

## BJD govt's expire date is June 4: PM Modi in Odisha

state in the country,” Modi said at the rally. Odisha has fertile land, mineral resources, and sea coasts, but people are still poor, he claimed. “We released a visionary manifesto for Odisha promising jobs for youths and women and health facilities for senior citizens. BJP fulfils what it says: Modi added. The assembly and Lok Sabha elections in Odisha will be held simultaneously.

Naveen Patnaik has urged people to vote for 'double conch' in the simultaneous Lok Sabha and assembly elections in the state. The term was coined to take on the BJP's call for forming a 'double engine' government at the Centre and the state. In a video released by the BJD, Patnaik is seen holding two conch symbols, the party's logo, on both hands, appealing to people to vote for 'double conch' while exercising their franchise. "This time, vote for double conch, one for MLA and one for MP," Patnaik said.

emphasizing that he had deserted the Congress just with a selfish interest and not for anything else. Warring said, if Bittu was truly an honest person, a patriot and a nationalist, he would never have deserted the Congress party to join the BJP. He observed, it will take BJP another hundred years or more to match the Congress on patriotic and nationalistic credentials and the number of sacrifices it has given, first for getting freedom for the country and then protecting and safeguarding it. "If for the ambition of a ministerial berth he can leave the party that picked him from ground and made him an MP thrice, tomorrow he can repeat this act of betrayal with the BJP as well", he said.



# KIIT-DU & KPIT Technologies Announce Strategic Partnership with Launch of Co-Branded M.Tech Programme

**Bhubaneswar, May 6(KCN):** KIIT-DU and KPIT Technologies Ltd., a global leader in automotive software, have announced the signing of an MoU that will foster a groundbreaking partnership in the mobility sector. This collaboration marks the launch of a new co-branded M.Tech programme focused on Automotive Electronics & Software, aimed at preparing the next generation of technology experts. The partnership combines KPIT's industry-leading

capabilities in automotive technology with KIIT's advanced educational framework. This initiative not only aims to enhance the quality of the talent pool but also ensures that graduates are immediately employable and capable of contributing to innovative research and advancements in the field. The Founder of KIIT and KISS Dr. Achyuta Samanta expressed his delight about the collaboration, stating, "We have a strong intellectual capital and



talent base to partner with industry in bridging the talent gap and nurturing future-ready digital professionals." Echoing the sentiment, Co-founder, CEO, and MD of KPIT Technologies Ltd Kishor Patil highlighted the uniqueness of the partnership. "The tie-up with KIIT-DU is novel and unique of its kind for KPIT in India. We are focused on developing the next generation of automotive technology professionals

and are excited to impart training among the KIIT-DU students." Vice Chancellor of KIIT-DU Prof. Saranjit Singh also remarked on the significance of the industry-academia collaboration. "The Automotive Industry and Software Technology is changing the face of the world. There is a fast-growing demand for a market-ready workforce, and industry and academia must work closely together to develop quality tech talents," he said.

## Paita Lagi Ritual At Puri Srimandir: Darshan Of Holy Trinity Restricted From 6 To 10 PM Today

**Puri(KCN):** Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri will remain closed for public darshan of the Holy Trinity on Monday from 6 pm to 10 pm for the conduct of the 'Paita Lagi' ritual. According to the temple administration, the darshan of the deities at the 12th century shrine will be restricted for the devotees from 6 PM to 10 PM today owing to the ritual which is performed on 'Baisakha-Krushna Trayodashi tithi'. This will be the last 'Paita Lagi' ritual of the deities before Rath Yatra. The



secret ritual is performed every year before the Chandana Yatra, sources informed. As 'Paita Lagi' is a

closed-door ritual, Daitapati servitors will be allowed inside the 'Garba Gruha' or sanctum sanctorum to perform

the special service. Daitapati servitors will cover the body of the Trinity with a special silk cloth called 'basunga patta', which is later rubbed with sandalwood paste. Though the devotees cannot enter the sanctum sanctorum of the temple during the ritual, they can have darshan of other deities on the temple premises. According to Srimandir servitors, the ritual is performed twice a year. If required, it is carried out for another time. The Daitapati servitors get divided into three

## Odisha CM's Chopper Fails To Land In Bhubaneswar Due To Bad Weather; Diverted To Jharsuguda



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's helicopter was unable to make a landing in

Bhubaneswar due to bad weather and was forced to make an emergency landing at Jharsuguda airport today.

According to sources, the CM and 5T chairman V K Pandian boarded the aircraft at Khariar. His chopper, however, hovered for around 30 minutes but failed to land in Bhubaneswar due to bad weather conditions around 3:00 -3:30 pm. It was then diverted to Veer Surendra Sai Airport in Jharsuguda, from where it took off after around 20 minutes. "A helicopter carrying the CM was coming

from Utkela airstrip to Bhubaneswar. It couldn't land here due to strong wind caused by Nor'wester activity. So they diverted to Jharsuguda. However, the weather situation in Bhubaneswar has improved and they have taken off from the Jharsuguda and may land here anytime soon," said Prasanna Pradhan, director of Bhubaneswar airport.

## Odisha Elections 2024: Candidate with 46 criminal cases in fray in 1st phase

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):**As many as 234 candidates of various political parties are in the fray for the first phase of Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in Odisha, scheduled on May 13. Of them, 65 contestants have criminal cases pending against them. This was stated in a report which was compiled by ADR and the Odisha Election Watch, based on the affidavits of the candidates. The report pointed out that former mayor Shiba Shankar Das who is contesting as an Independent in the Berhampur Assembly constituency has the highest 46 criminal cases against him. In terms of educational qualifications, four of the candidates are illiterate, the report said, adding that only 32 women



candidates are in the fray in the first phase polls. Moreover, the richest among the 234 candidates is BJD's MLA nominee Biplab Patra from the Digapahandi Assembly seat. He has declared total assets of Rs 33.36 crore. However, two candidates have declared that they have no assets at all while the nominee of the Republican Party

Ramesh Jani, who is contesting from the Laxmipur Assembly seat in Koraput, owns property worth Rs 1000 only. Addressing a presser, Ranjan Mohanty, state coordinator of the Odisha Election Watch said, "As many as 65 out of a total of 234 candidates facing elections on May 13 have various criminal cases. They constitute 27 per cent of the

contestants in the fray of the first phase polls in Odisha. As many as 48 out of the 65 candidates have serious criminal cases." Mohanty added that in terms of assets, BJD's Biplab Patra of Digapahandi has assets worth over Rs 33 crore, followed by his party's candidate Bikram Panda in Ganjam with declared assets of Rs 15 crore.

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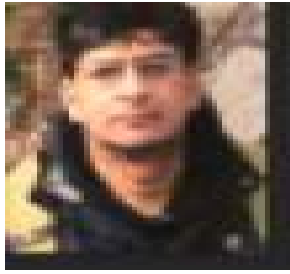
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# The changing dynamics of forests, natural resources, tribals and our shared future

Saikat Kumar Basu



India has a rich diversity of various ethnic groups and tribal communities; along the length and breadth of the nation. They have been a part of India's rich heritage of her unique socio-cultural diversity and richness, history, indigenous art and technology, ethnography and cultural connectivity. Unfortunately, both in pre and post independent India, our tribal communities have been kept isolated, neglected and heavily marginalized. We have grossly neglected their socio-cultural heritage and economic upliftment over centuries. While today, as the world's largest democracy with highest global population; several indigenous tribes across India have been pushed towards extinction. Many of the constitutionally recognized primitive tribes are almost slowly becoming non-existent. Very little effort has been taken to protect their unique cultures, vanishing languages, life style and habits, indigenous knowledge and experiences as well as their livelihood. Tribal communities across India have been the protector of our vast forest resources and yet for this monumental ecological service they have been rewarded only with abject poverty, ruthless exploitation,

complete isolation and subsequent marginalization of the tribal communities across the nation. As fellow citizens of this country we should be ashamed of the fact that tribals have been denied of their ancestral rights of the local forest and natural resources, displaced from their ancestral habitats due to various infrastructural projects and ruthlessly discriminated and exploited for commercial expansion of agriculture and industry. Today many of them live below the poverty line, suffer from malnourishment, poor immunity and several communicable diseases and unimaginably poor income for survival. There are extreme challenges of increasing illiteracy, failing birth and maternity rates, life expectancy much below the national average, zero accessibility to electricity, safe drinking water, immunization and health camps, primary health and education centres, ration shops as well as access to any government projects for economic support and development. While India is occupying a global central stage, our fellow tribal citizens are forced towards a painful life with very little hope, opportunity and security constitutionally granted to them. It's a great shame for all of us. Not just the Government of India, but we as fellow citizens have collectively failed them over centuries and decades. However, this is simply not just the case of India; but a picture

portrayed for the entire world.

We have turned loyalists to establishment and turned blind eye to the degradation of the forest ecosystem which was not only the basis of our life support system but also provided social recognition. The recent Global Forest Watch report reveals that the great country which we call India has lost 4,14,000 hectares of humid primary forest (6%) from 2002 to 2023, making up 18% of its total tree cover loss in the same period. Is this not shocking that it all happened under the vigilant eyes of our great grand service called "Indian Forest Service"? The data is very clear in itself which speaks that 95% of the tree cover loss in India from 2013 to 2023 occurred within natural forests. The maximum tree cover loss of 189,000 hectares occurred in the year 2017. The country lost 175,000 hectares of tree cover in 2016 and 144,000 hectares in 2023, the highest in the last six years and shockingly five states accounted for 60% of all tree cover loss between 2001 and 2023. Can't we foresters be held responsible for the loss of forest cover? Can't we be held responsible for prostrating before the political bosses or aligning with a policy change which led to the great decline of irretrievable national treasure? This has also been estimated that on an average, 51 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents per year



were released into the atmosphere as a result of tree cover loss in India. It is a matter of great concern. It's also not known as to why the rulers didn't take any corrective action to save the forest and nature as a whole. Of course the officers and other officials are also responsible. Yes it's also true that because of loss of trees, carbon dioxide to the maximum degree is being released which is not good for the universe. Mother Nature should be protected at any cost. Environmental degradation is also a matter of great concern. We experience the temperature crossing 41-45 degrees at many places. Planting trees and maintaining water bodies are the only solution and also the need of the hour. Awareness among our people particularly with youths must be created. Awareness amongst the masses is the only



solution; and every individual will have to reduce the consumption and try to live frugally. We can still be hopeful, if young people are made aware that we all are in danger. The tribals not only live with nature but also worship nature. Even now they try to protect nature but the people with power do all the damage. Awareness among the masses is the only powerful solution. Most importantly the government has to implement and enforce conservation of nature. Natural and age old forests are very important and manmade/cultivated forests cannot replace them. Also blindly planting trees in arid zones and Aravalli range will deplete the water table and could be disastrous. In democracy human centric development to appease voters will play a role. Awareness amongst the masses might help! Green credit policy is the back door entry to give away

huge forest land to industrial houses. The biggest scam ever. Recently, the Telangana High court reversed its own order and gave away 106.3 acres of forest land to some Mr Qasim. Fortunately, the Supreme Court on Thursday not only set aside the high court verdict declaring 106.34 acre forest land in Warangal district as private but also reprimanded HC for "graciously gifting" it to a private person who could not prove his title. Some of the forest officers were also named to be equally complicit in the process. I often reiterate during my lectures that Forests don't need us but we need them for our survival. Today SC also said the same but in a different way. The court observed, "There is a crying need for a change in the approach towards forests. The need of the hour is to transform from an anthropocentric (believing humans are

most important) approach to an eco-centric approach which will encompass a wider perspective in the interest of the environment. A right to enjoy cannot be restricted to any specific group, and so also to human beings. The time has come for mankind to live sustainably and respect the rights of rivers, lakes, beaches, estuaries, ridges, trees, mountains, seas and air. It is imperative to do so as there is always a constant threat to forests due to the ever increasing population." Have we ever thought that why does the Government of India not take green accounting into its budget formulation? Various estimates show that global land use changes between 1997-2011 have resulted in a loss of ecosystem services worth US\$ 4.3 trillion to US\$ 20.2 trillion per year. In 2016, WWF, India published a study on valuing the ecosystem

services at the Terai region of Uttarakhand. It gives an objective approach towards valuation of relevant ecosystem services at a landscape level. The study reveals that the total value of the nine ecosystem services is 19 % higher than the total income of the region, as per Census 2001. It means that if these services are used for economic benefit, the local community should be compensated by at least 19 % of the total economic output value of the landscape. The growth rate may also come down substantially on account of environmental degradation despite our lofty claims of growing at a rate of more than 8% per annum. Now the situation has gone from bad to worse. Maximum destruction of natural resources has taken place in the last ten years. The US government is imposing carbon tax on our upcoming rather faster growing steel industry through Europe. Americans are using Europe to put embargo on our fastest growing economy. We both have to drink deep. They are doing many things in the garb of something that is understood by the innocent mass of people as philanthropic work. If you calculate GDP with green accounting at the current inflation rate, this must be around 1-2%.

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## Linguistic dominance in the digital world

Vijay Garg



Language is one of the basic needs of a person, just like food, clothing and shelter. A person's first language is a powerful medium for expanding his ethnic identity and his inner potential. Therefore, the greatest expression of a person's potential is in his mother tongue. Obviously, in a multilingual country like India, accepting the decline of minority languages is tantamount to hindering the expansion of the fundamental potential of the people and preventing the development of the comprehensive potential of the nation. As it is. Although the debate about linguistic minority and majority in India is

old, the policies made on the ground all revolved around English. Therefore, the dominance of English increased in areas like policy-making, compliance mentality, teaching, research and employment. Indian languages have had to become secondary. The harm it caused in general contexts was yet to be evaluated, but due to the same reasons, the harm that Indian languages and their variants are causing to their native speakers in digital contexts today, and it is more frightening than before. If sensitivity towards the languages of the country had been shown in the process of nation-building, Indian languages would have been in a better position in the fight against English and the new threats looming on them in today's era of artificial intelligence would have been relatively less. Keep in mind that the framers of our Constitution were

conscious of this and to protect the interests of linguistic minorities, the right of citizens living in any part of India to preserve their distinct language, script or culture is guaranteed through Article 29 (1). Article 29(2) provides for the right to admission to any educational institution receiving aid from State funds and Article 30(1) provides for the right of all minorities, including language minorities, to establish and maintain educational institutions of their choice. Went. It was also assured through Article 1(3) of the United Nations Charter that human rights and fundamental freedoms and dignity will be promoted without any linguistic discrimination in global affairs. Today India's huge population, it includes smartphones. The sheer number of users, their internet consumption and the presence of citizens as content creators on social media is

unprecedented and numerically decisive at the global level, but despite all this, the digital potential of Indian languages is secondary. That is why we have made it our priority to keep languages secondary. That is why despite having the highest position in the global population, our languages are not seen in digital products in that quantity. Internet Society Foundation's May 2023 According to statistics, English is the language of fifty-five percent of the websites as medium of web pages, followed by Spanish, which is only five percent. There is no mention of any Indian language in the top ten languages of this list. The matter does not end here, because on this foundation linguistic ability develops in artificial intelligence. Here it is important to understand the pace of acceptance of artificial intelligence. It took only two months for artificial

intelligence tool 'ChatGPT' to reach its 100 million subscribers, whereas it took only two months to reach this number. Other Internet products, such as Twitter, took five years and five months, Facebook four years and six months, WhatsApp three years and six months, Instagram two years and six months, Google one year and two months and TikTok nine months. Were engaged. It is worth noting that in this situation, Indian languages are secondary, but being the largest in numbers, Indian consumers are the primary ones, who have to accept the priority of English over their own languages. In such a situation, our situation is like that of laborers without any wages. This global When there are no languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of our Constitution in competition, then what will be the status of minority languages can be easily guessed. As

such, they should not be expected to be a priority even in the emerging market unless the government effectively intervenes in the process of free exploitation of personal digital data. Interestingly, artificial intelligence companies have increased their capabilities due to the digital activities of Indian consumers and now when the products are made, their customers also do the same. These are being made. Many companies have even started selling their products based on artificial intelligence. The other side of this is that due to English being the natural language of the digital facilities available, the possibility of exploitation of the common man in the country, who only knows his own language, is increasing. For example, money transaction through UPI is like a revolution in the country and it has become popular even in remote rural markets. On the

other hand, under Jan Dhan Yojana, a very large section of the society has been connected to the banking system, which was hardly possible before this. Have you ever gone to the bank? Use of both 'UPI' and smartphone is a new thing for these people. In such a situation, the dominance of English in mobile operating systems and the absence of minority languages is also becoming a factor in the expansion of cyber crime. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, 65,893 cases of cyber crime were registered in the year 2022, which is 24.4 percent more than in 2021. Most of these cases are related to online shopping, ATM and OTP based banking frauds. In this way the digital absence of Indian languages has further increased the morale of vicious criminals. Now language is being used not only for communication with family and society, but also for giving

instructions to machines. All these are undoubtedly dominated by English, but now the market has started adding many Indian languages in its second phase of expansion. On the other hand, the Government of India has started work on a plan to develop the digital potential of Indian languages through artificial intelligence based language processing tool 'Bhasini'. But there is a need for this. That its speed and both the quantities should be increased, so that maximum Indian languages can be connected to artificial intelligence in time. Also, people can be made aware, otherwise thousands of languages of the country will face untimely extinction. Also, their cultural heritage, the many shades of diversity of the country and most importantly, the right of an individual to live a digital life in his own language will also be lost forever.

**Educational  
Columnist Malout**



# Resolving Disability Discrimination: Innovations in Law and Society



Prof (Dr.) S N Tripathy

The inaccessibility of education, health, and employment services poses significant challenges for persons with disabilities, impacting their lives in multifaceted ways. Mere sentiments of equality are insufficient to foster a just and equitable society. The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) in India strives for inclusive and equitable learning opportunities for all, aligning with Goal 4 (SDG14) of the 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development. Recognizing education as a fundamental tool for social justice and equality, the NEP 2020 underscores the importance of inclusive education as the cornerstone of an inclusive community and society. Unlike previous decades, where disability issues were often neglected, the NEP 2020 advocates for the inclusion of persons with disabilities by the provisions outlined in the

Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016. It integrates aspects of disability inclusion throughout the policy, with a dedicated chapter addressing the challenges and recommendations for ensuring equitable and inclusive education. Under the policy, Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SDGs) encompass various identities, including disabilities, aiming to reduce disparities in access and participation among all learners. Disabilities can significantly hinder access to educational opportunities and the realization of learners' full potential. The policy advocates for a barrier-free teaching and learning environment that accommodates diverse learning styles and abilities. It emphasizes the importance of resourcing educational institutions, engaging special educators, and providing modifications and accommodations in curricula, teaching methods, assessments, and co-curricular activities. By prioritizing equitable, inclusive, and quality education, the policy aims to enhance learning outcomes for learners with disabilities. However, despite its intentions, the NEP

2020 presents a somewhat contradictory stance. While promoting the creation of an inclusive educational system, it fails to critically examine existing practices that perpetuate the exclusion of learners with disabilities. Rigid curricula, inaccessible learning resources, and attitudinal barriers persist, limiting the achievements of learners with disabilities. The policy appears to address disability within the framework of medical models and rehabilitative approaches, neglecting systemic inequalities and intersectional identities that contribute to exclusion. There is an urgent need to reconceptualize disability as an identity and form of diversity rather than a deficit. Policies must move beyond superficial modifications and address entrenched ableist practices that marginalize persons with disabilities. In the Indian context, inclusion should extend beyond assimilation to embrace multiculturalism and pluralism. However, as long as policies remain rooted in medical notions of normality, true inclusion will remain elusive. Moreover, it's crucial to acknowledge the stigma faced by individuals with

invisible disabilities. Their plight is often exacerbated by the lack of visible impairments, making it challenging to garner recognition and support. Conditions like Multiple Sclerosis not only present physical challenges but also affect individuals mentally and intellectually, compounding their struggles for acceptance and accommodation. On an international level, advocacy against discrimination based on conditions like leprosy has gained momentum. The adoption of the U.N. General Assembly Resolution on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their families underscores the global commitment to combating stigma and ensuring equal rights for all individuals, regardless of their health status. In 2016, with the enactment of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, the Indian Parliament explicitly recognized leprosy as one of the specified disabilities. Alongside prohibiting discrimination, the Act also mandated affirmative action in favour of leprosy-cured persons. Despite this legislative mandate,

many states persist in enforcing disqualifications against leprosy patients, including those who have been cured, from holding public offices and engaging in effective socio-political interactions. However, it is imperative to acknowledge the limitations of conventional legal frameworks in addressing deeply entrenched structural discrimination, stereotypes, and stigma against vulnerable groups like leprosy patients. With its doctrines, standards, and principles, the traditional law model often falls short in probing into the complexities of socio-political discrimination. Thus, relying solely on conventional legal reasoning is insufficient to combat systemic discrimination. Firstly, disability-based discrimination permeates socio-political structures, yet it often eludes detection by conventional legal standards. The multifaceted nature of this discrimination and its deep entrenchment in societal norms make it challenging to resolve through traditional legal means. Disability-based discrimination is not confined to isolated

incidents but is woven into the fabric of social and political frameworks, making it difficult to dismantle through traditional legal avenues alone. Secondly, when acts or omissions exacerbate discrimination, the law must scrutinize the connection between these actions and the overarching phenomenon of disability-based discrimination. Legal frameworks need to assess the impact of discriminatory practices on individuals' physical and mental well-being and their ability to participate fully in society. Evaluating this connection is crucial for devising appropriate remedies to address discrimination effectively. Thirdly, it is essential to recognize the interconnectedness of discriminatory acts or omissions with broader patterns of disability-based discrimination. This entails acknowledging the nuanced and complex nature of disability-based discrimination within its structural, cultural, and personal contexts. Conventional legal frameworks must evolve to recognize a general duty of non-discrimination on the state, drawing upon

international obligations such as the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD). Considering these challenges, several suggestions can be proposed to resolve disability-based discrimination more effectively: Innovate Legal Frameworks: There is a pressing need to innovate legal frameworks to address the complexities of disability-based discrimination better. This may involve developing new legal doctrines, standards, and principles that can effectively capture and address the nuances of discrimination in all its forms. Strengthen International Obligations: India's commitment to international treaties such as the UNCPRD should be reinforced to bolster the legal protection of persons with disabilities. The state can enhance its efforts to combat disability-based discrimination by aligning domestic laws with international standards. Promote Public Awareness and Education: Efforts to combat disability-based discrimination should extend beyond legal measures to include

public awareness campaigns and educational initiatives. By fostering greater understanding and empathy towards persons with disabilities, society can work towards dismantling discriminatory attitudes and practices. In conclusion, while the NEP 2020 represents a step towards inclusive education, its efficacy hinges on addressing systemic inequalities and embracing a holistic understanding of disability. True inclusion requires challenging ableist norms, celebrating diversity, and prioritizing the rights and dignity of all individuals, including those with disabilities. Resolving disability-based discrimination requires a concerted effort to innovate legal frameworks, strengthen international obligations, and promote public awareness and education. By adopting a multifaceted approach, India can take significant strides towards creating a more inclusive and equitable society for all individuals, regardless of their abilities.

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# Time to curb fake videos in elections

Vivek Shukla



The ongoing Lok Sabha election campaign has suddenly taken a very ugly turn after a fake video involving Union Home Minister Amit Shah has surfaced. Accusations and counter-accusations are common during campaigns and are not considered harmful. However, it is unacceptable for any one or political party to resort to using 'deep fake' technology to release fake videos against their opponents in order to win elections. In the recent case, the country's Home Minister, Amit Shah, he has become a victim of 'deepfake' technology. Amit Shah had delivered a speech at a BJP election rally in

Siddipet, Medak district of Telangana on last April 25. The video of this speech was allegedly tampered with and shared on social media. Fact checks have proven this video to be completely fake. In this fake video, Amit Shah is allegedly seen announcing the abolishment of reservations for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC). Now, imagine if someone could actually abolish the reservations provided to the above-mentioned classes in the country? It is an impossible thing. In reality, an old video of Amit Shah has been edited, in which he was talking about ending Muslim reservations. In this original video, ST and ST have been added in place of Muslim. However, the question arises as to

how it is possible that the fake video looks exactly like the real one? Fake videos are created with the help of software. As we know, the use of machine learning and artificial intelligence tools has increased in the market these days. In this technology, the tone and voice of a person are captured with the help of machine learning. In fact, with the help of new technology, the face of a person who is not even a part of that video is fitted into the video. It is difficult to tell the difference between real and fake in a video manipulated through this technique. Whoever leader or political party created and released fake videos showing Amit Shah announcing the abolishment of reservations, how serious an act they have committed to spread hatred in society. Obviously, based on the complaint of the Ministry of Home

Affairs, the Delhi Police is taking action against the mischievous elements involved in this case. The Delhi Police has also summoned some other Congress leaders of the state including Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for questioning. It seems that the strings of this whole matter are spread far and wide. Ahmedabad Police has arrested two people. Earlier, Assam Police had also arrested a person in this regard. A complaint has been lodged by Prateek Karpe, an office bearer of BJP's Mumbai unit, at Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) Cyber Police Station. The complaint states that a deepfake video of Amit Shah was created, posted, and shared on the internet, with the intention of defaming BJP leader Amit Shah. The

complainant also requested the police to immediately remove the fake video and register a case against those accused who allegedly shared it to create enmity and hatred among various castes. On the basis of the complaint, a case has been registered against the social media handle of Maharashtra Youth Congress and 16 others under various sections of IPC and IT Act at Bandra-Kurla Cyber Police Station in Mumbai. Understand one thing; if strict action is not taken against those who defame their opponents with deepfake or any other technology, then the situation will start getting out of control. Love and harmony will end among different sections of the society. Some time ago, a fake (morphed video) of famous actress and 'Animal' film heroine Rashmika Mandanna

went viral, in which Rashmika's face was superimposed on a girl's face using technology. The 'Animal' actress was quite upset after this video went viral. Later, Amitabh Bachchan also raised his voice in support of Rashmika Mandanna. Amit Shah is a top leader of the BJP and the game that has been played with him can not be justified. BJP leaders have started saying that till some time ago the opposition used to make only verbal allegations against the ruling party, but now some parties and their leaders are resorting to technology to malign the leaders of BJP. They have started conspiring to defame the top leaders of BJP. The most recent example of this is the case of deepfake against Union Home Minister Amit Shah. In the ongoing Lok Sabha election campaign, it is also

being said on a very large scale that the BJP will end the Constitution of the country. Can anyone change the Constitution of India under the watchful eyes of Babasaheb Ambedkar? It is impossible. The entire country considers Babasaheb as its ideal and draws inspiration from him. Therefore, it should not be alleged that if BJP comes to power for a third term, then its intention is to change the Constitution and end reservation in jobs and educational institutions. Of course, technological development has taken place rapidly in the world in the last few decades. The increasing use of digital platforms has made life easier and faster, but along with this benefit, some serious risks related to cyber security are also coming to the fore. With the boundless nature of cyberspace, the threats associated

with it, and the deceitful methods and tools of cyber criminals, the trend of cyber attacks is constantly changing. Apart from this, terrorism and fundamentalism are also finding shelter in cyberspace. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Cybersecurity is no longer limited to the digital world. It has become a matter of national security." Cyberspace has become the new battleground. For the time being, the government will have to take strict action against those elements that are using deep fake technology to disrupt the country and society. Meanwhile, one only hope that the authorities concerned would curb the menace of deep fake videos sooner rather than later with an iron hand.

**The Author is a Delhi based columnist and former Editor**



# Mega "Bhagwat Gita path" session with 20000 plus people's participation organised at famed Sri Krishna (Kantajiu ) Temple of Bangladesh

**Kolkata (PARTHA ROY):** First ever mega "Bhagwat Gita path" session was organised in Kantjiu temple premises in Bangladesh on Saturday, 27th April 2024 where more than 20000 people participated to read and recite Holy scripture of Hindus "Bhagwat Gita" together. Historically important Kantjiu temple is in Kaharol upazila of Dinajpur district, in Northern part of Bangladesh. The temple is dedicated to Bhagwan Sri Krishna and his consort Rukmini devi .The program " Shrimad Bhagavad Gita Path" in 2024 A.D. was organized by the Rangpur Division Holy Vedas and Srimad Bhagavad Gita Shikhadan Sangh.

the program" Shrimad Bhagavad Gita Path" in 2024 A.D. .The Land Minister Shri Narayan Chandra Chanda hoisted national flag of Bangladesh in presence of Mukti Yodha and Ekushey Padak awardee Shri Monoranjan Ghosal and others.

This was followed up by Lamp lighting and installation of Srimad Bhagavad Gita .It was followed up by Dhvaja ( Hindu religious flag ) hoisting and Veda Mantra reading, Surya Namaskar and Holy Veda Mantra reading session . Then the Sankhadhvani and U l u d h v a n i (congregational) phase followed by the main phase of Srimad Bhagavadgita reading in collective voice. Earlier, the Land Minister visited the temple complex and visited the Kanjiu temple



building. Bangladesh's Lands Minister Shri Narayan Chandra Chanda said "Bangladesh is a country which has tradition of communal harmony. Bangladesh gained independence under the leadership of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Our constitution is the flag bearer of secularism." Bangladesh Land Minister Shri Narayan

Chandra Chanda highlighted that after the formation of the government, Sheikh Hasina is taking the country forward by maintaining communal harmony. He emphasized that Sheikh Hasina's government had taken measures in 2013 to enact the Transfer of Assigned Property (Second Amendment) Act. Recently, two related circulars have also been issued. Apart

from this, the draft of the Inheritance Law is being prepared to protect the inheritance property - said the minister. Narayan Chandra Chanda mentioned the peaceful coexistence of diversity ensures the unity of the country. He said the program had reinforced the diverse beauty of Bangladesh. Expressing his opinion about the program, Bangladesh Land Minister said "....the

program has immense cultural and religious importance for the traditional Bengali Sanatan Hindu community of Bangladesh. It was a wonderful experience to witness such a large gathering peacefully reciting the venerable Gita in this traditional Sanatan Hindu temple. The Land Minister , also thanked the people of Kaharol for their cooperation in organizing the program .

In the program, the Land Minister emphasized on the importance of preservation and development of the religious and cultural heritage of Bangladesh and appreciated the efforts of the organizers and participants for upholding the values of tolerance, understanding and

mutual respect. Mukti Yodha and Ekushey Padak awardee Shri Manoranjan Ghoshal said this is the first time in the history of Bangladesh that 20,000 voices recited the Gita together in a single location. He also said that it is a unique experience for them to read the holy book in 20 thousand voices in this holy temple. Shri Manoranjan Ghoshal thanked the government for extending all support in organizing this historic event and for creating an atmosphere of religious harmony.

The program was attended by Member of Parliament Draupadi Devi Agarwala, former Member of Parliament of Bangladesh and Senior Vice President of Hindu Kalyan Trust, Manoranjan Sheel Gopal,

Project Director of Local Government Engineering Department Sushanta Roy, Awami League Youth and Sports Sub-Committee Member Shipankar Sheel, industrialist and Politician Kalipad Majumder, Director of Vivekananda Mission in India Manas Bhattacharya. Dinajpur Superintendent of Police Shah Iftekhar Ahmed, Additional Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Noor-e-Alam, Kaharol Upazila UNO Md Aminul Islam and local dignitaries were also present at the venue. The program inculcated joyous spirit as well as spirit of bonhomie amongst the participants .The program saw multi-generational and Intergenerational participation and facilitated promotion of understanding of Santan Dharma and it's practices .

## Spread Happiness Foundation Hosts Thrilling Tennis Ball Cricket Tournament in Pune on the Occasion of the Maharashtra State Formation Day and Labour Day



**Pune, (KCN)-** The Spread Happiness Foundation proudly announces the successful completion of its tennis ball cricket tournament, held at the picturesque Ahilya Ashram School Ground in Pune. The event witnessed spirited participation from 12 teams hailing from various parts of Pune, making it a memorable and exciting affair for all involved. Amidst cheers and applause, teams showcased their cricketing prowess, displaying remarkable skill and sportsmanship throughout the tournament. From nail-biting finishes to breath-taking performances, each

match captivated the audience and showcased the true spirit of cricket. Mr. Soumya Ranjan Mahapatra, Founder - Chairman of Spread Happiness Foundation, expressed his gratitude to all the participating teams, sponsors, volunteers, and spectators for making the event a grand success. He emphasized the Foundation's commitment to promoting sportsmanship, camaraderie, and community engagement through such initiatives. The tournament not only provided a platform for cricket enthusiasts to showcase their talent but

also fostered a sense of unity and camaraderie among the participants. It served as a reminder of the joy and camaraderie that sports bring to communities, transcending boundaries and fostering friendships. As we celebrate the success of this tournament, Spread Happiness Foundation looks forward to organizing more such events in the future, nurturing the spirit of sportsmanship and spreading joy in our communities. Organizing community of Spread Happiness Foundation Indrajit Sakat, Vicky Bhise, Vishal Pawar, Asif Shaikh and Anand Kumar Mohapatra.

## Air Force Chopper Joins Effort To Douse Forest Fires In Uttarakhand

**New Delhi, (KCN):** An Indian Air Force helicopter was pressed into service to extinguish the raging forest fires in villages of Srikot in Pauri Garhwal district of Uttarakhand on Monday. An M-17 helicopter was deployed to assist in the firefighting operations. State's Chief Secretary, Radha Raturi, announced today a series of measures aimed at controlling the spread of the flames and mitigating further damage. Ms Raturi said that the Air Force has been called in to aid firefighting efforts, and plans are underway to implement a pilot cloud seeding project to induce rainfall in the

affected regions. "The Chief Minister held a meeting the day before. For compliance with those directions, the Forest Department has been informed. The Forest Department has given responsibility for each district to its senior officials. Pauri Garhwal is facing the worst. For that, DM Pauri has also spoken with the Air Force. IAF choppers are now carrying water from Srinagar and sprinkling it on the affected area," Ms Raturi said told news agency ANI. To prevent further incidents, the state government has banned the burning of

agricultural residues and waste in urban areas. This ban comes in response to widespread stubble burning after wheat harvesting, which has been linked to the increased risk of forest fires. While appealing to Uttarakhand residents for their cooperation, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said, "Forest wealth is our heritage which we have to protect at all costs." Since November last year, there have been 910 incidents of forest fire in the state, due to which about 1145 hectares of forest have been affected.

## Taking Legal Advice On How Money Looted By Congress Can Be Returned: PM

**Rajamahendravaram (KCN):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said he was taking legal advice on how to return the money of poor people 'looted' in corruption. Referring to the seizure of "mounds of cash" by the Enforcement Directorate from the domestic help allegedly linked to the secretary of a Jharkhand minister, Prime Minister Modi wondered why such persons were "close to the Congress's first family." "They have made the worker's house a godown of corruption. This is not the first time as a bigger seizure was made from an MP (in Jharkhand) earlier also and it was such a big cache that even machines were tired of counting." The PM was addressing a rally at Vemagiri here, which was attended by TDP leader Nara Lokesh and Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan. "Why is that those, from



whom mounds of cash are recovered, are close to the Congress' first family? Was the seized cash meant for supply somewhere, is it that Congress' first family has created warehouses of black money? The country wants to know from Congress shehzada," he said in an apparent jibe at Rahul Gandhi. Prime Minister Modi alleged the Congress and INDIA bloc people

'abuse' him whenever he 'catches' their black money. However, he was worried not about the abuses, but about the poor, "whose money these corrupt have looted." He further said, "Modi is taking legal advice". So far, the ED alone has attached property worth ? 1.25 lakh crore and "if others" (central agencies) are included it may be more. "I am taking legal advice

on how the money can be returned to those from whom it has been looted," he noted. Rs 17,000 crore has already been returned to the rightful owners. "No poor person's right will be affected, this is Modi's guarantee," he added. Recalling the legendary actor-politician from the state, N T Ramarao, Prime Minister Modi said the former had taken Lord Ram to every household.

However, the Congress, due to appeasement, boycotted the Ayodhya Shri Ram temple consecration and was sacking those party leaders from the organisation, who visited the shrine. Lashing out at the Congress and the ruling YSR Congress in the state, he said while the former has accepted defeat ahead of the polls, the latter has been rejected by people. Corruption and land and liquor mafia reign supreme in the YSRCP rule, he alleged. NDA will not only create a record in Lok Sabha polls but will also form government in Andhra Pradesh. He said the NDA will come to power in all states where Assembly elections are happening. Elections to 25 Lok Sabha seats and 175 Assembly segments in Andhra Pradesh will be held on May 13.

## 12 Hours, 6 Machines, 30 Crore: Big Haul In Ranchi Raids Linked To Minister

Ranchi: At least six cash counting machines are working non-stop to give a number to the mountain of cash recovered from a room in Jharkhand capital Ranchi during a raid in a money laundering case. Cash worth ? 30 crore has been counted over the past 12 hours, sources said, and several officials are at work to reach a final number. Multiple cash counting machines, officials said, have broken down and new ones brought in. The room where the cash mountain has been unearthed belongs to Jahangir, house help of Sanjiv Lal, a personal secretary to Jharkhand Rural Development minister and Congress leader Alamgir Alam.

Officials of the Enforcement Directorate unearthed the cash during its raids at half a dozen premises linked to Virendra Ram, former chief engineer at Jharkhand Rural Development Department. Ram was arrested last year in a money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the implementing government schemes. Coming days ahead of the Lok Sabha election in Jharkhand, the recovery has raised a political storm. The BJP has pointed to the Congress minister's connection and accused the Opposition party of corruption. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is in Odisha for the election



campaign, referred to the cash haul. "Today, mountains of currency notes are being found in the neighbouring state Jharkhand. Now tell me, if I stop their theft, their earning, their loot, won't they abuse Modi or not? Despite abuses, Shouldn't I be doing this work? Shouldn't I be saving your money," he asked, countering the Opposition's charge on the Centre's alleged

misuse of probe agencies. Jharkhand BJP chief Babulal Marandi said that if this is the recovery from the house of the help of a minister's secretary, "what would be found in ministers' homes". "They keep saying ED is harassing us. I want to tell the government and Kalpana Soren, you should remove Alamgir Alam as minister" he said. Ms

Soren is former Chief Minister Hemant Soren's wife and has entered active politics after his arrest in a money laundering case. Mr Alam has said no one should reach conclusions before the ED completes its investigation. He has also pointed out that Sanjiv Lal had served as a secretary to two former ministers. "Sanjiv Lal is a government employee. He is my personal secretary. Sanjiv Lal has already been a personal secretary of two former ministers. We usually appoint personal secretaries based on experience. It is not right to comment on the raids before the ED investigation is completed," he said.



# Pollution wreaking havoc in Kendrapara

## Kendrapara(KCN):

This coastal district lacks a major industry with most of the residents earning their livelihood from agriculture. However, toxic effluents discharged by companies spread across four neighbouring districts, have made it living hell for people residing here. These chemicals have turned the waters of the seven rivers flowing through this district toxic. Sources pointed out Sunday that the water is not fit for consumption by either human beings or animals. It also cannot be used for agricultural

purposes.

Most of these industrial units are located in Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Jajpur and Bhadrak districts. These companies are polluting the water as well as the atmosphere, locals informed. The chemicals are also harming marine life and the green cover in this district, they added. Residents here pointed out that the administration in this district is not making any effort to prevent or control pollution. They said that they have approached officials time and again to take steps to prevent pollution, but to no avail. Some of



them stated that the only way left is to approach the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

Environmentalist Samarendra Mahali pointed out that the toxic effluents and fumes emitted by the industrial

units are also causing various forms of diseases including cancer. "The district administration has been informed a number of times on this issue, but it has not taken any steps," Mahali alleged. He

threatened that he will soon file a case on this issue, he informed. Mahali stated that 16 mega industries in Jagatsinghpur district lie close to Mahakalpara block. Toxic chemicals and gases like ammonia,

nitrogen, hydrogen, sulphur dioxide and chlorine are regularly being discharged by these units. He stated that not only the rivers have been polluted, but those 27 other water bodies have been affected.

Social activist Pratap Chandra Padhi said that the Central Ground Water Board had conducted a survey of the water samples collected from several parts of this district in 2011, 2017 and 2021. It was found that the samples had toxic chemicals content like nitrate, iron and fluoride and that too more than

the permissible limits. A team of experts comprising Biotechnology Reader, BC Behera of North Odisha University at Baripada, SK Dutta from IRS in Bangalore and RR Mishra from the School of Biotechnology at MITS in Bhubaneswar had also filed a report on pollution and how it is affecting this district. They stated in the report that the industrial units in the four neighbouring districts are responsible for the alarming pollution level. They have said that industries in Talcher and Angul are discharging effluents in the Brahmani

River while those in Cuttack and Jagatsinghpur are responsible in polluting the Mahanadi.

Social activist Subhasis Sarangi said that pollution has deprived the 'Bhitarkanika National Park' from finding a place in the 'World Heritage List'. He pointed out that if this situation persists it will lead to the extinction of many animals and marine creatures. When contacted, ADM Pitambar Samal said that the district administration has written a letter to state Environment department urging it to take action against the industries responsible for pollution.

## Mahanadi riverbed turns breeding ground for Indian skimmers

### Khuntuni(KCN):

The sand bed of the Mahanadi river near Kakhadi under Khuntuni range in Athagarh forest division in Cuttack district has turned into a safe breeding ground for the endangered Indian skimmer or Indian scissors-bill. The birds are also known as 'Panichiri' in local parlance. Thirty five of the eggs have hatched and Forest Department officials are making every effort to keep the newborn birds safe. The Indian skimmer is a rare species.

According to a bird census conducted worldwide, there are only 4,000 such birds left. The decreasing population of the bird has prompted the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to classify skimmers as 'endangered'.

According to a rough estimate, there are approximately 2,900 adult skimmers left on the face



of the earth. In this situation, the Indian skimmers have turned up to lay eggs for the first time on the Mahanadi riverbed.

Forest department officials said Sunday at a press conference that approximately 165 birds have arrived. The Indian skimmer plays an important role in protecting the environment. It sucks out oily material floating on water bodies. Hence the preservation of the birds is very important, officials said. Khuntuni forest ranger Nilamadhab Sahu

informed that in the days to come, many more baby skimmers are expected as the birds have laid 85 eggs. Ornithologists and bird watchers are happy with the development. They said that if the Forest department starts working in a proper manner, the Khuntuni range can turn into a hub of Indian skimmers. "We will try our level best to protect the species," Sahu stated.

Forest department personnel have been deployed at the site to keep watch round the clock to prevent dogs,

jackals or wild animals from eating the eggs. The department is also involving local villagers and fishermen for the protection of the eggs and the birds. Awareness programmes are also being conducted regarding the importance of the birds. The birds also have breeding colonies on the bed of the Chambal river which flows through both Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Various measures have been taken for their protection and increase in their population.

## Cops, villagers clash during anti-drug drive



### Baliguda(KCN):


In a bizarre incident, police had to face the wrath of some locals during an antidrug crackdown at Barikia under Midiakia panchayat and this police station limits in Ganjam district in the wee hours of Sunday. Police were tipped off that a huge stock of marijuana has been stored in some of the houses at Barikia

village. A police team led by Baliguda SDPO Rahul Goyal raided various places and seized the ganja.

However, when the police team was about to leave the village with the seized ganja, irate villagers besieged the police vehicle loaded with the contraband. Police tried to pacify the villagers but the villagers

argued with them and detained the van along with the police team. There was a four-hour-long clash between the villagers with the cops that ended early morning. The villagers, including Jhunu Malik, ward member of Barikia village, have alleged that the police conducted a door-to-door search in the village in the absence

of the Magistrate and without a search warrant. The villagers also alleged that police took away gold and cash from the houses of the village while seizing the ganja. Police are trying to identify the accused through the video captured during the incident and all the accused involved in the incident will be arrested soon, said the police.



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# Haier India sets a benchmark with Kinouchi 5- Star Heavy Duty Pro Air Conditioners, being awarded as the ‘Best Innovative Product of the Year’

Bhubaneswar, 30 May, 2023: Driven by its ethos of customer inspired innovation, Haier Appliances India (Haier India), the global leader in Home Appliances and the World’s Number 1 brand in Major Appliances for 14 Consecutive Years, announced the exemplary performance and milestone for Haier Kinouchi 5- Star Heavy Duty Pro air conditioners. Awarded as the ‘Best Innovative Product of the Year’ it cools the room 20x faster and provides optimum cooling even at extreme temperatures of up to 60°C. Speaking about the achievement, Mr. Satish NS, President, Haier India, said, "At Haier, we are focused on bringing the best-in-segment products across categories driven by well researched methodology, latest technologies and efficient manufacturing capabilities. With our presence in the Indian market for over two decades, we are proud to celebrate the Kinouchi 5- Star Heavy Duty Pro air conditioners being awarded as the ‘Best Innovative Product of the Year’. Such achievements highlight Haier’s commitment to deliver high-end products that meet the needs of our customers across India. We are pleased to have made a positive impact in India and are confident, that with support of our consumers, we will continue to deliver successful products, going forward."

In line with the ‘Make in India’ and ‘Make for India’ strategy, Haier has been expanding its product range in India, focusing on innovations that offer energy efficiency, durability, and convenience



to its customers. The brand has successfully manufactured over 1 million Frost Self-Clean air conditioners this summer season, owing to the surge in consumer demand for air conditioners that provide energy-saving benefits and the convenience with self-cleaning feature.

In its endeavor to bring ultimate comfort to Indian homes, Haier combined the perfect blend of innovation, design, and energy proficiencies in Kinouchi Heavy-Duty Pro Air Conditioner series. They are designed to provide clean and fresh air to consumers, with features like self-cleaning, anti-bacterial filters, 10 second supersonic cooling and Intelli Convertible - 7 in 1. Equipped with Triple Inverter Plus Technology, the air conditioners further benefit consumers, delivering up to 65% energy savings to the users.

The technology quintessentially allows you to clean the evaporator of the split air conditioner, without any hassle. This task can be performed by clicking a button, giving the customers the luxury of enjoying utmost cooling with the ease of cleanliness. With the mechanism of patented inverse-balance cleaning technology, Haier AC’s are equipped to self-clean themselves. The self-cleaning is carried out by the AC through defrosting, frosting, cold expansion and the mechanism to remove all the dirt that enters the machine. The double ion sterilization technique tends to clean the residual dirt and bacteria that get stored in the fans & air ducts.

## Vodafone Idea Foundation to Set up Robotic Labs in Schools

**Bhubaneswar:** Digital Skills are at the centre of the fourth industrial revolution and a prerequisite for future employment opportunities for today’s children. With the objective of playing a role in building a future ready talent force from the school level onwards, Vodafone Idea Foundation, the CSR arm of Vi, and Ericsson India have partnered to set up state-of-the-art Robotic Labs in ten schools across the country to

provide new-age learning experiences to children from underserved communities, preparing them to participate in future technological studies. Digital Labs, an innovative education programme, is designed to hand-hold school going children aged 11-14 years, through their first experience with the world of programming and new technologies. By creating an open atmosphere for learning, Digital Labs aim to instill courage in these students to embrace technology and imbibe a problem-

solving approach. The partnership is aimed at improving the students’ education and employment prospects across Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) by providing an exciting learning experience and develop skills such as teamwork, problem-solving skills, critical thinking. Through this partnership, ten Digital Labs will be set up at Vodafone Idea Foundation schools in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Maharashtra

and Gujarat. Commenting on this initiative, P Balaji, Chief Regulatory and Corporate Affairs Officer - Vodafone Idea Limited, and Director - Vodafone Idea Foundation said, “Digital skills are a necessity for the youth in the digital era. Exposing school going children to coding and robotics helps spark creativity, stimulates critical thinking, imbues a collaborative mindset and opens up a world of opportunities. Using our technology based tools, we have been working

with underprivileged children through various programmes aimed at giving them an opportunity to learn, grow and compete. Taking our ‘Technology for Good’ mission forward, we are happy to partner with Ericsson, to expose the young minds with higher-level skills and development, as well as encourage underserved groups to pursue advanced ICT education and enter science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.”

## Funskool rolls out exclusive new range of toys for children this summer

**Chennai:** India’s leading toy manufacturer, Funskool India Ltd is back with launching yet another blockbuster range of toys for children this summer. The wide range of new products are from a diverse range of categories such as board games, puzzles, Infants & pre-school, dough etc. This range will not only encourage the development of multiple skills: cognitive, physical, social, and emotional but

also help parents to fully engage their children. The product offerings include a 3 in 1 Deluxe Play Gym and Mini Vehicles combo packs for Toddlers, traditional board games such as Goats and Tigers (better known as Aadu Puli Attam in Tamil), Mancala, 9 in 1 Super Games apart from other products in Handy Crafts, Fun Dough and Puzzles for young children. Commenting on the

launch of the new products for summer 2022, Mr. R. Jeswant, CEO, of Funskool India said, “Funskool has always strived to introduce the best inspiring and engaging toys with a focus on edutainment. Being indigenously developed and manufactured, the new range of toys and games align with the nation’s goal of Atma Nirbhar Bharat.”

## Samsung Launches High-Performance Premium Jet™ Cordless Stick Vacuum Cleaners in India

Bhubaneswar: Samsung, India’s largest and most trusted consumer electronics brand, has launched its premium, highly powerful and intelligent Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaner line-up, delivering the ultimate end-to-end hygienic home cleaning solution to consumers in India. The line-up of vacuum cleaners will be available on Samsung’s official online store, Samsung Shop starting May 04, 2022 and soon on Flipkart. The launch marks Samsung’s foray in the vacuum cleaner segment in India with a range that can generate up to 200W of industry-leading suction power.

The range comes with a Jet Cyclone system that features nine cyclones with 27 air inlets to securely trap fine dust particles that are sucked into the vacuum cleaner without compromising on suction power. Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners release clean air out with a Multi-layered Filtration System, which traps 99.999% of

fine dust particles and allergens. This is certified by the British Allergy Foundation & SLG Pruf & Zertifizierungs. Running on a robust Digital Inverter Motor that optimizes airflow with its ultrasonic welded airfoil blades for high energy efficiency, Samsung vacuum cleaners – Jet 70, Jet 75 and Jet 90 – come with the promise to provide high-speed and enhanced cleaning for consumers. “With increased focus on safety, health and hygiene in the post-pandemic era, consumers are looking for agile and efficient home cleaning solutions. Our all new Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners are here to provide unmatched convenience to our consumers with best-in-class features for a hassle-free cleaning experience. Equipped with cutting-edge technology such as a Multi-layered Filtration System, the vacuum cleaners trap 99.999% of fine dust and allergens and provide powerful

and hygienic cleaning. Despite Samsung Jet’s remarkably powerful suction capabilities, its body has been designed to be lightweight, allowing our consumers to enjoy the Jet’s easy-to-use features more comfortably,” said Mohandeep Singh, Senior Vice President, Consumer Electronics Business, Samsung India. The all-new range of Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners will be available in three models – Jet 70, Jet 75 and Jet 90 – with prices ranging from INR 36,990 to INR 52,990. The models will be available on Samsung’s official online store Samsung Shop starting May 04, 2022 and soon on Flipkart. For a limited period between May 04 and May 09, 2022, consumers buying Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners can avail no cost EMIs of up to 12 months, starting INR 2,799. Consumers will get one-year warranty on Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners.

## Gifting ideas for Mother’s Day

With Mother’s day just around the corner, we must appreciate the role she plays in our lives. While mothers deserve our love round-the-clock, it’s all about going all-out on Mother’s day. From grand-mothers to new moms, these super women play myriad roles in our lives. And they deserve much appreciation and a lot of CARE! However, the plethora of choices tend to daunt a person while picking out the perfect gift for your mother. But worry not! If you are on the lookout for a gift that would be the perfect token of love - Here’s a gifting guide for mother’s day that will tick all your check boxes for the 8th of May

1. Clensta’s Super Women Combo Pack for your Super Woman: The super women that our moms are, they hop from one task to another

and make it look effortless and breezy without caring about the toll it takes on their mind, body and skin. This Mother’s Day pamper your super-mom with Clensta’s Super Women Combo Pack which comprises of a Face Moisturizer, a Sunscreen, a Face Serum and an Under-eye Cream. Laced with the goodness of magical Red Aloe Vera, this essential combo will help your mother in replenishing her natural glow and having the perfect skin she has always dreamt of. The higher concentrations of beneficial phytochemicals in Red Aloe Vera provide it a 22-times more powerful anti-inflammatory effect. High concentrations of salicylic acid and polysaccharides help relax tight muscles and provide a soothing effect.

## Blue Dart reports record performance with positive Q4 and Year-End

**Mumbai:** Blue Dart Express Limited, South Asia’s premier express air and integrated transportation & Distribution Company, declared its Audited financial results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2022 at the Board Meeting held in Mumbai.

The company posted ₹ 1,354 million profit after tax (previous year ₹ 891 million profit) for the quarter ended March 31, 2022, and ₹ 3,764 million profit after tax (previous year ₹ 963 million profit) for the year ended March 31, 2022. Revenue from operations for the quarter ended March 31, 2022 stood at ₹ 11,659 million and 44,090 million for the year ended March 31, 2022.

**Mumbai:** Spartan Poker announced the dates for its leading poker championships. The India Poker Championship (IPC) is heading to Casino Vegas by Big Daddy, Nepal, and will be held from 17th - 22nd May 2022. The 13th edition of the Indian Online Poker Championship (IOPC) will be held from 2nd - 19th June 2022. Indian poker enthusiasts will get to experience the best of both felts this summer with a whopping combined Prize-Pool of 36.5 Crore GTD.

India Poker Championship, the five-day live event hosted in Casino Vegas by Big Daddy, Nepal, will include four high-octane tournaments with a combined prize pool of 3.5 Crore. The IPC May

’22 MegaStacks edition is also designed in a best-in-class live tournament structure with heavy buy-ins & deep stacks for a high-quality gaming experience. The India Online Poker Championship, which immediately post IPC, would be the biggest ever online poker series in India with a massive prize pool of 33 Crore GTD! The 18-day-long virtual series will provide an online experience unlike any other gaming event in India. Speaking on the launch, Mr. Amin Rozani, CEO of Spartan Poker Group said, “We are excited to host the India Poker Championship live this year and follow it up with our very successful India Online Poker

Championship that will be hosted on the Spartan Poker platform, along with other streaming partners like AIO Games, Blitzpoker, PokerHigh, and PokerDaddy. We know how incredible the level of play in these competitions can be! We aim to offer an even better experience for players & fans, and even more opportunities for skilled players to raise their games and win huge prizes.” At Spartan Poker, we provide a seamless and a fair gaming experience to the Indian poker community, and we are driven to build Poker as a professional sport in India, along with all its inherent thrill, while also showcasing the country’s untapped poker talent. Added Mr. Rozani.

## Sudarshan Venu elevated as Managing Director of TVS Motor Company

**Chennai:** TVS Motor Company, a reputed manufacturer of two-wheelers and three-wheelers globally, announced at its board meeting today the elevation of Sudarshan Venu as Managing Director of the Company, effective today. Sudarshan has been charting the future of one of India’s leading two-wheeler manufacturer and has made it the most awarded two-wheeler company. He has played a pivotal role in the company’s growth in India and key international

markets, including Asia, Africa, and more recently in Europe. Prof Sir Ralf Dieter Speth, Chairman, TVS Motor Company said, “Sudarshan has got a clear vision and brings with him both a tremendous passion for advanced technologies and sustainable growth, deep-seated in values. He thinks future-oriented, staying ahead of the emerging trends. Personal, smart mobility, including electrification, are two of his big areas of focus. He has also spearheaded the international growth of

TVS Motor. He has the ability to lead high performing teams internationally with empathy. He takes care of people and society. I am sure that with his leadership, the company will grow stronger and further pivot to the future.” Mr Venu Srinivasan, Chairman Emeritus, TVS Motor Company said, “Sudarshan’s extraordinary efforts have witnessed key decisions to develop aspirational products and grow fast in India and overseas.”

## WhatsApp rolls out emoji reactions, bigger groups

**San Francisco:** With an aim to make the messaging platform more user friendly, Meta-owned WhatsApp has announced that it is rolling out new features, including emoji reactions, bigger files and groups. The company said that it is slowly rolling out the ability to add up to 512 people to a group, which, till now, allowed to add only up to 256. "We are excited to share that emoji reactions are now available on the latest version of the app. Reactions are fun, fast, and they reduce overload in groups too. We will continue improving them by adding an even broader range of expressions in the future," the company said in a blogpost.



