

People arrested for claiming basic rights

'Janabadi' Bureau Review

In a democratic country, citizens have the right to claim their rights but nowadays, if citizens are claiming for their fundamental rights, they are being arrested by the police. A very similar incident has been reported in Sukinda mine area of Jajpur district in Odisha.

Administration and some influential people of Jajpur District have shown their negligence and inhumanity towards people of Sukinda by depriving them of their rights. People are still waiting for their housing and pension scheme but the administration snubbed the people. Even 14 women from Benagadia village in Sukinda block have been charged under IPC section 108 (threat of peace). Despite the meeting and a written petition, the locals are preparing for a major strike. Workers in Sukinda and Keonjhar districts are struggling to make ...

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Increasing number of people starving in India

'Janabadi' Bureau Review



In India the number of hungry people is increasing day by day. India's position on the 2021 World Hunger Index is deplorable. According to the World Hunger Index, India's ranking is 101st among 116 countries around the world. In 2020, India was ranked 94th. Where on the one hand, the Narendra Modi-led government of India has been advertising that the country is moving forward, with everyone developing, on the other hand the reality is that the number of hungry people in India is increasing. According to a recent GHI report, the number of hungry people in India is higher than the neighbouring countries -Pakistan, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Nepal.

According to the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021, India ranks 101st out of 116 countries. In 2020, India was ranked 94th out of 107 countries. According to the 2021

rankings, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal have better ranking than India. India has dropped further on the hunger strike. According to reports, the level of hunger in India is alarming. India's Global Hunger Index (GHI) was 38.8 in 2000 which has dropped in between 2012 and 2021 from 27.5 to 28.8. The list is based on a variety of factors, including child's nutrition and

malnutrition, amount of food, nutritional food, and infant mortality. At the bottom of the list of 116 countries is Somalia of Africa. According to the report, the Child Wasting Rate in India has increased from 17.1 per cent between 1998 and 2002 to 17.3 per cent between 2016 and 2020.

According to the report, India, which has the highest ...

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No Doctors : No Healthcare

Every year the state government has promised to provide health care facilities in all the 30 districts. But not even in one district the healthcare is provided appropriately. In some places either there are no doctors or no paramedical staff, some hospitals due to shortage of doctors it is either run by the pharmacist or the paramedical staff. Hard to imagine the condition in underdeveloped districts but even the advanced districts like Cuttack is suffering due to lack of doctors.

Healthcare in the district is deteriorating due to shortage of doctors. From a long time, many posts in various primary and group health centres, including the district's

main hospital have been vacant, and has not been filled. Finding no doctors in the healthcare centres, the patients return disheartened. There are currently 117 vacancies in the district but the health department is not showing any seriousness in filling the vacancies.

Currently in the district, there are 19 group health centres, 13 main hospitals in urban areas, 57 new primary health centres, 2 sub-divisional hospitals and 5 other hospitals. 18 blocks in the district including the Cuttack residents depend on these hospitals. The number of patients in government hospitals is increasing day by day as the state government has introduced

different schemes for the needy. Recently, the state government has been providing financial assistance under the Biju Health Scheme. Many patients are relying on government hospitals instead of going to private centres because of financial support. The number of patients in government hospitals have doubled in two years. As the number of patients increases, so the government has created new vacancies for the post of doctors with the aim of providing better healthcare in health centres. In 2014, the government opened 308 new posts for the doctors at health centres in the district but about 117 posts are currently vacant. According to the new regulations,

one group health centre will have at least four specialist doctors. At each health centre, the appointment of a paediatric, surgeon, gynaecologist, and obstetrician was mandatory. Most of the district's 14 community health centres do not have specialist doctors. Although the post has been vacant for a long time, the government has not been quick to hire a specialist. The government launched the Biju Health Scheme on August 15, 2016. Under the scheme, the government provides a maximum of Rs 5 lakh per patient and up to Rs 7 lakh for a female patient. With the introduction of the scheme, the number of patients in government hospitals has increased.

Editorial

Rising oil prices and their impact

Oil is necessary for every people. The rise in oil prices is affecting people, especially the poor and middle class people. Every month the price keeps rising in the country. Due to the rise in oil prices there is rise in price of all necessary products. Whether it is vegetables, edible oils or any daily necessary items, the price rise has made people to eat only rice or flour. The central government argues that the cost of living is rising due to the Covid Relief program and that the need for welfare schemes is being met through rising oil prices. More than Rs 35,000 crore has been spent on the vaccine. Rs 1 lakh crore has been spent to provide 8 months of food to the poor. Some farmers have been given some crores of rupees through the Prime Minister's Kisan Yojana. Nirmala Sitaraman, the finance minister of the Union government, also said that the oil price hike had resulted in the issuance of Rs 1.44 lakh crore oil bonds during the previous Congress-led deputy government. In the last five years, the government has paid Rs 70,000 crore in interest. Apart from interest, another Rs 1,33,000 crore is owed. Therefore, taxes on oil cannot be reduced. This argument of the Central Government is not based on absolute truth. It is true that in the last 7 years, a total of Rs 35 lakh crore has been disbursed in terms of capital and Rs 70,196 crore in interest. Overall Rs. 73,696 crores has been given. But in those 7 years, it received Rs 17,53,928 crore from excise duty on petrol and diesel alone. From 2021-22 to 2025-26, the government will pay Rs 168,084 crores (Rs 1,30,743 crore for capital and Rs 37,342 crore for interest). But in those five years, the central government will receive at least Rs 24 lakh crore in excise duty. The question is many countries in the world has been affected by the Corona pandemic. But in compare to our country rest of the countries have less oil prices. Petrol is cheaper in neighbouring countries of India; for example, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. The issue is that in 2019, the government lost Rs 1.45 lakh crore in revenue due to corporate tax cuts. This revenue loss rate is increasing every year. The government has failed to take action against those responsible for the tax evasion. The government has not been able to borrow money from those who have taken billions of rupees from the country's banks and fled abroad. The central government levies a 32 to 34 per cent excise duty on petrol and diesel. As a result, the state government levies 24 per cent VAT. Oil prices will not fall unless the central government cuts excise duties and the state government cuts VAT.

It has been 30 years since the new liberal economic policy was implemented in the country. This policy is the reason behind inequality and the rise in oil prices. As a result of this policy, malnutrition, hunger, poverty, illiteracy and unemployment have risen in the country. At the same time, the fact that the central and state governments are raising tariffs and VAT on oil in the name of social welfare or in the name of social welfare programs is neither eliminating poverty nor reducing social inequality. Such scenes have been seen from village to town. People are being feed for free so they are not buying vegetables. However, the government continues to advertise that the country and the state are moving forward. In Odisha, bus fares have gone up due to rising oil prices. Even the goods carrier vehicles have also risen their fares. The purchasing power will be reduced, and the poor and the middle class will live a more miserable life. Why is the government harassing citizens by rising the oil price in a welfare country? On the other hand, taxpayers are waived from taxes. Of course, this is not a good thing for a democracy. In short, it is the exploitation of citizens by the government. The government should refrain from this trend, review the relationship and reduce oil prices.

National assets to be Privatised

The Finance Minister of India made the important announcement on August 23 that Rs 6 lakhs crore would be raised over the next four years through the National Monetisation Pipeline. The current NDA government is responsible for the success of the efforts of the corporates to seize the national wealth built on the tax money of the countrymen.

Just as the East India Company took over the country's wealth and enslaved the entire country after the Cold War in 1957, it is repeating itself after 260 years. Since the adoption of the new liberal policy in 1991, the transfer of national-owned industries, services, financial institutions, mineral resources and all other infrastructure began to privatise. The privatisation of all national enterprises was impossible due to intense opposition and political resistance. The foundations of the economy are being destroyed to achieve the government's goal of privatisation. As long as this process continues, foreign and domestic monopoly capitalists will own the country's wealth.

The government's argument is that all these industries are not used at all or are used in part, is completely untrue. What was the use of all these infrastructures such as National Highways, Power Generation and Supply Line, Oil and Gas Pipeline, Railway Line and Railway Station, Port, Telecom Tower? Will it be possible to develop the national economy without these infrastructure?

Another argument from the government is that this is not a direct selling system, the government is only giving the right to earn from these institutions to private companies. This means that private companies, without investing at all, will strive for economic growth. In the last budget, the corporation reduced the target by Rs 1 lakh crore to Rs 4.5 lakh crore. The budget deficit increased oil taxes to cover Rs 1 lakh crore.

Recruitment continues:

According to official reports, the number of unemployed has risen in the last 45 years, and 23 crore people have been pushed into poverty.

In between 2014 and 2020, the number of national enterprises has dropped from 16,50,000 to 9,80,000. In other words, the number of employees has dropped by about 6,70,000 in the last 7 years. The number of workers has been reduced through Covid, lockdown, VRS and so on.

Under the central government's National Monetisation Pipeline plan, the following entities will be privatised.

Road : The length of the national highway built so far is 1,32,499 km. Out of this, 22% of the roads, or 26,700 km of roads will be given to private companies and Rs 1.6 lakh crores will be collected from them. Private companies will earn crores through check gates.

Indian Railways has a total of 7325 railway stations and 1,26,366 km of railway lines. It has 13169 passenger trains. In addition, 1246 railway warehouses, 5 hilly railways, 741 km of Konkan railway, 15 railway stadiums, 265 railway warehouses and 4 hilly railway stations for this the government will get Rs 152496 crores.

25 airports out of 137 airports will be handed over to private companies and the government will receive Rs 20,781 crore. Bhubaneswar airport will also privatised.

The government will get Rs 45,200 crore by privatising the power supply system.

160 coal mines will also be given to private companies and the government will receive Rs 28747 crore.

Out of 69147 telecom tower which is owned by BSNL and MTNL, 14197 towers will be handed over to private...

companies for Rs 35,000 crores. 2.86 lakh km long optical fibre line of Bharat Net will also be privatised in the process.

NTPC based on hydro-electricity, wind and solar power will supply 4912 MW and 7071 MW from other sources will also be privatised at a cost of Rs 39,832 crores.

The oil and gas supply system will also go to private companies. The government will raise Rs 22,503 crore from the Gas Authority of India Limited's 3930 kilo-meter pipeline.

The government will get Rs 24462 crore for the 8,154 km long natural gas pipeline.

9 major ports including 31 other ports the government will get Rs 12,828 crore from privatisation. Paradip port is also in the list.

The government will privatise 39% of FCI and the Central Warehouse and receive Rs 28,900 crores.

The government will get Rs 11450 crore from 9 big government hotels, 7 housing colonies, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and other sports facilities.

The government has said it will need Rs 111 lakh crore to build the infrastructure. However, six lakh crore that the government aims to raise by allocating the country's resources to the private sector is only five per cent of the Rs 111 lakh crore. So where else will the central government do to raise more Rs 105 lakh crore?

Private companies will put a heavy burden on people for their own benefit and lay off workers to reduce costs.



Janardana Pati

What is the consensus ? Who is anti-national ?

During the 1942 Quit India Movement, some communist leaders, including BR Ambedkar, and other RSS activists, sharply criticized the role of the Congress. But at that time, Mahatma Gandhi never called this leader or party a traitor. 1962 China invaded India. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a youth leader of the Jana Sangh at the time, was critical of Pandit Nehru. Pandit Nehru did not call Vajpayee a traitor. The British government filed 1908 sedition cases against Lokamanya Balgangadhar Tilak. "Freedom is my 'birthright' and I will keep it," Tilak told the court at the time. Tilak said Indians are independent for every struggle. He also reiterated about Gandhiji in 1922 saying that it was the national right of every Indian to protest against the anti-public policies of the government and to throw the Britishers out of the country. This was preceded by World War I between 1913 and 1918. The British government increased India's defense budget, increased taxes, and raised unreasonable prices of daily necessities. People

became dissatisfied and public outrage increased. The committee, chaired by Sir Siddiqui Roulette, passed a law to restrict freedom of expression. What Gandhiji said was that the law was oppressive and satanic.

Today we are going to celebrate the 73rd Independence Day. The foreign colonial power or government of that time is not in the country today. But the manner in which the elected government is trampling on the rights of the citizens cannot be said to be any less than the repression of the imperialist government of that day.

"Every citizen wants to live a non-violent and conscientious life, but today our country is the largest democracy in the world and there is no place for dissent or disagreement". India's democracy must be based on the Constitution. But the incumbents in government have been seen to be behaving not only undemocratic, but also unethical and inhumane. There is an increase in discrimination and anarchy in the country. Everywhere today, the tide of protectionist sentiment is

flowing. Every protestor is being charged with felony criminal mischief for firing on a sculpture with a shotgun. Prominent human rights activists, scholars and social activists, Sudha Bharadwaj, Gautam Navalkha, Prof. G.N. Saibaba, Anand Teltumbade and Prof. Henibabu MT have fallen victim to such acts of the government.

As the country's population is in a state of turmoil in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, the country's financial situation is in dire straits, and journalists are being criticised for failing to act in a way that protects civilians. According to the latest report released by the Rice and Risk Analysis Group (RRAG), 55 journalists have been threatened in India. Cases have been registered against 22 journalists. Ten people have been remanded in custody. Uttar Pradesh tops the list of government-abused journalists. Eleven journalists have been threatened. Likewise in Jammu and Kashmir, six journalists have been threatened, and four each in states like Himachal

Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Maharashtra.

According to Amnesty International, London on its 'Global crackdown on journalists weakens efforts to tackle COVID-19' report, with relation to protection of human rights, says that in countries including India, Russia, and China journalists of print media and web-news have fallen victims to government crackdown. On March 31, 2020, the Supreme Court heard a case on the plight of migrant workers, and the Modi government had applied for the right to curb news media. But the Supreme Court rejected the government's appeal. At the heart of democracy is the freedom of expression. The elected government is well aware of this. But with its dictatorial mentality, it continues to try to directly and indirectly suppress the rights of citizens. But the government seems to be forgetting the verdicts of Gandhi, Tilak, and the latest Supreme Court. No government has been able to stand up to the threat of human rights, to suppress the rights of citizens. Therefore, the

government should refrain from trying to trample on the rights of its citizens. Respect your constitutional responsibility by accepting the voices raised by the people for the protection of democracy. Otherwise, in the face of the discontent and aggression of the citizens, the system of governance and repression will fail and democracy will prevail.

The country now has a government of patriots, cowherds, and devotees. The main goal of this government is 'with all for development of all' (sabke saath sabka vikaas), the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said this time and again in his 'mann ki baat' program on AIR. But the reality is different. The oppression of the general public is not different from that in the times of Mughals and Britishers in the name of taxes. People are tagged to be anti-nationals and anti-BJP if they raise any voice against the government. The BJP-led NDA government, which came to power with the dream of establishing a Ram Rajya, has never analysed its failure and incompetence.

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People arrested for...

a decent livelihood. However, since 2000, many workers have lost their jobs and are starving due to most mechanical issues in mining, industry and railway. Workers have been drawing the attention of the chief minister since 2015 to address the issue of unemployment, but to no avail. In such mining-affected villages, various government schemes are inaccessible. The affected villagers have repeatedly expressed their grievance to the district and block administrations but all in vain. The women of Benagadia Naiksahi, which is home to about 5,000 people, made a decision at a meeting in last April and requested in written

format to the BDO for their inclusion in various government schemes. According to more than 50 women in the village, Benagadia villagers have been neglected in all situation. Villagers are deprived of housing scheme, job cards, widows and old-age benefits. There are no livelihoods for the people of the mining area. That's why the head of the family is forced to relocate for earning purpose. Drinking water is available at a place 1 km away from the village. As these things spread on the social media, a local leader visited Benagadia on May 18 and threatened women. She rebuked them for sharing the information on social media.

Thereafter there was tussle between the leader and the women which went to Sukinda police station. Sukinda police on May 22 called on both sides to resolve the issue. The village women made their presence in the police station, however, the leader didn't come on that day. Police tries to stop the strike planned by the village women by putting a case registered under IPC section 107 on Minati Mahant, Damyanti Mahant, Pandu Naik, Kuni Mahant, Bhanumati Mahant, Nandita Naik, Yati Naik, Bhanu Naik, Mira Naik, Nayanti Naik, Banita Naik, Dali Naik, Tuni Naik, Tapi Naik, Chair Naik of Benagadia village and Sukanti Naik of Kharakhari village. These

people have been directed to appear before the Executive Magistrate of Sukinda on 19th. Bhanumati and Sukanti said they wrote a written appeal to the BDO to be included in the government scheme for which they were threatened. Earlier, during the mine expansion, their names were registered under IPC section 108, as they first demanded employment and development of the environment. They say, "In each case, their voice has been suppressed by the government."

Increasing number...

childcare rate in the world, has been severely affected by Covid-19 and epidemic restrictions. Three

Neighboring countries with economic and political instability, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal, however, are ahead of India. Nepal and Bangladesh are ranked No. 76 on the list, followed by Myanmar at 71 and Pakistan at 92. According to the GHI report, the fight against hunger is dangerous for the entire world. According to current estimates, 47 countries in the world will be in a worse position by 2030. According to the 2021 report, climate change and epidemics have worsened the food security situation around the world.

Life is ruined under torn polythene. The dismal picture of a prosperous district

Keonjhar (Bureau): In a rich district like Keonjhar, the government's pro-people schemes have become a joke. Such a dire picture of the development of the district has come to the fore. Of course, in a state where elected representatives are often unsuccessful in dealing with injustice or in giving justice to the poor and giving their people their due rights, it is only natural that development be paved. Which has become a hot topic in the district. Where Keonjhar district was ranked first in the state for the rural housing development, Prikshit Mahanta's family from Dhipasahi village in the Jhumpura block is still living under shreds. The question is who is responsible for their

suffering? Mr Mahanta is staying with his wife and three young children. He feeds his family on vegetable farming and basic wages in his 20-decimal plot of land. A few days ago, his house collapsed due to torrential rains. The roof was completely destroyed. Prikshit pleaded Sarpanch and everyone but no one listened. As a result, he had no choice but to build a polythene house and stay with his five family members. During winters and rainy seasons his small children get fever. Prikshit is not the only person to face this situation in the village. The walls of Govardhan Naik's house were completely destroyed, but no one listened. Padana Munda's house is also in danger. It's hard to say what will happen to them.

The central and state governments are receiving crores of rupees in revenue from Ratnagarbha Keonjhar district. The district administration has crores of rupees from mines in D.M.F and OMBADC Funds. But these funds are used in beautification of the district, government offices, and outlying districts. Isn't it a shame for the government to forget about the poor people like Prikshit Mahanta, Govardhan Naik and Padana Munda. Baria Panchayat Sarpanch Draupadi Naik admitted the incident and blamed the BDO along with PS members and the JRS, while the government official tries to hide his incompetence by asking for an investigation.

Student is deprived of higher education due to non-issuance of caste certificate

Bhadrak (Bureau): According to Section 3 of the Land Settlement Act of Odisha, 2017, the government has a law to provide housing to landless people under the Land Rights Act, while it is under the law that Upendra Munda, a resident of Jayanagar village of ward no. 3 of Dhamnagar Tribal area provided with a land plot no.1568, 240/112 sq.ft. At the same time, Upendra's son Bholashankar Munda applied to enrol in +2 arts at Payat College in Barikpur for higher education after passing the matriculation examination this year, but the principal of the college refused to give him admission for not submitting his caste certificate. One needs to show resident proof and caste certificate for admission. Bholashankar had applied for a caste certificate in Munda Dhamnagar tehsil, but the RI and the Tehsildar could not issue him a caste certificate as the district commissioner did not mention about caste in the certificate. However, the Revenue Officer denied that the land title certificate

obtained by the district commissioner could be accepted for residential and racial proof. Unable to get a caste certificate, the student is disheartened as he can't pursue his higher education. "The government is enacting various laws and regulations for higher education for the people of SC, ST and OBC," he said. In this regard, Anup Kumar Behera, Additional Tahsildar of Dhamnagar Tehsil, said, "We cannot issue caste certificates on behalf of the tehsil as the certificate received by the district magistrate does not mention caste." "We will inform the district commissioner and we will take action after receiving instructions from him," Behera said. On the other hand, the deadline for college enrolment has also expired, as it takes time to implement government policies. However, the family has requested the district magistrate to arrange for him to issue a racial certificate with a special focus on a poor tribal student and to request that he be directed to enroll in the respective college.

Suffering of two orphan sisters

Keonjhar (Bureau) Two orphan sisters are washing dishes to feed themselves. The tragic story is of two sisters Karisma and Kareena of Raisuan Panchayat of the Keonjhar district.

According to villagers, late Mr Jadu Bentkar, 32, and his wife late Mrs Yatri Bentkar, 28, have died of alcoholism three years ago. They survived by two daughters Karisma Bentkar (14) and Kareena Bentkar (11). They were young when their parents died. After the death of their parents, they were raised by their grand mother, Bali Bentkar. But last year she also died of that alcohol. For a few days the villagers fed the children. Due to lockdown, people were unemployed and had no income, so they no longer able to feed the girls. As a result, the two sisters were left to starve, so they began working at houses. The two sisters revealed that they were working at someone's house for Rs 300 a month. That 300 rupees is hard to earn. They can't go to school even if they want to. They spend their entire day working in different houses but there is no house to sleep in. Their house demolished 2 years back. Government officials made a visit and took photos assuring them to construct a new one. But it's been 2 years, no response from the government. So, Karisma said they are sleeping at aunty's house at night.

The government has introduced education law in which no child will be uneducated but what about these two sisters. During election campaign everyone promises to help the needy girls but they forget it after the election. The villagers demand to provide house for these two girls under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and to provide education for them.

SC / ST case on the rise: unreasonable delay in investigation, delay in justice

Rayagada (Bureau): Cases related to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are on the rise. The client and the plaintiff involved in the case have been hunted down for years as the investigation is not completed in a timely manner. The judicial process is hampered by unreasonable delays in getting reports from various levels, including joint investigation reports, to the court. As seven cases are pending in the Rayagada and Gunupur courts, a meeting of the district-level vigilance monitoring committee has been directed to resolve the matter immediately.

The government has enacted special laws to deal with cases of racial slurs, assaults, misdemeanours, kidnappings and death threats against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Under the law, which has been in place since 1995, the government has taken steps to provide justice to the victims of the SC/ST category. The Department of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled

Tribes has been instructed to provide free lawyers and all the money to be spent during the trial. In between 2011 and 2021, 56 and 38 cases are pending in Rayagada and Gunupur courts respectively. 40 cases have been accepted for joint investigation by the Tehsildar and DSP. As of now 19 cases have been jointly investigated, while 21 cases are still pending. Due to delay in Tehsildar's report the cases are pending for judgement.

There are 15 cases under Rayagada SDPO, 1 case under Bisamkatak SDPO and 5 cases under Gunupur SDPO. While people are waiting for judgment of the pending cases, some investigating police officers have been retired; while others have been transferred to other districts. The judicial process is being delayed due to the inability of the police to locate the accused in some cases while the hearing of some cases is going on.

In 2017-18, Rs 1,090,000 financial assistance was provided to 17 victims. In 2018-19, 6 lakh

financial assistance was provided to 3 victims. In 2018-1019, 3 lakh financial assistance was provided to 3 victims. However, 7 victims in past two years and 8 victims in the year 2020-21 and 10 victims of the year 2021-22 could not be provided financial assistance for various reasons. In the financial year 2020-21, the government provided a grant of Rs 21 lakh to the district welfare officer for financial assistance, but financial aid was delayed due to delays in the trial. Due to delays in the decision of the case, the district level vigilance monitoring committee chaired by the district magistrate instructed the tehsildar and DSP to provide the detailed investigation report soon. The HRPC DSP has been tasked with overseeing the district superintendent of police to handle all pending cases. The court has also appointed Public Prosecutor Assistant Public Prosecutors appointed by the government. Yet justice seems to be delayed.

Hunger Index: India's Embarrassing Status



Bhala Sarangi

For the past few years, the government has been offering a rosy picture of agriculture and food production in the country. Despite the COVID epidemic, efforts have been made to explain the record increase in food grain production in the country and how it has increased by 40% in food grain exports abroad. There have even been calls for greater government policies to address hunger in the country. However, the recently released World Hunger Index has highlighted the dire state of hunger in India and the government's failure to provide food to large parts of the country.

As per the report prepared by Concern Worldwide (Ireland) and Welt Hunger Hillife (Germany), India is at 101 rank out of the 116 hunger stricken countries worldwide. Last year, India was ranked 94 on the index, but this year it has dropped seven places. "India's hunger is alarming," the report said. We seem to be far behind many countries in the world in eradicating hunger and malnutrition. Twenty-four countries in the African continent are far ahead of us, while our neighbouring countries such as Pakistan is at 92, Nepal 76, Myanmar 71, and Bangladesh 76, are in a better position than us. Only 15 countries in the world including Papua New Guinea, Ethiopia, and Afghanistan, have dropped in rank as compared to their earlier states. While claiming to be world leader and superpower, it is shameful that most countries in the world are in a better position to cope with hunger than us.

India's score on the World Hunger Index is 27.5 this year. In this case, our country is far below many other countries in the world, such as China, Brazil and Russia. India's gap with its neighbours, in particular, has been steadily rising. India's score has improved slightly between 2000 and 2020, while Pakistan and Bangladesh have performed better than we have. In 2000, the rate of hunger was 38.8, but by 2012 it had improved significantly to 28.8. However, between 2012 (28.8) and 2021 (27.5), there has been no improvement.

However, India's position on the world's hunger index is not new. "Our country has been steadily declining every year, but in the last few years, especially during the Modi government, it has been in a worse position." It was ranked 55th in 2014, and slid down 103 in 2018, 102 in 2019 and 101 this year.

The criteria on which the hunger index is based include (1) malnutrition, (2) child breastfeeding

(being too thin over a child's height), (3) child stunting (too low as a child's age), and (4) infant mortality. The most embarrassing thing about this year's report is that we are far behind in all of the above measurements. India ranks very low in the world in terms of malnutrition, child malnutrition and mortality. Malnutrition in the body means lack of calories in the body needed to survive. In that sense, 15.3% of the population in our country is malnourished, according to the report. Similarly, Child Wasting means that children under the age of five do not gain weight compared to their height. This is a serious sign of malnutrition, and India's rate has improved slightly compared to 2019 (20.8%) to 17.3% this year, but still in an alarming state. One of the most commonly used measures of child stunting is malnutrition. In this case, 34.7% of children in India are deprived of the necessary weight and height according to their age. The latest measure of hunger is child mortality in the country. Although the death rate for children under the age of five in our country is 3.4%, it is much higher than in other countries of the world. Premature birth and low birth weight are the major causes of infant mortality, which proves the serious malnutrition situation in the country.

The question here is, why are so many people in our country dreaming of becoming a trillion-dollar economy every year and are starving and malnourished? Although the handful of capitalists get the lion's share, the majority of Indians are suffering from poverty and deprivation. This is due to the structural problems in society, such as class divisions, but the government's new liberal policies have widened the gap. The plight of the general public has deteriorated, while the wealth and business of the general public have slipped due to the loss of income and business during the epidemic. According to a recent report by the IIFL Hurun, the wealth of the country's leading industrialist Gautam Adani has increased by 261% in the last one year. Industrialist Mukesh Ambani has a daily income of Rs 263 crore while Adani has a daily income of Rs 1,000 crore. In such a situation, the government is needed to raise taxes on the income of the country's super rich and increase grants to alleviate poverty and increase the country's food and nutrition programs. But every year the government continues to reduce grants for food security and nutrition programs, increasing hunger and malnutrition in the country.

The reason for hunger is not the shortage of food, the government knows it better than anyone else. Due to the economic inequality of class

divisions in society and the lack of government policies to address them, a large part of society is forced to live between hunger and malnutrition. Grain per capita availability is declining despite rising grain production in the country. The country has a record crop of cereals despite the COVID epidemic and prolonged lockdown. The government's food corporation warehouses do not have enough storage space. Lack of proper maintenance destroys millions of tons of food grains every year by mice, worms, and so on. Yet most people in the country are starving and malnourished due to lack of food. So there is no doubt that there is a state of hunger in the country.

In 2013, the then government enacted the National Food Security Act, recognising that 75% of the country's rural and 50% of the country's urban population had food crisis. The absence of a strong public distribution system was exacerbated by the famine, and the government was expected to plan a public distribution to address the food security crisis. But sadly, the food grains that the government, under the Food Security Act, is distributing to the hungry masses in the country are not enough in terms of both quality and quantity. The central government's ICMR suggests the requirement of a minimum of 15 kg of food grains per person per month, while the government provides only five kilograms of food grains under the Food Security Act. Even with the need for pulses and edible oils to curb malnutrition, the government's food security program is limited to rice and wheat.

One of the main causes of hunger and malnutrition in the country is the constant decline in the purchasing power of the people. More and more people are unable to buy food from the market due to poverty and unemployment. According to the World Food and Agriculture Organisation, the number of people unable to access calorie-rich foods such as rice and bread in the country has dropped by just 0.9%, while today, 39.1% of the population is malnourished and 77.9% of the population is deprived of getting nutritious food.

The latest report from the World Hunger Index has once again raised the issue of food insecurity in the country. So the government has to take it seriously and redefine its food safety strategy. At the same time, government food security programs need to make it easier and more affordable to provide nutritious food, and to make sure that people are able to get healthier food on a long-term basis.

Kudula gangrape, Govind Kumar's imprisonment and Gaurenmunda is in a state of disarray for the oppressed

Preparation: Narendra Mohanty

Bargarh is a place of freedom fighters. Whether it may be Vir Surendra Sai or Kishan Patnaik who fought for the farmers, all shows the greatness of the soil. Whatever injustice is done in any part of the country, the voice of protest comes from Bargarh. There is an invaluable contribution of this soil to literature, art, culture and the Sambalpur Dam Art Society. But it is astonishing to see atrocities, racial hatred and violence in such a great region. Rape of a woman in Kudula, Gaisilet block of Bargarh district; death in custody in Torah is a terrible result of racial discrimination. This questions the role of the district administration, especially the police, along with the MPs and legislators representing the region. Both the cases have many things in common.

Kudula gangrape

The gangrape of a widow in Kudula, Gaisilet block, on August 11 came from the seeds of untouchability. The woman's son eloped with a girl of other caste of that village created havoc which led to brutally torture of the woman. A team of investigators reached the village of Ganapada in Kudula and, after interaction with the people, it was found that the village has two parts. One part of the village is for Scheduled Castes and other part for the rest of the people. Scheduled Castes do not have access to public temples, do not bathe in the same ponds and so-called high-ranking people do not eat at the same time where Scheduled Castes are invited. The participation of Scheduled Castes in social decisions is low. They are poor and helpless. It was even more complicated during corona. A mother and her son who were working out of state, returned to their village in Ganapada before the Lockdown announcement. Before the administration or Anganwadi workers detain them for quarantine shelter, the so-called high-rise people cordoned off the area. This created rift between the two parts of the village. In such a situation, the victim's son who belong to scheduled caste eloped with the daughter of another caste. This was not accepted by the girl's family. The girl was a minor so police arrested the woman's son and put him in jail for eloping with the girl. There is no complaints about her son's arrest in this case. But the way the mother was abused for her son's decision is brutal and cruel. Focusing on victim's background, it is said that the woman is very aggressive. She lost her husband at a very young age and worked hard to survive with her 4 sons. She left for Bangalore to work for her sons, as

her income was not sufficient in the village. She returned to village with her eldest and youngest son before Lockdown in 2020. The lady and his brother-in-law were threatened after the eldest son was seen talking to the girl and later eloping with her. Even so-called high-ranking people have called lonely women to a meeting

and asked her to accept in writing that she will have no contact with her son. Similarly, the parental uncle was threatened to not have any relationship with his nephew. Even after the written consent, high-ranking people did not calm down. According to the woman's statement, at around 6pm on the 11th August, a total of 12 people, including women, came to her house with various weapons, brutally beating her and committing atrocities one after another. In addition, they took away money from her cupboard and various items. The woman's brother-in-law's car and house was set on fire and money was looted from his box. At that time, her brother-in-law was not at home. She informed police and they saw her condition were



she was bleeding. She was rushed to the hospital. She has suffered severe physical and mental injuries. In this case, the claim that have been are as follows:

1. The woman is frightened and insecure from the incident, so the administration should arrange meeting with her somewhere else and even arrange a house for her. Arrangements should be made for her medical treatment, employment and younger son's education. Under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Prevention Act-2015, appropriate compensation should be provided to the victims immediately.
2. It is a criminal activity to ostracise someone from society. Legal action will be taken on people who call meeting to ostracise some.
3. Above all, steps should be taken to eliminate untouchability, and legal action should be taken against the person who maintains such a practice. Scheduled Caste families should be allowed to use public temples and ponds with the intervention of the administration.





Govind Kumar's death in custody

Ainthapali police station was set on fire a few years ago after the death of a Sambalpur prisoner. There is neither support in burning police station nor in the attack on the police, but indeed just to show the response to the death of a man in custody. Police has no reaction even after the death of Govind Kumar in Tora, Bargarh district. The death of Makhnu Bagh in custody has taken place earlier, but there is no change in police's behaviour and attitude. That's why a precious life has been lost again. Two young children of aged 4 and 5 years old lost their father, a young girl lost her husband, and a family lost a young son. The unfortunate facts that came to light were that some of the policemen who were working in Veden at the time of the assassination of Makhnu Bagh appear to have been involved in the death of the prisoner. According to information from the family of the deceased in the incident, a scuffle broke out between the railway station-Ramnagar Pada in July, in which Govind was not involved but had a case in his name. According to family members, on September 25th midnight between 2-3am, 7 police officers from the Town Police entered his home and shouted obscenities at him. On September 26th Govind's father Radhe Kumar went to the police station at 6 am to know about his son's condition but to his surprise Govind was not found there.

They informed him that Govinda was taken to Khedapali Hospital but when he reached there he get to know Govinda was not taken there. where he was pronounced dead at the scene. When they met with relatives, they found the body lying under the staircase. According to his wife, it was unimaginable to see the corpse of a man who had left the house in healthy condition. Govinda had no health problems. He was working in a welding shop. Because of his large family and responsibilities mostly he use to do overtime. The sudden death of such a person was unacceptable. Govinda's wife observed wounds in his body. There were shoe stains on various parts of the body. Even what they heard was that

while he was being beaten in prison, he asked for water, but he was not given water. So it is clear that he died at the police station, the family said. According to relatives, Govinda's death was unbearable. When they went with his body to ask for justice they were beaten by police on their way. The situation was such that Govinda's dead body fell to the ground. The family said police walked on his body. Many people, including Govinda's matriculation sister, and maternal aunty (65), were injured in the lathi charge. Govind's aunty was admitted to Burla Hospital. Since then the family has been given some money in the name of assistance. The family said they needed justice, not money. The police responsible for Govind's death should be immediately arrested and fired so that they shouldn't repeat such incidents in future. Again, racial questions are being raised. Why are the poorest Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes dying in the state from Bargarh, Sambalpur till date? Govinda was not a professional criminal. Even there have been no serious cases in his name. However, no body knows why police took this extreme step towards him. So far no action has been taken against police even they are not suspended Arrested in mysterious deaths of ordinary people but no action has been taken in connection with the Murder. Wished following demands to be fulfilled.

1. A cow murder case should be registered in connection with the death of Govind Kumbar and the responsible police should be arrested and expelled.
2. Ensure compensation to the family, government employment to his wife, and education for the two children.
3. Strict measures

should be taken to prevent recurrence of custody deaths.

Gauren Munda, Oppressed Dalit Socially Marginalised:

About 50 families in the village of Gerenmunda in the Gaisilet block have been socially marginalised since June, citing racist mentality and land disputes, which is highly reprehensible. They are in dire straits as a result of blocking roads intended for their traffic, threats and attacks over small incidents, obstruction of access to rations, prohibitions on the purchase of essential goods from village streets, roads and shops. If the administration does not act immediately to find a lasting solution to these problems, there could be an explosive situation in the future.

The members of the investigation team collected information from the members of the family of Govind Kumbar, a victim of gang rape, a Kudula victim and a villager, a resident of Gauren Munda, a Bargarh Town police officer, an SDPO, an Additional Superintendent of Police. Among the members of this investigating team were Narendra Mohanty-State Host, Anti-False Claims Campaign, Indigenous Equality Council, Odisha, Gargi Satapathy - Journalist, Swati Mishra - Social Worker, Pratima Das-Lawyer, Odisha High Court, Chaitanya Bag - Dalit Rights Activists and Amitabh Patra - an independent journalist.



More than 46 prison deaths in 11 years

More than 46 people have died in custody in the state in the past 11 years. According to the Legislative Assembly, between 2010 and 2019, 43 inmates were killed, and according to the NCRB, two were killed in 2020. Recently in September 2021, one Govind Kumhar of Turipada in Bargarh district has breathed his last in the custody leaving his two children, aged 4 and 5, as orphans and a 23-year-old a widow.

In Bargarh town, police had asked Govind Kumhar to come to the police station with an Aadhaar card with regard to a dispute between two parties. But as Govind did not go to the police station, the police entered his house late at night and took him beating to the police station. The next day, the family got his dead body. The family alleged the police to have killed Govind as his body had beaten marks and many a parts of his body were severely bruised. But according to Bargarh Town police, because the locals and family members kept the body on the street and protested for a long time, hence the marks on his body. Earlier, on November 19, 2020, Tariq Salim of Birmitrapur in Sundergarh district, and on December 5, a Scheduled Caste youth named K. Ramesh died in police custody in Puri district. The Aithapali police station was set ablaze on February 8, 2018, following the death of Abinash

Munda, a young man from Sambalpur. Action against the police responsible for this was mild. It took 15 years for the family of the deceased to be compensated in the Dhenkanal district custody death. The Supreme Court ordered his family to be compensated with Rs 5 lakh.

The important thing is that

provisions for victim families are not implemented properly.

Debranjana, a human rights activist, says in many such custody death cases, the Supreme Court has upheld the right to life. The safety of the arrested is the sole responsibility of the police but eventually the police only kills them in prison; this has not been

According to the NCRB report, 76 people were killed in 2020 where Gujarat has the highest number of 15, Andhra Pradesh 8, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu 6 each, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra 5 each, Haryana 3 and West Bengal 2. The data from the National Human Rights Commission's March 2020 report

According to the review, five people die every day in judicial and police custody. A total of 281 complaints were lodged for people who died in police custody between 2008 and 2018. Of the 57 complaints lodged against police officers, no one was convicted. A total of 129 cases were registered in 2009, 70 in 2010, 104 in 2011, 109 in 2012, 118 in 2013, 93 in 2014, 97 in 2015, 92 in 2016, 100 in 2017, and 70 in 2018 and the investigation was initiated for the same. Although 982 deaths were reported by the judiciary, no one was convicted. According to the survey, 139 people die in custody every year in the country. No police officer has been sentenced to death since 2005, according to the report. The data was released by India Spend on the basis of the National Human Rights Commission's statistical report. Among the people who died in custody in Odisha are Sushant Behera, Ratikanta Das, Bardhan Mohanty, Govardhan Bindhani, Deepak Barik and Sunil Lodhi.

The guidelines issued by the Supreme Court and the National Human Rights Commission on the death of a prisoner and instructions on how to keep detainees safe and respectful for the police are alleged to have been not complied with. Time and again the police is violating the stated guidelines and is being instrumental in the ever rising custody deaths.



most of the people who die in custody are Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and all are poor. People are arrested on suspicion of theft or trespassing, and the next day the family mysteriously finds their body. The Human Rights Commission agrees that appropriate action against custody deaths and compensatory

proved in the court of law though. Section 41 (a) of the CRPC and the National Human Rights Commission have various guidelines for the prevention of custody deaths. However the police do not adhere to the same. In 2020, the number of prison deaths is on the rise, not just in Odisha, but across the country.

says between 2009 and 2018, 17,146 people have had death in police custody. The most worrying thing is that in the six months time, as of July 2020, 914 people had died in judicial custody and 53 in police custody. Of those who died in custody, 92 percent died within 60 to 90 days of judicial custody, while 1,387 died in police custody.

River Water Pollution: Concerns of the National Green Tribunal

Will the people of the country be allowed to suffer from pollution in the face of the blatant violation of the Pollution Control Act while granting the citizens of the country the right to live in a pollution-free environment? A bench comprising of the NGT Chairman Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, member of the judiciary bench Justice S K Singh, and Expert Member Dr Nagin Nanda has shown grave concern over the rising river water pollution in the country despite the Supreme Court's verdict and NGT's repeated directives. Judging the case, the NGT

bench said that those who have been empowered by the law to make the country's river water pollution-free have failed miserably. The situation in the environment is deteriorating as a result of the lack of exemplary action against the polluters. The NGT's directive states that at least 351 rivers in the country are heavily polluted, including 19 in Odisha.

It is unacceptable that the authorities have been taking steps for years to comply with the Supreme Court's decision, the current law, and the NGT's directives to stop river water pollution. Instead of improving

the pollution situation, some responsible agencies at the center and the state are playing the blame game. There are legal provisions for adequate compensation from those involved in water pollution, closure of polluting agencies and other measures. But because it is not being done, the officials in charge seem to be openly violating the pollution control law and neglecting their duties, the NGT said. In this regard, the NGT has emphasised the need to take immediate action to control water pollution, questioning why the earlier Supreme Court verdict is not

being strictly enforced. The chief secretaries of various states have been present at the NGT and provided information, but the NGT said it was "alarming" that the increase in water pollution has skyrocketed. Many government agencies, municipalities and businesses are openly violating water laws. The rate at which water pollution is rising is adversely affecting the health of the all, especially human beings, as well as it takes a heavy toll on the public treasury, as no action is taken against the polluters. Moreover the NGT has also warned that the

violators could not be left open in this regard, adding that the Chief Secretary of various states, the Central and State Pollution Control Boards of various states should be made more sensitive to these serious issues. The NGT has asked the Registrar General of the Supreme Court to bring the matter to the attention of the Supreme Court in view of the non-observance of this judgment of the Supreme Court. State and central agencies have been asked to submit their reports on river pollution control to the NGT by September 15 next year.