

Odisha Current Affairs 2020

Odisha Malati Devi Prak Vidyalaya Paridhan Yojana

Odisha government has launched Malati Devi Prak Vidyalaya Paridhan Yojana 2020 on 2 October 2020 where government has distributed 2 sets of uniforms to Pre-School Children on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

This year, around 14.83 lakh school children in Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) have been benefited from this uniform distribution scheme.

The main objective of Odisha Malati Devi Prak Vidyalaya Paridhan Yojana is to provide 2 sets of free uniform to pre-school children.

Kids who belongs to economically weaker sections of society studies in Anganwadi centres in which uniform is a must requirement.

Their parents are not able to purchase new uniforms for such children and to ensure that such poor parents are benefited, this uniform distribution scheme has been launched.

Now the state govt. is providing free school uniforms (2 sets) to each and every children studying in AWCs.

Around 14.83 lakh pre-school kids studying in 61,040 AWCs have already received uniforms on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

The new initiative is going to encourage more students to enrol in schools.

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Odisha Garima Scheme

Odisha Garima Scheme 2020 has been launched by the CM Naveen Patnaik led state government on 11 September 2020. In this scheme, Odisha govt. will provide benefits to around 20,000 crore sanitation workers and their families covering 1 lakh population.

This scheme will ensure safety and dignity of core sanitation workers. A dedicated corpus fund initially with Rs. 50 crore will also be created.

Alongwith Odisha Garima Scheme 2020, a State Commission for Core Sanitation Workers will also be constituted.

The Garima Scheme will be implemented in all the 114 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of the Odisha state.

The main focus of this scheme is to realize the vision of elimination of manual scavenging which causes various accidents to scavengers.

The Garima Scheme for manual scavengers is a first-of-its-kind initiative by any state in India. This scheme is launched to provide a comprehensive package which includes:-

- Institutionalizing and regulating the core sanitation services
- Providing service level benefits
- To provide social security benefits to core sanitation workers along with their families.

- Financial benefits to manual scavengers and their families.
- Increased focus on enforcement of statutory provisions under various national & state legislations.

Odisha Kalia Yojana

Odisha state government has launched Kalia Yojana Online Grievance Application Form. This grievance section can be used to file a grievance, new application, voluntary refund and tracking of your application status.

In order to file a grievance / new application, farmers need to submit photocopy of aadhar card, ration card & 1st page & transaction history from January 2019 of bank passbook.

People can now easily track Kalia Yojana Application Status Online using their aadhaar / token number at the official website.

For filing of grievance, aadhar number is mandatory. In addition to the documents mentioned above, a small / marginal farmer must submit photocopy of land record while landless labourer must submit photocopy of MGNREGA card.

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Odisha Biofloc Tech Fish Farming Scheme

Odisha state government has launched Biofloc Tech Fish Farming Scheme to promote intensive aquaculture in fisheries sector. This scheme will provide livelihood support to entrepreneurs, unemployed youth and interested progressive fish farmers.

The new scheme will also boost fish production in the state and help those youths who are facing unemployment amid COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.

Candidates can now download Biofloc Technology based fish farming scheme application form online at fardodisha.gov.in.

Bio-floc based farming system for intensive shrimp and fish farming is a new technology for promotion of intensive fish/ shrimp production in a limited area.

This will not result in significant increase in the usage of the basic natural resources of water and land.

This programme aims to support fish farmers/ young entrepreneurs including migrant farmers affected due to COVID-19 for generation of income and livelihood support.

Around 1080 nos. of Bio-floc tanks will be developed under this programme with subsidy support under state plan scheme during 2020-21.

Odisha Madhu Babu Pension Yojana

Odisha state government has launched Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY) where state govt. merged two old schemes. These 2 schemes were Revised Old Age Pension Rules, 1989 Et Disability Pension Rules, 1985 and introduced the Madhu Babu Pension Yojana Rules, 2008.

The state govt. has included transgender community under MBPY which aims at providing financial assistance to destitute elderly, differently-abled persons and widows in the state.

The official website of ssepd is now functional and the state govt. is accepting MBPY apply online form for social security pension schemes. Those old age / widow / disabled / transgenders people whose name is not present in the Madhu Babu Pension scheme list of beneficiaries can make online MBPY registration.

After registering themselves, such persons would be eligible for the pension benefits. Around 5,000 transgenders will now get Rs. 500, Rs. 700 and Rs. 900 per month as a pension under various categories depending on their age.

As per the SSEPD department around 48 lakh people are getting benefits under this social welfare scheme in the state.

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Odisha Balaram Scheme

Odisha state government has launched a new Balaram Scheme to provide agricultural credit of Rs. 1,040 crore to landless farmers. This agriculture credit amount will help farmers who are facing difficulties due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic outbreak.

Around 7 lakh landless cultivators would be benefited from the Balaram Yojana in the upcoming 2 years.

The decision to launch Odisha Balaram Scheme was taken at a high-level meeting presided over by chief secretary A K Tripathy on 2 July 2020.

All the landless farmers who were unable to get farm credit earlier will now get loans through joint liability groups. This loan amount will act as social collateral for land-less farmers.

The new Balaram Scheme is designed in collaboration with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

Moreover, the village agriculture workers will implement the agricultural credit programme at the field level.

Odisha Mukhyamantri Krushi Udyog Yojana

Odisha state government has launched Mukhyamantri Krushi Udyog Yojana where the government will provide subsidy on farmers loans upto Rs. 50 lakh to encourage setting up of new agro industries.

This agriculture scheme in Odisha will result in the betterment of farming and agriculture in the state and also deals with simplification of loan taking procedure.

The state govt. has also launched Mukhya Mantri Abhinav Krishi Yantripati Samman Yojana to provide rewards to farmers.

Here farmers can make registration, submit their completed application and even make their payment online for MKUY Scheme.

Both these new schemes would result in additional income for farmers and generation of new employment opportunities.

Odisha state govt. had launched this Krushi Udyog Yojana on 17 May 2018. This will encourage usage of innovative tools and implements in agriculture and realize the vision of "Doubling Farmers Income by 2022".

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Odisha Government included Transgender Community under Madhu Babu Pension Yojana

Odisha Government has included the transgender community under Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY), a social security scheme by amending to Rule 6 of the Madhu Babu Pension Rules 2008.

In addition to transgenders, women those who are fighting divorce cases in courts are also included.

Under this scheme, about 6,000 transgenders will receive Rs 500, Rs 700 and 900 per month as a pension under various categories depending on their age.

To avail the benefit of the scheme the transgenders should possess a certificate issued under Section 6 of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2019.

It is mandatory that the income of the beneficiary must not exceed Rs 40,000 per annum and should not be a member paying income tax or working as a government servant.

Odisha Cabinet gave state anthem status to "Bande Utkala Janani"

Odisha Cabinet has approved the proposal to give the status of State anthem to "Bande Utkala Janani", a poem written by Katakabi Laxmikanta Mohapatra in 1912.

The song gained immortality when it was sung as the opening song in the Utkal Sammilani during the formation of Odisha as a separate province in 1912.

In 1994 the Assembly of Odisha was set on to sing "Bande Utkala Janani" at the end of every session and considered to make it the anthem of the state.

The song reflects the glory and natural beauty of Odisha.

Odisha became the 1st state in India to receive ISO certification for tribal hostels

Odisha became the first State in India to receive prestigious International Organization for Standardization certification for its 44 tribal hostels of Keonjhar and Sambalpur districts improving their overall infrastructure and standards under Mission Suvidya.

The Odisha state's department of ST & SC Development in association with Quality Control of India (QCI) has conducted a comprehensive assessment & evaluation of all hostels with the aim to improve the standard and quality of the hostels.

During 1st phase of the assessment, all 60 hostels were selected for intensive interventions of gap filling out of 156 hostels in Keonjhar. Similarly 12 were selected out of 90 hostels of Sambalpur.

However due to coronavirus (COVID-19), the audit team assessed only 32 hostels of Keonjhar & 12 of Sambalpur in March 2020 & the remaining 28 hostels will be assessed post lockdown.

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Odisha Government to Implement an Initiative 'Sabuja Odisha'

Odisha government decided to implement a new initiative 'Sabuja Odisha'. The initiative will increase green cover through extensive plantations over 1,30,264 Hectares of land.

About 1.30 lakh hectares of land where these seedlings can be planted has been identified in 2,660 locations for plantation.

A web-based system will be set up for real-time monitoring and supervision of the programme.

District level Committee will be formed under the chairmanship of Collector for successful coordination and implementation of the programme.

Divisional Forest Officer's Headquarters will act as Plantation Officer in the district. All districts are directed to have their own micro-level work plan for plantations.

The seedling will be distributed to the people of their choice at Rs 1 per seedling. The plantation sites with geographic information system integrations will be uploaded on the website for continuous monitoring through satellite applications.

The identified 1,30,264 hectares of land for plantation is nearly two times more than the last year's plantation within 68,358 hectares.

Bhitarkanika National Park Census

The population of salt water crocodiles have increased to 1,757 as compared to 1,742 in 2018 according to the recent census at the Bhitarkanika National Park.

The peak winter is the ideal time to carry out the census as it exposes more than 50% of mud banks. Around 22 teams were formed to count the crocodiles in the creeks and rivers in the park and its surrounding area.

The teams sited 620 hatchlings, 288 juveniles, 325 yearlings, 185 sub adults and 339 adults. The crocodile count in the park has been increasing gradually. According to the census, in 2000, there were 1,192 crocodiles in the park.

In August 2019, the Bhitarkanika National Park reported that 3,000 crocodiles were born from 103 nests. The chances of baby crocodiles reaching adulthood is very less. Only one in 500 baby crocodiles reach adulthood.

The IUCN status of salt water crocodile is Least Concern.

The Park obtained the status of Ramsar site in 2002. It was the second area to get the status after Chilika lake. The Park is the second largest mangrove ecosystem in India.

The Fauna of the park includes saltwater crocodile, black ibis, Indian Python, wild boar, cobra, darter, monitor lizard, etc. The park holds Guinness World Record of spotting largest male salt water crocodile in the world that weighed 2,000 kg in 2006.

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First Khelo India University Games held in Bhubaneswar

The first Khelo India University Games held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha which was launched by PM Modi through video conferencing.

More than 3400 athletes in 17 disciplines and from 159 Universities are to participate in the game. This is the first of its kind. On the whole, 17 sports are to be conducted.

It includes athletics, archery, fencing, boxing, judo, weight lifting, swimming, badminton, wrestling, basketball, hockey, football, tennis, table tennis, rugby, volley ball, Kabaddi.

Khelo India is a National Programme for Development of Sports. The main objective of the initiative is to inculcate sports culture at Grass-root level. While, the Khelo India University Games are being launched for the first time in the country, Khelo India School games were launched in 2018 and has been conducted annually in the month of January-February since then.

The Sport even is organized by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Eastern Zonal Council Meet held in Bhubaneswar

The Eastern Zonal Council meeting for the states of Odisha, Bihar, West Bengal and Jharkhand hold in Bhubaneswar, Odisha where the states discussed cases of rape against women, sexual offences, prevention of cattle smuggling in the India-Bangladesh Border, etc.

The Home Minister will discuss with the Chief Ministers of all the 4 participating states. The minister will also review the status of the amendments of Code of Criminal Procedure.

Under the amendment, the time limit of the completion of investigation of criminal cases were limited to two months. This was done through the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2018

In the recent meetings of Western Zonal Council and Northern Zonal Council, the Home Minister directed the state police review pending cases as quickly as possible.

The Council also instructed to update case details at Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences. It is an online portal that helps states to undertake real-time monitoring, managing and completion of cases, especially rape cases in 2 months.

Zonal Councils are statutory bodies constituted under States Reorganization Act of 1956. According to the act, India is divided into 5 zones and a council has been set up for every zone. The zones include Northern, Eastern, Western, Southern and Central. In 1971, the North Eastern council was created.

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'Bharosa' to help students in distress

Human Resource Development Ministry has launched Central University of Odisha (CUO) Helpline "Bharosa" and its Helpline Number 08046801010 through a virtual platform in New Delhi in order to relieve the distress of student community during the troubled time of the COVID-19.

The helpline aims at providing Cognitive Emotional Rehabilitation Services to all University Students of Odisha.

Mr Nishank also outlined the efforts of the HRD Ministry in safeguarding the future of students. He emphasized on the steps taken with regard to the new academic calendar and virtual mode of education.

The mental health concern of the students is of great importance and the Helpline launched by the Central University of Odisha (CUO) is a great step towards that.

Union HRD Minister also urged the Central and State Universities and other Institutions of Higher Education across the country to emulate the Bharosa initiative.

The Vice-Chancellor of CUO Prof I Ramabrahmam coordinated the programme and highlighted the CUO Helpline 'Bharosa', that over 400 calls have been received in the Pilot Phase of the CUO Helpline.

Shri Madhusudan Mishra, Collector and District Magistrate, Koraput was instrumental in Piloting the 'Bharosa' initiative of CUO before its formal launch.

Odisha Minister for Higher Education Dr Arun Kumar Sahoo lauded the efforts of the Central University and expressed hope that it will help the students in distress during COVID-19.

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Centre approved funds for implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in Odisha

Centre has approved a higher allocation of Rs 812 crore for implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in Odisha during 2020-21 in comparison to the Rs 297 crore in FY19-20.

The government of Odisha is planning to provide over 16 lakh household connections in 2020-21 with a target of 100% household tap connections by the year 2024.

Priority is being given for 100% coverage of villages under water-scarce areas, quality-affected areas, Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojna villages, villages in Aspirational Districts and SC/ST dominated habitations.

Odisha was allocated Rs 2,258 crore under the 15th Finance Commission Grants to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) during 2020-21. 50% of the amount has to be mandatorily spent on water and sanitation.

Odisha celebrated Raja Parba – Festival of Menstruation and Womanhood

Raja Parba of Odisha is a three-day festival during the mid-June marking the beginning of monsoon. On this day people celebrate menstruation and womanhood, based on the belief that mother earth menstruates for three days which is considered as a sign of fertility.

The celebration started as a tribal practice and later became a celebration all over Odisha acknowledging that there was no taboo on menstruation of women in the past.

The word Raja means “Menstruation” in odia, the first day of the celebration is called Pahili Raja, followed by Mithuna Sankranti and Bhu Daaha or Basi Raja the 2nd and 3rd day and on the 4th day the celebration is completed with a ceremonial bath performed by everyone on a grinding stone as a symbol of earth.

During this festival, no activities will be followed like tilling construction and other works which disturbs the earth, also women and girls do not participate in cooking and spend their days on the improvised swings (Ram Doli, Charki Doli, Pata Doli, Dandi Doli) and celebrate.

This festival promotes sustainable development by not hurting the earth for three days and menstrual hygiene for women and girls and supports them to be liberated from the societal taboo (social prohibition).

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Odisha set up COVID-19 dedicated hospitals with 1,000 beds

Odisha is to set up two COVID-19 dedicated hospitals under PPP (Public Private Partnership) model.

Around 84,000 people have returned from abroad in the state. There are so far three positive cases in the state.

The Government forecasting the spread of the virus has prepared isolated dedicated hospitals under PPP model where only COVID-19 patients are to be treated.

The funds for the hospitals were brought in from CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) funds. The Orissa Mining Corporation and Mahanadi Coal Limited (a Coal India Subsidiary) brought in Rs 500 crores.

Recently GoI had allowed the Corporates to use the CSR funds towards COVID-19 containment. Usually these funds are to be used by the corporate towards social and economic development of backward region.

Odisha Mining Activity greatly affected due to COVID-19

Government of India had extended the statutory permits of mines for smooth transition. In spite of this, several mines in Odisha are facing delays of resumption. The operations of 21 mines have been disrupted completely. The delay in resumption of merchant mines in the state is to affect demand-supply mismatch greatly.

Most of the small-scale steel plants, pellet makers and sponge iron units are dependent on the merchant ore market for raw materials. These mines mainly include manganese, iron ore and chromite.

The state is rich in Limestone, Manganese ore, iron ore, chromite, bauxite, Dolomite, graphite, etc. According to Economic Survey, Odisha is the major supplier of raw materials in the country.

Mining contributes 10% of income of the state. It holds 96% of Chromite and 25% of coal reserves of India. After Mines and Minerals Development and regulation act, 2015, Odisha was at the forefront in auctioning new mineral blocks.

Therefore, disruption of mining activities in the state will hit the economy badly.

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Odisha Statehood Day celebrated on April 1

Odisha celebrates Utkal Divas on April 1 every year. The tradition of the celebration is being followed for 84 years now. Being the 9th largest state, the state is rich in mineral resources. It is a major supplier of raw materials such as coal, iron ore to several industries spread all over the country.

The State of Odisha was established on April 1, 1936. It was established as a province of British India on April 1, 1936. It was named Orissa. The English name was changed to Odisha on November 4, 2011.

In 3rd Century BC, the state was ruled by the Great Emperor Ashoka. Later it was ruled by several other monarchs such as the Harshas. During the 8th century the state was known as Kosala and Utkala kingdoms.

Even today the statehood day is celebrated as “Utkal Divas”. Later in 16th century, Odisha was ruled by Sultanate of Bengal. In mid-18th century Odisha was under the rule of Marathas.

Later after the Carnatic wars, it came under the rule of Madras Presidency of British.

Odisha-UNICEF Programme to engage children during Lock Down

The state government of Odisha recently launched “Mo Prativa” programme in collaboration with UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Funds).

The programme has been launched for the children to participate in online competitions such as writing slogans, drawings, short story writing, paintings, etc.

Under this programme, children have to upload their works and they will receive certificate every week.

Children of age 5 to 18 years are eligible to participate in the competition. The competition is to be held under two themes namely

The United Nations Children’s Fund is a humanitarian and developmental organization. It is headquartered in New York city. It was basically created to provide immediate relief funds to mothers and children affected due to worldwar II.

Later it was extended to work on the long-term needs of children and women, especially in developing countries.

MCL prepared ₹60,000 Crores Investment Plan in Odisha

Mahanadi Coalfields Limited has informed that the company has prepared a Rs 60,000 crore investment plan for the state of Odisha. At present, about 30 coal mines are operated by MCL in Odisha. In the next few years, the company had set a target to enhance coal production to 300 million tonnes per annum for which it will develop and operate three new MDO (mine, develop and operate) projects in the state.

For the development of Mines and Social Infrastructure in the state (such as roads, flyovers, schools), MCL has planned to invest Rs 31,000 crore under its command areas in 4 districts of the state by 2013-24.

Out of 3 new MDO projects, one will be at Ib Valley Coalfield of Jharsuguda district. The other 2 projects will be at Talcher coalfield of Angul district.

At Sundergarh district, a supercritical power plant of 2X800 MW planned by the company at an estimated cost of Rs 11,363 crore.

MCL to set up solar power plants for improving the quality of life in areas affected by dust suppression due to coal mining in districts such as Sundergarh, Angul, etc, and will also strengthen coal evacuation infrastructure in its command areas.

The company is also committed to introducing the latest technologies for developing greenery and adopting best practices for afforestation and agriculture.

Disaster Management Exercise of BIMSTEC NDRF held in Bhubaneswar

The second BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise-2020 (BIMSTEC DMEx-2020) has been hosted by the National Disaster Response Force of Government of India in Bhubaneswar, Odisha between February 11, 2020 and February 13, 2020.

The main objective of the exercise is to test the existing emergency procedures, disaster problems, during flood, earthquake and storms. The exercise will also stress upon restoring heritage sites damaged due to disasters.

The BIMSTEC countries namely Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Nepal are to participate in the exercise. The other two BIMSTEC countries namely Thailand and Bhutan are not participating in the exercise this time.

The exercise includes Table Top Exercise on Hotel Myfair. The Hotel is a collapsed structure. On the second day, field training exercise is to be held on aquatic disaster response that will focus on Ramachndi beach in Puri. The beach is a cultural heritage site.

Theme: A Cultural Heritage Site that suffers severe damage in the Earthquake and Flooding or Storm

India-Japan join hands to make Odisha a Steel Hub

Union Minister of Steel announced at a workshop organized by Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) that GoI is to make Odisha the steel hub of India. This is to be achieved by the Government with the help of Japan.

Odisha has been selected to establish steel hub due to its strategic location, availability of raw materials and strong connectivity. The city of Kalinga Nagar is to be developed as the epicenter of Mission Purvodaya. With implementation of the mission, more than 75% of steel is to come from eastern India with Odisha alone contributing more than 100 metric tonnes per annum.

The mission was launched in January 2020. It aims to develop Eastern India as an integrated steel hub. Under the mission, the GoI aims to generate employment opportunities and also increase growth of steel sector.

This will also help achieve the target of National Steel Policy, which is producing 300 MT of steel by 2030.

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Mo Jeeban Programme launched by the Odisha

The “Mo Jeeban Programme” was launched by the Odisha Government to contain the spread of COVID-19. ‘Mo Jeeban’ means ‘My Life’. The State Government through the programme appeals to the people to stay indoors.

The programme urges the working population to take an oath in name of their children and parents to cooperate and support by not stepping outside. It also raises awareness of washing hands at least for 20 seconds.

The Odisha Government has allocated Rs 200 crores to fight against the virus. Currently there are more than 80,000 people who have returned from abroad in Odisha. These people have been instructed to stay under home quarantine for 14 days.

The Odisha Government has also launched 2 separate hospitals under PPP model. Currently the number of people infected with COVID-19 in Odisha is 3 and in India is around 700.

Odisha included in ‘One Nation-One Ration Card’ scheme

Odisha, Sikkim and Mizoram have joined the ‘One Nation-One Ration Card’ scheme on ‘Integrated Management of Public Distribution System’(IM-PDS) a total of 20 states/Union Territories(UTs) in the scheme.

All states will be added in the scheme & the scheme will be operational all over India by March 2021

Three more States namely- Uttarakhand, Nagaland and Manipur will also be added to the national cluster by August 2020

The necessary arrangements like preparatory activities to integrate these states with the national cluster particularly upgradation of electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) software.

The integration with central IM-PDS and Annavitran portals for the availability of ration cards/beneficiaries data in Central Repository, requisite testing of national portability transactions are completed with the support of the central National Informatics Centre (NIC) team.

The national/ inter-State portability transactions under the scheme will be enabled in these states with effect from the distribution month of June 2020.

Dolphins of Odisha’s Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary has halved

The Forest Department of the Odisha State Government conducted a census at Chilika lake to count the number of dolphins at Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary in Odisha.

The Sanctuary is a part of Bhitarkanika National Park of Odisha. The report was released in February 24, 2020.

According to the report, the dolphin count came down to 233 in 2020 from 259 in 2019. At the census, 60 Irawaddy Dolphins and only two bottle nose dolphins were spotted.

In 2019, the officials had spotted 14 Irawaddy Dolphins and 14 bottle nose dolphins.

The Dolphin Census at the Garimatha Marine Sanctuary was held for the first time in 2015. It was cancelled in 2016 and 2017 due to bad weather.

Chilika lake is a Ramsar Site. This year as the prawn Gherries were dismantled, the dolphins were spread all over the lake. Dolphins are listed in Schedule I of Indian Wildlife (Protection) act 1972. The IUCN red list categorizes Dolphins as Endangered.

Odisha Government launched 'Balaram Yojana' for Landless Farmers

The State Government of Odisha has launched a scheme for the landless farmers in the state under which loans will be provided to around 7 lakh landless farmers or sharecroppers in the state. The scheme is named as 'Balaram Yojana'.

The scheme was launched with the objective to provide financial support to the landless farmers in the state who are facing hardships due to the impacts of nationwide lockdown against the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a sequel to the Kalia Scheme of the Odisha Government, the Balaram Yojana was announced back in 2019 during the Vidhan Sabha Elections in Odisha by the ruling BJD Government. However, the scheme was launched on 2nd July 2020.

The loans under the Balaram Yojana will be disbursed through joint liability groups. The loans will be available on the basis of social collateral. The credit facility to around 7 lakh farmers will be implemented in the next years.

For this, 1,40,000 groups of farmers have been formed, in the current financial year, 70,000 such groups of farmers will be able to avail the credit while the remaining during the next financial year.

Each of these groups will comprise of 5 landless farmers. A loan of Rs 1.6 lakh will be provided to each of the farmer's groups. In total, the State Government has estimated that loans amounting to Rs 1040 crores will be provided to 1,40,000 such landless farmers groups in the state.

In a collaboration between the Department of Agriculture and Farmers (of the Odisha Government) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) the Balaram Yojana has been prepared.

Odisha's Swabhiman Anchal gets First-Ever Bus Service

The Swabhiman Anchal, which was surrounded by water and an inhospitable terrain, recently gained accessibility after the construction of the Gurupriya Bridge which connected it with rest of the State.

People in Swabhiman Anchal in Odisha's Malkangiri district saw a passenger bus plying for the first time in their region on 10 July, 2020 after the Independence.

The bus service was able to start after the construction of the Gurupriya Bridge in 2018, which connected Swabhiman Anchal with the rest of the State.

Till now, motor launches and boats were used to be the only mode of communication to reach ferry points and from there people were taking country boats to reach villages.

People were even using horses to travel in the remote parts of Swabhiman Anchal.

Swabhiman Anchal is situated along the Odisha-Andhra Pradesh border, and had long been a stronghold of left-wing extremists.

The region is covered by water from three sides and another side by inhospitable terrain. Balimela reservoir is also situated in the region.

Recently, a new police station also started functioning in Jodambo (a gram panchayat in Swabhiman Anchal).

Odisha Recommends ₹23,848 crore for PRIs and ULBs in the state

Over the period of next six financial year (2020-21 to 2025-26), an amount of Rs 23,848 crore for the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in the state of Odisha has been recommended by the 5th State Finance Commission of Odisha on 7th July 2020.

These funds allocated will be for strengthening the ULBs and PRIs in the state financially so that various developmental projects and maintenance of existing assets can be taken up by these institutes and bodies.

Projects on which the funds will be invested by PRIs and ULBs: drainage networks, sanitation, drinking water, solid waste management, maintenance of public Health Sub Centers and Anganwadis, construction of roads, etc.

These funds will be transferred directly into the bank accounts of Panchayati Raj Institutions (Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis, and Zilla Parishads) by using 'PRIA Soft' - Panchayati Raj Institutions Accounting Software. PRIA Soft for the fund transfer will be integrated with the IFMS- Integrated Financial Management System.

This Funds to be transferred in two tranches in a financial year: The first tranche will be released in the months on May-June while in the month of October-November the second tranche will be released.

For the second tranche to be released, the ULBs and PRIs will have to complete 30 percent of the work they had taken up under the first tranche provided in the financial year.

Odisha continues to be the Top Performer

The Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry recently released ranking of states under AMRUT scheme. Odisha has secured first position by scoring 85.67%.

AMRUT is Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation Scheme. The scheme aims to provide piped water supply to households in urban areas of the state.

It also aims at construction of sewerage treatment plants and improving green spaces in the cities.

So far, under the scheme, 148 projects have been completed out of 191 projects. The rest are to be completed within the mission period of March 2021.

This year, Odisha has topped the ranking followed by Chandigarh, Telangana, Gujarat and Karnataka in the implementation of the scheme.

Nine cities of Odisha namely Bhubaneswar, Sambalpur, Cuttack, Rourkela, Bhadrak, Balasore, Baripada, Berhampur and Puri were covered under the scheme. Around 2,400 kilo metres of pipeline laying has been completed in the state till date.

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1st Waste to energy plant at Mancheswar Carriage Repair Workshop in Bhubaneswar

Railway Board Member Rajesh Agarwal inaugurated the East Coast Railway's waste to energy plant at Carriage Repair Workshop, Mancheswar in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. It is the fourth waste to energy plant in the country and first plant commissioned by Government sector and Indian Railways.

Total cost of the plant is Rs 1.79 crore and it can convert 500kg waste to light diesel oil which can be used in light furnaces.

Polycrack, a patented heterogeneous catalytic process used in this plant converts multiple feed stocks into hydrocarbon liquid fuels, gas, carbon and water. The closed loop process is used in the plant does not affect the environment.

In this plant, the feeder materials are the Waste collected from the Mancheswar Carriage Repair Workshop, coaching depot and Bhubaneswar railway station.

In 2011 India's first waste to energy plant was set up by Infosys in Bangalore, Karnataka, the second plant is located at Moti Bagh in Delhi and it has been in operation since 2014, and in 2019 the third one was set up by Hindalco Limited.

Odisha launched India's 1st e-Gazette portal for all gazette notifications

Odisha state government has launched an online platform called "e-Gazette portal", a first-of-its-kind initiative in India designed and developed by the NIC for all departments. With this, the Gazette notifications are now available as error-free and paperless under one platform.

The portal was launched by Odisha Chief Secretary Asit Kumar Tripathy as a part of state's 5T initiatives (Transparency, Teamwork, Technology, Time and Transformation).

Now, the departments will upload their notifications which will be screened by the Government Press. The number & date of the gazette will also be there on the portal & for a better and secure authentication, electronic signature (e- sign) has been introduced.

Since e-publication is covered under Section- 8 of the Information Technology Act, 2000, it will save the transportation of trucks of papers & reduce wastage.

Odisha Police's transformational projects

Odisha government has inaugurated the state's 1st virtual police station at State Crime Record Bureau in Bhubaneswar, which will facilitate online registration of FIR (first information report) in unknown motor vehicle theft cases.

If a case remains undetected for 21 days, the final form will be automatically reflected at the Crime and Criminal Tracking Networks and Systems (CCTNS).

The CM also launched the Road Accident Case Documents Module and Medico-Legal Opinion System that aimed to reduce human interface with government offices.

The Road accident case module can be accessed from the website www.imsop.odisha.gov.in. & Medico-Legal System will help both the police and medical professionals, where the police can submit requisitions online for medical examination of victims & doctors will upload their medical examination reports online.

These initiatives were launched as a part of state's 5T initiatives (Transparency, Teamwork, Technology, Time and Transformation).

Odisha government presented ₹1.5 Lakh crore paperless budget 2020-21

Odisha government presented the annual budget 2020-21 for Rs 1.5 Lakh crore, in 2019-20 for Rs 1.39 lakh crore.

The Odisha government has switched to a paperless budget for the first time and is the second state in India after Himachal Pradesh.

The budget is termed as 'Green Budget', an initiative under 5T action plan to reduce printing of 75Lakhs pages hence to save around 1000 trees.

To increase the income of farmers 'Samruddha Krishi Niti-2020' has been proposed.

Odisha is the 1st state to introduce the Nutrition budget, Strategic budget and Climate code budget while presenting the budget 2020-21.

Budget outlay to be financed through revenue receipt of Rs 1,24,300 crore, borrowing and other receipt of Rs 25,700 crore.

The fiscal deficit estimated to be 3% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)

The capital outlay is Rs 26,513 crore that is 4.5% of GSDP.

When compared to the national average of 6.9% the Odisha Government remains 8% for the last 7 years. Niranjana Pujari said that Odisha's growth rate is expected to be 7-7.5 per cent in FY 20-21. Last fiscal, the growth rate was at 6.16 per cent.

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