then ministers like Ramesh Majhi and Usha Devi had accompanied Naveen.

Meanwhile, after reaching Rome, Patnaik met India's Ambassador to Italy, Neena Malhotra. He left New Delhi at 4.15 am on Monday and reached Rome later in the day.

During his six-day stay in Rome, he will attend an event of the World Food Programme (WFP) where he will share the details of transformative initiatives his government has taken to ensure food security.

He will also share details regarding disaster management. Odia expats living in Netherland, Germany, Belgium and Italy are scheduled to meet the CM on June 23. During his stay, Patnaik will also meet Pope Francis at the Vatican City.

"We are very excited for the fact that our CM is on a foreign trip. He had last visited London in 2012. We are going to Rome to meet him," said Sukant Kumar Sahu, an Odia expat living in London.

Notably, the CM is scheduled to reach Dubai on June 26 where he will meet potential investors.

Only their bodies will come back...: Sanjay Raut warns Sena rebels in Guwahati

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut, in a veiled warning to rebel Sena MLAs on Sunday, said their souls are dead and only their bodies will return to Mumbai.

Mumbai, June 26: "The 40 people [rebel MLAs] who are there are not alive. Only their bodies will come back here, their souls will be dead. When they step out [of Guwahati], they won't be alive at heart. They know what can happen in the fire that has been lit now," Raut said.

"The soulless bodies [of rebel MLAs] will come from Assam and will be sent directly to the [Maharashtra] Assembly for postmortem," he added.

As the rebellion continues within Shiv Sena, Sanjay Raut issued an open warning on Saturday of unleashing Shiv Sainiks on the streets. He added that Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray wouldn't resign and that the Sena would fight till the end.

Raut told India Today, "This is the anger of the Shiv Sainiks. Fire once lit will not be doused. Shiv Sena will fight till the end," as reports of vandalism emerged from different parts of

Maharashtra.

Meanwhile, another Shiv Sena leader and cabinet minister for higher and technical education, Uday Samant, has gone incommunicado and is

from Sena quota, Rajendra Yedavkar, are also been camping with Shinde.

Sanjay Raut had earlier claimed that once rebel MLAs came back to Mumbai, they



reportedly on his way to Guwahati from Surat. So far, state cabinet ministers Gulabrao Patil, Dada Bhuse, Sandipan Bhumre, and ministers of state Shamburaje Desai and Abdul Sattar (all Shiv Sena) have joined the camp of rebels. Another minister Bachu Kadu of Prahar Janshakti Party and an Independent minister

would know where exactly the rebellion was.

The Centre has accorded Y-plus security to 15 rebel Sena MLAs after Shiv Sena workers vandalised their offices and properties. However, Eknath Shinde, who is leading the rebellion, is not included in the list.

Bihar: Piles of cash found after state drug inspector was raided

A team of surveillance department raided the residence of Drug Inspector Jitendra Kumar in the disproportionate assets case on Saturday in Patna, capital of Bihar.



A huge pile of cash was recovered from the residence of a drug inspector in Bihar, when the law enforcing agency raided the inspector's house in connection with an ongoing case

Patna, June 26: The officials seized a large amount of cash from Drug Inspector's possession that took them several hours to count.

Bundles after bundles of

notes of all denominations between ₹ 100 and ₹ 2,000 piled up on the table where the officers painstakingly counted them.

Apart from cash, the officers found documents of

many properties, a huge amount of gold and silver and four luxury cars, informed Surendra Kumar Maur, DSP Monitoring Department.

"A team of surveillance department raided the residence of Drug Inspector Jitendra Kumar in the disproportionate assets case. A huge amount of cash, many land papers, gold, silver and four luxury cars were recovered," said the DSP Monitoring Department officer.

The officers were still trying to put an exact figure on the total value of goods and cash seized during the raid, even during the late hours of Saturday.

Police high-handedness: OPCC stages 'dharna' at Raj Bhawan

A rally under the leadership of OPCC president Sarat Pattanayak was taken out from the ADM's office in Bhubaneswar and it culminated at the Raj Bhawan.

Bhubaneswar, June 16: The Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) on Thursday staged a demonstration in Bhubaneswar protesting against the police's alleged high-handedness against its leaders who were agitating in New Delhi showing solidarity with Rahul Gandhi.

A rally under the leadership of OPCC president Sarat Pattanayak was taken out from the ADM's office in Bhubaneswar and it culminated at the Raj Bhawan. Leaders and workers from across Odisha took part in the demonstration.

The grand old party alleged that while the Narendra Modi-led



government is autocratic, the police are vindictive.

OPCC president Pattanayak termed the police action as undemocratic. "We would like to warn the BJP government that the OPCC wouldn't tolerate the way it is harassing and conspiring against Rahul Gandhi through the ED, without any good reason. We the leaders and workers are standing by the Gandhi family. The people of

the country will teach them (BJP) a befitting lesson in the 2024 election," said Pattanayak.

Senior Congress leader and Jatni MLA Suresh Routray said the BJP is harassing Rahul Gandhi with malice afterthought. "We condemn the way the police assaulted party leaders in the party office. We are united to teach it a lesson in the coming days," Routray said.

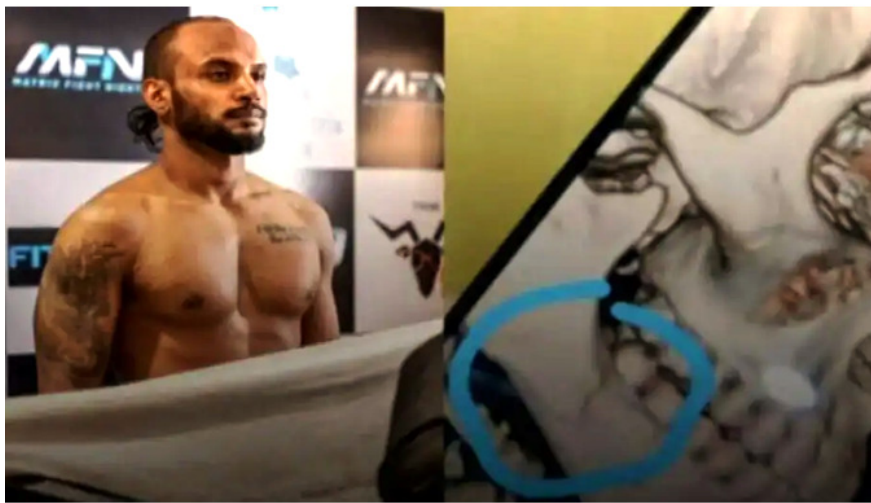
Odisha MMA fighter attacked by Afghan player in Delhi, case filed

New Delhi, June 29: Amixed martial arts (MMA) fighter from Odisha was severely injured after he was allegedly attacked by an Afghanistan MMA fighter and his supporters following a match at Siri Fort Auditorium here, police said on Tuesday.

The injured fighter M Srikanth Sekhar, who hails from Odisha, had participated in a match on June 24 which was held at Siri Fort Auditorium in south Delhi's Hauz Khas.

As per the complaint, Sekhar was attacked by an Afghan fighter Abdul Azim Badakshi and his supporters on the night. The incident took place after the conclusion of the Matrix Fight Night (MFN) promotion.

In his statement, Sekhar alleged that on June 24 after finishing his match, at around 10:30 pm, he was cheering up his team-mate Seth Rosario. During this, some supporters of Zahoor Shah (opponent of Seth Rosario) threw a rolled paper on Sekhar, when he looked back he saw that they



were making rage faces on him. Thereafter, when Sekhar was leaving, an Afghan fighter

beaten up by some others too. Sekhar's brother, Ramakant Majhi said, "50-60 Afghani

The injured fighter M Srikanth Sekhar, who hails from Odisha, had participated in a match on June 24 which was held at Siri Fort Auditorium in south Delhi's Hauz Khas.

named Abdul Azim Badakshi reportedly attacked him and punched on his jaw. Sekhar was knocked down by Badakshi and

nationals came forward and thrashed my brother. When the Police came and tried to take him to the van, the attackers

chased with them and threw anything that they can get in their hands."

He was admitted by his friends at BLK Hospital on Pusa Road, Ramakant added.

Based on Sekhar's statement, a case under sections 325 (punishment for voluntarily causing grievous hurt) and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code was registered on Monday and investigation has been taken up, police said.

Eknath Shinde Takes Oath As Chief Minister

New Delhi: Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde today took oath as the Maharashtra Chief Minister at the Raj Bhawan. BJP's Devendra Fadnavis took oath as the Deputy Chief Minister just hours after he renounced any position in the Maharashtra government. Earlier today, Mr Fadnavis sprung a surprise when he announced that Eknath Shinde will be the next chief minister. His announcement defied expectations that he would return to the post with the support of the rebel faction.

on Wednesday, minutes after the Supreme Court ruled that he must prove today that his government still has a majority. Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Eknath Shinde and Devendra Fadnavis after the two took oath as Maharashtra Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister respectively.

"Congratulations to Shri Devendra Fadnavis Ji on taking oath as Maharashtra Deputy CM. He is an inspiration for every BJP Karyakarta. His experience and expertise will be



The BJP claims they have support of over 170 MLAs to form the new government.

Uddhav Thackeray resigned as the Chief Minister

an asset for the Government. I am certain he will further strengthen Maharashtra's growth trajectory," PM Modi said in a tweet.

Here is everything to know about NDA's Prez pick Draupadi Murmu

Murmu has suffered multiple tragedies in her personal life. Her husband, Shyam Charan Murmu had passed away following a cardiac arrest. Later in 2009, one of her sons died under mysterious circumstances.



On June 21, The Bhartiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance coalition government announced former Governor of Jharkhand Draupadi Murmu's name as its Presidential candidate for the upcoming elections scheduled for July 18, 2022. She will file her nomination on June 25.

Once elected, Murmu will become the first tribal President of India. She will be the second female President after Pratibha Patil, who served as the President from 2007 to 2012. Besides, Murmu will be the first-ever President elected from Odisha. VV Giri, the fourth President of India was born to a Telugu family in Odisha's Berhampur.

Following the announcement of her candidature, a wave of congratulations has followed from leaders across party lines. Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote, "Smt. Droupadi Murmu Ji has devoted her life to serving society and empowering the poor, the downtrodden as well as the marginalised. She has rich administrative experience and had an outstanding gubernatorial tenure. I am

confident she will be a great President of our nation."

Needless to say, people of Odisha took some time off and enjoyed a celebratory mood soon after the announcement was made. Let's dig into some lesser known facts about NDA Presidential candidate Draupadi Murmu.

Murmu was born in a Santal tribal family on June 20, 1958, in village Uparbeda under Kusumi tehsil of Mayurbhanj. She gained a Bachelor of Arts degree from Ramadevi Women's College in Bhubaneswar and then worked as a Junior Assistant in Irrigation and Power Department from 1979 to 1983 in the Odisha government. In 1994, she joined as a teacher at Sri Aurobindo Integral Education Centre, Rairangpur and continued serving at the institute till 1997. She joined the BJP in the same year.

Before she became an MLA, Murmu served as a councillor in Rairangpur Nagar Panchayat in 1997 and as vice-president of the BJP's Scheduled Tribes Morcha. She became the vice-chairperson of the Rairangpur NAC. If

elected, Murmu will be the first President to have been born after Independence.

Murmu had served twice as an MLA representing Rairangpur Assembly seat and once as a minister in Odisha, before being sworn in as the Governor of Jharkhand on May 18, 2015. She held the portfolios of commerce and transport from 2000 to 2002 and fisheries and animal resources development from 2002 to 2004.

She was variously district president of the BJP unit in Mayurbhanj, and State president of the BJP Scheduled Tribe Morcha between 2006 and 2009. She has been conferred with the best legislator award Nilakantha Samman by Odisha Legislative Assembly in 2007.

Murmu's five-year term as Governor of Jharkhand was scheduled to end on May 18, 2020, but it was automatically extended due to the non-appointment of a new Governor in wake of the ongoing Covid pandemic.

Personal tragedies Murmu had to face

Murmu was married to Shyam Charan Murmu and the couple had two sons and a daughter. However, Murmu has suffered multiple tragedies in her personal life. Her husband, Shyam Charan Murmu had passed away following a cardiac arrest. Later in 2009, one of her sons died under mysterious circumstances. Just three years later, in 2012, her second son died in a road accident. Murmu's daughter Itishree is married to Ganesh Hembram and settled in

Bhubaneswar, where she works at UCO Bank. Itishree's husband Ganesh Hembram is a rugby player and the young couple has a little daughter.

Humble beginnings and diverse experience

Born on June 20, 1958, Murmu was the first woman governor of the state. If elected - with the numbers stacked in favour of the BJP-led NDA combine she is likely to score a win over the Opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha - Murmu will also be the first president to be born after Independence. "She has been through a lot of pain and struggle, but doesn't get rattled by adversity," former Odisha BJP president Manmohan Samal said.

Born into a Santal family, she is an excellent orator in Santhali and Odia languages. She had worked extensively to improve infrastructure such as roads and ports in the region.

The tribal-dominated Mayurbhanj has been the focus of the BJP, which is eyeing a strong foothold in the state. The BJD snapped ties with the BJP in 2009 and has consolidated its hold over Odisha since then.

It is from Rairangpur that she took her first step up the BJP ladder. She was a councilor in the Rairangpur Notified Area Council in 1997 and rose to being a minister in Odisha's BJD-BJP coalition government from 2000 to 2004. In 2015, she was appointed governor of Jharkhand and stayed in the post till 2021.

Presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu sweeps temple floor before Delhi visit

Accompanied by friends and some family members, 64-year-old Murmu on Wednesday visited the temples of Lord Jagannath, Hanuman and Shiva in Rairangpur, the place from where she was first elected as an MLA in 2000

Rairangpur, June 22: A day after the Bharatiya Janata Party announced Droupadi Murmu's name as the NDA's Presidential candidate, setting the stage for India's first tribal President, the former Jharkhand Governor visited several temples in Rairangpur area of her home town Mayurbhanj district in Odisha to offer prayers ahead of her departure to Delhi.

candidature.

"We are extremely happy over her selection. Even when she was the Governor of Jharkhand, she never had any air. She is a very simple and down to earth person," said a Brahma Kumari.

Her neighbours in Rairangpur said they have been feeling too euphoric after the announcement last night. "We are still unable to come to terms



NDA's President-nominee Droupadi Murmu sweeps temple floor

Accompanied by friends and some family members, 64-year-old Murmu on Wednesday visited the temples of Lord Jagannath, Hanuman and Shiva in Rairangpur, the place from where she was first elected as an MLA in 2000.

She also swept the premises of the Purandeswari Shiva temple before offering prayers. She is headed to Delhi via Bhubaneswar to file her nominations on Saturday.

Murmu also visited Prajapita Brahma Kumari Ishwariya Vishwavidyalaya in Rairangpur. She was given a grand welcome and the Brahma Kumaris of Rairangpur said they are excited over her

that she is going to be the President. It would be a dream come true for the people of Mayurbhanj," said Sunaram Murmu, a local.

Union minister of state for tribal affairs Bishweswar Tudu said it was a proud moment for Mayurbhanj.

"The NDA has given priority to Mayurbhanj again. After my induction as a Union minister, selecting Murmu for the highest constitutional post of the country shows the priority of the NDA government. We all should cherish the great moment as Odias and as the citizens of Mayurbhanj," he said.

Murmu has been provided Z plus security by the Union home ministry.

Prez polls: Droupadi Murmu set for comfortable win with BJD, YSRCP's backing

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led ruling National Democratic Alliance has 49% or 5,32,351 of the 1086431 votes in electoral college for the presidential election

New Delhi, June 23: Droupadi Murmu, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA)'s nominee for the July 18 presidential election, is set for a comfortable victory as parties like the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and Yuva Jana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) have backed the former Jharkhand governor's candidature.

The NDA has 49% or 5,32,351 of the 1086431 votes in the Electoral College for the presidential election. BJD has 31,686 votes, YSRCP 45,550 and All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam 14,940 votes. Support of either BJD or YSRCP is enough for Murmu, who is set to be the first tribal president, to win.

The NDA is also banking on support from the Jharkhand Mukti Morch (JMM), a Scheduled Tribe (ST)-led party. JMM is likely to break ranks with the



coalition of opposition parties, which has named former BJP leader Yashwant Sinha as its candidate. Murmu belongs to the Santhal Tribe.

BJP leaders said parties such as Shiromani Akali Dal, Telugu Desam Party and Bahujan Samaj Party are also likely to back Murmu.

"There has been a very positive response to her nomination. Many leaders

across party lines have appreciated the NDA's decision to nominate a humble leader, who comes from an impoverished background and rose to great heights. It would not be a surprise if other parties considered anti-BJP also decide to support her," said a BJP leader, requesting anonymity.

The leader added there is also a possibility of cross-

voting for Murmu as presidential elections are held through secret ballot and lawmakers are not bound by party whip.

NDA was short of the required majority by about 20,000 votes and was counting on friendly parties such as BJD to support its nominee. YSRCP, which is outside the NDA fold, is also counted as a friendly party.

The BJP leader said the NDA may also get support from Shiv Sena's Ekanth Shinde-led camp, which has revolted against Maharashtra chief minister Udhav Thackeray and plunged his government into crisis.

The electoral college for the presidential election comprises 543 Lok Sabha, 233 Rajya Sabha and 4,033 members of legislative assemblies. The total value of the parliamentarians' votes is 5,43,200, and that of assembly members 5,43,231, totalling 1086431.

NDA is the largest group in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, but it still needs support from smaller parties and independents to secure a win. The BJP is in power in 18 states. It has 5,32,351 out of 1086431 votes.

Chief Minister and BJD leader Naveen Patnaik asked all Odisha legislators to vote for Murmu cutting across party lines. "...extend

unanimous support to elect the daughter of Odisha..."

Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar's statement welcoming Murmu's nomination has ended speculation about the impact strained ties between the BJP and his Janata Dal (United) or JD(U) could have on the presidential election. The JD (U) and BJP have been sparring over the government's new recruitment policy for the armed forces.

A second BJP leader said they were concerned that Kumar may consider breaking away from NDA as he has done in the past. In 2012, JD U backed Pranab Mukherjee even as it was a part of NDA.

Kumar called it a matter of great pride and happiness that a tribal woman has been nominated. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi called and informed him about the nomination.

Prez polls: PM Modi meets Droupadi Murmu, says her nomination lauded by all

Presidential election: PM Modi said Droupadi Murmu's understanding of grassroots problems and vision for India's development is outstanding," the PM wrote in a tweet.

New Delhi, June 23: Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Droupadi Murmu, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance's Presidential candidate on Thursday ahead of her filing the nomination papers for the upcoming election to the country's top constitutional post. Modi said her Presidential nomination has been appreciated across India by all sections of society.

"Her understanding of grassroots problems and

vision for India's development is outstanding," the PM wrote in a tweet. Modi had also tweeted right after Murmu's candidature was announced by the BJP national president JP Nadda and said the former Jharkhand governor will make a "great President", having dedicated her life to serving society and the downtrodden.

Murmu reached the national capital earlier in the day from Bhubaneswar.



PM Narendra Modi meets NDA's Presidential nominee Droupadi Murmu.

She is set to file her nomination papers on Friday in the presence of top party leaders. A PTI report, citing sources, said

her nomination papers are being prepared at parliamentary affairs minister Pralhad Joshi's residence.

Modi, Nadda and senior ministers Rajnath Singh and Amit Shah will be among her proposers. BJD's Sasmit Patra, whose

party has backed her nomination, was also among those at Joshi's home to sign the papers.

Several Delhi BJP leaders, including state president Adesh Gupta, party MPs Manoj Tiwari and Ramesh Bidhuri, leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, welcomed Murmu at the airport.

In a brief statement issued before she left for the national capital, Murmu said, "I thank all and seek cooperation from everyone for the presidential election. I will meet all voters (lawmakers) and seek their support before July 18."

If elected, the 64-year-old will be the first tribal President of India and the second woman in the post.

Jurassic World Dominion Movie Review



Avg. Users' Rating 4.5/5

CAST: Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill, DeWanda Wise, Mamoudou Athie, BD Wong, Omar Sy
DIRECTION: Colin Trevorrow
GENRE: Thriller, Sci-Fi
DURATION: 2 hours 26 minutes
Critic's Rating: 3.0/5

characters from the original trilogy as well. Dr Ian Malcolm (Jeff Goldblum), warns his friends and fellow scientists Dr Alan Grant (Sam Neill) and Dr Ellie Sattler (Laura Dern) about the wrongdoings being committed at Biosyn and they come down to investigate.

The film's production values are out of this world. It used 18 animatronics of varying sizes to bring a realistic feel to the viewer's experience. An ample dose of CGI was utilised to make the dinosaurs seem as real as possible. In keeping with the current theories, fully feathered dinosaurs were also included in the mixture. The computer imagery blends seamlessly with actual footage. You can't make out where reality ends and fiction begins. The film's

falters when it comes to the storytelling. The convoluted plot is more about pigeon-sized locusts than about dinosaurs terrorising the world. Then, the world governments would have just killed the big lizards and prevented an outbreak. Dinosaurs would have taken

which a supremely guarded, secret facility is breached and later escaped from defies belief. It's as if God was guiding our heroes at every turn. Yes, you go to the movies to escape reality but there's only so much that you can stretch the suspension of disbelief. In



key moments are mostly shot with the POV of humans to give us an immersive feel. Your eyes dart from one corner to the other of the IMAX screen, trying to take it all at one go. The background score too keeps pace with the cinematography.

While the film offers a grand visual spectacle, it

over the jungles and made other animals extinct and slowly would have turned to humans if they were allowed to breed unchecked. None of that is shown in the film. At the end, it's in fact shown that the mammals assimilate their reptilian ancestors into their ecosystem, which is something totally unscientific. The ease at

the first ever Jurassic Park film, what gave you the jitters was through the creation of constant tension and not through excess CGI dinosaurs. Less is more is said to be one of the cornerstones of good cinema. It's something the makers of the present film seem to have forgotten.

The ensemble cast seems to have a gala time nevertheless performing heroics amidst the misguided mayhem. Fans would surely love the rekindling of romance between Ellie and Alan. The spark between Laura Dern and Sam Neill is alive and kicking after 30 years and that's something indeed.

The film offers a grand sendoff to the cast of the original trilogy and kind of concludes an arc. But apart from indulging in major fan service, it serves no other purpose. Watch it for its visual appeal and for the sense of nostalgia it provides.



THE INDUSTRY & MINES
OBSERVER

Vol.-16
Issue -05
July 01

Editor : Sirish C Mohanty

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 Editorial: 9437072248, Circulation and subscription: 9938229429
 Email: imobserver@rediffmail.com,
 Our offices at: New Delhi, Raipur, and Mumbai

Printed, Published, Owned & Edited by Sirish Chandra Mohanty at LIG 489 & 490, NeeladriViharPhII, Chandrasekhar pur, Bhubaneswar - 751021 & Printed at Web line, Weblines, D2/19, Sector-A, Zone-D, Mancheswar Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010