

Bandhs hit life in four dists

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Bhubaneswar, Bargarh and Balasore: Normal life was disrupted in Dhenkanal, Bhubaneswar, Balasore and Bargarh Tuesday in support of bandhs called by various outfits in press for their respective demands.

Many schools and educational institutions remained closed, while others were on the road as BWP workers staged a non-took bandh in protest against the state government's services in the district. The agitators picketed in front of commercial establishments, medical stores, banks, government and private offices to enforce the bandh. They held up the gates of the district Collectorate and prevented the entry of judges to civil court. Road blockades were set up at Karan by pass



BJP party workers picketing during the bandh

Square, Raj Chowk, College by-pass Square and the national highway on the outskirts of the town. Some BJP leaders were seen playing cricket on the deserted roads making the best use of the opportunity.

The party has been protesting the shuffling of the district headquarters hospital from Raji Chowk to Dakshin Kall road without proper infrastructure and the presence of

only six doctors against 51 sanctioned posts, non-implementation of Ayushman Yojana and denial of benefits to beneficiaries under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana.

Meanwhile, all legal activities came to a halt at Bargarh in Rudhanidih district Tuesday in response to a two-day bandh called jointly by the Bar Council of India, New Delhi, State Bar Council, Cuttack, and the Bar

Associations of Odisha demanding a sitting hall, furniture and fixtures, library interest-free loans for the lawyers. They have also demanded that the Central government make provision for a corpus fund of ₹200 crore in the Union Budget for the welfare of all lawyers across the country.

Life was affected in Bhubaneswar in response to a 24-hour bandh call given by a local outfit 'Jagan Matil Suraksha Saman Samud' demanding allotment of permanent pantries to people residing on government land for generations. The bandh had an impact on the entire city.

Locals in Gouda block of Bargarh district too observed a bandh Tuesday for upgradation of the Tussara Hospital. People from over 100 villages are dependent on this hospital.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhargal, Feb 12: Bhabaneswar security arrangements have been planned for the visit of Chief Minister Navaree Patnaik to Bhabareswar. During his visit, the Chief Minister will inaugurate as well as lay foundation stones for 46 projects worth ₹228 crore.

The CM will also inaugurate the Talsari Beach Festival here at 12.30 pm. The beach festival is being jointly organised by the district administration, the state Tourism department and Bhabareswar Festival Committee. The Chief Minister will inaugurate the festival for the eighth time.

The Chief Minister will also be the foundation stone of a bridge at Phantaj. The bridge, a long pending demand of the local residents, will be built at an estimated cost of ₹2 crore with aid of Bargarh MLA Arun Das and BJP MP Rajendra Jena.

A couple of days ago, Congress leaders had announced that they would oppose his

visit to Balasore, strongly Senior Congress leaders had slammed the BJP alleging that the Chief Minister has been visiting Bhargal every year since 2011 and inaugurating Talsari beach festival, but the state government has not planted a single casuarina plant or installed light at the beach. Tourism is booming at Digha beach in West Bengal, but the state government has failed to exploit the tourism potential at Udayapur and Talsari beaches, they pointed out.

The Congress leaders also observed that the state government did not learn anything from the neighboring state.

Projects like Kirtana port, Hichitagar port, the proposed 300 MW solar project at Sarangan Mahara, Puri and the development of Bhawaniprasad temple have been shelved, they alleged.

Congress leaders also demanded that the government refund the money lost to people who had invested money in various scrupulous ponzi schemes.

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19 rescued child labourers bag jobs in pvt firm

POST NEWS NETWORK

Parlādipā, Feb. 12: The Maryubhanj district administration has been successful in rescuing child labourers as well as educating and skill training providing them employment.

Thousands of child labourers were rescued from different parts of the state in February 2017 through the efforts of Collector Rajesh Prabhakar Patil.

Twenty of these rescued children were provided training in multiple trades at a private institute in Cuttack. Unfortunately, one of them died due to some medical problem during the training period. Now, their two-year training is over and the 19 child labourers will be provided jobs in a private company February 12.

A special programme will be organised to hand over employment letters to these 19 youths here. The CEO of the Skill Development Authority Rajesh Prabhakar Patil, will be the chief guest and will hand over the appointment letters. While singing as the Collector of Marubhadrachandrapur, Patil had launched the 'Mu Bi Padhati' drive in the district in 2013 to educate school dropouts aged between six and 11.

During the drive, 522 kids were rescued and admitted in schools. Of them, 503 used to work in hotels and garages. The district administration had allocated ₹10 lakh to fund the education, training and hostel expenses of these 20 kids.

95 hyper, 306 sensitive booths identified in Balasore district

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Feb. 12: With the general elections round the corner, the district administration here has identified 95 boxes as hyper sensitive and 306 others as sensitive in Balasore. This came to the fore after the recent 13th assembly meeting presided over by Collector Hanumant Chandra Rout at the conference hall Tuesday.

This time the administration has laid focus on facilities to enable the differently-abled voters exercise their franchise without any difficulties. The administration had directed the authorities concerned to build ramps and railings in 38 schools for the purpose.

Altogether there are 1,807 booths in the district. Of these, 1,000 are identified as sensitive and 807 as hyper sensitive. The district authorities have asked the superintending engineer

POLL PREPAREDNESS



of NESCO to supply electricity to these schools with immediate effect. This year, the district is likely to have 30,000 new voters. Of these, 11,000 electorates have already been enrolled in the voters' list.

Meanwhile, the BDOs have been asked to complete the voter enrolment process at the earliest.

Of the total number of electorates in the district, 17,000 are identified as sensitive. So far, 9,000 such electorates have been enrolled in the voters' list. On the other hand, the

RWS and PHEO have been asked to make all necessary arrangements to ensure that there are adequate number of tables and enough water supplies at the booths.

The administration has also laid stress on the smooth and peaceful conduct of polls. Police have been asked to deploy forces, make three squads, undertake checking of vehicles, examination of suspicious individuals, curb illegal betting, and maintain strict vigil on illegal transportation of money.

Gajapati girl marries American

POST NEWS NETWORK

Parlakhemundi, Feb 12: An American youth and Gajapati girl fell in love at first sight and tied the nuptial knot Monday.

The American youth, MS Miller, and Kristiyoti Bardhan, daughter of Santanur Bardhan of Rayagada block in Gajapati district, Monday became husband and wife legally after their court marriage at the office of marriage officer.



It is for the first time that a Gajapati girl is becoming church bride-in-law in an American family sources in the district mar-

riage officer said. Kristiyoti worked as a finance coordinator with a company in Kolkata. At that time Miller, who is presently working with a company at Indian town in the USA, came to Parlakhemundi for some of his work and fell in love with her at first sight.

Over the years their relationship has grown stronger. It was Miller who first proposed marriage to Kristiyoti. Her parents and family too agreed to the proposal.

Jaundice becomes endemic

POST NEWS NETWORK

Novagarkh, Feb 12: Jaundice has assumed epidemic proportions spreading panic among the residents of villages under Balaupur panchayat in Novagarkh district. More than 40 villagers are reported to be affected of the disease in the area in the past week.

All the affected persons are from Club Sahi, Bania Sahi and Gadabhairi Sahi under Balaupur panchayat. Among the affected are an Asha worker Prabhakar Panda's daughter Barkha Devi and an Anganwadi worker's husband named Dinabandhu Nayak. While the Health department is yet to take necessary steps to tackle the water-borne disease, it is apprehended that the situation may become explosive with lack of quality health care services in the area. Lack of proper sanitation and drinking water facilities are the main reason of the outbreak of the disease.

More than 400 gallons of garbage stream all around the area with overflowing open drains have made matters worse.

Some of the affected persons are Indraniran Swain, Bhalagabri Swain, Prabhakar Kumar Dalibehra, Asha Das, Barin Das, Kesab Chandra Dalibehra, Debasis Das, Puspapal Pradhan, Pramila Nayak, Manasa Dakua and Saroj Kumar Rout of Gadabhairi Sahi. The affected are undergoing treatment at the district headquarters hospital (DH). When contacted, the chief district headquarters hospital (CDHO), Swain Dalibehra said that a medical team has been sent to collect water samples for examination and take immediate steps to stop the spread of the disease. Necessary steps will be taken after the sample report arrives, she added.

Farmer falls into poisoning trap, critical

POST NEWS NETWORK

Himika, Feb 12: A youth sustained grievous injuries after he was accidentally caught in a trap laid by poachers for hunting wild boar near Lalabaji School at Bunka Gullunda road in Saktapur district early Tuesday morning.

The youth has been identified as Prasant Thangapati (18). Sources said, the incident occurred when Prasant had gone to water his crops using a motor pump. When the motor pump stopped due to some technical glitches, he went to search for a prick to fix a non-Monoblock. He fell into the trap and injured his leg critically. Hearing his screams, fellow farmers working in nearby fields came to his rescue.

'Green murder' draws flak at Berhampur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Feb 12: The Berhampur Municipal Corporation claims to have taken steps to transform Berhampur into a green city. Contrary to the claim, the LBI authorities are riddling 52 trees in night for road widening. There are several boulevards in the city and the stretch from Humlingram Pond to Manzo Market touching the Girls' High School, Sub-Registrar Office, City High School, Library in Prem Nagar and Housing Board Square are among them. There are about 70 trees on

both sides of the stretch. But it is going to be devoid of trees as they are being already started. Ten trees have been cut so far.

The following trees have been cut: 1. 10 trees of the environmentalists and the common people. Their investment has revealed that the BMC is identifying this stretch for road widening. On both sides under the Odisha Disaster Recovery Project. They also have to know that the main plantation on the roads is made up of the less green cover, making them wonder what bandhs the city commuters are going to face in the coming summer when there will be no shade.

Sadly, trees that have been standing for decades are being axed. They not only provide shade to the commuters but are also instrumental in maintaining the city's temperature. In the beginning, the trees were cut during day. As it did not go down well with the locals, including some businessmen, who opposed the green murder, the process was resumed at night after a span of a few days. Some residents allege that felling of trees begins at 11 pm and goes on till dawn. "JCB machines are being used in the operation. These machines are uprooting the trees from their base and then they are being transported by trucks out of the city where they are dumped," they alleged, adding, "The trees are being used in the evening to warm the next morning." The news of trees being chopped at night has reached 'Santuja Vahini', a social outfit working to protect trees. Saturday night the members came down to the spot and opposed it. However, by that time the trees had been axed. The members took the trees to Nalankumbhar crematorium ground and buried them.