

City's Vision-II draft plan ready

TALKING POINTS



● **Housing:** Variable FSI, property tax changes, block redevelopment of cessed buildings, township approach to slum redevelopment

● **Resource Finance:** Development charges on construction

● **Planning:** Identification of potential growth drivers in the region

Vaishnavi C Sekhar | TNN

Mumbai: A variable FSI, a development charge on construction, and decentralisation of municipal governance are some of the ideas being contemplated in a new 'business plan' for the Mumbai metropolitan area. A draft of the business plan, which extends the government's ongoing efforts to metamorphose Mumbai to the townships of Vasai-Virar, Panvel and Thane, is likely to be presented to the Prime Minister next month.

"The plan, which we are drawing up with the help of the World Bank, covers an area of 4,500 sq km, ten times the area of Mumbai city, where the economic potential is huge but infrastructure virtually non-existent," said Sanjay Ubale, secretary, special projects.

To increase Mumbai's GDP growth rate to 12%, the total infrastructure investment requirement for the region for the next 15 years will be Rs 220,000 crore,

added Ubale. "The plan identifies key economic drivers in the region, sets specific projects for specific agencies and holds them to a timeline," he said.

The plan will cover policy reforms and measures for six key areas comprising economic growth, infrastructure, housing, governance, social infrastructure and planning—the focus sectors identified by the Mumbai Task Force, the committee that is meant to steer the transformation initiative.

"Mumbai's economic growth is better than it was some years ago but it is still volatile. The only way to make it sustainable is to ensure a high quality of life, good infrastructure and low business costs," said A K Jain, an IAS officer with the All India Institute of Local Self Government, whose Mumbai Transformation Support Unit is putting the plan together.

► **Townships planned to tackle problem of mushrooming slums, P 5**

28 MAY 2006

Govt warned of more farmer deaths

Days Before PM Visits Vidarbha, NGO Rings Alarm Bell, Asks Centre To Give Rs 3,000 Cr

S Balakrishnan | TNN
 591 farmers have committed suicide.

Mumbai: Even as Prime Minister Manmohan Singh prepares to tour on June 30 areas in Vidarbha that have witnessed a spate of farmer deaths, the Vidarbha Janandolan Samiti, an organisation which has been taking up their cause since 1998, has warned the government of more suicides in the months to come.

"The sowing season has started, but the farmers are not getting loans from either private moneylenders or from banks. Most private lenders have shut shop following a series of raids ordered by deputy chief minister R R Patil. Now these lenders are asking the farmers to go to R R Patil for help," samiti president Kishore Tiwari, 46, said.

He claimed that as many as 51 farmers have ended their lives this month alone. Since June 2005,

591 farmers have committed suicide.

According to reports, officials have rushed to the homes of the affected families and disbursed funds so that they do not complain when the PM visits. But Singh has already been briefed in detail about the ground reality in Vidarbha by Mumbai-based activist P Sainath.

On June 22, Singh asked Sainath to come over to Delhi and brief him. Sainath, who has been studying the problem of farmers' suicides in Vidarbha for two years, pointed out to the PM at an hour-long meeting that Congress is in power in both Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. But the

Singh lines up state, Central officials' meetings on crisis

Magpur: Top officials and the security agencies went into a tizzy on Tuesday after receiving the schedule of PM Manmohan Singh's proposed two-day tour of Vidarbha from Friday. After visiting villages hit by farmers' suicides in Yavatmal, Amravati and Wardha districts on June 30, the PM is to preside over meetings of high-level officials on July 1 to focus on the crisis in the cotton belt. Over 1,600 farmers have ended their lives in the last five years in the six worst-hit districts of Yavatmal, Amravati, Akola, Washim, Buldana and Wardha.



CENTRE OF TENSION

While chief secretary D K Sankaran held a series of meetings to finalise a presentation to be made on ground realities, the PM's special security personnel were closeted with top police officers of the state. TNN

Andhra government, especially its agriculture minister Raghuvendra Reddy, has handled the issue of farmers' suicides with far more sensitivity than the DF ministry in Maharashtra.

Tiwari said against a total credit requirement of Rs 3,000 cr, the government was offering only Rs 750 cr, and even this was not reaching the farmers. He alleged that the government was spending crores just to find out why farmers are not taking loans. He said the decision of the state government to stop giving advances has hit the farmers hard.

He rued that the monopoly cotton purchase scheme appropriate steps.

The samiti president said that the alround expectation was that the PM would announce a package for the farmers. He offered a wish-list: old loans taken from banks should be rescheduled; the Centre should give at least a Rs 3000cr capital mobilisation fund to the Maharashtra government and direct it to procure cotton at Rs 3,000 per quintal under the monopoly scheme; hike import duty on cotton to 60% and recognise the failure of Bt cotton seeds and take

Naik must pay for his wrong

SC Dismisses His Plea For Review Of Jail Order

New Delhi: Maharashtra transport minister Surupsinh Naik's hopes of the supreme court revisiting the one-month sentence it handed him in a contempt case were dashed on Friday with the apex court dismissing his plea for the review of the verdict. The court judgment has left Naik with no option but to surrender.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Y K Sabharwal also dismissed a similar review petition filed by additional chief secretary Ashok Khot, who was held guilty of contempt along with the minister for clandestinely giving licences to six wood-based industries in 2004 despite a ban. The bench dismissed both the petitions finding no merit in them.



When the licence was granted to the saw mills by the duo, Naik was the environment and forest minister and Khot principal secretary in the ministry.

In 2002, the supreme court had banned the operation of saw mills, but Naik and Khot gave licenses to six such mills in violation of the order. While

holding them guilty of wilful disobedience of the court order, the bench comprising of Justices Arijit Pasayat and S H Kapadia, along with the Chief Justice, took serious note of the fact that they tried to interfere with the administration of justice. "In this case, the contemnor deserves

contempt proceedings against them after it was pointed out that the licence for operation of wood-based industries was in violation of its order directing the closure of unlicensed saw mills, veneer and plywood industries without the permission of the central empowered committee.

COURT CUTS OFFICIALS DOWN TO SIZE

	<p>● March 4, 1997 SC directs closure of unlicensed saw mills & plywood industries</p>	<p>reporting of the ban on wood-based industries</p>	<p>CASE OF CONTEMPT</p>
	<p>● October 20, 2002 It reverses the 1997 order and states court should not interfere with the operation of unlicensed plywood industry without the Central Empowered Committee nod</p>	<p>● April 7 & May 23, '04 State passes two orders granting permission to six clandestine wood-based units to operate</p>	<p>● Both brazenly flouted court order</p>
<p>Ashok Khot</p>	<p>● July 14, 2006 Dismisses a state govt application seeking permission to permit</p>	<p>● Feb 2006 SC frames contempt charges against Naik and Khot</p>	<p>● Apology is an act of a cringing coward, says SC</p>
		<p>● May 2006 SC rejects Naik and Khot's plea to review its full term order</p>	<p>● Duo has a right to file review plea. Chances of any change in the verdict remote</p>

severe punishment. This will act as an example to those who have the propensity of disregarding the court order because of their money power, social status or post held," Justice Pasayat, writing the judgment for the bench, had said on Wednesday.

The court had initiated

While dismissing the plea for leniency, the bench said, "This is a case in which not only have attempts been made to overreach the orders of this court, but also to draw red herrings. Still, there was the accepted position of insertion of note in the official file with oblique motive." AGENCIES

13 MAY 2006

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Curfew clamped on Navi Mumbai

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI, March 18. - Some areas of Navi Mumbai township were placed under curfew after violence continued there for the third consecutive day today, police said. Trouble in the township, some 60 km from here, which started between residents of Ghansoli village and 'Mathadi' workers (porters) following alleged molestation of a village girl by Mathadis on the day of Holi, has now spread to other areas of Navi Mumbai, police said.

Maharashtra government today transferred Police Inspector Mr Shamsheer Pathan, who allegedly ordered firing on clashing groups at Ghansoli in Navi Mumbai on 16 March, and ordered a probe into the incident.

The revenue commis-

sioner would conduct the probe, deputy chief minister Mr RR Patil told reporters after a meeting at the secretariat.

Protestors attempted to create trouble in front of the house of state excise minister Mr Ganesh Naik at Bonkawade village this afternoon, after which police burst tear gas shells and came charged the violent crowd that reportedly refused to disperse.

A violent crowd yesterday stormed the Nerul police station and attacked three policemen, while today a group of people stormed the Koparkhairane police post of Rabale police station. In both cases, police resorted to charge to disperse the agitators.

Prior to that, the crowd torched several vehicles and damaged some others, including TV OB vans, and

with sporadic incidents of violence continuing in other parts of the town, a curfew was imposed in and around Koparkhairane, police added. Sources said shops and other establishments remained closed for the third day today, causing inconvenience to common public.

While suburban train services on the Harbour Line were not affected by the violence, municipal bus services have been suspended to Koparkhairane following the violence and subsequent curfew, police said.

According to police sources, violent incidents that started following a quarrel between Ghansoli residents and the Mathadi workers, has now spread to several other areas of Navi Mumbai.

Protesters torched several vehicles and damaged

others as sporadic violence continued in the town leading to imposition of curfew on some areas at Koparkhairane.

Presence of Rapid Action Force (RAF) and the State Reserve Police Force (SRPF) has caused no deterring effect on the agitators, who are congregating in small groups to target police and passing vehicles, police sources said.

Navi Mumbai Police commissioner Mr Vijay Kamble and SRPF DIG Mr Parambir Singh are camping in the trouble-hit areas. Three persons were killed, two of them in police firing, when Ghansoli residents and Mathadi workers clashed two days ago, prompting the police to open fire. At least 25 policemen, including a DCP and two Inspectors, were injured and have been admitted to hospital.

19 MAR 2006

THE STATESMAN

In Navi Mumbai, quarrel turns into natives vs outsiders conflict

ENS & PTI
MUMBAI | MARCH 18

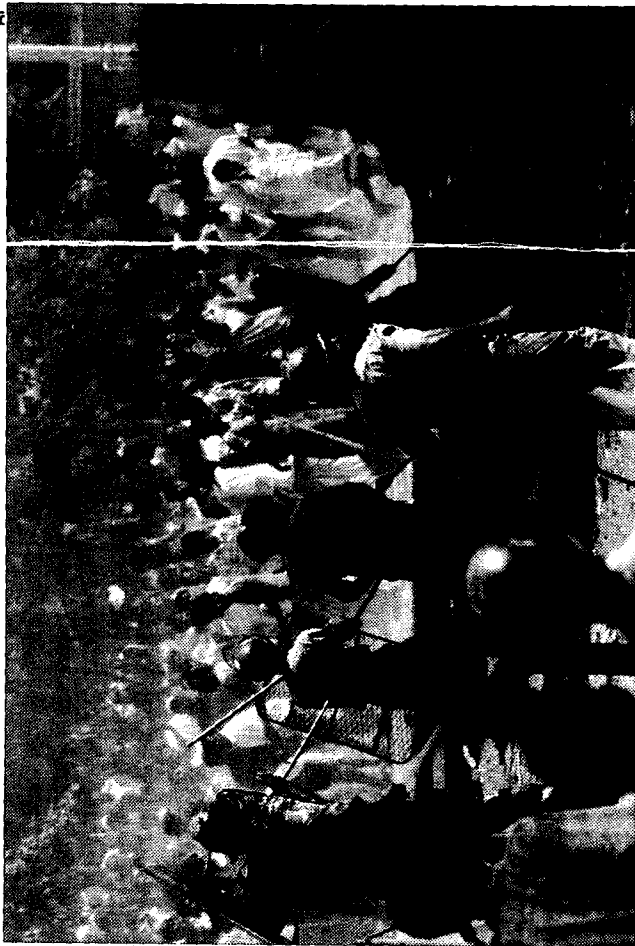
SOME areas of Navi Mumbai township were placed under curfew after violence continued there for the third consecutive day today, police said.

Trouble in the township, some 60 km from here, which started between residents of Ghansoli village and 'mathadi' workers (porters) following alleged molestation of a village girl by mathadis on the day of Holi, had now spread to other areas of Navi Mumbai, police said.

Protestors attempted to create trouble in front of the house of state Excise Minister Ganesh Naik at Bonkawade village this afternoon, after which police burst tear gas shells and cane-charged the violent crowd that reportedly refused to disperse.

A violent crowd yesterday stormed the Nerul police station and attacked three policemen, while today a group of people stormed the Koparkhairane police post of Rabale police

Violence continues, parts of township under curfew



Protestors clash with police in Ghansoli village on Saturday, the third day.

station. In both cases, police resorted to cane-charge to disperse the agitators.

Prior to that, the crowd torched several vehicles and damaged some others, including TV outdoor broadcasting (OB) vans, and with sporadic incidents of violence continuing in other parts of the town, a curfew

was imposed in and around Koparkhairane, police added.

Sources said shops and other establishments remained closed for the third day today, causing inconvenience to common public.

While suburban train services on the harbour line were not affected by the vio-

lence, municipal bus services to Koparkhairane were suspended following the violence and subsequent curfew.

According to police sources, violent incidents that started following a quarrel between Ghansoli residents and the mathadi workers, has now spread to several other areas of Navi Mumbai.

The quarrel has now taken shape of a conflict between the 'natives' and 'outsiders', sources said.

Native villagers whose land was acquired by the government to set up the Navi Mumbai township, are at loggerheads with mathadi workers and other 'outsiders' for allegedly depriving employment opportunities to the locals, they added.

Presence of Rapid Action Force (RAF) and the State Reserve Police Force (SRPF) had not deterred the agitators, who were congregating in small groups to target police and passing vehicles, police sources said.

Navi Mumbai Police Commissioner Vijay Kamble and SRPF DIG Parambir Singh are camping at the trouble-hit areas.

Three persons were killed, two of them in police firing, when Ghansoli residents and mathadi workers clashed two days ago, prompting the police to open fire.

At least 25 policemen, including a DCP and two Inspectors, were injured and are hospitalised.

Curfew in Koparkhairane

Violence Continues To Rock Navi Mumbai, Police Stations & Vehicles Attacked

Mumbai: Curfew was imposed at Koparkhairane in Navi Mumbai on Saturday after the spate of violence continued unabated for the third day in succession.

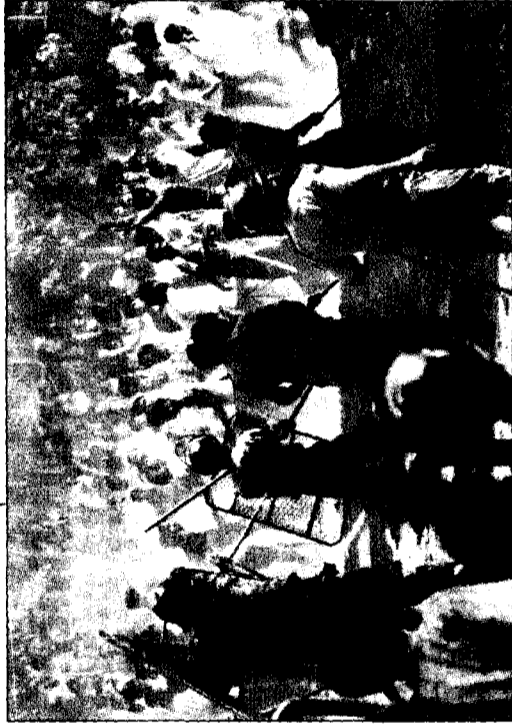
Orders prohibiting assembly of people have been imposed at Koparkhairane village, Koparkhairane chowky of Rabale police station, Bonkode village and Gulab Dairy precincts after the police were forced to lathicharge a crowd near the Koparkhairane police chowky on Saturday afternoon after a 2,000-strong mob ransacked shops, damaged both private and media vehicles and set some of them on fire.

On Friday night, angry mobs stormed the Nerul police station and beat up three policemen, leading to a lathicharge.

The entire Navi Mumbai satel-

ite township has been witnessing violence for the past three days in the aftermath of the incident involving Mathadi workers (porters) and residents of Ghansoli village. The agitation which started over the alleged molestation of a Ghansoli village girl on Holi is fast spreading to adjoining villages.

Friday and Saturday saw angry protests against Mathadis at Turbhe, Juhu and Nerul villages and the stir is taking the shape of a conflict between native villagers and outsiders over deprivation of employment opportunities to the natives. The Navi Mumbai police said although sporadic incidents of violence were continuing, nothing major had happened. Personnel from the RAF and the state reserve police have been positioned in the trouble spots. Agencies



Policemen and rioters battle it out in Koparkhairane on Saturday

19 MAR 2006

Three killed in Navi Mumbai clashes, firing

Head load workers and villagers clash over alleged eve-teasing incident

Special Correspondent

MUMBAI: At least three persons died in group clashes and the police firing that followed in Navi Mumbai, the adjacent twin city of this metropolis on Thursday.

Deputy Chief Minister R.R. Patil told the State Assembly that two persons died in police firing that followed bursting of tear-gas shells and even cane

and rained stones on the police at Ghansoli village under the jurisdiction of Rabadi police station. One person had died earlier in group clashes. Each group consisting of about 1,500 to 2,000 persons, were armed with sticks and rods.

Mr. Patil said that 35 to 40 police constables including some women constables were injured in stoning. At least five persons, including Police Inspector Sherkhan Pathan, were

seriously injured. In all 70 persons suffered injuries.

On the outskirts of the village is a settlement of *mathadi* (head loaders) workers. Trouble started on Wednesday during the Holi festivities following an alleged eve-teasing incident.

The groups clashed and several cars and makeshift shelters belonging to the *mathadis* were set afire. The police brought about some truce. But in the morning a group of about 1,500

mathadis, led by their union leader Narendra Annsaheb Patil, moved towards the village. About 2,000 villagers also came out. Both the groups armed with sticks and rods clashed.

The police tried to intervene but in vain and soon became the target of stoning. Mr. Patil said that the police had no option but to open fire. The State Reserve Police (SRP) has been deployed in strength and the situation was under total control.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Backyard test in fresh flu

OUR BUREAU

March 15: Maharashtra has reactivated the bird flu drill of culling and door-to-door searches after samples of four chickens tested positive in Jalgaon, separated by one district from the first outbreak belt in Nandurbar.

Culling operations to destroy an estimated 70,000 birds began this evening within a 10-km radius of four villages in Jalgaon district.

Scientists have detected avian influenza H5N1 in samples of four chickens from a cluster of villages in Jalgaon, but they are unsure whether the fresh outbreak is related to the one at Navapur in Nandurbar last month.

Most of the 70,000 chickens are in backyard poultry farms

in Jalgaon, which pose a greater logistical challenge than did Navapur, animal husbandry officials said in Delhi.

The officials said they did not have an estimate

of the number of birds that had died in what appears to be an outbreak in a cluster of four to six villages in the district.

"Getting information is difficult because each household might have two or three chickens in their backyard and mortality data is harder to get in such circumstances," said Shantanu Bandopadhyay, the animal husbandry commissioner.



When chickens first began dying in these villages, district authorities collected samples and sent them to the Bhopal laboratory where they had to wait in a growing queue of

thousands of samples coming in from across the country.

The laboratory confirmed diagnosis of H5N1 from the Jalgaon samples on Monday night, Bandopadhyay said. He said it is unclear whether this outbreak was related to the one in Navapur, 200 km from Jalgaon. Dhule district stands between Navapur and Jalgaon.

He said the backyard poultry was unlikely to spread the

infection because most of the chickens were consumed within the villages.

The culling operations in Jalgaon are expected to be more efficient, thanks to "lessons learnt" from the first exercise in Navapur. Instead of non-stop 10-to-12-hour activity, 60 rapid response teams are likely to work in shifts of four to six hours.

Health workers have begun door-to-door inspections, too, looking for people with flu-like symptoms. In Navapur, around 100 people were examined but all tested negative.

Jalgaon collector Vijay Singhal said the 10-km-radius surveillance area covers 173 villages and an estimated human population of 4 lakh.

■ See Page 13

16 MAR 2006

THE TELEGRAPH

27 MAR 2006

INDIAN EXPRESS

Orissa: Security tightened after Naxal attack

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PARLAKEHUNDI, MARCH 26

COMBING operations have been stepped up in Orissa's Gajapati district even as there has been no report about the two officials abducted by armed Naxalites who stormed Ramgiri Udayagiri town yesterday, official sources said today.

An army of Left-wing extremists, who attacked several places and broke open the

sub-jail to free all prisoners, had abducted the Officer-in-Charge of the local police station, R K Mallick, and Jail Superintendent R N Sethi as they retreated. Of the 40 inmates of the sub-jail, one prisoner subsequently returned, while the rest have fled.

Security has been tightened at Ramgiri Udayagiri with units of the Special Operations Group (SOG) and the CRPF deployed to the tehsil town.

Director General of Po-

Five Naxals, SPO killed, several injured in Chhattisgarh

RAIPUR: Five Naxalites and a Special Police officer were killed and several villagers injured on Sunday in a gunbattle between Maoists and police in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district. The Naxalites raided the Telipenta village under the hyper-sensitive Kutur Police Station area and killed an SPO and seriously injured several villagers, including a former *sarpanch*, besides setting on fire a couple of houses and looting many others, Bijapur police sources said.

Having been informed of the attack, a police party was deployed to the village. While approaching Telipenta, they were confronted by armed Naxalites near Karkeli, sources said, adding that the police party and the Maoists were locked in a gunbattle, in which five Naxalites were killed.

—PTI

also held discussions with local officials.

Three policemen were killed in the Naxalite attack and another policeman was injured. A fourth person, a daily wage worker, died and six others were injured when a landmine went off at Kankadaguda village near the town later in the afternoon.

The police claimed to have felled three to four Naxalites whose bodies were retrieved by the retreating Maoists after the attack.

"Combing operations have been intensified and efforts to ensure the release of the abducted officials are on," DIG of Police (Southern Range), S K Upadhyay said.

Bomb disposal squads, which had been pressed into service, detected landmines at four places which had been defused. They also retrieved about 10 unexploded hand grenades from the places which had been attacked.

STRIKE ■ Free prisoners, kill three cops, take hostages Naxals attack Orissa jail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PARLAKHEMUNDI (ORISSA),
MARCH 24

IN A pre-dawn strike similar to the recent one in Jehanabad in Bihar, a group of over 200 armed Naxalites, including women, today attacked a sub-jail in R Udayagiri town of Gajapati district in Orissa, freed the prisoners, killed three policemen, and took a police officer and the jailor hostage, sources said.

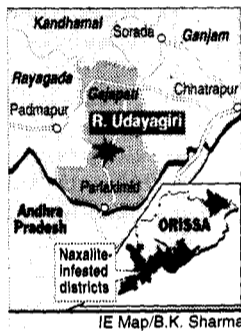
There were 40 prisoners, including some Naxalites, in the jail, and barring one, all of them escaped, sources said. The ultras "pulled down" the jail gates to help them escape. The ultras also attacked the police station, an Orissa Special Armed Police (OSAP) Camp, the treasury, the tehsildar's office and a telecom

tower, spreading terror. They shot dead three policemen and injured two others, district collector Binod Bihari Mohanty, who escaped by taking refuge inside a house, said over telephone. The three cops killed were identified as Havildar Prasanta Patnaik, sepoy Tuna Dehury, and sepoy

Rajesh Ekka.

Police claimed that three Naxalites, including a woman, were killed when police returned fire. The exchange lasted around two hours.

The two who were captured by ultras were the officer in charge of the police station Ranjan Kumar Mallick and the jailor of the sub-jail, Rabinarayan Sethi, officials said. Mohanty added that the ultras looted arms from the police station. The Naxalites approached the town from two directions and retreated after



And in Chhattisgarh, they kill block vice-chairman

■ **RAIPUR:** Maoists on Friday killed a people's representative in Narayanpur district of Chhattisgarh and blew up a high tension electricity tower in neighbouring Dantewada district, police said.

Sankuram Salam, block vice-chairman, was killed by Maoists, in his village Orchcha, about 400 km from the state capital, Narayanpur police sources said.

Sankuram was one of the active participants in Salwa Judum or peace campaign against the Naxalites by the people of Bastar region and that could be the reason behind his murder, the sources said.

The Naxalites also today triggered a landmine blast near Bhairamgarh area of Dantewada district and damaged a tower meant for transmission of electricity to that area, police sources said.

—PTI

the attack via Saralapadar into the deep jungles, carrying the bodies of their dead comrades. The Naxalites had disconnected telephone lines to most of the offices and disrupted power supply in the town.

Police have started combing operations along the direction of retreat of the ultras. Superintendent of police, Gajapati, A

N Sinha was on his way to the town with reinforcements, said the district collector. However, the entry points to town would have to be cleared as the Naxalites have blocked them by felling trees and pushing boulders on to the road. Reports also said that the ultras could have planted landmines on the road to R Udayagiri town.

25 MAR 2006

INDIAN EXPRESS

Bird flu spreads to Surat

2672 9-87 Newswatch (10)

Gujarat Intensifies Culling, But Virus Not Detected Among Humans

Ahmedabad: Days after bird flu struck Maharashtra's Nawapur, the epidemic has been detected in Gujarat with two confirmed cases found among the samples from a poultry farm in Uchhal taluka of Surat district, prompting authorities to intensify culling operations. However, no cases of bird flu have been detected among humans.

The Gujarat government has intensified its drive following the test results and has resumed culling of chickens as well as vaccinating people connected with the poultry industry and disinfecting the areas. "Culling operations have resumed in and around Uchhal and the interior villages.

Two samples of poultry chicken taken from a farm in Uchhal have tested positive for avian flu. Tests were conducted at the Bhopal laboratory on 13 samples," state secretary for cow breeding and protection D K Rao said. The samples were taken from

Don't panic, says govt

New Delhi: Downplaying reports of bird flu in the poultry at Uchhal in Gujarat, the Centre on Saturday said it should not be seen as a new case as the place falls within the already affected 2-3 km radius of Nawapur in neighbouring Maharashtra.

"There is absolutely no need to panic, as Uchhal falls in the infected zone of Nawapur. It should not be seen as a separate incident as the two areas are adjoining," animal husbandry secretary P M A Hakeem said, adding, "There is nothing to worry and the situation is under control." Agencies

Earlier this week, authorities culled over 73,000 chickens and destroyed thousands of eggs in Surat, Uchhal and the surrounding regions of the state, adjoining Nawapur.

"Samples of over 65 people from the Uchhal region have been thoroughly tested and no sign of human infection has been found," state health commissioner Amarjeet Singh said, adding, "The fresh news of some chicken samples testing positive for bird flu is not alarming as we have already culled all the poultry from that particular area. Moreover, all those involved in the work have been given preventive shots of Tamiflu."

Medical teams continue to inspect the health of the people living in the region and involved in the poultry trade. Also, the Gujarat government has started compensating poultry farm owners ever since the culling operations began. Agencies

► **More reports, Page 5**



With just a kerchief to protect them against the bird flu, students at a Nawapur school say their prayers

"Culling has resumed in the radius of 10 km from Uchhal. Over 19,000 chickens will be culled today. Besides, disinfection operations are underway and they will be intensified," Rao said.

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Avian flu rocks state

Over 50,000 Birds Die in Nandurbar-Dhule Scared Gujarat on its toes

Mumbai: The Maharashtra government on Saturday confirmed that bird flu had resulted in the recent deaths of over 50,000 chickens in Nandurbar and Dhule districts of the state.

Confirming instances of avian flu, Maharashtra animal husbandry minister Anees Ahmed said the high-security animal laboratory in Bhopal had confirmed that the deaths were caused by bird flu. He said a high-level meeting was underway in Mumbai to take stock of the situation and decide how to destroy the large flocks of birds in poultries in Nandurbar and Dhule districts. Also, doctors have been rushed to the affected areas to take precautionary measures.

Earlier in the day, a senior official of the animal husbandry department had said they first thought the deaths of over 50,000 birds were due to "manmodi" (ranket disease). However, the laboratory in Bhopal has confirmed that the deaths were due to bird flu.

The state government has alerted neighbouring Gujarat as a large number of domestic fowls from the Nandurbar-Dhule belt is supplied to different areas in Gujarat, particularly along the Surat border.

Ahmed said several doctors, along with the commissioner and additional commissioner of the animal husbandry depart-



ment, had reached Nandurbar. "Medicines airlifted from Delhi have reached Aurangabad and they are being taken to Nandurbar by road," Ahmed, who is in Nagpur, said. The birds in three-km area from where the samples were drawn will be destroyed using carbon monoxide or through bird feed mixed with medicines.

Stating that the government had instructed all private poultry farms in the area to vaccinate their birds, Ahmed added that the government was ready with an action plan to tackle the situation. "By tomorrow morning, we will be carrying out the plan," he said.

As a precaution, people in Dhule and Nandurbar have been asked to refrain from eating poultry products. Agencies

Gandhinagar: An alert has been sounded across Gujarat following the outbreak of the dreaded bird flu in Nandurbar district of Maharashtra, located just 30 km across the interstate border in Surat.

The state government has sought Central help to get all the birds vaccinated immediately. The exercise is likely to begin from Sunday itself. A more milder variety of the bird flu has been detected in Gujarat with as many as 37 cases testing positive in an extensive survey carried out in zoos, bird sanctuaries, wetlands and poultry farms across the state. The results of the survey, conducted on as many as 1,296 birds, show that the H9 variety of the flu, which is not fatal, has spread to many areas of the state.

The tests on the Nandurbar-Dhule birds have revealed the more deadly variety, H5N1, which can kill the birds and also affect the human beings. The areas where the samples tested positive for the H9 variety are Bharuch, Vadodara, Junagadh, Dahod and Navsari districts.

By Rajiv Shah/TNN

RSS to organise *yajna* in Orissa to win over tribals

Nageshwar Patnaik
BHUBANESWAR 16 FEBRUARY

IN a strategic move, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is gearing up for a massive "reawakening" programme in Orissa to, what it calls, prevent alleged conversion of Dalits, especially tribals, into Christianity, and strengthen Hinduism.

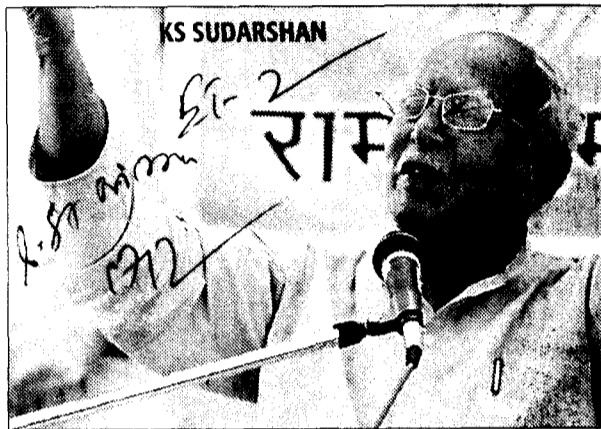
The ambitious programme will take off from March with the showcasing of nine "holy" chariots from different parts of the state. The programme will conclude on April 10 with a 3-day *Sapta Maha Yajna* or seven great religious fire ceremonies at Chakapad in Phulbani district.

Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) international chief Ashok Singhal, RSS chief KS Sudershan and Akhila Bharatiya Banabasi Kalyan Ashram president Jagdev Ram, besides hundreds of Hindu monks and scholars are likely to attend the *Maha Yajnas*, RSS sources here said.

The chariots have been named after famous deities from different regions in the state in its bid to whip up religious sentiments among the people of respective areas. For instance, the chariots which will start their journey from Sambalpur and Bolangir, have been named as *Samaleswari Rath* and *Patneswari Rath*. *Samaleswari* and *Patneswari* are the presiding deities of western Orissa.

The chariot from south Orissa has been named after Taratarini Rath, presiding deity Ganjam region. Similarly, Chandi Rath will start from Cuttack and roll through coastal districts before reaching Chakapad on April 8. Chandi is a famous deity in Cuttack. The other chariots have been named after goddesses Bimala, Birajaa, Tarini, Manikeswari.

The ninth chariot has been



named as *Birupaksha Rath*. This chariot will begin its holy journey from Chakapad and come to Phulbani to receive the other chariots and lead them to the yajna place. The *Sapta Maha Yajna* planned to be performed involve *Griha Yajna, Dipa Yajna, Nam Yajna, Gyana Yajna, Seva*

voicing protests against conversion in the state as it has also corroded tribal votebank of the BJP, political front of the RSS. The converted tribals prefer to align with the Congress than BJP. The proposed *Sapta Maha Yajna* is clearly targeted to woo the Hindus to stick to their traditional values and check conversion to a great extent.

Second, Sangh Parivar is eager to revive its old relationship with the tribals who were getting alienated due to "anti-tribal" policy of the Naveen Patnaik government, particularly after the Kalinga Nagar mayhem.

BJP is a junior partner with BJD in the state, now ruling for six years on trot. The image of the coalition government has declined in recent months following the death of 12 tribals in police firing at Kalinga Nagar in Jajpur district, tender-fixing crimes, sex-scandals and leasing out mineral resources to private parties at throwaway prices.

Giving details of the *Sapta Maha Yajna* programme, RSS state chief Gopal Mohapatra said on Thursday evening that along with the yajna, the organisation would also establish an idol of Lord *Birupaksha* (Shiv) as well as a statue of Hindu saint *Sankaracharya* at Chakapad during the three-day religious ceremony.

The ambitious programme will take off from March with the showcasing of nine "holy" chariots from different parts of the state. The programme will conclude on April 10

Yajna, Anna Yajna and Dharma Jagaran Yajna.

RSS sources made it clear that the whole exercise is aimed at putting out a strong message to the Christian missionaries indulging in proselytism. Conversion has been a sensitive affair in the state when Dara Singh, now in jail, shot to limelight after burning a missionary and his two kids two years back.

The sangh parivar has been

17 FEB 2006

Congress wins 3 assembly seats, retains Sangli LS seat

Mumbai: Fifteen months after being voted to power in Maharashtra, Congress on Tuesday emerged as the single largest party in the state assembly as it won all the three assembly bypolls held on January 21.

With this victory, Congress now has 72 MLAs in the 288-member assembly, and overtakes NCP, its ruling partner in the DF government, that has 71 members in the House. The Sena, which lost all the three seats to the Congress, now has 59 MLAs and its ally BJP has 54 members in the assembly.

Sources said Tuesday's by-poll results would adversely affect the Sena's plans of increasing their tally in assembly to 61 by winning the Naigaum and Shrivardhan assembly bypolls slated for February 16. In addition to winning Rajapur, Vengurla and Sangameshwar assembly constituencies, Congress retained the Sangli Lok Sabha seat, maintaining its tally from the state at 14.

In Vengurla, the Sena nominee Ramesh Naik had to forfeit his deposit, similar to the situation in Malwan where Sena's Parshuram Uparkar had lost to Rane, despite the Sena camping in full strength in Malwan before the polls.

Buyoed by the results, some more Sena MLAs may quit and join Rane in Congress, sources said.

In the Sangli Lok Sabha bypoll, Prateek Patil of Congress polled 25,2732 and defeated Congress rebel and independent candidate Dinkar Patil (17,2283 votes) by 80425

Votes. Agencies

Naveen balm for tribals

Officials meet kin of firing victims, promise sops ^{HTR 1} 9/1

HIMANSU S. Sahoo
Bhubaneswar, January 8

SIX DAYS after the death of 12 persons in police firing in Kalinga Nagar, the Naveen Patnaik government on Sunday started a damage control exercise to check the growing unrest among the tribals.

Newly posted collector of Jajpur Arvind Padhee, accompanied by some district officials, visited the tribal villages on the outskirts of Kalinga Nagar and met villagers. At Bamiagotha and Gobarghati, he met families of the victims and assured them of all possible help from the administration.

Three persons from Bamia Gotha, including a woman, were killed in the firing on January 2 while one person was killed and two more were critically injured in Gobarghati.

Urging the agitating tribals to withdraw their blockade from the Paradip-Daitari Express Highway, the collector assured them that no legal action would be taken against them and the government would seriously consider some of their demands.

"The tribals were urged to cooperate with the administration in restoring normalcy in Kalinga Nagar. They were also asked to end their agitation and hold talks with the government," Padhee said. The official hoped that the move would help in restoring normalcy in the area and the tribal communities would come forward with their demands at a proper forum.

This was for the first time any authority from the administration met the tribals on behalf of the state government. Sources said, during their interaction with the Jajpur collector, the tribals reiterated their seven-point charter of demands placed before Governor Rameshwar Thakur and sought withdrawal of criminal cases registered against some tribals during a protest at the project site of Maharashtra Seamless in Kalinga



Congress supporters block traffic in Ranchi to protest firing on tribals in Kalinga Nagar. PTI

Nagar last year.

Their other demands include a complete ban on displacement of tribals in Kalinga Nagar either for setting up of industries or for any other purpose and sanction of plots of land as compensation against the tribals' land acquired by government for industrialisation.

Though the collector expressed his inability to withdraw criminal cases against the tribals as the same are prejudice, he assured that the other demands would be discussed at the government level.

In response to the collector's request

to call off the strike, the tribals said only after consultation within their community they would let the district administration know about their next course of action.

Out of the 32 MLAs of BJP in the Orissa Legislative Assembly as many as 16 are tribal MLAs. After the Kalinga nagar police firings these MLAs had served ultimatum to party ministers for stepping-down from the ministry to condemn the incident.

Two senior tribal MLAs of BJP - Gourahari Nayak and Karendra Majhi had even gone on record saying that they don't want to continue in government after the tribal killings.

**STEEL BELT
UNREST**

9 JAN 2006

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

Orissa bandh passes peacefully

In protest against the killing of tribals in police firing at Kalinga Nagar

Prafulla Das

BHUBANESWAR: The dawn-to-dusk bandh against the killing of 12 tribals in police firing at Kalinga Nagar disrupted normal life in Orissa on Saturday. Tribals participated in the bandh in many areas, including Bhubaneswar.

Almost all Opposition parties, social organisations, trade unions and student bodies backed the bandh, called by the Kalinga Nagar Suraksha Parishad demanding the resignation of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

The bandh passed off without any major untoward incident as policemen stood mute witness to rallies, roadblocks, slogan shouting and even stone pelting at various places. Hundreds of bandh supporters courted arrest.

Business establishments remained closed and vehicles were off the road. Train services were badly affected as bandh supporters resorted to blockades and squatted on the tracks at many stations in different parts of the State. Attendance in government offices was thin in many areas. All educational institutions were closed as the State government declared the day a holiday in view of the bandh.

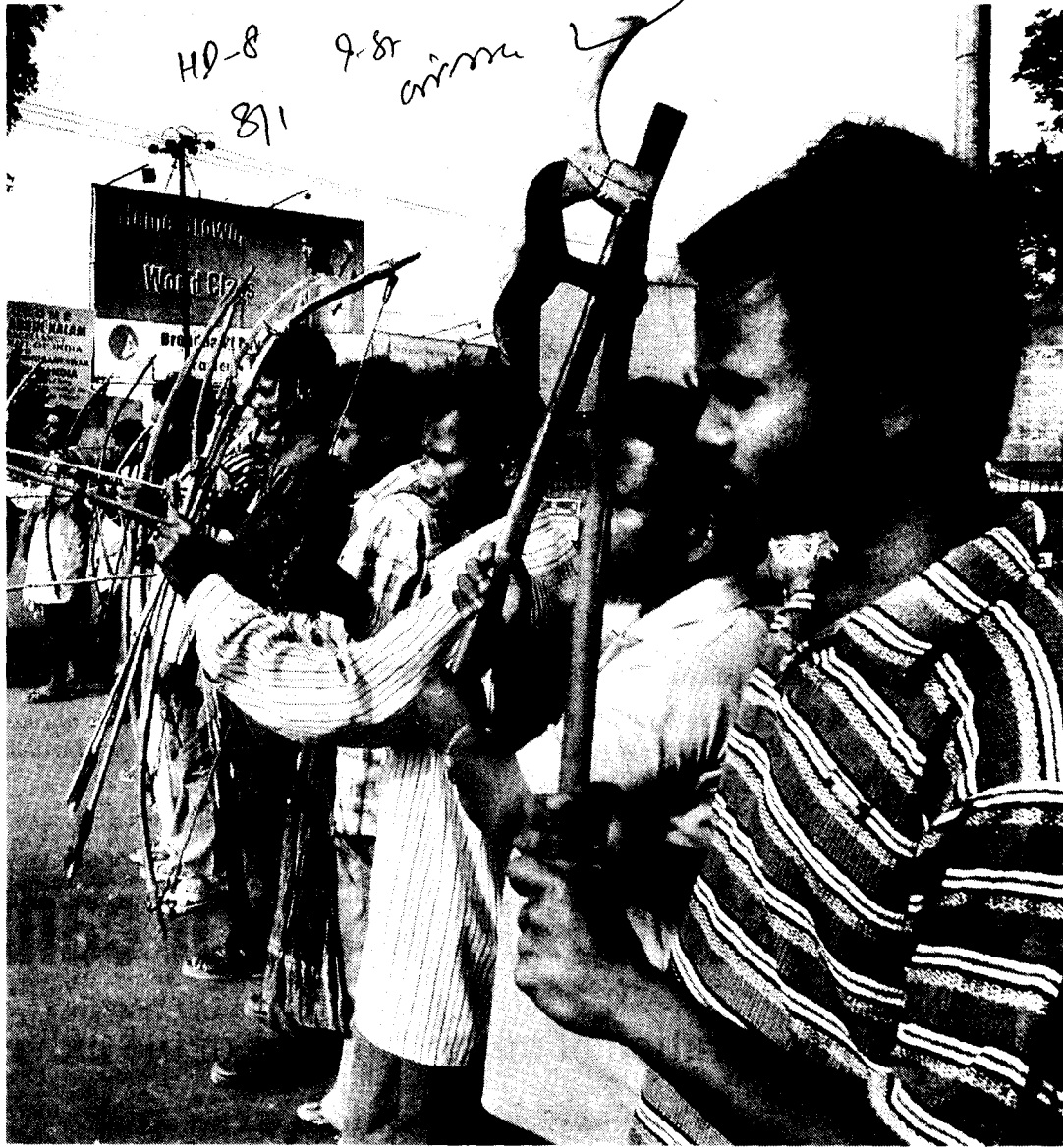
The bandh was total at Kalinga Nagar in Jajpur district where the tribals were killed on January 2 when demanding stoppage of the construction of a boundary wall for a proposed steel plant by the Tata Steel.

In Bhubaneswar, the bandh supporters attacked the ruling Biju Janata Dal office and the residence of the Finance Minister Prafulla Ghadei, who happens to be the legislator of the Kalinga Nagar area. But no one was hurt. All major traffic points in the city were blocked by hundreds of bandh supporters for most part of the day.

Gherao bid foiled

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik reached the State Secretariat by 8 a.m. to escape the bandh. The police prevented a group of bandh supporters who tried to gherao his residence.

After the main gate of the Secre-



TRADITIONAL PROTEST: Tribals with weapons during a bandh called by Opposition parties against the Kalinga Nagar firing, in Bhubaneswar on Saturday.

tariat was closed around 10 a.m., senior Congress leaders, including the Leader of Opposition, J.B. Patnaik and Pradesh Congress president Jayadev Jena staged a dharna outside the gate till afternoon.

Apart from the Congress, other parties that participated in the bandh included the Orissa Gana Parishad, Communist Party of India (Marxist), Communist Party of India, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha,

Samajwadi Party, Janata Dal (S) and Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation.

Plea for more ex gratia

The agitated tribals in Kalinga Nagar continued with their dharna for the sixth day blocking the Daitari-Paradip express highway demanding registration of cases against the former District Collector and Superintendent of Police

on the charge of murder, and further hike in *ex gratia* for the victims' families.

The State Government had earlier ordered a judicial inquiry into the firing and requested the High Court to nominate a sitting judge to conduct the probe.

But the High Court authorities have replied in the negative saying that no judge can be spared due to a shortage.

8 JAN 2006

THE HINDU

Escalating costs of land triggered clash

SOUMYAJIT Pattnaik
Bhubaneswar, January 4

A TIME lag of 14 years lies at the root of the tribal unrest in Kalinga Nagar in Jajpur district of Orissa where a clash claimed 13 lives on Monday.

The state government had acquired nearly 12,000 acres in 1992 to set up steel plants when late Biju Patnaik was the chief minister. In 1992, the families which had lost their lands were given compensation at the rate of Rs 37,000 per acre.

As no corporate houses stepped in to set up their plants except Nilachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL) and Mid-east Integrated Steel Ltd (MISL) in the 1990s, eviction never took place.

When the government finally handed over 1,960 acres of land to Tata Steel in 2004-05, the families which got compensation in 1992 did not want to move out without getting compensation at the present market rate. Much water has flown down the Mahanadi since 1992.

The state government has brought out a new official order named "Guide-

NAVEEN IN A SPOT

- The Congress alleges Intelligence failure and inefficiency of state government
- Opposition leader JB Patnaik said the tribals were not opposed to industrialisation but wanted adequate compensation



lines regulating rehabilitation and resettlement of families/persons displaced/affected due to acquisition of land for Kalinga Nagar Integrated Industrial Complex" on November 18, 2005.

But it was stated that the enhanced cash compensation to displaced families would not be retrospectively applied to those who had already got compensation in 1992.

0 5 JAN 2006

Naveen Patnaik Government under fire

The Kalinga Nagar incident has put the already strained BJD-BJP relationship under further pressure.

Prafulla Das

THE BIJU Janata Dal-Bharatiya Janata Party coalition in Orissa seems to be heading for a crisis, following the January 2 killing of 12 tribals in Kalinga Nagar. It is not just the Opposition parties. Even the BJP holds the Naveen Patnaik administration responsible for the incident. The most vocal are the BJP's tribal legislators; their resentment over the displacement of tribals is growing.

The BJP's tribal leaders are pressuring the party to pull out of the Government immediately. They have warned that the BJP has so far been winning the elections in the State because of large tribal support and that continuing to be part of the Patnaik Government will cost the party dear.

The police opened fire after rubber bullets failed to stop the tribals from disrupting the construction of a boundary wall for a proposed steel plant in Jajpur district's industrial area.

The tribals were demanding adequate compensation for the loss of their land and homes and proper rehabilitation. The police opened firing after one of their men, who fell down in the melee, was killed. They continued firing even as the tribals fled. Post-mortem examination of several victims revealed bullet marks on their backs.

Mr. Patnaik, whose BJD has been playing 'big brother' in the alliance all these years, faced opposition from the BJP last year over the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed with the Korean steel major POSCO for setting up a mega steel plant near Paradip.

Many non-tribal BJP leaders, barring those in the State Cabinet, too have denounced the police action in Kalinga Nagar. A fact-finding team of the party that visited the area blamed the Jajpur district administration for the death of the tribals. It also faulted the resettlement and rehabilitation policy being thrust upon the project affected people.

The tribals who own land in the locality are sore that while the State's Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IIDCO) paid them Rs.37,000 an acre for their land in the early 1990s, the authorities



STANDING UP FOR THEIR RIGHTS: Agitating tribals blocked the Paradip-Daitari road in Goborghati on Tuesday. — Photo: Ashoke Chakrabarty

are now handing over the land to industrial houses for Rs.3.5 lakh an acre. The compensation was later increased to a little over Rs.50,000 but many have not accepted the money. Those with no land of their own are the worst sufferers.

What has added to the tribal angst in recent years are inadequacies in the rehabilitation package offered to those who were displaced earlier by various developmental projects and industries. A large number of tribals displaced by projects such as Machhkund hydropower station, and Hirakud and Rengali dams decades ago are still awaiting proper rehabilitation and resettlement. The

same trend continues with large-scale displacement by corporate industrial and mining projects.

In fact, the absence of a comprehensive policy on resettlement and rehabilitation has resulted in long-drawn agitations in different parts of the State. The upcoming industrial township of Kalinga Nagar itself has witnessed scores of demonstrations and protest meetings against different projects in the past.

Thirteen industrial houses are presently implementing their steel projects in the area. When completed, these projects will have an installed capacity of 14 million

tonnes per annum.

While a proposed policy on resettlement and rehabilitation has been awaiting the State Government's clearance for several months now, it has signed 43 MoUs for setting up steel plants and many of these projects are under implementation.

Mr. Patnaik had so far been able to maintain his popularity by pushing slogans of anti-corruption and welfare of tribals, women, and farmers.

A divided Opposition also favoured his reign. But the growing naxalite problem and displacement of people for industrialisation will have made things difficult for him.

কলিঙ্গনগরে পুলিশ-আদিবাসী সংঘর্ষে এক মহিলা-সহ হত ১২

নিজস্ব সংবাদদাতা, ভুবনেশ্বর, ২ জানুয়ারি: ওড়িশার জাজপুর জেলার কলিঙ্গনগরে আজ আদিবাসী জনতার সঙ্গে পুলিশের সংঘর্ষে অন্তত ১২ জনের মৃত্যু ঘটেছে। মৃতদের মধ্যে এক মহিলাও রয়েছেন। ক্ষিপ্ত আদিবাসীরা টাঙ্গি দিয়ে কুপিয়ে হত্যা করেছে জি পি মহাস্তি নামে পুলিশের এক হাবিলদারকে। আদিবাসীদের ছোড়া তিরের ঘায়ে জখম হয়েছেন বেশ কয়েক জন পুলিশ কর্মী। অনেকের অবস্থা আশঙ্কাজনক বলে জানিয়েছেন চিকিৎসকেরা। কলিঙ্গনগরে অনির্দিষ্টকালের জন্য কার্ফু জারি করা হয়েছে।

জাজপুরের কলিঙ্গনগর এলাকা জুড়ে বস্তুত শিল্পায়িত নতুন এক ওড়িশা গড়ার স্বপ্ন দেখছেন রাজ্যের মুখ্যমন্ত্রী নবীন পট্টনায়ক। দ্রুত বিকাশশীল এই অঞ্চলে কিছু শিল্প কারখানা গড়ে উঠেছে। নব্বইয়ের সঙ্গে সমঝোতা চুক্তি স্বাক্ষরের পর এই অঞ্চলে বেশ কয়েকটি নামী সংস্থা ইস্পাত কারখানা স্থাপনের প্রাথমিক পার্বে কাজকর্ম চালাচ্ছে। এমনই একটি

সংস্থার জমি ঘেরা নিয়ে স্থানীয় আদিবাসীদের মন কষাকষি চলছিল মাসখানেক ধরে। এলাকায় উত্তেজনাও ছিল। আজ পাঁচিল দেওয়া নিয়ে সেই রোষ ফেটে পড়ে।

পুলিশ জানায়, পাঁচিল দেওয়ার প্রতিবাদ জানাতে আজ প্রায় হাজারখানেক লোক ওই স্থানে জড়ো হয়। তাদের অধিকাংশই আদিবাসী। অনেকেরই হাতে ছিল তির-ধনুক, লাঠি ও টাঙ্গি। জনতা মারমুখী হয়ে উঠলে পুলিশ প্রথমে লাঠি চালিয়ে ও কাঁদানে গ্যাস ছুড়ে পরিস্থিতি সামাল দেওয়ার চেষ্টা করে। উন্নত জনতা পুলিশকে লক্ষ করে ইট ও তির ছুড়তে থাকে বলে অভিযোগ।

বিশাল জনতাকে নিয়ন্ত্রণ করতে না পেরে পুলিশ গুলি চালালে ছয় আদিবাসী ঘটনাস্থলেই মারা যান। নিহতদের এক জন মহিলা। গুলিতে কয়েক জন আদিবাসী জখম হন। হাবিলদার জি পি মহাস্তি দলছুট হয়ে গিয়েছিলেন। ক্রুদ্ধ জনতা তাঁকে কুপিয়ে মেরে ফেলে। আহতদের কটক এস সি বি মেডিক্যাল কলেজ

হাসপাতালে ভর্তি করা হয়েছে। সংঘর্ষের খবর পেয়ে ঘটনাস্থলে পাঠানো হয় পুলিশের বড় একটি দল। ছুটে যান পুলিশ সুপার বিনয়তোষ মিশ্র, পুলিশের আইজি (আইন-শৃঙ্খলা) বি বি মিশ্র ও জেলা কালেক্টর শাস্ত্রী মিশ্র। এলাকা জুড়ে উত্তেজনা থাকায় পুলিশ ও প্রশাসনের পদস্থ অফিসাররা সেখানে শিবির করে রয়েছেন।

মুখ্যমন্ত্রী নবীন পট্টনায়ক গুলিতে নিহতদের পরিবারবর্গকে এক লক্ষ টাকা করে এককালীন সাহায্য দেওয়ার কথা ঘোষণা করেছেন। আহতদের চিকিৎসার খরচও রাজ্য সরকার দেবে বলে জানিয়েছেন তিনি। মুখ্যমন্ত্রী বলেছেন, “পরিস্থিতির উপরে সতর্ক দৃষ্টি রাখা হচ্ছে।”

অন্য একটি ঘটনায় বারিপদায় কাল একটি পুলিশ টোকা আক্রান্ত হয়। সুলেইপেট সেচ প্রকল্পে পিকনিকে এসে অসভ্যতা করার জন্য ৪ জনকে ধরেছিল পুলিশ। রাতেই কয়েক জন লোক ওই চৌকিতে হামলা করে ধৃতদের মুক্ত করে নিয়ে যায়। একটি মোটর সাইকেলও ভেঙে দেয় তারা।

TRIBAL MOB HACKS TO DEATH COP

Eight killed in Orissa firing

Statesman News Service

JAJPUR, Jan 2. — Kalinga Nagar, the nation's proposed steel hub, witnessed a bloodbath today with armed tribals, opposing commencement of construction activity by a major steel company, clashing with the police who fired, killing eight persons including a woman. A policeman was hacked to death by a mob. Unofficial sources put the death toll at 12. At least 35 persons, including policemen, were injured in the clash.

If 2005 was a year of investment at Kalinga Nagar, 2006 began on a horrifying note, calling for the imposition of a curfew. The incident occurred this morning when machines deployed by Tata Steel started levelling a plot for a compound wall to be built. A huge contingent of policemen was present.

Tribals, who had protested against such a move a few months ago and forced the company authorities to defer the work, gathered again today and attacked the police with bows and arrows. The police, forced to retreat, found one of their men captured and hacked to death by the mob. This resulted in a fierce retaliation by the force.

Nobody was sure initially of the exact toll as officials here did put the initial figure at seven dead, including a policeman. But several people, including those from amongst the injured who were coming to the local hospital, said there were bodies in the villages as well as nearby paddy fields. The entire area was tense as tribals held on to the bodies and were preparing to storm the police station. A visibly perturbed chief minister Mr Naveen Patnaik described the incident as "most unfortunate". He announced an ex-gratia of Rs 1 lakh each to the next of kin of the dead, besides promising free medical treatment to the injured.

Reliable sources said the district

administration had pledged total support and police deployment to the Tata Steel authorities to commence construction work today. When tribals started gathering at the site, the administration, for some strange reason, felt they were coming to discuss or negotiate rather than attack.

Some of the injured villagers have been hit by bullets on the back, indicating that they were running away when they came to be shot. Several of the injured who had fled to their nearby villages were scared of going to hospital and their condition may worsen, said eyewitnesses.

The policeman hacked to death was Gopi Prasad Mohanty. Tribals killed in the police firing were Sudam Baralla, Gobin Laguri, Jagan Jarika, Bhagaban Soi and Landu Jarika of Chandia, Baligolha and Goborghati villages.

The Jajpur district administration claimed that it had exercised the utmost restraint, issuing warnings before spraying the frenzied mob with tear gas and firing rubber bullets at it. While most villagers have accepted the compensation package, some people in Chandia, Goborghati and Baligolha villages are creating trouble at the behest of unwanted elements and outsiders, officials alleged.

Opp condemns firing

The Opposition today condemned the police firing in Kalinga Nagar and demanded the resignation of the chief minister, Mr Naveen Patnaik, who also heads the home department. A Congress delegation led by OPCC chief Mr Jayadev Jena which had reached the spot and affected villages, said that it was a massacre of tribals by the Naveen Patnaik government. The Jibika Bancho Andolan, has given a call for "Jajpur bandh". The organisation has also demanded a judicial probe.