

Unrelenting Cong pushes INDIA bloc to the brink

AS has been the trend in several other states like West Bengal and Punjab, the INDIA bloc seems to have failed in Odisha. With Congress announcing its candidates for Bhubaneswar and Jagatsinghpur Lok Sabha seats, which were demanded by CPM and CPI respectively, the alliance in Odisha is on the brink of collapse.

While the JMM has already announced its candidate for Mayurbhanj, sources said CPI is also likely to field candidates from Jagatsinghpur and Aska. Sources said state leaders of the Left parties are not happy with the unilateral announcement of candidates by the Congress. Senior CPM leader Janardan Pati said the party will announce its candidate for Bhubaneswar Lok Sabha seat after a meeting of senior leaders here on Monday. Pati is likely to be fielded from Bhubaneswar Lok Sabha seat by CPM. He will be pitted against sitting BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi, Manmath Routray of BJD and Yasir Nawaz of Congress.

BJP not finding candidates for Assly, says BJD

THE BJD on Sunday targeted the BJP for delaying release of its candidates list for rest of the Assembly seats.

“Everyday senior BJP leaders are announcing that the list of candidates will be released within the next two to three days, but there is no list so far,” she added. Sahoo said it seems the search for candidates is still going on in the BJP. The saffron party inducted leaders from different political parties, but they are not

BJP leaders intimidating women: BJD

ACCUSING state BJP leaders of trying to coerce ASHA, anganwadi and Mission Shakti workers to vote for the party, BJD on Sunday moved the Election Commission of India (ECI) seeking immediate protection for them. A BJD delegation led by party's Rajya Sabha member Sasmit Patra, Sulata Deo and others, submitted a memorandum to chief electoral officer (CEO), Odisha in this regard and alleged Odisha BJP leaders and candidates are defaming, intimidating, harassing and even character assassinating ASHA and anganwadi workers as well as Mission Shakti leaders and members. “Workers at the grassroots are being targeted with threats of job loss and other consequences if they do not comply with the demands. This is a clear violation of their rights and an attempt to manipulate the electoral process through fear and intimidation,” alleged the BJD leaders in their memo. The regional party requested ECI to provide protection to the workers and ensure they perform their duties without fear and interference. “The respect and dignity of these workers must be upheld and they should not be used as pawns in political games,” the party stressed. It also urged ECI to take strong and immediate action against BJP leaders and candidates responsible for the threats to uphold the principles of free and fair elections.

PRADHAN SLAMS GOVT OVER DMF FUND MISUSE IN MINERAL-BEARING AREAS

CONTINUING his attack on the state government, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Sunday raised the issue of utilisation of district mineral foundation (DMF) funds in mineral-bearing districts. Expressing concern over media reports that residents of Kandapuri village in Badapurunapali panchayat under Lahunipada block of Sundargarh have taken it upon themselves to construct a road after their repeated appeals to the district administration went unheeded, Pradhan asked, “Is this the transformation brought about in the lives of people by the state government in the last 24 years?” Taking to social media handle

The Modi government has created DMF fund for the development of education, health and transportation in tribal areas. A total of ₹6,405 crore has been received in DMF in Sundargarh, a mineral rich district, while only ₹860 crore has been spent. Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister

improvement of health services and education. The minister further said out of 88.76 lakh households in rural areas, around 23.89 lakh families do not have access to safe drinking water through tap. Around 56.12 per cent of the villagers are still using contaminated water. In at least 15 districts of the state, clean drinking water is not available for more than 40 per cent of the families. Even in urban areas, 31.2 per cent families are deprived of safe drinking water. Referring to the boycott threat by women voters of Mahakalapada area of Kendrapara district over water crisis, Pradhan again questioned whether this is the transformation the government is talking about.



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