

### Covid 19: Possibility of a third wave Threat looms over children !

#### 'Janabadi' Bureau Review

The State government on Monday projected that Odisha may see around 14,000 new cases of coronavirus daily during the peak of the Covid-19 third wave, which is likely to hit next month as per a panel of the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM).

The projection came close on the heels of a report submitted by the experts' panel to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). It warned the daily Covid infections may touch the four lakh mark in the country during the third wave.

Director of Medical Education and Training (DMET) Dr. CBK Mohanty said if the country reports four lakh cases daily, the number of infections in the State may reach 14,000...

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## Waterman Rajendra Singh opposes diversion of Kharasrota River water in Odisha

#### 'Janabadi' Bureau Review

Renowned water conservationist Rajendra Singh strongly opposed the Kendrapara administration's move to

Kendrapara district and attended a public meeting at Achutapur while expressing solidarity people's

water. But taking water from the river Kharasrota to those areas will not be the proper solution. The natural flow



divert Kharasrota river water for supplying piped water to the neighbouring Bhadrak district.

Singh, popularly dubbed as the 'Waterman of India', visited the riverside areas in Rajkanika block in

movement spearheaded by the local outfit- Kharasrota Bachao Sangram Samiti.

"Such projects could prove disastrous in the future. The people of the neighbouring district need

of the rivers should be protected", Singh said while addressing a public meeting.

He said the government has turned blind to the people's demand for water, whereas it ...

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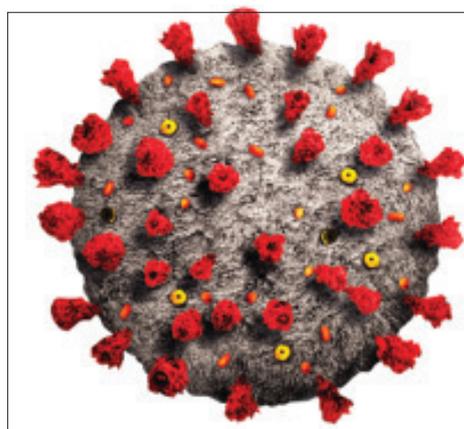
## The impact of the corona pandemic

# Odisha : Have one lakh students dropped out of schools ?

#### 'Janabadi' Bureau Review

Bhubaneswar (Bureau): The education system has been weakened since the onset of the corona pandemic. The elementary school has been closed for 18 months. Although the number of infections has dropped, the number of infections among children is still close to 100. Concerns about the possible third wave are growing. Experts say the children are more likely to be infected in the third wave. The state government has tentatively decided not to reopen the school until October, according to information received. The number of

students dropping out of school at such times has become a cause for concern. Nearly a lakh students are said to have dropped out of school. The most worrying, however, is the increase in dropout rates in tribal areas. So far, about 97000 children have dropped out of school, and 60 percent



of them are from these tribals areas. Online education has become a dream for children of these regions. According to the Department of Mass Education, about 54000 students from first to 10th grade are studying in government schools. Of these, many children are studying online. In some

districts, teachers go from one village to another to teach the children. Remote education systems are not accessible. As a result, about 60% of children are deprived of education. Another reason for the children's inability to read is that the family's income source has been lost during the corona period.

Surprisingly, 504 students dropped out of the capital, Bhubaneswar, during the Corona period. 262 children from the Bhubaneswar block area and 242 children from Bhubaneswar ...

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Editorial

## The country's wealth at the hands of capitalists

The liberalization of the economy, which began in the 1990s, has reduced the purchasing power of many citizens of the country. On the other hand, a handful of wealthy people (capitalists) have the wealth of the country at their hands. This has led to an increase in economic inequality in the country and a widening social gap between civil societies. It is a matter of concern that the country's elected government has been making concerted efforts to protect the interests of this handful of capitalists (corporate houses) in the country over the past seven years. According to the latest information provided by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the country's public property will be handed over to the corporations! Leasing the country's assets to private investors as leases means that the corporate houses will have the opportunity to raise even more capital. The question here is, before the Modi government came to power, it promised the people 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas'. But there are exceptions. The government is adopting one anti-people policy after another. The seizure of banknotes was carried out in the country. It was said that black money overseas would be brought back to the country. But the countrymen could not get a clue as to how much of this black money was recovered. In 2014, before becoming prime minister, Narendra Modi, promised to bring back black money and deposit Rs. 15 lakh to every citizen's bank account. But this has never been achieved till now. The GST was implemented. It is said that taxes will increase, the country will prosper financially. But that didn't work out either. The government has promised to stop corruption in government projects. If it had stopped, the country's financial situation would not be at its lowest level today. It was said that foreign investment would increase. Even this promise could not be kept. The country's petroleum products have risen 10 times in price and taxes. It was said that such price and tax rise would benefit the weaker sections of society. But that didn't work out either. Instead of developing the country, the economy is at a low ebb. With this in mind, the government will now lease the public utility assets to the corporate house and raise Rs 6 lakh crores. The question here is, whether this will strengthen the country's financial position or help increase the size of corporate housing. Of the more than 500 wealthy private companies recently released by the Hurrin Global Rich List, 12 are from India. According to the report, Reliance's listed assets grew 11 percent in fiscal 2020-21. The world's richest private company is ranked 57th with a capitalization of 18.8 trillion dollars. On the one hand, the income and purchasing power of 80 percent of the people in the country has been severely affected by the Corona pandemic, but the company's income has increased by 11 percent. It should be noted that the BJP, which is in power at the Center in 2019-20, has earned an average of Rs 2500 crores through the Electoral Bonds. The BJP had an income of Rs 1450 crore in 2018-19. In 2019-20, the team's revenue increased by 76 percent. The relevance of this data is that the income of the BJP in power in the country, along with 12 major private companies in the country, is increasing. Yet the country is facing financial disaster. To avoid the catastrophe, the Union Finance Minister has decided to lease the public property to a private company. The government will lease private property to the country's private highways, such as the national highways, power transmission, rail, telecom, wire housing, natural gas pipelines, mines, airports, ports, stadiums, and urban real estate. This will not only hinder the development of the majority of the country's citizens but also increase economic inequality. The BJP-led government, which has come to power under the slogan of economic prosperity, is leasing or selling the country's public initiatives or institutions one after another. According to the proverbial "anti-destruction intelligence", the government of the country is adopting one anti-people policy after another to protect corporate interests. The party in government should not forget that they have been elected by the people to form the government. If this government goes against the interests of the people and works to protect its interests and the interests of the corporate house (which is being done today) it will be fatal to itself. If an elected government violates the constitutional order or violates democratic norms, the citizens will never forgive. Rather, just one day is enough to remove it from power. Let the government deviate from the path of self-defense and capitalism of the corporate house and work with a commitment to the economic prosperity of the people, otherwise, the consequences of selling or leasing such public property will be dire, the government will be shattered by the fire of public discontent.

## From Saigon to Kabul (1975 - 2021) Independence ?

In 1975, Saigon, the capital of US-backed South Vietnam, fell to Communist-ruled North Vietnam two years after the withdrawal of the American military which had been in the country for 19 years. The Taliban, who in less than eight weeks have swept through Afghanistan taking all major cities including Mazar-i-Sharif, Kandahar, and Herat among others, Sunday entered Kabul, saying they were awaiting a "peaceful transfer" of power.

The United States, which had waged its longest-running conflict in history to drive the Taliban out from Afghanistan since 2001, was on Thursday reduced to announcing emergency deployment in Kabul in a last-minute effort to evacuate its diplomats, citizens, and soldiers, as the Taliban continued to advance.

On social media, the withdrawal of forces by Washington is now being likened to the fall of Saigon, a somewhat similar catastrophe that befell the US almost half a century ago when Saigon, the capital of US-backed South Vietnam, fell to Communist-ruled North Vietnam two years after the withdrawal of the American military which had been in the country for 19 years.

Saigon's capture on April 30, 1975 (it was later renamed after North leader Ho Chi Minh) signaled the end of the Vietnam War, and the Communists consolidated their hold over the entire country in the next few months. Similarly, many security analysts now fear that the Taliban could establish complete control over Afghanistan soon.

What happened on April 30, 1975?

The Vietnam War-the first televised war in the world-was a bloody conflict that left 58,000 Americans and 2,50,000 Vietnamese dead, and ended with the US being thrown out of the Southeast Asian country.

The war lasted from 1954 when North Vietnam's legendary General Vo Nguyen Giap defeated French colonial troops at the famous strategic spot, Dien Bien Phu, until 21 years later when the same military leader vanquished the Americans and their South Vietnamese protégés at Saigon.

Because it was televised, people across the world saw its horrors on screens, and opposition to this so-called "dirty war" was global. Even within the US, crowds chanted, "Hey, hey, LBJ. How many kids

have you killed today?" referring to the then-US President Lyndon B Johnson.

At the height of its presence in the country, the US stationed almost 5 lakh soldiers in Vietnam (five times more than the peak US presence in Afghanistan in 2010). On April 30, 1975, when Saigon fell to the Communists, TV and the next morning's newspapers showed large groups of Americans, soldiers and civilians on the roof of the US embassy, waiting to be rescued by their country's military helicopters. As each helicopter was overfilled and rose a few feet, dozens clung to its skids and jumped down on aircraft carriers before the chopper could land. That

very day, four hours after a US helicopter evacuated the last of a dozen Americans, the National Liberation Front (the Communists) captured the city. Saigon surrendered unconditionally, ending 120 years of foreign occupation.

What position did India take at that time?

The then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi congratulated the North on its victory and added that "the failure of the US policy" was "due to its propping up unrepresentative governments".

The Indian Express report at that time stated: "...in a veiled criticism of the foreign policy attitudes associated with Dr. Henry Kissinger, Indira Gandhi said that the balance of power model certainly did not provide an answer. The idea that four or five or six great powers interacting among themselves could preserve peace in the world was an extension of the ideas developed in Europe in the 19th century. The world has become extremely complex."

The statement by Indira Gandhi was not unexpected and reflected what had been India's position on Vietnam since she became prime minister nine years before that.

In 1966, when she went on a state visit to the US just two months after her ascension to the top job in India, Gandhi refused to tell President Lyndon B Johnson that India "shared America's agony over Vietnam", as had been the wish of her top advisors. "All she was prepared to say to LBJ was: 'India understands your agony'," the late veteran journalist Inder Malhotra wrote for this paper in a 2015 column.

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Janardana Pati

# 400 stations, 90 passenger trains, Konkan rail to be monetized ! Indian Railways assets to fetch Rs 1.52 lakh crore

Indian Railways assets would contribute 26% of the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP), worth Rs 6 lakh crore, unveiled by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday. The government has identified a total of 90 passenger trains, 400 railway stations, railway stadiums, and colonies, as well as the famed Konkan and hill railways among other assets for monetization. After the road, Indian Railways is the second biggest sector identified by the government in the ambitious national monetization plan. According to a PTI report, monetization of Indian Railways' brownfield infra assets would garner over Rs 1.52 lakh crore in four years till fiscal 2025. Indian Railways assets would contribute 26% of the National Monetisation Pipeline

(NMP), worth Rs 6 lakh crore, unveiled by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday.

Some of the key rail assets identified for monetization during FY22-25 include 90 passenger trains, 400 railway stations, one route of 1,400 kilometers railway track, 15 railway stadiums, 741 kilometers of Konkan Railway and selected railway colonies, as many as 265 railway owned good-sheds, as well as four hill railways. In the four years' duration, monetizing stations and passenger train services is expected to fetch approximately an amount of Rs 76,250 crore and Rs 21,642 crore, respectively. Monetising 673 kilometers of Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) would fetch an amount of Rs 20,178 crore, while

the track, signaling, and overhead equipment (Track OHE) are estimated to fetch Rs 18,700 crore. Konkan Railways' monetization value is estimated at Rs 7,281 crore, while hill railways' value is Rs 630 crore. The 265 identified railway-owned good-sheds for monetization are expected to garner Rs 5,565 crore, while the amount for railway colonies redevelopment would be Rs 2,250 crore. The NMP document stated that the Indicative Monetisation Value is estimated at an amount of Rs 1,52,496 crore over the NMP period Financial year 2022-25. Of this, an amount of Rs 17,810 crore would be monetized this financial year, Rs 57,222 crore in the next financial year 2022-23, Rs 44,907 crore in fiscal 2023-24, and Rs 32,557 crore in fiscal 2024-25.

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### Covid 19: Possibility ...

a day. "Since children are likely to be affected more along with the adults, we are ramping up infrastructure, including pediatric facilities, medical equipment like ventilators and ambulances, and training of doctors and paramedics," he said.

As per the third wave projection, the peak number will be more than that of the second wave. The State had reported the highest 12,852 cases on May 23 and it took 64 days to reach the peak. The infection then started decreasing gradually.

Director of Health Services Dr. Bijay Mohapatra said as per the projection around 23 percent (pc) of the infected children will be hospitalized. "The third wave is approaching. We have kept 50 pc of ICU beds ready for children," he said.

Health authorities warned people not to lower safety guards like a face mask and maintaining social distance which are the only precautionary measures to prevent the spread of infection. Vaccination can lower the risk of disease severity but can not prevent infection, Dr. Mohapatra said.

Meanwhile, Odisha reported 761 new cases including 101 children, taking the State's tally to 10,01,698. The death toll rose to 7426 with 68 more fatalities announced on Monday. The State has 7,885 active cases and the test positivity rate stood at 1.25 percent.

### Waterman Rajendra Singh...

is facilitating the mega industries to guzzle more and more water and generate pollution.

"Diversion of water from an already deficient river

basin would lead to the ingress of seawater upstream and injure the district's agricultural activities. The riverside villagers will become more vulnerable to salinity intrusion due to the diversion of sweet water from the river for this mega drinking water project, added Singh.

"People in Bhadrak district have all the rights to have safe and clean drinking water. But that should not be at the cost of the larger interest of people living in the neighbouring district. It would have been better on part of the state government to build an in-stream barrage over the Kharasrota river and supply the water to Bhadrak district", Debendra Sharma, the former Congress MLA of Aul, said while addressing the gathering.

Among others who addressed the meeting are congress leaders Sudarshan Das, Dharanidhar Nayak, former Aul MLA Dolagibinda Nayak, Sabita Baraj and advocate Khirrod Rout.

It may be recalled here that the Rs 892 crore Buxi Jagabandhu Assured Water Supply to Habitations (BASUDHA) water project had evoked angry protests across Kendrapara district for the past fortnight. As a precautionary measure, prohibitory order has been enforced in Balakati, Bharigada, and Barunadiha panchayats under Rajkanika block till October 8.

The project will provide safe drinking water to villages in the Bhadrak district where the groundwater table is heavily salinated. The project requires 105 million litres per day and less than 4 percent of the water inflow of the river will be diverted for the mega project. The apprehension expressed by people in Rajkanika is unfounded and does not have a logical basis, said Niranjan Nehera, Kendrapara Sub Collector.

### Odisha: Have one...

Metropolitan Corporation (BMC) area were reported to have dropped out. Many children in the slums have dropped out of school. Forty percent of the total dropout children belong to immigrant parents, those who left Bhubaneswar during the Corona period. So between 6th and 10th grades, most children appear to have dropped out of school. The district education officer (DEO) and the district project coordinator (DPC) were instructed by the Department of Mass Education last May to prepare a database of children who have dropped out of school or those who have not attended school at all. According to the data submitted to The Odisha School Education Programme Authority (OSEPA), children between the ages of 6 and 18 who have not enrolled in any school/college or dropped out of any school/college/educational institution have been identified. The survey was conducted to identify them. According to preliminary data, more than 97000 students have dropped out of school so far. The minister said the data was being collected about the dropout. The number of children who have dropped out of school will be reviewed. According to a report by the Union Ministry of Education based on the 2019-20 academic year, after high school education in Odisha, 24 percent of students have dropped out of high school at 4.3 percent and 0.9 percent in primary education. At the national level, 1.5 percent of children drop out of primary school, 1.8 percent of high school students, and 17.3 percent of high school students.

# The Sipasarubali land movement



## UNITE AGAINST THE POLICY OF PUSHING LOCALS TO THE BRINK OF DEATH IN THE NAME OF DEVELOPMENT:

As the Odisha government announced its ambitious project to create a new airport in the Sipasarubali area along the coast of Puri district, protests by communities have mounted as they view the attempt as one to grab the land they have been fighting for over the past two decades.

While the government has claimed that the airport spread across 1,500 acres will be made operational by 2022-23 for Dalit and landless communities, this is a renewed threat to their natural habitat and land rights.

On July 3, hundreds of people under the banner of the Upakulia Jami o Jungle Surakhya Samiti (UJSS) held a protest rally and meeting at the Sipasarubali Mouza in Puri against the government's proposal to hand over this coastal land to corporates for an airport. The movement has been aimed at calling off the project as it targets the livelihoods and cultural identities of the locals.

Prafulla Samanta one of the petitioners who was

instrumental in stalling the Shamuka eco-tourism project, explained: "For the past two decades the communities on this land have prevented activities which will violate the regulations of this coastal area. The government through its repeated attempts has ensured that the land is not given to the communities, but is incentivized by handing it over to the corporates; first by the means of an eco-tourism project and now by creating an airport on highly sensitive coastal land which has served as a barrier against threats like cyclones."

The struggle for land rights in Sipasarubali began in 1994 when the Odisha High Court directed the state to distribute 214 acres and another 33 acres of ceiling surplus land among the poor with land titles. "Only a few of the families were given pattas, but not the land," Land Conflict Watch said. Moreover, the Shamuka tourism project, launched 25 years ago, was to come upon around 3,000 acres of land near Sipasarubali, about ten kilometers south of Puri in a public-private partnership (PPP) model. Bids were planned to be invited for four and five-star hotels and a golf course after obtaining necessary approval from the appropriate authority. Similarly, bids were planned for a golf course with golf villas covering 304 acres of

land in the first phase of implementation. After repeated protests, the NGT had stayed the project in 2015.

However, the communities have faced brutal crackdowns and repression amid the movement. Speaking to Activist Srikant Mohanty explained: "According to our estimates, over five lakh trees will be cut for the airport. Moreover, it will cause irreparable damage to our environment and our livelihoods. The community has also faced serious attacks from the land mafia in the area while the state has imprisoned so many under false charges in a bid to stall our movement. We are against both these projects. Our movement against these projects is to ensure our land rights are given to us." Following a protest earlier in June, members of the UJSS, including its convenor Batakrushna Swain, and Bideshi Nayak, Kalu Bhoi, Monoj Bhoi, Kumar Baral, and Bijay Bhoi were arrested. They were booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code including Section 307 (murder attempt). "We have been charged as we all belong to the landless and Dalit community and our only crime is that we fight for the land rights which have been denied by the successive governments in power.

We demand that the airport not be here. The natural environment will be destroyed as will the jungle. What benefit will we get? We are fighting for our land, jungle, and the environment; we all want all three. We are protesting because our land is being taken away. The police is still filing false cases against us," said Swain.

In April this year, twenty female members from the Sipasarubali area were attacked while they were going to pluck cashews from the government land on which these poor households have sustained for the last 20 years or more. The female members gave a memorandum to the Puri District Collector and SP for immediate action against the notorious land mafia in the district. However, nothing of the sort happened.

## PURI: FROM ABODE OF GOD TO ABODE OF ILL FATE !



**SAILAJA RABI**

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Long groom Sipasarubali under Brahmagiri tehsil of Puri district Landless and marginalized families in 20 villages in Puri district under Brahmagiri Tehsil have been suing the government, led by the Coastal Land and Forest Protection Committee, for legal rights to uncultivated tribal land in Mouza. On the one hand, the government is trying to sabotage the legitimate democratic movement of the local people, while on the other hand, the former landowners who have been plundering the land have always been making futile efforts. Coastal land and forest protection committees have been working tirelessly to protect the looting of forests and dunes on the land from

the looting of timber mafias and sand mafias. Batakrushna Swain, the host of the committee, has been leading the work with determination. That is why he and the committee's workers have always been the victims of the bribery of the corrupt Puri police, the former landlord, and his agents. The state government is also ready to hand over the land claim to local corporations in the name of the Shamuka project, an airport project, by suppressing the land claims of the locals. That's why the administration and the police have been cooperating with the local mafia.

On July 30, a woman filed a false and fabricated allegation at the Purisadar police station at the instigation of Timber Mafia Madhav Khuntia. As always, the FIR has been filed against 22 front-line workers, including Batakrushna Swayam, the committee's chairman, and Srikant Mohanty, the advisor, without investigating the incident. On the evening of August 16, while returning from a meeting with his friend Batakrushna, he was picked up by some youths who looked like thugs. It was later learned that the arrest of his colleague Batakrushna in a special case by a special squad of Puri police has exposed the misconduct of the Puri police with former landowners/mafias. It is learned

that his friend Batakrushna Chashimulia committee has been working as the district editor of Puri district for the last 20 years, working tirelessly for the rights of the oppressed, landless, and farmers and the protection of the environment. It is noteworthy that global warming has led to drastic changes in the environment and weather. Almost every year, the coast of Odisha is experiencing severe winds and this trend will continue. Coastal forests and dunes have been used as natural protection shields to reduce the effects of storms and storm damage. In the past, committees have been set up to reduce the impact of storm damage, creating deforestation along the coast and protecting sandstorms. But the Modi-Naveen government today plans to destroy the entire coastal Hental and Luna forests and raise large capitalists in the name of so-called development. Let the whole of Odisha today unite against this omnipotent plan. We urge the locals to unite against the policy of destroying the jungles and dunes on the Puri-Brahmagiri coast and pushing the locals to the brink of death. The government cannot suppress the voice of the common man by arresting Batakrushna Swain, a leader of the Land and Environment Movement, in a false case.

# What was gained in 70 years will be lost in 7 years !

**Preparing to enslave the people! Modi government to provide 400 stations, 90 trains, 1400 km of railway track on lease: Girish Malviya:**



What the Modi government is doing during its rule is going to be the enslavement of our next-generation private sector. On August 23, the Modi government announced a target of raising Rs 6 lakh

crore by "monetizing" government assets in various fields. "We are not selling, we provide on lease," he said after being criticized. The lease will last for a specified period. Then the entire infrastructure will come to the government. Roads, railway stations, or airports that will be leased will be owned by the government. Now the question is, how many years has this lease been given? Please be informed that in the case of an airport the lease will be given for 50 years and the railway station and associated land for 100 years to private companies. Yes, 100 years, that's right!

It's up to you to decide what to do with it. The lease was granted for 45 years when it was decided to privatize the country's first railway station, Habibganj.

But domestic companies did not comply. They insisted on persuading the government to lease all the other railway stations for 99 years.

According to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's plan on August 23, she is planning to

lease 400 stations, 90 passenger trains, and 1400 km of railway track. In addition, rail operations in the hilly areas are also being handed over to private companies.

These include the Kalkaa-Shimla, Darjeeling, Nilgiris railways. In addition, 265 Goods sheds and 673 km of dedicated freight trains (DFCs) of Indian Railways across the country will also be leased to the private sector. In addition, the management of 15 stadiums in India, including selected railway colonies, will also be given on lease. We all know that private companies will reap the benefits from the public. To this end, the Modi government has already made a provision to impose user charges on railway passengers. First, user charges are going to be imposed on 15 percent of the country's railway stations. At Delhi airport, users of national and international flights are charged differently. That's around Rs 500. This means that you, too, be prepared to pay a user charge of around Rs 500 at the train stations.

**(From the Facebook wall of journalist Girish Malviya)**

**After the trains, airports, now the Modi government plans to give on lease the highways! The Congress leader said, "Thankfully, people's kidneys are not sold off":**

The ruling Modi government at the Center has already made a full plan to sell the country. Since coming to power in 2014, the Modi government has privatized many government agencies. Now it is rumored that the Modi government is busy preparing for the sale of some other government assets in the country.

According to reports, the Modi government has decided to lease several government properties, including telecom towers, railways, airports, transmission lines, gas pipelines, and PSUs.



The Modi government is expected to raise Rs 6 lakh crores over the next four years. The Modi government's decision is strongly opposed by the opposition. Congress has repeatedly accused the Modi government of selling the country.

In this order, now Congress leader Srinivasa B.V. also reacted sharply. He tweeted, "Will you sell the highway now?"

Brownfield Infrastructure Asset in the National Monetization Pipeline.

According to the Modi government, the government's financial situation has deteriorated due to the Corona pandemic.

The government is now facing a financial crunch. For this, the state property of the country is being sold or leased out.

Thank god the government has not sold off the kidneys of people!"

It has been revealed that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has launched the National Monetization Pipeline program.

It was built by the Modi government in four years as planned. The Modi government will link money from the

**Rahul Gandhi alerts India's youth to 'sale of national assets'**



Questioning the National Monetization Pipeline Policy, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on the 24th that the Modi

government was selling all the assets the country had built in the last 70 years. Rahul Gandhi told a news conference. "The BJP is adamant that nothing has been done in the country for the last 70 years," he said. But the national assets that have been built in these years are being sold. "

Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday asked every patriotic Indian to oppose the "sale of national assets" and accused Prime

Minister Narendra Modi of "attacking the future" of India's youth to help a handful of industrialists.

"Modi is not a Prime Minister. He is an instrument for doing a particular job for a few industrialists. He is attacking the future of our youth to serve the interests of three-four industrialists," the Congress leader told a news conference. Rahul was referring to the government's plans to farm out a vast trove of infrastructure assets to the private sector, announced on Monday.

The Congress MP described the move as a direct fallout of the mishandling of the economy by the Modi government and a clear sign that it did not know what to do. "As a last resort, they are selling everything that we had helped create," he added. Rahul contended that the youth would not get jobs after Modi succeeded in creating huge monopolies.

"The whole idea behind this is to create monopolies... for three or four people. And my young friends who are today searching for a job cannot find a job... The reason you cannot find a job is that the entire small and medium industries are destroyed because the Prime Minister insists on building two

or three monopolies that own everything in this country," he said. "This is not just gifting of India's assets. This is going to ensure that the young people of India will not be able to find employment in the future."

The Congress leader warned of profound social consequences. "When you cannot give jobs to people, it leads to social tension, social anger, and then social explosion. So you will see a dramatic increase in violence, a dramatic increase in anger, millions of youngsters who simply cannot have a future, who will look at the houses of these monopolists and wonder what went wrong with India. That is what is happening."

Rahul equated the Prime Minister's perceived belief that a few large monopolists can transform India with the situation that led to the enslavement of India by the East India Company. "This is very dangerous for India. We saw a monopoly that the East India Company was. It enslaved India. We are again moving towards slavery. It is a huge tragedy. I urge every patriotic person, every nationalist, to oppose this. It is my duty and the duty of the youth to fight it."

## Critical picture of development

### Malnourished children consume intoxicated rice water !



Rourkela / Koida (Bureau): Rice beer bowls are seen in the hands of small children. This is bitter but true. People who live in the jungles without work in the mining suburbs sell firewood and earn a living through which they earn some meager sum of money, and then take the oil. Indigenous rural workers rely on their traditional food pots to alleviate hunger. That's why rice pots are tied at every house. The rice pot or 'Handia' means stale rice of 7-8 days is re-cooked by

adding intoxicants. Drinking it satisfies the hunger of the stomach along with intoxication. Their situation forces them to do so. They also have no choice. They consider the same fermented rice pot as an alternative food to appease the starving stomach. It is very heartbreaking to feed one's kids with these fermented rice fluids. The administration in these tribal-dominated Sundergarh districts does not seem to have the interest to change the living conditions of its

people. Crores of rupees in the name of development are spent, but all in vain. The District Mineral Foundation (DMF), which is funded by the Koida mining area, is now under interpretation. The Child Protection Act in Koida is under a directionless state. In Koida's car garages and dhabbas, the sight of children becoming addicted to drugs from an early age, working from a young age as child laborers under the pressure of family, has become a normal sight.

## The much neglected Padmapur group health center



Bhubaneswar (Bureau): This is important news for the people of Padmapur Panchayat Samiti in the Rayagada district. To date, it has not gained the attention or sympathy of any public representatives, district administration, or the government. In other words, when will the neglected Padmapur Group Health Center get the attention of the government? The Padmapur Panchayat Samiti in Rayagada district has 13 panchayats. Most of the pa-

tients who come here are being redirected to Gunupur, Berhampur, as there is a shortage of medical equipment, trained staff, lack of medical specialists, obstetricians, and pediatricians at this health center. The lack of ambulances has led to the loss of lives as well. Many intellectuals have opined as to when will the administration or government pay close attention to this district and its neglected residents.

## Kharasrota is in danger !

### The balance of the environment will deteriorate

Rajknika (Bureau): The Communist Party of India (Marxist) strongly opposed the Odisha government's move to divert Kharasrota river water for supplying piped water to neighbouring Bhadrak district and alleged that it was a well-hatched conspiracy to protect the interest of industrial houses located in the neighbouring district.

Diverting water from the Kharasrota river in Kendrapara district to neighbouring Bhadrak district is bound to trigger depletion of water intake capacity. The natural flow of the river should be protected for the larger interest of the people of Kendrapara who are mostly dependent on agriculture income for a livelihood, said veteran CPM leader and the party former state secretary,

Janardhan Pati.

Briefing reporters here on Saturday, he said "the way the

district".

If the port and other companies are allowed to

Since no environmental impact assessment had been done properly for the proposed



government is trampling down the resistance movement against the mega drinking water project, it leads one to believe that the project is being implemented to meet the water requirement of industries including the Dhamra port in Bhadrak

draw water from the mega project, the water level will fall drastically and will adversely affect the farming and ecology of the nearby Bhitarkanika National Park, which is home to the country's second-largest mangrove cover, he claimed.

mega drinking water project, it is an act of "impropriety" on the part of the state government to go ahead with the construction of the project, he said.

The Rs 892 crore Buxi Jagabandhu Assured Water Supply to Habitations

(BASUDHA) water project had evoked angry protests across Kendrapara district for the past fortnight after it came to the light that the Kharasrota river water will be diverted to Bhadrak. As a precautionary measure, prohibitory orders have been enforced in Balakati, Bharigada, and Barunadiha panchayats under Rajknika block till October 8.

The project will provide safe drinking water to villages in the Bhadrak district where the groundwater table is heavily salinated. The project requires 105 million litres per day and less than 4 percent of the water inflow of the river will be diverted for the mega project. The apprehension expressed by people in Rajknika is "unfounded and does not have a logical basis", said Niranjana Behera, Kendrapara Sub Collector.

## Lack of Attendants in MKCG: Patients grief on the rise

Chandrapur (Bureau): Maharaja Krishna Chandra Gajapati, a well-known hospital in South Odisha, is in dire need of attendants. On the other hand, the government is spending crores of rupees on public health. But looking at this scene, it seems that the money given by the government does not apply to the work of the patients. Officials in charge have reportedly repeatedly informed the medical superintendent of the matter. However, the situation has not improved.

Thousands of patients come

to Berhampur Medical or MKCG every day due to their health problems. They come here with the hope and confidence of getting the right service with their health check-ups. On the other hand, there are rules for providing all the services and security for free and bringing patients from various departments to the Diagnostic Center on X-rays and ultrasound. Their role in the care of such patients is quite important. However, there are not enough attendants. Eventually, the patients were forced to take their relatives

from one department to another. On the other hand, running a stretcher by a normal person poses a greater risk to the patient. 180 to 200 patients come every day for an X-ray at the MKCG's Diagnostic Center, while 70 to 80 people come for an ultrasound. There is a rule to have an attendant with them. However, most patients did not have an attendant. From the ward to the various departments, the patients seem to be moving only by the faith of God.

One patient from Koraput

was rushed to the hospital for treatment for a broken leg. There was no attendant with him when he went to get an X-ray. After a long wait, the attendant did not return. In the end, his cousin Tarun Kumar Patra pushed the stretcher himself, he said. Similarly, Binod Nayak of Samarbandh near Jagannathpur pushed his mother Bhagya Nayak to the X-ray Department on a stretcher himself. "After waiting a long time in the orthopedic department, no attendant came," he said.

Hundreds of patients face the problem every day.

Many attendants, on the other hand, have been accused of not doing their job properly. In addition to the fact that there is a real investigation into this, there are demands from various organizations to provide services to patients by hiring the required number of medical attendants. Asked by MGCG Superintendent Prof Dr. Santosh Kumar Mishra about this, he said the problem was due to the lack of the required number of medical attendants.

## Tribal families deprived of basic amenities !

Boudha (Bureau): The government's welfare scheme has failed to reach villages like Geredisahi, Tailasahi, and Sripaju in the Mahalikpada panchayat within the wildlife sanctuary. As a result, many locals are still living in dire straits. The government's development vehicle has not been able to reach the suburbs. For some time now, residents have been deprived of basic amenities. The Mahanadi's floodwater has taken a toll on many areas of Kushang, Mahalikpada, and Tal Gaon panchayats in the Harbhanga block of the Boudha district. Due to the lack of regular roads in these areas, ambulance

services and health services are not available in all these areas. Since all these villages are in the last border areas of the district, there is no irrigation system at all. As a result, residents often suffer from drought. The department has remained silent, despite allegations that MNREGA work is being done here with the help of JCB and tractors due to underdeveloped areas.

This year's low rainfall has led to drought in the underdeveloped area and appeals to the block administration, starting with the panchayat, to provide jobs to the locals, but no avail. Eventually, the locals became helpless and appealed to the Boudha district magistrate for help.

## MNREGA scheme: Rs 935 crores misappropriated in the last 4 years !

Bhubaneswar (Bureau): Government audits conducted in the last four years across the country have identified misappropriation to the tune of at least Rs 935 crore under various schemes of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), according to sources. Experts suggest that the actual amount of misappropriation may be 'three or four times the identified amount.

Social Audit Units (SAUs) which are under the rural development departments across the country have found identified financial misappropriation. Though the data is in the public domain, it is difficult to access, the newspaper said. It obtained the data from the fiscal year (FY) 2017-18 to FY 2020-21 from the Management Information System (MIS) of the rural development ministry.

Just over 1% of the misappropriated amount - about Rs 12.5 - has so far



been recovered. Most financial misappropriation is done through bribery, payments to non-existent persons, and procuring material at high rates.

According to the report, SAU audits have been carried out in 2.65 lakh gram panchayats of the country at least once over the past four years. The report says that Tamil Nadu accounted for the highest misappropriation among states. In its 12,525 gram panchayats, Rs 245 crore was misappropriated but only Rs 2.07 crore (0.85%) was recovered. While one employee was suspended and two were dismissed, not a single FIR was filed.

Andhra Pradesh too

reported a high amount of misappropriation, at Rs 239.31 crore in its 12,982 GPs. However, only Rs 4.48 crore (1.88%) was recovered. It fared better in taking action against employees: 10,454 employees were warned/censured; 551 employees were suspended; 180 employees were dismissed. It also filed three FIRs.

Experts said that the 'real' misappropriation could "well be three or four times the identified amount". In many gram panchayats, the audits have only been done once, they said. Another issue could be that many SAU's are not independent, which is affecting the quality of audits and the intensity of action.



# The plans are inaccessible Provide alternative cultivation, free seeds, and fertilizers for possible drought situations: CPI

Jajpur / Dasharathpur (Bureau): Purunasahi of Malikapur panchayat under Dasarathpur block of Jajpur district. About 150 people from 25 families live here. But there is no way or road in this district. People walk on dirt roads. Two families are seen walking through dirty canal. Of the 25 families, only one has access to government housing. Twenty-four families live in shacks. The Department of Water Supply and Sanitation does not look into the matter. No one has a toilet or access to clean drinking water. The village also has no lighting system. This area is known as 'Dalit Sahi'. But this area did not get the basic benefits. For years, the plan for its residents has been inaccessible.

Berhampur (Bureau): A meeting of the district council has been held at the Gam district CPI office under the chairmanship of Rajiv Lochan Panda. The issue's end has the recaptured Doomsday in the control of the Knesset.

Forty percent of the district's farmland has been destroyed, and more than 15 percent of the farmland has been lying without cultivation. The Communist Party of India (CPI) has demanded that the district administration take action on alternative farming, free seeding, and fertilizer supply. He called for re-employment of farmers who have been deregistered, simplification of



the insurance system for farmers affected by unemployment, and the establishment of grievance chambers at the block level. " CPI

(M) state secretary Ashish Kanungo, co-editors Kshirod Singhdeo, and Prashant Mishra were also present at the meeting.

## Indifference to the Department of Labor in assisting registered construction workers

Bhubaneswar (Bureau): The Construction Workers' Union Coordinating Committee, Odisha, has staged a protest in front of the Labor Commissioner's office in Bhubaneswar in protest of the labor department's lax policies in providing various problems and assistance to registered construction workers. Thousands of construction workers from across the state marched from the canteen to protest in front of the Labor Commissioner's office.

The issue's end has the recaptured Doomsday in the control of the Labor Party and the Supreme Council of Labor. The Labor Office, on the other hand, has failed to provide the minimum wage by burning all

regulations. In the first phase, ie 2020, the amount of Covid assistance provided by the beneficiaries is denied. In the next phase, many beneficiaries will not be able to receive assistance due to the Department of Labor's shortcomings in 2021. Similarly, death, education, marriage, maternity, and registration application forms have been lying in the labor office for years. The amount of technical education assistance is not provided by various means. Despite repeated orders from the Labor Commissioner, labor card errors have not been corrected. The district labor officer and the joint labor officer have been repeatedly informed in writing, but no action has been taken.

As a result, thousands of

construction workers are being deprived of their minimum wage. In this regard, the various demands of the construction workers, such as the provision of legal aid, the establishment of district-level assistance centers for the immediate payment of covid assistance, the filling of all vacancies in various district-level labor offices, and the annual renewal of the project. The issue's end has the recaptured Doomsday in the control of the Labor Commission and the state government, which is seeking to resolve the issue. The agitation was called off after discussions were held on the demands, as well as promises to direct several specific demands.

The protest was attended by

state hosts Vijay Jena, Rajkishore Mallick, Yudhisthira Maharana, Manoranjan Maharana, Mahabir Prasad Mishra, Biplab Keshari Mohapatra, Sur Jena, Gyan Ranjan Das, Somnath Giri, Praveen Das, Jeevanjyoti, Satya Tripathi, Manjula Manjari Mishra, Shazam. , Vikram Nayak, Rabindra Nath Mohanty, Shankar Behera, Sheikh Amjad, Dilip Mohanty, Mohan Maharana, Sudarshan Barik, Manas Das, Entertainment Sahu, Vigyan Behera, Jayakrishna Mohapatra, Jyotindra Nath President, Shuku Khinbhudi, Vijay Jena, Loknath Maharana, Gohigobind Besra, Harihar Mohanty and many other labor leaders addressed the gathering and called for the legitimate demands of the construction workers.