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Odisha govt partners with J-PAL for evidence-based approach to policy formulation

[Sujit Kumar Bisoyi](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/toireporter/author-Sujit-Kumar-Bisoyi-479243746.cms) | TNN | Updated: Oct 31, 2019, 11:28 IST [\(articleshowprint/71841545.cms\)](#)



The state government on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with J-PAL.

BHUBANESWAR: The [Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab \(J-PAL\)](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Abdul-Latif-Jameel-Poverty-Action-Lab) co-founded by Nobel laureate [Abhijit Banerjee](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Abhijit-Banerjee) and Esther Duflo would help the state government in formulating effective policies to address issues like malnutrition, women empowerment, distress migration, health-worker performance and improving agricultural productivity.

The state government on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with J-PAL here at the Kharvela Bhawan in presence of chief minister [Naveen Patnaik](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/naveen-patnaik).

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“Under the 5T initiative (that focusses on transformative approach), the state government signed a MoU with the J-PAL. This is regarding development and welfare in various core sectors for our state. The partnership will result in actualising team Odisha’s

As part of the partnership, J-PAL [South Asia](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/South-Asia) (<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/South-Asia>) will help the state government for research-based intervention in policy formulation aiming at poverty reduction.

The leading international agency will conduct an annual policy dialogue to identify the government's priority areas, share evidences found during researches from the ground and come up with innovative solutions in policy formulation to improve the development outcomes of the state.

"We can bring some of the leading researches on entire poverty measures that J-PAL had pioneered around the world to Odisha. Accordingly, we can map various priorities of the state government for the development of the people," said Iqbal Singh Dhaliwal, CEO, J-PAL South Asia.

Official sources said, the poverty action lab will initially work with several departments like labour, school and mass education, health and family welfare and women and child development to conduct policy-relevant studies. It will conduct workshops to help the state government departments in monitoring and evaluation of development indicators.

The agreement was signed by development commissioner Suresh Mahapatra and executive director of J-PAL South Asia Shobhini Mukerji.

Asked whether the international agency will work in any specific region in the state, chief secretary Asit Kumar Tripathy said no specific districts has been identified for the agency to work.

LATEST COMMENT

This will be a misadventure. May be it may provide some political mileage to the present rulers. Remember this economist is an approver of Jean Dreaze the one who introduced conversion of farmers to labourers.

Rameswar Pattanayak

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"Initially, they will work in five different areas like malnutrition, women empowerment, distress migration, health-worker performance and improving agricultural productivity. We will expand the areas of works in future," said Tripathy.

Besides Odisha, J-PAL has already partnered with different other state governments like [Gujarat](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/gujarat) (<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/gujarat>), [Tamil Nadu](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/tamil-nadu) (<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/tamil-nadu>), Haryana and Punjab to work in different sectors.

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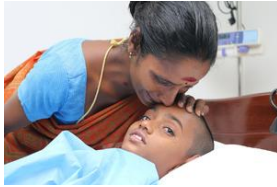
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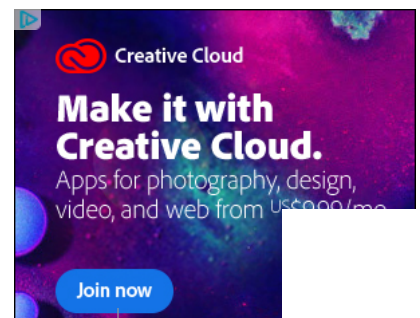
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Odisha: BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi dubs 5T initiative as parallel government

Ashok Pradhan (<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/toireporter/author-Ashok-Pradhan-479214269.cms>) | TNN | Updated: Oct 31, 2019, 8:57 IST

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BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi

BHUBANESWAR: Taking the Naveen Patnaik-led government on its much-publicised [5T initiative](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/5T-initiative)

(<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/5T-initiative>), IAS officer-turned BJP

(<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/bharatiya-janata-party>) MP [Aparajita Sarangi](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Aparajita-Sarangi)

(<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Aparajita-Sarangi>) here on Thursday said a parallel government in the name of 5T undermined the dignity of ministers and officers.

Speaking to reporters here, the Bhubaneswar [Lok Sabha](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Lok-Sabha) (<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Lok-Sabha>) member said, “By creating a separate 5T department, the government has put a question mark on the merits of ministers and secretaries of home and health departments. All of them (ministers and secretaries) should be empowered to work in their respective positions.”

Notably, the [Naveen Patnaik](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/naveen-patnaik) (<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/naveen-patnaik>) government appointed V K Pandian, a

2000-batch IAS officer and former secretary to the CM as 5T secretary. Naveen's governance mantle is fifth term 5T



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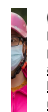
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Bhubaneswar gets its second traffic police station in Chandrasekharpur

Debabrata Mohapatra (<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/toireporter/author-Debabrata-Mohapatra-53458.cms>) | TNN | Updated: Oct 31, 2019, 4:23 IST (</articleshowprint/71827052.cms>)



Representative image

BHUBANESWAR: For effective regulation of traffic, the commissionerate police on Wednesday set up a second [traffic](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/traffic) police station here.

The new station, which was inaugurated by DGP B K Sharma in Chandrasekharpur, will look after traffic-related issues in Chandrasekharpur, Infocity, Nandankanan, Chandaka, Nayapalli, Khandagiri, Tamando and Jatni. It will work out of the premises of the [Chandrasekharpur](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Chandrasekharpur) police station.

“Earlier, a traffic unit was functional in Chandrasekharpur. I hope the new traffic police station will benefit citizens. People should also obey traffic rules and cooperate with traffic police in maintaining discipline on roads,” DGP B K Sharma said.




At least 120 constables, an inspector and two assistant sub-inspectors have been posted in the new station. Sources said a further 20 constables, six sub-inspectors and eight assistant sub-inspectors would soon be deputed to it.

“The much-awaited [second traffic police station](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/second-traffic-police-station) has become functional in the city. Despite the urgent requirement of flyovers, increasing road capacity etc, the 120 young staff, all bellow 30 years of age, will serve citizens with dedication, something they are now known for,” tweeted Bhubaneswar-Cuttack commissioner of police Sudhanshu Sarangi.

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DCP (traffic) Sagarika Nath said the station would take the pressure off the

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between both stations, vehicular movement will be properly regulated. We are devising new plans to streamline traffic on busy routes," Nath said.

Currently, the city has over 10 lakh vehicles and around 80 traffic posts. Rash and wrong-side driving and lane indiscipline often trigger chaos. "The workload of traffic police has increased manifold in the wake of the introduction of the amended Motor Vehicles (MV) Act," Nath said.

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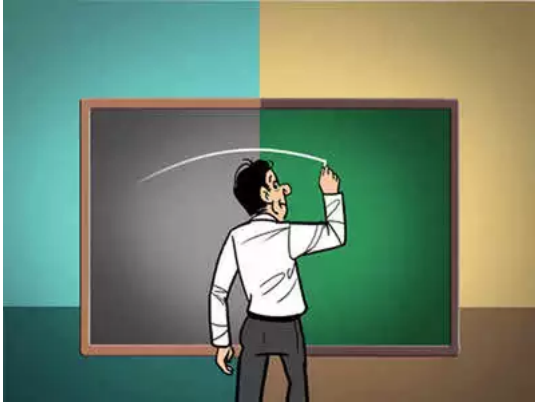
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Odisha: Ad hoc teachers urge govt to regularise jobs

Hemanta Pradhan (https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/toireporter/author-Hemanta-Pradhan-479242575.cms) | TNN | Updated: Oct 31, 2019, 4:28 IST (articleshowprint/71827037.cms)



Representative image

BHUBANESWAR: Ad hoc teachers (https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Ad-hoc-teachers) working in government degree, autonomous, model degree and junior colleges across the state have urged higher education minister Arun Kumar Sahoo to not terminate their jobs, which his department recently said it would do by May 31, 2020. They instead sought regularisation of their jobs.

Ad hoc teachers were appointed in 2014 and currently there are 187 such teachers in the state.

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Rameswar Pattanayak

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The higher education department said it would terminate the jobs of ad hoc teachers next year and instead recruit 606 degree college (https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/college) teachers through the Odisha (https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Odisha) Public Service Commission. The ad hoc teachers are unhappy in spite of the government increasing the upper age limit of the applicants from 33 to 48 as they feel the department has not given weight to their service since 2014.

In the memorandum to the minister, the teachers said they had been selected through proper procedure and were highly qualified. "We have seen that the government had earlier regularised services of different contractual employees. Our teachers are good enough and have teaching experience," said an ad hoc teacher.

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