

### The dreadful picture of famine. Palm kernels as food for the children

#### 'Janabadi' Bureau Review



Abounded with natural resources, the mineral-rich Odisha tribal village Kendujhar, under the feet of its localities lies iron ore worth crores of rupees but still, for the people living here the danger of starvation and malnourishment does not end.

Going deep inside this tribal-dominated village, you can see the terrible picture of famine. The government's plans are far from people's reach. Some are starving and some others are...

▶ Page-3

## TEARS IN THE EYES OF DISPLACED PEOPLE

#### 'Janabadi' Bureau Review

The Chheligarh Dam Project has not been completed for three decades. On the other hand, there are tears in the eyes of the displaced villagers. There is a place to build a

demanding to be provided with housing and farmland. Otherwise, the villagers said they would oppose such a rehabilitation and settlement process.

address the issue of displacement. Work on the Gajapati Chheligarh Large Irrigation Project will begin soon. The dam was planned to be built on the Badjor River, which



house on the mountain, but no food to eat. They have no farmland. The displaced people question how would they survive. Also, many more will be displaced. Project work will be accelerated. But the villagers are

However, the construction of the Chheligarh Irrigation Project has not been completed. Expenditure has increased from Rs 58 crores to Rs 708 crores. The administration, however, says plans are underway to

flows through the village of Chheligid in the Gajapati district. The plan was drawn up by the Department of Water Resources in 1985. Work had started at an estimated cost of ...

▶ Page-3

# After seven decades of Independence, continuous exploitation by the moneylenders !

#### 'Janabadi' Bureau Review

Even after seven decades of Independence, the money lender's exploitation continues. A similar incident has been reported in Rayagada.

The details are such that the moneylender's oppression, the administration is asleep! Efforts are underway to evict more than 30 families who have been living with their families for a long time. Tripathi Gamango, a member of the Central Committee of the CPI (M) (Liberation) and a member of the

Rayagada district secretary, complained that the local administration was in a state of disarray.

Prakash Sahu was a banker from Koilikata village under Padmapur block of Rayagada district.



Thirty displaced families farmed 14 acres of non-ceiling land of Prakash Sahu. This land, however, cannot be owned by anyone. But after Prakash Sahu's death, his son wanted to grab the opportunity

by owning the land. At times, he even resorted to manipulating the land. He tried to seize the 14-acre land's tractor. But the farmers chased him away. For this, the locals complained in the police station. But anyone who speaks against the banker's son is being threatened. The non-ceiling land case is now pending in court.

Indigenous people now cultivate the land and support their families. However, the CPI (M) (Liberation) has accused Prakash Sahu's son of trying to make the...

▶ Page-3

Editorial

## Unannounced emergency

At the center, the BJP-led government is doing something that not only threatens the country's constitution and democracy but also undermines the fundamental rights of its citizens.

Today, the central government is not only hurting the bright tradition of accountability and efficiency in democratic governance but also has failed in democratic governance. It uses lies to cover up its failures and arbitrariness. It has been noticed that, whether it is the demonetization or the GST, Ujjwala, Jan-Dhan, SmartCity, Ganga safai, Start-up, and healthcare, the Pegasus spy case are not based on truth. In the Rajya Sabha last Tuesday, Minister Hardeep Puri spoke about the success of the Corona vaccine and healthcare. Minister of State for Health, Bharati Praveen Pawar claimed that with the fight against Corona, no one has lost life due to lack of oxygen. Union Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnav on Thursday said reports about alleged targeting of politicians, journalists, and constitutional officials by Israeli spyware Pegasus in the Upper House of Parliament have put several "over the top" allegations. These allegations have been rejected by all parties involved, including the top court, in the past. There is no financial basis for these allegations. Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, who was delivering his maiden speech as the new minister in Parliament, said the 'more sensational story' has made many 'over the top allegations,' but 'there is no substance behind them.' Vaishnav further said, 'It is no coincidence that the report has come out a day before the monsoon session of Parliament.' The question is if the government is governed by the democratic rule of law, why are there hundreds of citizens and intellectuals in the country filing treason cases? Why do you want to trample on disagreement? The biggest fear of the regime now appears to be disagreement. This is because the voice of dissent controls the arbitrariness of the regime of the dictatorship. Ironically, for democracy oxygen seems to be a disagreement. The ruling party and the call to suppress it seem to have made India a country of traitors. In the matter of Pegasus spyware, it is clear that who is standing in favor of which political party. With the help of foreign powers, our country is spied upon. Is the government unaware? "If someone is doing this by keeping the government unaware, it will be a threat to the country's constitution and democracy." The question is, is the message that the government is giving to the country more patriotic or treasonous? The government is made by the people. And for 5 years the responsibility of the government is to govern according to the provisions of the Constitution. But the government is now pushing people or citizens down by presenting itself as lord. Citizens, journalists, and intellectuals who oppose the government's injustices, failures, and anti-people actions are being suppressed. This has been going on for more than five years. One incident this week was the attack on the offices of the daily Bhaskar and the Bharat Samachar channel, which was broadcasted from Lucknow, by the Central Revenue Department. Earlier, the government cracked down on news outlets such as NDTV and NewsClick. Now the raids on the office of the Hindi daily Bhaskar and the Bharat News Channel have indicated that situations like unannounced emergencies are taking place in India. The government is not in a position to tolerate discussion, criticism, disagreement, and opposition. It is clear from the attack on the media office how sensitive and intolerant the government is. The government is working to suppress the democratic movement, democratic voice, to deprive the people of their rights. On one hand, there is the growing propaganda of development, and on the other hand, the constitutional and democratic rights of the people are being taken away. Daily Bhaskar's office has been the subject of a series of raids on the government, which has been instrumental in bringing the government's failure to deal with the Corona pandemic to the fore. Whether it was the death of Stan Swamy's death in custody or the involvement of members of the democratic movement in sedition. In the name of cow slaughter, in the name of love jihad, in the name of defending religion, patriotic humanists are being imprisoned. They are kept in custody for months. The government, the CBI, the ED, the income tax authorities are being used to suppress the independence of the citizens. Evidence of another crackdown on the country's peasant movement has emerged. It appears that the central government is implementing the undeclared state of emergency in the country. This is not expected of a democratically elected government. Rather, the elected government has to prove its accountability and transparency in a democratic system of governance, which has not been seen. That's why Israel's Pegasus spyware incident took place. The parliament's question-answer session has closed. The Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha have become unfunctional. It is time for the government to reconsider its position and democratically address the issues. Citizens of the country will not be overwhelmed by repression and harassment. The government may have been able to temporarily silence the voices of a few citizens of the country by fear and temptation. But a large number of the country's citizens will not tolerate the government's anti-democratic, anti-constitutional and anti-people activities. The voices of protest are more likely to escalate. Be careful government! Not only will the dictatorship of Indira Gandhi's time, as well as the plight of the government declared in the aftermath of the dictatorship, be reminiscent of an attack on the freedom of expression, away from the dictatorial mentality.

## Modi government : caste census

Recently, in Parliament, Home Minister Nityananda Roy informed that the government is not currently on the agenda to collect census data. It is true that even if there was Manmohan Singh's Congress government, he would have done the same! Gathering population census or being racist is thing, they are things. Some understand that increase if you race! If this case, then there been a protest



Suryamani Mishra

statistics and not the same two separate people racism will insist on the were the would have to stop it.

At the time of the British government's power in our country, the census began systematically. In the first phase, the census began in 1881. This was followed by a census every 10 years. Caste census was also included. The calculations provided detailed information on the untouchable status of personalities like Ambedkar. The census reveals a variety of information, such as how many people are disabled, blind, educated. The various policies and plans are based on the information obtained from this calculation. Whatever caste census was gathered, they were all from 1931. During 1941 due to World War II census was only on paper. No comprehensive survey was possible.

After the Independence of India in 1947, a systematic census was conducted in 1951. The constitution provides for government jobs and reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes based on population. This is why the census is important. But no information was available about other races.

But today, when the reservation rules are being implemented in government jobs and educational institutions for other backward classes, caste census has become important and necessary. Where is the barrier of adding census to the pen of caste? The caste census will show how many other backward classes and how many beneficiaries. What is the percentage of other backward classes? It is needed for social studies.

It simply came to our notice then that some individuals were insisting on a census, while others were interested in closing down the census. Some people insisting on the census were from other backward classes. They do not want the social progress of other people, and that they should be deprived of justice. What is the population of that community? How many are its number of voters? In this way, they can maintain their dominance or...

THE REST OF PAGE-1

**Palm kernels...**

suffering from illness. Some are found to be eating palm kernels, while others feed their stomach with only rice. One such data has been reported.

The children of gurudisahi in Bardapala panchayat, Kendujhar district headquarters block, consume palm kernels as their food. About 200 people from 25 families reside in gurudisahi. All belong to the tribal community. The men sell firewood collected from the forest. Women come to Kendujhar to work as labourers as the children's parents can't feed them due to poor financial situation. The children being unable to stand hunger sometimes eat rice with mango kernels and sometimes they eat palm kernels. The colony has about 50 children. Parents do not send their children to Anganwadi, which is about 2 km from their block, because of deep forests on the way. Similarly, when children do not go to school, their names are removed from attendance. Most children in the village are malnourished. A few days ago, 56 people in the block were given shocks due to a lack of education and awareness. This caused a stir in the state after it was published in various newspapers. Authorities had given various promises but those were not fulfilled. There was not even an Anganwadi sub-center. As a result, children are being deprived of nutritious food provided by the government. The district administration is being asked to look into the matter.

**Tears in the eyes...**

Rs 57 crores. However, in 2005 it was Rs 200 crores and in 2018-19 it reached Rs 708 crores. However, the problem of displacement could not end.

The displaced complained that it was not possible to cultivate the land provided by the administration and also that the amount of assistance received to build the house was not enough. The villagers said, "the government wanted to relocate us to the mountains, but there is no place for farming." Arunendra Bhuyan, another displaced person, said, "We are being paid Rs 2.5 lakh for housing. It is not possible to make a home from this much sum of money. We will move out of here if we get all the facilities."

Another displaced woman named Kumari Karya said tears welled up in her eyes when she looks at the mountain place which they are given for living. "It has no value. Rocks all around. If you have electricity, then there is no food to consume. No land, no farming. If we can cultivate something in the land then only we can sell it and have some food, or else what will we eat?", Kumari said.

The construction of the dam at Chheligarh will irrigate 1,000 hectares of farmland in the Gajapati district and 5,000 hectares in the Ganjam district. It also aims to generate 36 megawatts of electricity.

The irrigation project will inundate many villages, including about 574 hectares of farmland in the Chheligarh and Mahendragarh areas. The administration has so far evacuated only a few families from two villages and relocated them to Samantarapur and Babulibandha, while plans are underway to evacuate other families. Tender work, on the other hand, has already taken place. Nagendra Maharana, the executive engineer of the Chheligarh Irrigation Project, said "work would begin soon. There is a target amount of funding for all projects in Odisha, he said. Work will be resolved soon and work will begin."

**After seven decades...**

land his own Tripathi Gamango, a member of the Central Committee of the CPI (M) (Liberation) and Rayagada district secretary, said the government should immediately give the leased land to the landless or keep it in its possession. The land case has been pending in court for years. So the case needs to be resolved soon. He encouraged ordinary people as well to take part in solving this great task. Otherwise, the movement will intensify in the coming days, "Gamango said. When the Naveen Patnaik government came to power in Odisha, it promised to distribute land leases to the tribals of South Odisha. However, it has not yet been completed, Tripathi Gamango said.

THE REST OF PAGE-2

influence based on race. It is not at all appropriate to suspend the census based on the wishes of a handful of people. This is because some politicians value racism when it comes to voting. It is said that the RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) is not in favor of the census. Congress has not been in favor of the count for a long time, because the census will weaken the Hindutva judgment. That is why the RSS does not want this calculation to take place. Even strict Islamic extremists do not want census. It is said that Islam and Muslims are one. As the union is known, there is no caste discrimination in Hinduism. But it is true that in Hinduism the abominable image of the caste system still exists today. There is also racism among Muslims. In both religions, there is a social hatred of the caste system. Sheikh, Syed, and Mullah-clerics do not want (perhaps not everyone) to count the caste. Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and Christians all have terrible racism. Two-thirds of Muslims are backward.

In some parts of the country, Brahmins

have joined the OBC. The lower castes are also in the general category. For example, in Gujarat, Kurmi-Patel is a common category outside the OBC.

In Bihar, UP, some Brahmins are on the OBC list, while Jat is in a general category. Rajiv Goswami, who opposed the Mandal Commission's recommendations and set himself on fire, was among the other backward people. Even today, there are many Rajiv Goswami in our society who are not free from ignorance. The Modi government has implemented a ten percent reservation system for the general public. It should not be opposed, it is also a welcome step. But reservations are being made based on the population of the Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes. If the general category is 15 percent, two-thirds of its population is reserved.

If the average population of the backward class is 54 percent, 46 percent of them are Hindus and the other 8 percent are Muslim OBCs. According to the recommendations of the Zone Commission,

half of the population, or 27 percent, have reservations. But 54 percent of reservations are expected. Why or why not find the lowest reservation category?

If caste issues are being taken into account at the time of voting, if the interests of capitalists, priests and the rich can be protected by sitting in government, why is there no caste-based reservation for the socially and economically backward OBCs for years? Even today, 60 to 70 percent of the oppressed tribal and other backward classes are socially and financially vulnerable to the caste system. If the government is busy introducing the number of OBCs, Dalit, and tribal ministers in Parliament, it would be a shame to deceive the census. Why are the ministers backing down for the census when the identity of the minister is given based on race? Is this Modi's caste policy? This is because many other races are still socially and economically backward. Therefore, the government should fulfill its role in the implementation of the census.

# Father Stan : A life dedicated to the tribal and indigenous communities of Jharkhand



Damodar Turi



I am the national coordinator of the Visthapan Virodhi Jan Vikas Andolan, a coalition of anti-displacement movements across the country. I live in Jharkhand. Father Stan Swamy, who passed away on July 5, was one of the founders of this broad coalition of people's movements.

I was jailed for my activism for nine months. The police charged me with the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 in a case in 2008. I was later acquitted by the court. Father Stan fought for my release. I was arrested a second time three years ago.

On February 15, 2018, the Jharkhand police arrested me from the site of a seminar organized in Ranchi on democratic rights. I was being hounded for organizing an event four months earlier in Giridih to mark 50 years of Naxalbari and the centenary year of Russia's Bolshevik Revolution. Note that this was no clandestine event, the state authorities had given us permission for the event almost 15 days in advance, which was withdrawn just a day before the event to throw a spanner in the works. The police kept me in solitary confinement for this crime in a cell without a window for over three months. Father Stan stood by me and my family through all of this and advocated for my civil liberties.

## Meeting Father Stan

I was born as one of three children in Jitpur panchayat in Tundi in Dhanbad. My father worked as bandha mazdoor, a bonded laborer, on the farms of upper-caste landowners in Dhanbad, a coal-rich region of Jharkhand. After my father worked as a bonded laborer his whole life, the landowner had provided our family a small homestead plot. My father managed to educate me in a government school in the village and 2003, I left Dhanbad to enroll myself in college in Ranchi.

I first met Father Stan in 2004. I had come in contact with anti-displacement activists in Ranchi when I moved there for higher studies. Their work resonated with me.

Bharatiya Janata Party formed the first government in the new state in 2001.

Jharkhand accounts for more than 40 percent of India's mineral wealth. This region is abundant in water resources, forests, and mineral riches. One of the first steps the then government took was to sign Memorandums of Understanding with large corporations to give our resources away to companies. In the past, as part of Bihar, the Jharkhand region saw vast displacement. Lakhs of Adivasis and the poor living in forests and villages were displaced in the establishment of coal mines, bauxite mines, hydel projects such as Masanjore dam, the Tata factory in Jamshedpur, and the dam in Chandil. These policies led to lakhs of poor families being forced to leave and labor in tea estates or as domestic workers in metropolitan cities.

With the new government signing these MoUs, we again faced the possibility and a threat of large-scale displacement of the poor and those depending on forest and common lands by these projects.

Working together with Father Stan Swamy, and Ranchi's other progressives, intellectuals, our coalition got information through Right to Information applications of 74 such MoUs to alienate people's land without their knowledge and consent. Working with Father Stan on this shaped my understanding of how the government even after the formation of a new state planned to sell mineral resources coal, iron, ores to corporates for quick profits, and how this would make the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, the Moolvasis homeless, forcing them to move away.

This is how we constituted Visthapan Virodhi Jan Vikas Andolan, or VVJA, to wage a struggle against displacement.

A life devoted to the people

From 2004, when Father Stan was 67 years old, until now, I saw that his role and focus remained to save and conserve the forests, land, the community hills, which are the source of our livelihood, and our culture. To take part in this struggle, Father Stan

After Jharkhand was carved as a new state out of Bihar in 2001, the promise was that the indigenous tribes and people, the Adivasis, and Moolvasis like me, would be able to govern themselves. We were told the region's socio-economic development would be aligned to our traditions. The

wrote articles regularly; he thought about Jharkhand's indigenous tribes and communities every day, and he remained with us in every struggle.

For some years now, in Jharkhand as well as other states, the Adivasis who reside in forests and interior villages where the land holds mineral reserves are being coerced to give up their land or face arrests. Also, successive governments have registered false cases against intellectuals, writers, poets, social activists, to put them in prisons, intensifying the challenges for us.

In 2014, and later in April 2017, the Home Ministry labelled the Visthapan Virodhi Janvikas Andolan as a "Maoist" front in its annual report, but we are neither an NGO nor any front. We are a broad-based people's movement against displacement. We advocate against forced displacement. We have faced state violence in the form of false arrests of our members.

Father Stan Swamy co-founded and lived and worked at Bagaicha, a research and training institute in Namkum on the outskirts of Ranchi since 2006. For the past few years, successive governments in Jharkhand have incarcerated youth who resist land acquisition. They were mostly Dalits, Other Backward Castes, and Scheduled Tribes. Over 16 to 18 months from 2012 to 2014, Father Stan tried to reach out to and investigate the conditions of undertrials, their families and tried to secure bail for them and I worked with him on this.

We submitted applications to all 26 jails of Jharkhand under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (RTI). The total occupancy in Jharkhand prisons was 128 percent of the actual prison capacity. Interviewing men and women who were alleged to be "extremists" under Section 17 of the Criminal Law and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, we found that Adivasis and Moolvasi constituted nearly 70 percent, about half were in the age group of 29-40 years, and about 22 present belonged to the 18-28 years age-group. Nearly all





of them were landless or simple agriculturists, with 59 percent earning less than Rs 3,000 per month. They struggled to meet bail conditions or legal expenses.

Father Stan Swamy highlighted how in September 2016, the National Human Rights Commission after verifying complaints acknowledged that 514 innocent Adivasi youth had been pressured and cheated by paramilitary and police officials to "surrender" as Naxalites promising them jobs and imprisoning them to apply for awards and promotions.

As part of the coalition, Father Stan pursued both these cases in court. His public interest litigation



on the undertrials' release is pending before the Ranchi High Court. In the case of forced, fake "surrender" of Adivasi youth as "Naxalites", the administration of Chaibasa, Khunti, Gumla, and Ranchi districts did not submit responses in court and tried to delay and drag the case. There have been no hearings in the case since October 2019.

Jharkhand has special tenancy laws meant to protect the land rights of indigenous communities. Five years back, when the then Jharkhand government announced it will amend two tenancy laws to allow the use of agricultural land of tribal people for non-agricultural purposes, Father Stan Swamy wrote articles, published booklets, and organized meetings along with Jharkhandi intellectuals and activists to advocate to save these special Acts.

The Chotanagpur Tenancy Act of 1908 restricts the sale of tribal land to non-tribals in 16 districts of Jharkhand. The Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act of 1876 prohibits the sale of tribal land to non-tribals in the Santhal Pargana region.

Supreme Court's Samata judgment which accord primacy of the gram sabha, the villages assemblies, on decisions on land use. These are all laws and judgments which the government ought to have tried to save, but it did not.

Laws meant for special protections for Dalit, Adivasi and oppressed communities are like a Kawach, a protective cover, for these communities. Every time the government tried to break these laws, Father Stan stepped up to write, to protest, to express his dissent, to secure the democratic rights of the oppressed.

In the 17 years that I knew him, I realized Father Stan lived for the Adivasi and Moolvasi communities of Jharkhand - thinking of, speaking, and writing for them. He made his life's mission to not only write and speak up for these communities but to also experience what people are going through by actually living among them. This was his daily routine for the 17 years that I spent with him.

When the police harassed and arrested social and cultural activist Jiten Marandi, a Santhal Adivasi, and tried to brand him a Naxalite, and later even arrested and imprisoned his wife Aparna Marandi who was attending to him in prison, Father Stan went to their village, their home, and raised questions about their arrests. He asked why, after Birsa Munda's sentencing by the British, the same was being repeated in independent India, targeting an Adivasi who spoke up like this. He took part in several campaigns, public meetings, and demonstrations for their release.

Who are these thousands of Adivasis and poor undertrials in Jharkhand? They are those who speak up to protect the natural resources: water, forest, land in their villages? Who are the advocates to conserve the community's resources and why do they do so? It is because they know that the state's so-called "development model" has displaced lakhs and crores of Adivasis. It has captured their resources and forced them out. They have been forced

Later, the government had to withdraw these amendments.

Along with this, Father Stan advocated for and worked for the implementation of the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas Act, 1996, the forests rights laws, and the

and coerced out of their homes.

Decades after Independence, the government has failed to create basic services and provisions for roti, kapda, makaan, for education and employment, and on top of it, the government tries to loot our livelihood resources and exclude us from them.

The people understand this and that is when they step forward, and then the governments start trapping them in false cases, charges, imprisoning them under black laws such as the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act 1967 which allows prolonged incarceration without bail, to keep them locked up for years. The conviction rate in UAPA cases is extremely low at 2.2 percent between 2016-19 (as stated in the parliament), showing that these charges are large without any evidence. It was against all this that Father Stan Swamy spoke up, wrote about, and tried to fight their battle through their legal and democratic protests.

The arrest

The National Investigation Agency arrested 84-year old Swamy from Bagaicha in October 2020 while the country reeled under a pandemic and there were curbs on movement after the lockdown. Despite the Covid crisis raging in the country, the NIA officials took him from his home to a place he had never been to before.

We protested this wrong and struggled against his arrest. Eight months on, the State has killed Father Stan Swamy in judicial custody. The judges who knew of his condition as an elderly, ailing person with Parkinson's disease, who denied him bail, and then tried to stall his case giving dates upon dates for delaying his hearing too are responsible for this.

In the days to come, more social activists and human rights defenders may face the same. This is a big challenge. But Jharkhand has a 400-year-old history of the struggle of Adivasi Moolvasi to save land, water, forests, and culture - from Birsa Munda's movement, to Sidho Kano, Tilka Majhi, who revolted against the British to protect our resources and culture, our livelihood. We have faced such challenges before and we are ready.

In days to come, we will rise against this injustice, taking inspiration from Birsa, Sidho Kano, Tilka Majhi, Chand Bhairav. This fight will not stop - we will come together for activists like Father Stan, for human rights defenders, those opposing CAA-NRC and arrested in false cases, those whose lives are being destroyed as they are kept in prisons, the movement against all this will intensify.

If we, the Adivasis, the Dalits, do not protest and take part in movements, our land, forest, water our source of livelihood will be looted. We have to advance because there is no place for us to retreat.



## Rayagada district: Poor tribal & distribution of government land !

# CPI(ML) is gearing up for the movement

Bhubaneswar (Bureau): Odisha is one of the most economically backward states in the country. And the tribal-inhabited districts within our state are the poorest and most neglected. In the Rayagada district, There are 14.41% Scheduled Caste (SC) and 55.99% Scheduled Tribe (ST) of the total population. Overall, 70% of the people in the district belong to these two communities. But they have no land and no home. These are landless and homeless. The only way to survive today is by land. All the land belongs to the landlord, the moneylender. So two-thirds of the people in the district are surviving by becoming labourers on wages in the district.

After Independence, a land settlement was established in Odisha in 1960 in the Scheduled Area. In the name of the poor tribals, Dalits, and other forest dwellers who have been living and farming for a long time, they have not been leased. On the other hand, they acquired land in the name of the moneylenders and landlords there. In Odisha, the number of educated is 72 percent, while in

the Rayagada district it is 50.88 percent. So they are lagging not only in terms of finances but also in terms of education and health. The money of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Guaranteed Employment Scheme has not reached out to most of the people. People make machines without working. Job cards are tied or used for false records. Under Nandini Devi's tenure as chief minister, the landslide under pressure from the people's movement has not yet been implemented. The most widely distributed non-ceiling land was not distributed among the poor and tribals. In some places, only the documents are distributed, and in some places, the government does not occupy them even though tribal leases are obtained. As a result, the land is being held by the landlord in his possession. It is common for powerful moneylenders to show off their old leases to administrative officials, intimidate poor tribal landless people, trap them in false cases, and send jailed protesters to the Maoist leadership. Land issues are the main problem in

the district, and all government-related agricultural schemes are becoming meaningless.

From the harvest of Comrade Nagbhusan Patnaik, Comrade Purna Gamango, land grabbing in a wide area including Gudari, Gunupur, Boriguma, Undurguda, Khamapadar, Koilikata, Bishamkatak, Rayalpadar reached a peak that the government did not support. That's why they didn't care about jail, fines, and punishment. Hundreds of acres of land are hidden in the name of monasteries, trusts, temples, gardens, and their relatives. Yet people are still living on that income by submitting some land. The incident took place in Koilikata village under the Padmapur block of Rayagada district. The remaining 14 acres of land left by the deceased zamindar Prakash Sahu's ceiling are being handed over by 30 landless families in the village for a long time today. Now his son has failed to seize the land by brokers, attempting to forcefully occupy the tractor himself and attempting to disrupt law and order.

He wants to show the adminis-

tration that this is his registered land, which is a lie. It is the land of the government. Regularly these 14 acres are government land. Such unrest is being caused by the fact that the government has not distributed to the occupied poor. Similarly, in the Gunupur and Gudari areas, 50 acres of land and monasteries of Muninarswani Padi have been hidden in the name of government land and royal lands occupied by the people. Led by Tripathi Gamang, a member of the Central Committee of the CPI (ML) Liberation and a member of the Rayagada district secretary, the poor have been campaigning across the district. We demand that the government immediately lease and occupy the land without leasing. Immediately decide the land case that has been pending in the courtroom for years and distribute the remaining land. Police and administrative officials should feel the reality and investigate the land survey and do justice to the poor. "Otherwise, the land movement will intensify as in the past and the government will be held accountable," the CPI (ML) party said in a press release.

## ODISHA : ANTI-DRUG ACT FAILURE SINCE 64 YEARS

# Order to Clarify Approach by September 15

Bhubaneswar (Bureau): The Odisha Prevention Act-1956, which was enacted to ban drug trafficking in Odisha just 10 years after the country's independence, has not been implemented to date. Although many governments have been in the state for the past sixty-four years, they have not tried to implement the law, which has been approved by the president. The Odisha High Court has directed the state government to clarify its approach by September 15. In 2013, Advocate Arun Kumar Buddhia filed public interest litigation in the High Court seeking the implementation of the

Odisha Prevention Act. The High Court accepted the appeal on April 5, 2021. The bench of High Court Chief Justices S. Muralidhar and Justice SK Panigrahi is set to adjourn till September 15 after the state government fails to take a stand on the matter.

In this case, the High Court has upheld the case and informed the bench that it has taken some steps to control the sale and preparation of illegal liquor. However, the petitioner argued that under the Odisha Prevention Act, there were restrictions not only on the sale and manufacture of liquor but also on the sale and manufacture of all kinds of

liquor. However, the court adjourned the hearing to June 22 after public prosecutor DK Mohanty said he would accept the bench's order in the case. But public prosecutors have once again asked for more time to submit the truth text in the case. The bench directed the government to clarify its approach to the law by September 15.

According to the provisions of the Odisha Prevention Act, 1956, the state has a strict ban on the production, sale, and consumption of liquor and narcotics. The Orissa Prevention Act, 1939, was repealed. The law, passed in the state legislature, was approved by the

president on February 21, 1957. However, despite the official notification of the Government of Odisha on April 10, 1957, no government in the state has been interested in implementing the law for the past four years. Although the BJP has been in power in the state for the past 21 years, the state government is working to increase the exchequer through excise taxes instead of enforcing the law. Attempts were made to find the reaction of Minister of Department of excise Niranjan Pujari as to why the law was not being implemented and what the government's approach would be in the High Court, but to no avail.

# Migrant worker's children in crisis : 69% are going to work with parents

Bhubaneswar (Bureau): School education is now in crisis amidst so many barriers, such as Corona restrictions, Lockdown, and Shutdown. Online classes are taking place due to the closure of schools and colleges. But with the lack of internet and smartphones, the future of migrant workers is so bleak. Ironically, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are now moving to work with their parents due to financial difficulties. Many of the children have dropped out of school and are now working. Such a deadly picture comes in the form of a sample survey conducted by the social organization Aid et Action on the education of migrant children due to Covid.

The survey was conducted on the children of 21 migrant workers in Odisha, 20 in Tamil Nadu, 22 in Bihar, and 46 in Telangana. A study conducted by Aide et Action recently threw light on how 52 migrant parents shifted to other districts within Odisha besides AP, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu to work in construction sites and brick kilns earlier this year. Balaram Sahu, of Putulamahul

village of Balangir district, his daughter jharana who is aged 13 years, her education has been hampered since two years. Balaram said he used to travel to Visakhapatnam every year to work in construction sites. He usually goes in January and returns by late June. He has admitted his two children to primary school when he goes out to work. The children study at the school along with other migrant worker's children. However, the school has been closed due to the pandemic. In

rural schools, education was done with the help of smartphones, but impoverished children do not have access to smartphones. So this is a similar situation of thousands of migrant workers across the state. The survey highlights concerns about the education of migrant workers' children. According to the survey, the number of children with parents working in construction sites is also increasing due to the closure of schools. At the brick kilns and

construction sites, there is an increase of 69 percent of migrant children this year than the previous year out of which, 49 percent of children are in the age group of 6-14.

The report pointed out that most of such children have entered into the labour force, either to help their parents or work as paid labourers.



Only 26 pc of the parents who were interviewed said that their child is engaged in taking sibling care while another four percent

said they only roam around the work sites. 2 percent of parents say their children live in dormitories and study. For the first time this year, they have brought their children to work as the dormitory is closed due to Corona. Forty-three percent of parents said they leave their children with relatives and come to work. But they brought children along with them to work because the school was closed this year as well. Ninety-two percent of parents said their children

were deprived of online lessons because of Covid. Forty-four percent of parents said they don't have the financial resources to buy a smartphone or recharge their internet data pack. Twenty-eight percent of parents said, that after returning home from work they could not enroll their child at the village school as it was closed. Of the migrant workers enrolled, 28 percent received textbooks, 22 percent received both including MDM (Mid-day- Meal) amount and 19 percent received only MDM amount. It's worrying that 31 percent of them said, they are missing out on everything.

Fifty percent of children are working due to school closures, 46 percent are assisting parents, 26 percent are caring for their siblings, 4 percent are children roaming, and 20 percent are studying at school near their workplace. Forty-five percent of parents say they will take alternative measures if the school is not reopened with Covid precautionary measures. Nineteen percent of parents said their children can study if the government opens a community class.

## In six years, 324 cases of sedition have been registered

New Delhi: The British government has introduced Section 124-A of the sedition law. The law was mainly designed to silence Mahatma Gandhi. But now this law is being misused. So why has the law not been repealed after so many years of independence, the country's Chief Justice, Justice NV Ramanna, has questioned. Of these, many treason cases have been registered in the country during 2016-19, according to a report from the Union Home Ministry. A total of 326 cases have been registered, but it is not known how many cases were filed in 2020. Of the total number of cases filed, 54 are from Assam. chargesheets have been filed in 141 cases, with six convicted in six years. In Assam, out of the 54 sedition cases registered, chargesheets were filed in 26 cases and trials were completed in 25 cases. However, no

one has been convicted of sedition during this period. In Jharkhand, 40 cases have been registered under Section 124 (a). Of these, chargesheets have been filed in 29 cases and hearings have been completed in 16 cases. Of which, one has been convicted. In Haryana, 31 cases were registered under the sedition law in which chargesheets were filed in 19 cases. The trial was completed in six cases in which just one person has been convicted. Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, and Kerala have registered 25 cases each. While Bihar and Kerala could not file a charge sheet in any of the cases, Jammu and Kashmir filed a charge sheet in three cases. However, no one was convicted in any of the three States between 2014 and 2019. As many as 22 sedition cases were filed in Karnataka in which chargesheets were filed in 17 cases,

but the trial could be completed in just one case. However, no one was convicted in any case. A total of 17 sedition cases were filed in Uttar Pradesh and eight in West Bengal between 2014 and 2019. While chargesheets were filed in eight cases in Uttar Pradesh and five cases in West Bengal, no one was convicted in the two States. In Delhi, four sedition cases were registered between 2014 and 2019 but no chargesheet has been filed in any case. No sedition case was filed in Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Puducherry, Chandigarh, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli in the six years. One sedition case each was filed in Maharashtra (in 2015), Punjab (2015) and Uttarakhand (2017). On July 15, a Supreme Court Bench headed by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana agreed

to examine the pleas filed by the Editors Guild of India and a former Major General challenging the constitutionality of Section 124A (sedition) in the IPC.

The court said its main concern was the "misuse of law" leading to the rise in the number of cases.

The non-bailable provision makes any speech or expression that brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the government established by law in India a criminal offense punishable with a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

"Mr. Attorney [General], we want to ask some questions. This is the colonial-era law and the same law was used by the British to suppress the freedom movement. It was used by the British to silence Mahatma Gandhi, Gokhale, and others.



## The victory of Truth : Satya Nayak

The name indicates the style of his work. That is, the one who has harmony along with his work and name is the one who truly makes sense. As true as his name is, his work is based on reality. That is, pure soil, water, wind are all based on forests. Satya Nayak has been linked to protests in other districts, including Kalahandi Rayagada, over the rights to the forest land. In Kalahandi and in Odisha, Lingaraj Azad and Satya Mahar and Satya Nayak are the face of the movement. Satya Naik's movement against corporate power alone was not limited. He was a strong ambassador. Ambedkar's ideology was spreading, as well as reports of atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Masses. The agitation to bring justice to the oppressed was immediate. As

a journalist, he contacted the administration and tried to bring them to justice. If there was no success, the police would not be able to cordon off the DSP and surround the SP office. Even in any district of Odisha, when I heard of the atrocities, his phone rang immediately.

He was not concerned only with the Scheduled Castes. He was also trying to figure out how to combine the Ambedkar movement with the land, water, and forest protection movement. He organized the first district-level meeting of the state-level SC ST OBC and Minority Joint Action Committee, which was set up in Bhawanipatna, to strengthen the movement for the rights of the people by uniting all Ambedkar organizations, which called on officials from various organizations. He was one of the founding members of the recently formed Scheduled Castes Federation. From time to

time, I am also amazed at his socially caring attitude. When I came back from the medical, I found out how much he was in pain when I was sick.

Participating in many movements, working with them all, trying to bring everyone under one umbrella, wholeheartedly supporting the Niyamgiri movement, leading organizations to journalism to play their role perfectly in all activities. Society had many dreams about him. It was also believed that through him the movement for the acquisition of rights could be realized. But no one could have imagined that he would suddenly leave us in such a state of despair. "Even if you leave us, friend, your work is your endeavor, your aspirations will remain with us and we will work together to fulfill it. How helpless it is to lose a friend like you is indescribable. But there is no doubt that it is your actions that determine the meaning of your life."

Mobile: 9348697871



Abhiram Mallick

## Tribute to the Truth Seekers

After the Gandhamardhan, Kashipur movement, I came back to my village Kalahandi Lanjigarh and worked against the Sterly Company for the life of the Dangria tribes. When people understand the truth and the facts, the fire of unjust rebellion burns in the minds of the people. As a result, I was physically and mentally abused by the founding and supporting groups in public. The innocent tribal men and women who were supporting me were beaten up severely by the company and government goons. The late Kishan Patnaik, a prominent social thinker, took part in a protest rally in Lanjigarh on April 2, 2004. At the end of the meeting, some returnees set fire to the company's simplex warehouse, expressing outrage. As a result, police arrested 14 men, including one woman, and issued arrest warrants

for others. I had to stay and work underground. The youth of Bhawanipatna organized the Kalahandi Awareness Citizens Forum in support of the movement. Many of the country's most famous writers, poets, social reformers, intellectuals, and revolutionaries have been associated. There are so many of them like Medha Patekar, Gananath Patra, Arundhati Ray! Every social reformer is committed to honoring Ambedkar's philosophy. Kishen Patnaik may have died in September 2004 without the sound of trumpets and obituaries in the world of mainstream politics, but the significance of his work shall become more publicly appreciated once the building of 'new India' begins to manifest itself - hopefully in the near future.



Lingaraj Azad

Mobile: ୯୯୭୮୭୩୮୧୫

## Rayagada : Network barrier in online classes, tribals face hurdles

Bhubaneswar (Bureau): The corona pandemic has taken a toll in almost all areas. But the most affected is the education sector. A clear picture of this can be seen in the Raikona and Tumapai areas of the Gumma panchayat in the district headquarters.

About 60 percent of students are deprived of online education due to poor network connectivity. Students are seen to be assisting their parents in farming. The government's emphasis on online education has created



obstacles for poverty-ridden people. On one hand, the lockdown, shutdown has hit the impoverished, with the addition of obstacles in completing education through Youtube. The people of this village rely on forestry for their livelihood. Students who are out of school are helping their father in farming. The

dream of building their children's future is shattered due to the Corona pandemic. Online education has become a distant dream for these tribal children and their families.

The government has focused on online education during the pandemic. However, the parents being impoverished are unable to

afford in buying a mobile phone as the financial situation is not well. They had enrolled their children in Bhubaneswar's KISS, but due to the pandemic taking its toll the children have now returned to their villages and are helping their families in cultivation for a living.

In the Rayagada district,

the education department is working to expedite the online learning of students from first to tenth grades in public and private schools. However, due to poor network connectivity, 70 percent of children are deprived of the learning process. The district education officer said teachers were instructed to go to the areas where there is a poor network and teach the students. At such a time, both the state and central governments must take steps for the future of the students.