

AIIMS Bhubaneswar Becomes No1 In ABHA token Generation



Bhubaneswar (KCN): Today AIIMS Bhubaneswar (Khordha) topped the list of ABHA token generation (1131) under able leadership of Prof Asutosh Biswas, ED, Prof. Dillip K. Parida, MS, Prof. MKMohanty, Chairman IT cell Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) is in the direction of making health facility paperless and hassle free. ABHA token is generated by submitting patient details once in life time which is stored in a central server and the patient subsequently can avail health benefits anywhere in the country by accessing the ABHA app. This is a Govt. of India initiative towards Digital Health Mission. Till date AIIMS Bhubaneswar has generated 31,400 ABHA tokens

3 Dead, 7 Hurt As Auto-Rickshaw Falls Off Ghat Road In Odisha's Gajapati

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In a tragic incident, three persons were killed and seven others sustained critical injuries when the auto-rickshaw they were travelling in overturned and fell 20-feet below the Keredang ghat road in Gajapati district of Odisha today. A man, a woman and a two-year old child were killed in the mishap, sources said. The deceased have been identified as Luko Mandal of Kulesingh village, Dili Kar of Badapada and Pratyush Karji of Jalang, sources added. The mishap took place



when the auto-rickshaw was carrying passengers from Keredang to Nuagada under R. Udayagiri police limits around the noon. The auto-rickshaw overturned and fell 20-feet below the road when the driver lost control

over the vehicle, sources said. On being informed, the police and Fire Brigade personnel reached the spot and rescued the injured persons. One injured person was rushed to MKCG Medical College and

Hospital in Berhampur while other three have been admitted to the District Headquarters Hospital at Parlahemundi, police said. "We have seized the bodies and sent them for postmortem," said a police officer.

Police Tracking Guddu Muslim

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Uttar Pradesh Police had visited Odisha two days back to trace Guddu Muslim, close aide of gangster Atiq Ahmed, who was killed by miscreants in presence of police at Prayagraj recently. According to police sources, a team of Special Task Force (STF) of Uttar Pradesh police had visited Odisha two days back to trace Atiq Ahmed's close aide Guddu Muslim. A five member STF team of the UP Police had visited Bargarh district on April 18 and questioned one person in connection with gangster Guddu Muslim. However, they have not arrested any person from Odisha. Earlier, some media reported that Guddu Muslim's last location was traced in Odisha's Puri. However, Puri police said they do not have any information about the gangster. "A team of Uttar Pradesh STF came to Odisha two days back. The team conducted some investigation in Bargarh district for a day and left Odisha. They have sought our help and we have extended our support, as per protocol," Odisha DGP Sunil Bansal told media persons here. However, the UP police had not informed anything about the investigation and case details with Odisha police, he said. "As per normal protocol, when we visit any other state for investigation, we seek help from the concerned state police and vice-versa. There is nothing new," the DGP maintained. Northern Range IGP Deepak Kumar said the UP police had informed a police station in Bargarh and conducted some verification in the police station area and left for UP. "We have extended necessary help to them. They have examined one person from Bargarh district. However, they have not arrested any person," Dr. Kumar said. Notably, Guddu Muslim is among the 10 accused named in the high-profile Umesh Pal murder case in UP. Six of them have been killed and he is among the four others who are currently on the run. The Uttar Pradesh police launched a manhunt to catch them.

Mock G20 Conclave

Bhubaneswar(KCN): As a precursor to the 3rd meeting of the G20 Education Working Group to be held in the city on April 27 and 28, a Mock G20 conclave involving students from various institutions was held at Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) Deemed to be University on Friday. The Mock G20 on the theme of 'Future of Work' which was organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MOE), Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Indian Institute of Democratic Leadership (IIDL), Mumbai, was attended by students who represented the member countries and international organizations.



"It has been organised to create an awareness in students as to how the G20 functions. The students are the stakeholders in the field of education and skill development," Usha Titus, Chairperson and Managing Director of Additional Skill Acquisition Programme, Kerala, said while addressing the inaugural session

of the conclave. The G20 nations accounted for 90 per cent of the global GDP and 80 per cent of the global trade and it was the right forum to talk about partnership and cooperation, she said. Pradipta Kumar Nanda, Vice-Chancellor of SOA and Devendra Pai, Course Director, IIDL, also addressed the inaugural programme.

Ms. Titus said that Covid-19 had "disrupted our thinking and brought in technology into our lives in a big way." Technology needs to be harnessed to take education forward and the need was to adopt the best practices and collaborate for future progress, she said. Prof. Nanda said students being the future leaders, the

Mock G20 conclave would help them understand how to deliberate on issues with global ramifications. The subject 'Future of Work' is important and the youth have a stake in it, he said. Mr. Pai said it was expected that the Mock G20 would act as a stimulus which would encourage and orient students to

think and participate in politics and policy making and think about international relations. As part of the mock exercise, the students delivered talks as delegates representing different countries and international organizations. Areesha Fatma, Senior Consultant, International Cooperation, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Archana Mayaram, Economic Advisor, MSDE also addressed the inaugural session. Jyoti Ranjan Das, SOA's Dean (Students' Welfare), proposed the vote of thanks. Priyabrata Pattnaik, Additional Dean (Research) was also present.

Puri King To Embark On 5-Week Tour To UK

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Puri King Dibyasingha Deb will embark on his foreign trip to the United Kingdom for a period of 5 weeks. Accompanied by his wife (queen), Puri Gajapati Maharaja will be visiting different Jagannath centres located at London, Dublin, Edinburgh, Manchester & Bath during his 5-week programme between April and May. Odisha Society of Scotland will host the royal couple in Scotland from May 1 to 7. A number of events will be organised at local temples as well as at Indian Consulate office with number of dignitaries in Edinburgh and Glasgow during the period, informed Ayaskant Pany, Executive member of Odisha Society of Scotland.



The Ninth PG Convocation of XIM University

Bhubaneswar(KCN):XIM University known for its transformative education and nurturing capable and responsible leaders held its Ninth Convocation for its Postgraduate and Doctoral programmes on 21st April 2023 in the state-of-art colossal Auditorium in its new campus which was very recently inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri. Naveen Patnaik. The institution takes pride in graduating yet another batch of students to take on the legacy of the University which continuously seeks to excel in teaching, research and building capable leaders for

tomorrow. Shri. Nadir B. Godrej, Chairman & Managing Director, Godrej Industries Ltd, was the Chief Guest and Convocation Speaker for the day. With degrees from MIT, Stanford University and an MBA from Harvard Business School, he joined the family business more than four decades ago. Established in 1897, the Godrej Group has its roots in India's Independence and Swadeshi movement. Today, the group enjoys the patronage of 1.1 billion consumers globally across consumer goods, real estate, appliances, agriculture and many other businesses. On



the eve of the 9th Convocation, XIM University conferred an Honorary Doctoral Degree upon Shri. Nadir B. Godrej. Among the eminent dignitaries' present were Fr. Jerome Cutinha, S.J., Chairman, Board of Governors of XIM

University, Shri. Rajive Kaul, Emeritus Chairman, Board of Governors of XIM University, Fr. Antony R. Uvari, S.J., Vice Chancellor, XIM University, Fr. S. Antony Raj S.J., Registrar, Fr. V. Arockia Das, S.J., Chief Finance Officer,

XIM University, Deans of different schools and Officials of XIM University. A few of the elite Board Members were also present occasion. Prof. Andrew Dutta, Dean, School of Human Resource Management welcomed all the

students, parents, dignitaries and guests. Fr. Antony R. Uvari, S.J., Vice Chancellor, XIM University in his report elaborated the attainments of the University in the past year. He highlighted a few notable points which included the University being accredited with "A" grade by NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council) and spoke about the accomplishments of the 13 schools within the ambit of the University and thanked each member of the XIM fraternity for their contribution and looked forward to another successful year. Addressing the

audience in his Chairman's speech, Fr. Jerome Cutinha, S.J., felt proud of the students and congratulated them. He was happy to note that each year the number of graduating students was steadily increasing. He spoke about the importance of individual resilience and integrity as two key components of future growth and success for the young minds of today. The Emeritus Chairman Shri Rajive Kaul addressed the audience calling the convocation a landmark event in the life of the students which would be full of opportunities along with challenges.

As the Convocation Speaker, the Chief Guest, Shri. Nadir B. Godrej spoke about how comprehensive education is the need of the hour of our nation. He stressed on the fact that "Every cloud has a silver lining" so we must never give up and strive towards our goals and passion in life. The top rank holders across schools were felicitated with Medals for Academic Excellence by the Chief Guest. The list of rank holders is attached herewith. Finally, the event came to a successful end with the vote of thanks by Fr. S. Antony Raj, S.J., Registrar.

Central University of Odisha Organizes Bharateeya Paramparik Kreed Mahotsava

Koraput: The two days Bharateeya Paramparik Kreed Mahotsava organized jointly by the Central University of Odisha and Kreed Bharati began on 21st April 2023. The inaugural session of this programme was held at the main Sports Ground of CUO. The Kreed Mahotsava was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Education, Dr. Subhas Sarkar. The University organized an event of this scale for the first time. The Hon'ble Chancellor of the Central University of Odisha, Prof. P.V. Krishna Bhatta, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, presided over the

Programme. The Programme commenced with the inaugural address by the Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Odisha, where he welcomed the dignitaries and highlighted the importance of "Paramparik Kreed" while encouraging the students to participate in all kinds of sports and yoga. Traditional sports, which are not followed by the new generation nowadays, should always be encouraged, he said. Dr. Subash Sarkar, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Education, Govt. of India delivered the Chief Guest address chanting with a shloka from Bhagwat Geeta, explaining, "one who attained purity of mind through the prolonged practice of yoga is in

such knowledge with the heart in due course of time". He also mentioned the significance of sports and yoga in our Vedas and Upanishads as well as in Ramayana, Mahabharata and Natyashastra. Yoga strengthens our body as well as mind. To achieve our personal development we should always indulge in sports. He encouraged children to practice yoga for at least 30 minutes a day. He urged the students of CUO to be sports ambassadors for the people of India to practice yoga. Various sports schemes implemented by the Government of India to encourage sports in India are in the right direction. Hon'ble Chancellor of Central University of



Odisha Prof. P.V. Krishna Bhatta highlighted the importance of sports and games in our culture for generations. He urged the students not only to focus on studies, but also focus on sports for overall development of body and mind. All India General Secretary, Kreed Bharati, Mr. Raj Choudhry addressed the gathering by signifying the importance of sports in our culture quoting; "Lord Shri Krishna also played a lot of sports". He also mentioned

Saavan ka Jhoola and encouraged the students for sporting events. Also present on the dais was Arjuna Award winner and eminent Olympian Gopal Saini. On the occasion various traditional games of India were showcased including Yoga, Archery, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Malkhamb and Rope Malkhamb (all from Odisha), Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta (Assam), Atya Patya, Gilli Danda and Surya Namaskar. During the second session two sports events were demonstrated, Rope and

Pole Malkhamb (Odisha) and Bharatiya Yudha Kaushal (West Bengal). The purpose of the sporting event was twofold: to create awareness about the traditional games of India, which are losing popularity in the modern days, and, to rescue them from oblivion. India's rich culture and history have always been deeply rooted in sports and games. Traditional games like Kho Kho, Pallanguzi, Lippa, Kabaddi, and Gilli Danda have been forgotten by today's youth since they are so

absorbed in playing video games. Numerous health problems have arisen in children as a result of the decline in physical exercise. Therefore, bringing back traditional sports will have many beneficial effects on the health of our young population. For this event, eight groups of sportspersons are present in the University. Five are from Odisha, two from West Bengal and one group from Assam. Also present on the occasion were dignitaries were Prof. Jatin H. Soni, former Vice-Chancellor, Swarnim Gujarat Sports University, Shri Madhumay Nath, Joint Secretary of Kreed Bharati; Shri Damodar Pradhan; Eminent Bhoodan Movement activist Shri Krishna

Singh, Prof. Sudhendu Mondal, Advisor, Academic and Administration of CUO; the G.M. of NAD, the Head of the Cobra Battalion of Koraput, the Principal of K.V, NAD. The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Prof. N.C. Panda, Dean of School of Languages of CUO. Dr. Kakoli Banerjee, faculty member, Dept. of BCNR of CUO coordinated the event. The event was attended by many dignitaries, sportspersons, the varsity faculty members, other staff members, research scholars and students. The students of the university presented a cultural programme in the evening. Tribal festival was also organised under the G20 Jan Bhagidari Programme.

UDAN 5.0 Launched

New Delhi: Following the four successful rounds of bidding, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched the 5th round of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) – Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) to further enhance the connectivity to remote and regional areas of the country and achieve last mile connectivity. Key Features of UDAN 5.0 focuses on Category-2 (20-80 seats) and Category-3 (>80 seats) and the earlier stage length cap of 600 km is waived off and there is no restriction on the distance between the origin and destination of the flight. Viability gap funding (VGF) to be provided will be capped at 600 km stage length for both Priority and Non-Priority areas which was earlier capped at 500 km. No predetermined routes would be offered. Only Network and Individual Route Proposal proposed by airlines will be considered. The airlines would be required to submit an action/business plan

after 2 months from the issuance of LoA wherein they submit their aircraft acquisition plan/availability of aircraft,

25% of the Performance Guarantee to be encashed for each month of delay up to 4 months, to further incentivize



crew, slots, etc. at the time of the Technical Proposal. The same route will not be awarded to a single airline more than once, whether in different networks or in the same network. Exclusivity will be withdrawn if the average quarterly PLF is higher than 75% for four continuous quarters, to prevent exploitation of the monopoly on a route.

quick operationalization. Airlines would be required to commence operations within 4 months of the award of the route. Earlier this deadline was 6 months. A list of airports that are ready for operation or would soon be ready for operations has been included in the scheme to facilitate quicker operationalization of routes under the Scheme. Novation process for

routes from one operator to another is simplified and incentivized. Commenting on the launch of UDAN 5.0, the Minister of Civil Aviation & Steel, Jyotiraditya Scinda said, "UDAN has proved to be a lifeblood of many regions which are now well connected with places across the country. This new & stronger version of the scheme will raise the momentum, connecting new routes, and bring us closer to the target of operationalizing 1000 routes & 50 additional airports, heliports, and water aerodromes in the near future. UDAN Scheme has benefitted a diverse set of stakeholders. Passengers have got the benefits of air connectivity, airlines have received concessions for operating regional routes, unserved regions have received the direct and indirect benefits of air connectivity for their economic development. It is another step towards the prime minister's vision of the common man traveling by air at affordable and subsidized airfares.

Cuttack, The City Of Brotherhood, Decks Up For Eid Celebration

Cuttack: The Silver City of Cuttack has decked up for the celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr, one of the most auspicious and holy festival of Islam. Several popular mosques in the city including Qadam e Rasool, Paltan Masjid and Jama Masjid have been decorated with colourful lights for the festival. The festival will be either celebrated on April 22 (Saturday) or on April 23 (Sunday) depending upon the sighting of holy moon in Odisha sky, sources said. People from the Muslim community are now busy in shopping dress materials, cosmetics

and food items for the Eid celebration. Several shops have come up in different parts of the city to cater to the demand of the people for the festival. The shopkeepers have brought food items, perfumes and other goods from cities like Mumbai and Kolkata in India. Besides, they have also imported essential commodities from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Tunisia and other countries across the globe, sources said. "The people usually prefer food items like dates, Laccha, Faluda, Sarbat and Halua for Eid celebration. We have brought these items from several places in India and

abroad to meet their demand," said a trader. It is learnt that the traders have brought at least 70 varieties of perfume for the celebration. Special caps have been procured from Medina, Ajmer and Bareilly, he added. "The people in Saudi Arabia sighted the holy moon yesterday and they are celebrating Eid today. The people of Muslim community in India usually celebrate the festival a day after the celebration of the same in Saudi Arabia. The festival will be either celebrated tomorrow or day after tomorrow depending upon the sighting of moon in Odisha sky. Our Chand

Committee will take the final decision in this regard," said Ramzan Khan, president of Qadam e Rasool managing committee. The Commissionerate Police, meanwhile, stepped up security across the city for smooth celebration of Eid. "Cuttack is the city of brotherhood. The city is well-known for its religious tolerance. We will deploy 20 platoons of police force across the city for smooth celebration of Eid. We are also keeping an eye on mischief mongers and social media to avoid any untoward incident during the festival," said Deputy Commissioner of Police Pinak Mishra.

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Dream Girl 2 Eid Special Promo: Ayushmann Khurrana Aka Pooja Gets A Call From 'Bhaijaan'



Balaji Telefilms has just released a new promotional video for their upcoming film, 'Dream Girl 2', just in time for the joyous occasion of Eid and it's hilarious! The video features Ayushmann Khurrana's character, Pooja, talking to none other than Bollywood superstar Bhaijaan. The third promotional video of Dream Girl 2 features a hilarious and tongue-in-cheek conversation between Bhaijaan and Pooja.

Bhaijaan and Pooja are in middle of a nice romantic conversation and Bhaijaan is eager to catch a glimpse of Pooja's gorgeous face and asks her to reveal herself. The video takes an unexpected turn when the light switches off just as Bhaijaan is about to catch a glimpse of Pooja's beautiful face. The cliffhanger ending has left fans excited and curious about what will happen next.

This is the third promotional video featuring Pooja, and it's already creating a lot of buzz among fans. The previous videos featuring Pathan and Rockstar were a hit among audiences, and this one is taking it to the next level. The promotional videos for Dream Girl 2 have been successful in building hype and anticipation for the film, and fans are eagerly waiting for its release. Dream Girl 2 promises to be a rib-tickling and entertaining film, and the chemistry between Ayushmann Khurrana and Ananya Panday is sure to set the screen on fire. Produced by Balaji Telefilms and directed by Raaj Shaandilyaa, the film promises to be a laugh riot. Fans can't wait to see what else Dream Girl 2 has in store. The film releases on 7th July 2023.

Nick Jonas, King Unveil 'Maan Meri Jaan (Afterlife)' Teaser, Share Update On Song Release Date



Indian artiste King and American singer Nick Jonas recently announced their collaboration for a new version of 'Maan Meri Jaan (Afterlife)'. On Wednesday night, taking to Instagram, the duo unveiled the teaser of their song which they captioned, "Maan Meri Jaan (Afterlife) music video drops tomorrow at 10am ET / 7:30pm IST." The song is a remake of King's popular track 'Maan Meri Jaan' which received massive responses from the fans and has gathered more than 340 million views on YouTube. The almost 15-second teaser of the new version features Nick and King along with the 'Maan Meri Jaan' music playing in the background.

Soon after the duo dropped the first teaser, fans flooded the comment section with red hearts and fire emoticons. "Dammnnnn," a fan commented. Another fan wrote, "It's time for legends." "This is big," a fan wrote. The two artists earlier announced the news in a joint Instagram post, along with a poster for their collaboration.

Priyanka Chopra also cheered for her husband Nick Jonas on his collaboration with the Indian artist and shared the poster of the track on her Instagram story. "Congratulations," Priyanka wrote on Instagram Story. King, popularly known as Arpan Kumar Chandel, has delivered several hit songs in his career, including 'Tu Aake Dekhle' and 'Maan Meri Jaan', which received a lot of love from the listeners. His collaboration with Nick Jonas is indeed a cherry on the cake. The full song will be out on April 20,

Sanya Malhotra To Find The Missing Jackfruit In Upcoming Satirical Comedy 'Kathal'

Netflix announced the launch date of its upcoming investigative satire comedy film with Sanya Malhotra, Vijay Raaz, Anant Joshi, Rajpal Yadav and Neha Saraf today. This announcement was exclusively made at the country's leading performing arts festival; on 19th May, 2023 onwards.



Inspired by true events, this film showcases Sanya Malhotra, in a never seen before avatar, playing the role of a sincere and determined cop on a mission to find the missing Kathals. Director Yashwardhan

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depth, giving each and everyone an immense spectrum of character sketches to work with, helping me bring each facet of the film to life. I am extremely humbled that this story will reach millions of viewers not only in India but across the globe via Netflix." Producer, Gunet

May on Netflix. This joyride of satire and comedy is an absolute family entertainer and will definitely leave a lasting impression." Ektaa R Kapoor, Joint Managing Director, Balaji Telefilms, shares, "Yashwardhan and Ashok's interpretation of these true events from India's heartlands convinced

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Kartik Aaryan's 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3' To Clash With Ajay Devgn's 'Singham Again'?



Bollywood will witness two major clashes between two of the much-awaited films- Ajay Devgn starrer 'Singham Again' and Kartik Aaryan's horror comedy 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3'. 'Singham Again' is going to be the third instalment of the super hit cop franchise 'Singham'. Helmed by Rohit Shetty 'Singham Again' will also star actor Deepika

Padukone in a cop avatar. On Monday, taking to Twitter, trade analyst and critic Taran Adarsh shared the release date of the film. He wrote, "AJAY DEVGN - ROHIT SHETTY: 'SINGHAM AGAIN' ON DIWALI 2024... #SinghamAgain - the third part in #RohitShetty's super-successful #Singham franchise - to release on #Diwali2024..."

#AjayDevgn returns as #BajiraoSingham... Starts July 2023." Recently, Ajay and Rohit Shetty began the preparations for their upcoming action film. 'Singham' was released in the year 2011, and starred Kajal Aggarwal and Prakash Raj in the lead roles, followed by 'Singham Returns' in 2014, and both projects were declared box office hits.

On the other hand, speaking about the 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3', Kartik Aaryan is all set to return as the famous 'Roooh Baba' and upcoming horror comedy is slated to hit the theatres on the occasion of Diwali 2024. The third instalment is being helmed by Anees Bazmee and produced by Bhushan Kumar. Kartik headlined the second instalment of 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa' which emerged to be one of the highest-grossing films of 2022. The film revolves around the story of a cursed ghost who wanders into an old mansion. However, hell breaks loose when the spirit, trapped for 18 years in an abandoned room, is set free. The horror-comedy has an unpredictable twist in the end, much to the surprise of the fans.

USURPATION OF EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE POWERS BY THE INDIAN HIGHER JUDICIARY



The front page of the Times of India dated 1st April, 2017, which I have in my hands now, has almost 80% covered by Court news with the caption "Highway liquor vends, bars must close from today: Supreme Court", being the most prominent heading. On its right "Won't apologize if work not restored: Justice Karnan to Supreme Court", followed by another three Court-related news items, including the caption "No early Supreme Court hearing in Ayodhya case". What is said about 1st of April, 2017 could be true about all Tuesdays and Saturdays, for, on Mondays and Fridays, the Miscellaneous Days of the Supreme Court, it decides matters concerning the public at large, often in hearings which could last for a few minutes. Thirty three years ago when I started my legal profession, I was a far more enthusiastic reader of newspapers than I am today. In those days, what most of the newspapers carried

was news about decisions which the Government took and of discussions in the Parliament and Legislative Assemblies. The change that has come in three decades is sweeping and is indicative of who the true rulers of the country now are. Today India is ruled by Judges of the higher judiciary; Parliament has been pushed to the sidelines; virtually all executive and legislative decisions on policy matters are taken by the Supreme Court and High Courts. The Constitution did not provide for the same. The essence of the Constitution is that decisions concerning the public at large ought to be taken by the elected Government which is responsible and accountable to its subjects, the citizens, the concept of parliamentary supremacy. Today parliamentary supremacy is a myth; it has been substituted by supremacy of the judiciary. One might wonder how that could happen when the Constitution did not provide for judicial supremacy, a governance by the Judges, which has meant a new terminology called "Judgeocracy" to be evolved.

It was the concept of PIL which

proved to be a magic wand and which allowed the Constitution to be rewritten, not by an amendment by the Parliament but by judgments rendered in PILs. The two big news items of this week are the Supreme Court banning liquor vends within 500 meters of National and State Highways from 1st April, 2017 and banning sale and registration of vehicles which do not meet BS-IV emission norms. I being a teetotaler and one who privately love consumption of liquor to be drastically reduced; so too one for whom a stay in Delhi, the most polluted city in India, a nightmare, in the heart of my heart, could be welcoming the judgments. But the question is, do Courts have the jurisdiction to pass orders, as the instant two referred to above, and the likes which are in the realm of executive and legislative policy. I am sure those who hail the judgments of the Supreme Court in Kesavananda Bharati, Judges-2, Judges-3 and the NJAC cases, which meant giving legitimacy to substitution of the views of the Hon'ble Judges, a few learned men in robes, could be of a strength of 5,

Mathews J. Nedumpara
7, 9 or 11, would not be able to give a jurisprudential justification for substitution of the views of the Parliament exercising its constituent power, which reflects the will of the people. The order of the Supreme Court banning liquor outlets, including that of Star Hotels, across the country has meant not merely loss of revenues to the State Governments and Union Territories running into thousands of crores of rupees, thereby unsettling their budgets, but has also rendered thousands of people jobless, nay, even certain towns like Mahe, a Union Territory, where liquor is relatively cheaper on account of variation in tax. Mahe, a small island sandwiched between Kannur and Kasaragod Districts of Kerala, is a ghost town today. The orders of the Supreme Court are rendered without hearing the parties affected and thus rendered null and void in law. It is a fundamental principle of jurisprudence that if a judgment or order of a Court is one rendered without hearing the parties affected, it is a nullity; it never ever

existed in the eye of law. Unfortunately, orders of the Supreme Court in PILs like the instant one and the likes, which are innumerable, for instance, banning of illegal mining, which affected the entire steel industry and rendered thousands homeless, shaken the economy, rendered many industrial towns as ghost towns, are all null and void, being rendered without hearing the parties adversely affected. It is not because the Judges are not informed of the inherent limitations of their jurisdiction, in the case of the Supreme Court, under Article 32 of the Constitution, which could be invoked only for enforcement of fundamental rights. The Supreme Court hardly entertains a petition under Article 32 and those who approach it are often relegated to the High Court concerned. However, at the same time, it very liberally entertains petitions styled as PIL where no violation of any fundamental right is alleged, not even violation of any legal right at all. The Supreme Court has been allowing people who claim themselves to be "Centre for Public

Interest Litigation" and the likes, who complain no violation or any fundamental or legal rights, who do not represent any "person aggrieved" who cannot, out of their poverty, illiteracy, ignorance and other disabilities, approach the constitutional Courts for enforcement of his fundamental rights, to invoke its jurisdiction merely claiming that they are there because the 'basic structure' of the Constitution is infringed. Petitions of those who assert, contrary to the elementary principle that if you are not a 'person aggrieved' you are not entitled to any remedies in law under Article 32 and if you are not entitled to any remedy you have no right to institute a case in a Court, are entertained as PIL! It is the duty of the learned Attorney General, the Solicitor General and the Advocate Generals to question the locus standi of such Petitioners. But I have not come across a single case where the learned Attorney General, the Solicitor General and the Advocate Generals have asserted that they alone are the custodians of public interest and none else. In the NJAC case too, the locus standi of the Petitioners challenging the

constitutional validity of the Constitution (Ninety-ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 and the National Judicial Appointment Commission Act, 2014 was not questioned and that meant the will of the people reflected in the Acts of Parliament, ratified by 21 State Legislatures, being thrown to the dustbin and the collegiums system of appointment of Judges to the higher judiciary being restored/revived. The critics of PIL, and I have no hesitation to admit that I too undoubtedly am a critic, have always attributed the PIL as a means devised by the Supreme Court to gain public confidence, which took a great beating during Emergency when the Supreme Court in ADM Jabalpur v. Shivkant Shukla, AIR 1976 SC 1207, held that during Emergency fundamental rights stand abrogated. The collegiums system of appointment of Judges has meant many people raising their eyebrows about the democratic legitimacy of those who were appointed as Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts; so too of corruption, nepotism and malpractices and the higher judiciary being monopolized by a few families, the elite class of lawyers

and Judges. Many believed that Judges are on an overkill of populism, like ban of liquor, unwavering stand against polluting vehicles, sermons on the mount against social evils, lamenting the cause of farmers who committed suicides in large numbers, etc. But the question is, will this window-dressing be sufficient to protect the majesty and prestige of the institution of judiciary? The real step to protect the sanctity of the institution is to keep it away from corrupting factors and make it accessible to the common man. Trenching into the domain of the executive and the legislature is fraught with dangerous consequences, for, it would only mean opening of the Pandora's Box. The image of a Court or a knight errant is in undoing injustice everywhere and doing great deal of public good; acting in substitution of the executive and legislature cannot be maintained for long; it would lead to greater disappointment and frustration of the masses and the very destruction of the institution itself.

The Author is the president of National Lawyers campaign for Judicial transparency and reforms

India needs to start special attention to the Rural sector

Uma Shankar Prasad



The daughter of Odisha Soil President of India Mrs. Draupadi Murmu described the village in India as the basic unit of the country as she gave away National Panchayat Awards, it must be admitted that in the past 75 years since Independence—and also much before that India has been ignoring the rural sector to its own peril. Unfortunately, most leaders in different fields paid rich lip service to the village as the basic unit, often

quoting Mahatma Gandhi, the village has stood terribly neglected in the country for too long. Today, the average Indian village is a neglected entity with only a smattering of development having reached there. Looking at the Larger picture, only one conclusion comes out—that India needs to start paying a very special attention to the rural sector that also includes agriculture-based economy.

Most unfortunately, the Indian planners did not pay appropriate attention to the village where Mahatma Gandhi said India lived. That is the reason that there is a constant out flux of people from village to cities in search of

better living conditions supported by employment opportunities. The other end of this spectrum, thus, highlights the absence of jobs in rural sector. This issue has earned some political tall talk all right, but the rural sector really does not offer enough employment opportunities to the people. If lack of job opportunities is one aspect, the other aspect is lack of development in terms of infrastructure, health care, education, sanitation and hygiene and decent living conditions. What we find today is the legacy of the past, and instead of healing the wounds, the leaders today are haunting for offenders, fanning old prejudices. Their

game plan is to acquire power, no matter what means they adopt to do so. One does not know what these politicians will do with power, once society is destroyed or damaged beyond repair. These also have led to the population out flux from villages for the past 75 years. Both the British rulers and Indian rulers neglected the village sector almost totally. There is no doubt that the Panchayat Awards the President conferred upon some villages self-Government bodies do indicate that some hope has emerged on the scenethat in the years to come the standard Indian village would be an attractive proposition for the common people. Thanks to our

former Chief Minister late Biju Pattnaik who declared Panchayat Raj and Awards are being given for a long time and many villages do so marked progress because of some local leadership. The average Indian village requires a special emphasis on rise of local leadership that works in tandem with the higher layers of the governmental pyramid. Despite political tall talk, nothing much has been done and achieved. Nothing could be own without the empowerment of the village people. What, above all, the Mahatma, was concerned about was, that the village and poor should be empowered within a united nation, and

through the national way. That so often he insisted the persona of the standard Indian village should be preserved with its unique features such as close-knit human communities, simplicity of manner and method, openness of head and heart of the general public and willingness of heard work. Unfortunately our rural sector were larger ignored and neglected by the Government in the past 75 years since Independence. Now our President Mrs Droupadi Murmu has laid much emphasis on the village sector so Government STARTED PAYING special attention to the rural sector.

Columnist, Khurda, (63706 75562)

Letter To Editor

Sir, Modernise drug control department

Cops have seized millions of bottles of sedative cough syrup from pharmaceutical units across the country, which were notably sealed in long ago.

It is discovered that the syrup contains codeine, an opiate on the list of controlled substances. How this escaped the attention of regulators for so long is perplexing, given that all units using it are required to file quarterly returns of the narcotic substance used. Lax regulatory controls and gaps in the inspection of medical and drug-making firms have been identified as major causes of the sector's ills. This is a serious lapse in judgement because bogus medicines cause havoc in the lives of consumers and can even be fatal. The grip of law enforcement on this critical segment must be tightened. However, its image has been tainted by a few bad apples, with cases of death linked to contaminated medicines manufactured in India being reported on a regular basis both at home and abroad. Drug control departments must be modernised with cutting-edge technology and skilled personnel to intercept defaulters in real time. Pharma must also improve their internal quality control measures.

Immediate and firm action against the perpetrator can keep people from becoming victims of this lethal scam.

Vijaykumar H K Raichur, Karnataka



The Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur at the opening ceremony of 'Sansad Khel Spardha - 2023', in Noida

PM Gati Shakti Master Plan Gets Award For Excellence In Public Administration

New Delhi: PM Gati Shakti national master plan initiative, launched in October 2021 for integrated and planned development of critical infrastructure projects to reduce logistics costs, received an award for excellence in public administration-2022 from Prime Minister Narendra Modi today. Secretary in the department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) Anurag Jain received the award at the 16th Civil Services Day. PM Modi conferred these awards for excellence in public administration for effective implementation of identified priority programmes and innovation to implementing units, and central and state

organisations. The Prime Minister's awards for excellence in public administration have been instituted to recognise the extraordinary and innovative work done by districts, and organisations of the central and state governments for people's welfare. The commerce and industry ministry's initiative has received the award under innovation (centre) category. All logistics and connectivity infrastructure projects, entailing investment of over ₹ 500 crore, route through the network planning group (NPG) constituted under the initiative. A GIS enabled national master plan digital platform has also been developed and over



1,300 data layers are uploaded by the Centre and states on this platform. Data related to land records, ports, forest, schools, railway stations, water bodies, telecom towers, and highways are available on the portal. For example, if the railway is planning a project on a specified route, so by putting the relevant data/information on the PM Gati Shakti national master plan portal/platform before finalising the DPR (detailed project

report), it can see whether the proposed track is crossing through public land or private property or forest or canal or highways and accordingly make changes without visiting the area physically. The aim is to improve logistics efficiency by reducing the time and cost of transportation, simplifying procedures and creating an efficient logistics ecosystem. By the use of this platform, the DPRs are getting ready in 2-

3 months (including ground truthing). Earlier it used to take 6-8 months through simultaneous visualisation of all relevant details available on the platform. Citing an example, it said that using the platform, the railways ministry got 405 final location surveys sanctioned in 2022-23 as compared to 57 in 2021-22. So far about 76 key infrastructure projects worth about ₹ 5.14 lakh crore of different ministries have been evaluated under the initiative in the last one year. These projects pertain to different ministries including roads and highways; oil and natural gas; housing and urban affairs; and new and renewable energy.

"No Need To Speculate," Says Ajit Pawar After Skipping NCP Convention

Mumbai: Senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar on Friday skipped a meeting of his party's Mumbai unit raising eyebrows in political circles as speculation about his next political move refuses to die down.

Speaking to reporters in Pune, Ajit Pawar played down the buzz saying that he was unable to attend the NCP convention as he had to remain present for some other programmes happening at the same time. He said nothing much should be read into this. BJP said Maha Vikas Aghadi leaders were defaming him and questioning his credibility.

The daylong meeting in Mumbai was addressed by party chief Sharad Pawar and other senior leaders like Praful Patel, Jitendra Awhad, Supriya Sule, Chhagan Bhujbal and state president Jayant Patil.

Praful Patel said Mumbai and Thane region have 60 Assembly seats and NCP must do well in this belt if it has to emerge as the number one party in the state. In the 2019 state elections, the party had won 54 seats in the 288-member Assembly. Jitendra Awhad said the party can do well if civic elections are fought under the leadership of Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray in an alliance.

NCP, Congress and the Shiv Sena under Uddhav Thackeray were part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government that collapsed last year following a rebellion by Eknath Shinde, who later joined hands with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to become the chief minister. NCP has fought elections in Mumbai in alliance with the Congress with mixed results, said



Jayant Patil. "We also have to renew efforts to strengthen ourselves at the grassroots and connect with people on issues of housing and basic amenities," he said. In Pune, Ajit Pawar told reporters that one has to choose between two events happening at the same time. "There is no need to speculate," he said.

Intense speculation is going on in Maharashtra's political circles about Ajit Pawar's growing proximity with the ruling BJP.

Earlier, the NCP also said that Ajit Pawar's inability to attend the party meeting does not mean he is planning to quit the organisation. Talking about his absence at the meeting, NCP spokesman Clyde Crasto said the party's Mumbai event was planned a month ago. "Ajitdada is continuously busy and he has accepted invitations to several programmes in Pune. He expressed his inability to attend (the NCP meet). All leaders have their schedule to follow. Just because they are unable to attend one function, it does not mean they are planning to quit. He was present along with (Sharad) Pawar saheb for an 'iftar' party earlier this week in Mumbai," Crasto said. Rumours about Ajit Pawar's next political

move started swirling last week when he suddenly cancelled his scheduled meetings and also made comments which were seen as being soft on the BJP and CM Shinde's camp.

The Shinde-led Shiv Sena has said that it won't be a part of the government in Maharashtra if Ajit Pawar joins the BJP with a group of NCP leaders.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut added to the speculation when he wrote in his weekly column in party mouthpiece Saamana last Sunday that Sharad Pawar recently told Thackeray that there is a lot of pressure on some individuals to break ranks. Families are being targeted but even if individuals take a different stand, NCP as a party will never go with the BJP, he wrote referring to the senior Pawar. Ajit Pawar has clarified that he will remain with the NCP. Sharad Pawar on Tuesday dismissed the speculation about his nephew Ajit Pawar's next political move. He said Ajit Pawar was busy with the party's work and there was no need for the media to drag the issue.

State BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule on Friday said MVA leaders were defaming Ajit Pawar and questioning his credibility.

Ms. Acharapan Yavaprapa, Consul-General of Thailand in Kolkata welcomed participants to Dusit Hotels and Resorts India Showcase 2023

Kolkata: On 17 April 2023, Ms. Acharapan Yavaprapas, Consul-General of Thailand in Kolkata welcomed participants to Dusit Hotels and Resorts India Showcase 2023 held at The Oberoi Grand, Kolkata. The event was hosted by Mr. Nicholas John Maratos, Vice President - Commercial, Dusit Hotels and Resorts together with representatives of 7 Dusit properties and attended by more than 50 local travel agents for networking and business matching. Consul-General conveyed her new year greetings on the occasions of Songkran

or Thai traditional new year and Bengali New Year which coincide on April 15th and demonstrate deep cultural ties between Thailand and India. She also noted that Songkran festival was included in UNESCO's Tentative List of Intangible Cultural Heritages for consideration of inscription in December 2023. She underscored the importance of Indian market for Thailand's tourism as Thailand has recently revised target of Indian tourist arrivals in 2023 from 1.4 million up to 2 million or same level as pre-COVID-19.



Thailand seeks to create meaningful experience for tourists by promoting 5F Soft Power attractions;

namely, Food, Film, Fashion, Fight (or Fit & Firm) and Festivals. Moreover, she briefly introduced Dusit

Hotels and Resorts as a well-loved long-established hotel brand that preserved gracious Thai hospitality in its

various hotel properties in Thailand and abroad. At present, Dusit Hotels and Resorts

comprises of more than 50 properties in 13 countries, and plans to open new 2 hotels in Kolkata and Shimla

soon. It is highly regarded at the international level. For example, Dusit Thani Abu Dhabi was awarded the Best Luxury Hotel in the Middle East in 2017 and Dusit Thani Maldives was awarded the Best Family Resort in 2022. At this event, Dusit Hotels and Resorts introduced 7 properties; namely, Dusit Princess Srinakarin Bangkok, Dusit Thani Pattaya, Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket, Dusit Thani Maldives, Dusit Thani Abu Dhabi, and Dusit Thani Himalayan Resort Dhulikhel Nepal to cater to diverse needs of Indian tourist market.

Two minor tribal girls gang raped in Odisha's Kalahandi district

BHAWANIPATNA: Two minor tribal girls were allegedly gang raped by a group of unidentified miscreants in Bongaon under Bijepur police limits in Kalahandi district. The sexual assault, which took place on April 16, came to the fore on Thursday after their parents lodged a written complaint with police demanding immediate arrest of the accused persons. Police sources said, a group of five youths forcibly waylaid three minor girls when they were returning home after watching Tarini Yatra



in their locality. While one of them managed to escape, two were taken to an isolated place and gang raped. The victims initially hesitated to intimate parents due to shame and social stigma. When their parents came to know about it, they consulted their community members

and lodged a complaint with the police. Grade II constable of Bijepur police station Lingaraj Sethi said they have started an investigation to trace the accused persons. A case has been registered in this connection and the minor girls have

been sent to B h a w a n i p a t n a government hospital for medical examination, he said. The Kalahandi District Adivasi Sangh has condemned the heinous crime. Stating that such crimes on tribal women will not be tolerated, president of the Sangh Prakash Majhi demanded arrest of the miscreants within 24 hours. "The vulnerable tribal community needs special attention and protection. A special team of the Sangh will visit the area to

take stock of the situation. Further course action will be decided after a meeting of the executive body of the Sangh," he said. BJP MP Basanta Kumar Panda expressed his concern over the incident. He said the accused youths need to be arrested immediately and prosecuted. "As per the latest NCRB report, Odisha is leading in rape cases and this incidence substantiates it. There is a strong discontentment among the tribal community following the incident," he said.

Odisha: 3 Union Ministers Among BJP's Star Campaigners For Jharsuguda Bypoll

Bhubaneswar: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today announced its list of 40 star campaigners for the upcoming Jharsuguda by-election in Odisha. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Union Minister for Jal Shakti Bisheswar Tudu have been named as star campaigners for the May 10 bypoll. BJP Odisha unit president Manmohan Samal, party's national vice president Bajjayanta Panda and national spokesperson Sambit Patra have found place in the list. Former

Union Ministers Jual Oram and Pratap Chandra Sarangi and Leader of Opposition in Odisha Assembly Jaynarayan Mishra have been made BJP star campaigners for the bypoll. BJP leaders Sunil Bansal, D. Purandeswari and Vijaypal Singh Tomar, MPs Basanta Panda, Suresh Pujari, Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo and Aparajita Sarangi have also been included in the list. Former Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, former BJP Odisha unit president Samir Mohanty, former MP Kharavela Swain and MLAs Mohan

Charan Majhi, Nauri Nayak, Subash Panigrahi, Mukesh Mahaling, Kusum Tete and Suraj Suryabanshi Sthitaprajan also found place in the list. The list includes BJP leaders Surama Padhi, Lekhasri Samantsinghar, Golak Prasad Mohapatra and Pruthviraj Harichandan among others. Notably, the by-election to Jharsuguda Assembly segment is necessitated due to the murder of sitting BJD MLA Naba Das on January 29. The BJP has fielded youth leader Tankadhar Tripathy as its candidate for the bypoll.

Sinha To Address Civil Servants

Bhubaneswar: The Gopabandhu Academy of Administration is organizing a State level function on 21 April 2023 to celebrate the Civil Services Day, 2023. The Civil Services Day is being organized for the first time in Odisha. Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Pattnaik will inaugurate the event to be organised at the Convention Hall, Loka Seva Bhawan. Amarjeet Sinha, IAS (R) will deliver a talk on "Preparing the Civil Services for Transformative Governance" on the event as the Chief Speaker. Chief Secretary Pradeep Jena, GAA DG R K Sharma, Development Commissioner Anu Garg, DGP Sunil Bansal PCCF & HOFF Debidutta Biswal will grace the occasion as Guests Of Honour. Shri Sinha is currently posted as Member Public Enterprises Selection Board. He was earlier posted as the Advisor to the Prime Minister of



India till end of July 2021. He has 39 years of experience in civil service, largely in the rural and social sector. He is one of the architects in designing the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the National Rural Health Mission, etc., flagship programs of Government. He has the distinction of having travelled over 90 percent of India's districts to promote human development initiatives.

He has published seven books on Public Policy and several articles in major Indian journals and newspapers. His last book "An India for Everyone- A Path to Inclusive Development", has been widely acclaimed and recognized as an authoritative work on the subject. The Civil Services Day is celebrated as an occasion for the Civil

Servants to rededicate themselves to the causes of citizens and renew their commitments to public service and excellence in work. 21 April of each year is earmarked to commemorate the day when the first Home Minister of the independent India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, addressed the young probationers of Indian Administrative Services in 1947 at Metcalfe House, Delhi and guided them to absorb the real 'spirit of service'. Governance paradigm has been completely transformed in Odisha in the last few years. The innovative and comprehensive '5T' model has proved its worth in delivering desired services to the deserving people. Administrative reforms have bridged the gap between the Government and the Citizenry. While the public officials have become more responsible and accountable, the people have become more aware and aspirational.

SOA Pacts With BUSE

Bhubaneswar: Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) Deemed to be University on Thursday signed a MoU with Bindura University of Science Education (BUSE), a state university in Zimbabwe, for collaboration in various academic and related areas including research and innovation. Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda, Vice-Chancellor of SOA and Prof. Eddie Mwenje, Vice-Chancellor of the institute in Zimbabwe, signed the MoU at a function held at SOA here. The MoU, which will be in force for five years from its signing, will facilitate collaboration in research with particular focus on development of drugs including anti-snake venom from natural products. It will also facilitate staff and student exchanges and curriculum development for both existing and future



programs. Prof. Mwenje was accompanied by Prof. Courtie Mahadi, Director, Research and Innovation, Prof. Mathew Mupa, Lead Researcher, Sodium Silicate Project, Mr. Tigere Chayamiti, Researcher, Development of Anti-snake Venom Drug and Mr. Daniel Chihombori, Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor. Prof. Mwenje later called on SOA Founder

President Prof. (Dr) Manojranjan Nayak and had exchange of views. The visiting team later went round some of SOA institutes and discussed with Deans and faculty members. Prof. Bijay Kumar Sahoo, Dean, SOA's faculty of agricultural sciences, Prof. Santosh Kumar Rout, Additional Dean, Mr. Pramod Kumar Panda, SOA's Chief Administrative

Officer, Prof. Nachieketa K. Sharma, Director, University Outreach Program, Prof. Goutam Rath and Prof. Pratap Kumar Sahu, Professors in the faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Prof. Sanghamitra Nayak, Head of Department of Biotechnology and Prof. Jagmohan Lal Gulati, Professor (Agronomy), were present during the signing of the MoU.




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AirAsia India offers 50% off International Connecting Baggage fees

National: AirAsia India announced a special offer of 50% off its International Connecting Baggage (ICB) fees, for bookings made till 30th June 2022. International Connecting Baggage fares are significantly lower than the standard excess baggage charges, enabling guests connecting from or to AirAsia India domestic flights to international flights on other airlines, as international flights typically have higher baggage allowances than domestic flights. Guests can pre-book ICB and choose from three excess baggage slab options of 8 kgs, 15 kgs or 30kgs,

in line with the predominant international baggage allowances of major international carriers. These can be pre-booked in addition to the 15 kg free check-in baggage allowance on standard fares. Flyers connecting to or from international flights from AirAsia domestic flights can now pre-book their excess baggage at the significantly discounted price of Rs100 per kg, compared to the standard excess baggage charges of Rs450 per kg for pre-booking excess baggage and Rs500 per kg excess baggage charges at the airport.

As AirAsia India also has special discounts and a 25 kg standard baggage allowances for students, now students traveling internationally can also carry additional baggage beyond 25 kgs at these discounted rates. ICB fees can be pre-booked up to 2 hours prior to the AirAsia domestic flight departure while booking, or while managing their booking or checking-in on airasia.co.in. Guests would be asked to show their international flight boarding pass at the time of check-in at the airport for an international flight within 24 hours of the AirAsia India flight.

CarDekhostrengthens Corporate Governance, appoints Parthasarathy V S as an Independent Director

New Delhi: CarDekho Group, India's leading auto-tech company has appointed Mr. Parthasarathy Vankipuram Srinivas as an Independent Director. The appointment is inline with the company's objective of strengthening its board and overall Corporate Governance within the CarDekho Group. The company is gearing up for its IPO (Initial Public Offering) in the next 12-14 months.

Partha (as Mr. Parthasarathy is fondly called) currently serves as the non-executive non-independent Vice-Chairman of Allcargo Logistics Limited, an Independent Director of recently listed Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), Imperial Auto

Industries Limited, IAI Industries Limited, Greencell Mobility Private Limited, and serves as Director of Rudi Multi Trading Company Limited, Kids Clinic India Limited (Cloudnine) and ECU Worldwide. He's a passionate social worker through his contribution to SEWA and Catalyst. He is also the Chairman Nominee on the Board of Governance at the National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE).

With 36+ years of experience in various globally reputed organizations across a wide range of sectors, Mr. Parthasarathy has built several high performing teams and businesses. Partha is a seasoned business leader and has worked with the



Mahindra Group in leadership position for more than two decades and with Xerox for 14 years. He's a Chartered Accountant from ICAI and ICAEW, UK, and an alumnus of Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program (2011).

Mr. Parthasarathy has received Lifetime Achievement Awards for his leadership roles like Business World - Yes Bank Hall of Fame

Award, Best CFO of India Award by IMA Corporate Excellence Awards, Digital Icon of India Award by Hewlett Packard Enterprise Company, and CIO 100 - Hall of Fame, amongst others.

He has, in the past, held several industry forum positions as a Chairman of Sustainable Council of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) - 2021,

President - Bombay Chamber of Commerce & Industry (2019-2020), Chairman of Association of Finance Profession of India (AFPI) (2015-2020), besides working closely with Ministry of Finance through CFO Board, and on global advisory boards for CISCO/ SAP. He continues to leverage his knowledge and experience for collaborative initiatives across different levels.

Amit Jain, Co-founder & CEO, CarDekho Group, said, 'We are delighted to have Parth join our board. His diversified rich experience will help us further strengthen corporate governance as we prepare for our IPO and the next phase of growth.'

Dreamfolks Services Limited gets SEBI nod for IPO

Dreamfolks Services Limited, India's largest airport service aggregator platform has received the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approval for its proposed initial public offering (IPO).

The company plans to offer up to 21,814,200 equity shares of face value Rs. 2 each through an offer for sale by the promoters and promoter group, through its initial public offering. The IPO will constitute 41.75% of the post offer paid-up equity share capital of the company.

Dreamfolks provides services to all the card networks operating in India including Visa, Mastercard, Diners/Discover and RuPay, and many of India's prominent card issuers including ICICI, Axis Bank, Kotak Mahindra,

HDFC and SBI Cards. DreamFolks acts as a vital link for banks and card networks for their credit & debit card sales and customer engagement programs. The

Company's technology platform enables users to access airport and railway lounges via bank-issued credit and debit cards. The asset-light business model targets and integrates card networks, card issuers and corporate clients, with various airport lounge operators, and other airport related service providers. Today, Dreamfolks Services Limited holds a dominant position in India with a share of over 95% of all India issued credit card and debit card access to airport lounges in Fiscal 2020. DreamFolks has

coverage across 50 lounges constituting 100% of India's Airport lounges across domestic and international airport terminals. As at December 31, 2021 through partnerships with various service providers, the Company has a global footprint extending to 121 countries including India.

The company facilitates consumers' access to airport related services like Lounges, Food and Beverage, Spa, Meet and Assist, Airport Transfer, Transit Hotels/Nap Room access, and Baggage Transfer.

Equirus Capital Private Limited and Motilal Oswal Investment Advisors Limited are the Book Running Lead Managers to the IPO.

NXTDIGITAL ENDS FY22 ON A PROFITABLE NOTE; POSTS GROWTH IN REVENUE AND EBIDTA

NXTDIGITAL Ltd., the media vertical of the global Hinduja Group announced its results for FY22 at its Board meeting today. The company is India's premier integrated digital platforms company, with a presence in digital television over cable, satellite (through India's only Headend-In-The-Sky or HITS service), broadband, content syndication and teleshopping.

On a consolidated basis, the company recorded a revenue of Rs

1,152.19 crores for the year ending March 31, 2022, as against a revenue of Rs 1,008.45 crores for the previous year, registering a growth of 14.3%. For the same period, on a consolidated basis, the company clocked Earnings before Interest, Depreciation, and Taxes (EBIDTA) of Rs 256.22 crores as against Rs 232.08 crores for the previous year registering a growth of 10.4%. The Revenue and EBIDTA for the year include Rs 69.30 crores and Rs 43.88 crores

respectively arising out of the "Real Estate" segment of the Company.

The consolidated Profit After Tax (PAT) for the year ending March 31, 2022, is Rs 1.91 crores as against a loss of Rs (13.90) crores in the previous year.

During the quarter ended March 31, 2022, the Company posted a consolidated revenue of Rs 344.55 crores as against 277.97 crores in the corresponding quarter of the previous year and Rs 264.21 crores in the immediately

preceding quarter. The Company clocked an EBIDTA of Rs 100.41 crores for the quarter as against Rs 67.54 crores in the corresponding quarter of the previous year and Rs 52.92 crores in the immediately preceding quarter. The Revenue and EBIDTA for the quarter include Rs 69.30 crores and Rs 43.88 crores respectively arising out of the "Real Estate" segment of the Company.

The Media & Entertainment segment recorded an EBIDTA of

Rs 56.53 crores for the quarter against Rs 52.92 crores in the immediately preceding quarter.

The Consolidated PAT for the quarter ending March 31, 2022 stood at Rs 84.46 crores as against Rs 13.92 crores in the corresponding quarter of the previous year and loss of Rs (26.57) crores in the immediately preceding quarter. The PAT for the quarter is inclusive of the profit from the "Real Estate" segment of the Company.

Bank of Baroda wins the Express BFSI Technology Awards

Mumbai: Bank of Baroda (Bank), one of India's leading public sector banks, was awarded the Express BFSI Technology Awards 2022 in two categories. bob World, the Bank's mobile banking platform, won in the Enterprise Mobility category and analytics-driven lending through the Bank's Digital Lending Platform was adjudged the best in the Analytics/Big Data category. Further, Bank of Baroda was also conferred with the prestigious Banking Frontiers' Finnoviti 2022 Award for bob World. Shri Akhil Handa, Chief Digital Officer, Bank of Baroda said, "The BFSI landscape has been going through a digital revolution for the last many years and at Bank of Baroda we are acutely mindful of the power of Digital in reshaping the industry. Transformative initiatives like bob World and the Bank's Digital Lending Platform (DLP) are key components of the Bank's digital ecosystem that helps the Bank in empowering our customers and employees." The bob World mobile banking ecosystem, launched in 2021, has over 20 million active users and offers 95% of the retail services of the bank. bob World is an all-in-one app that caters to the financial, non-financial, and lifestyle needs of the Bank's customers.

In the digital lending space, Bank of Baroda has built a Digital Lending Platform that makes extensive use of analytics and big data to understand customer behaviour, account information and past credit performance to offer pre-approved loans to customers in a seamless manner.

Ashok Leyland turns to Profit Truck Market Share crosses 30% after 2 1/2 Years

Chennai: Ashok Leyland Limited, flagship of the Hinduja Group, reported a revenue of Rs. 8744 Cr in Q4 FY'22 as against Rs. 7,000 Cr for the same period last year; Revenue grew by 25% year on year. PBT for the quarter was at Rs. 999 Cr as against Rs. 314 Cr for the same period last year. PAT was at Rs. 901 Cr as against a Rs. 241 Cr in Q4 last year. Q4 EBIDTA was at 8.9% as against 7.6% last year. AL's truck market share for Q4 FY'22 has improved to 30.6% vis-a-vis 28.9% in Q4 FY'21, this is the highest market share seen in the last 11 quarters. Revenue for full year was at Rs. 21688 Cr as against Rs. 15,301 Cr over the same period last year. PBT was Rs. 528 Cr as against a

Loss before tax of Rs. 412 Cr last year. PAT was at Rs. 542 Cr as against a Loss after tax of Rs. 314 Cr last year. Full year EBIDTA was at 4.6% as against 3.5% last year. Cash generated during the year was Rs. 1888 Cr; Debt net of cash is at Rs. 720 Cr (Gearing 0.1 time).

This performance was backed by the successful AVTR range - India's first modular truck platform and the launch of the CNG range in ICV's. The AVTR platform gives customers a choice to customize their truck as per their unique requirements. The platform has been delivering best-in-class total cost of ownership across segments which has been widely

appreciated by customers.

Despite the pandemic situation, Q4 MHCV & LCV exports at 4173 nos. have grown by 32% over Q4 last year (3,164 nos.). On a full year basis our export volumes at 11014 nos. is higher than last year (8,001 nos.) by 38%.

Mr. Dheeraj Hinduja, Executive Chairman, Ashok Leyland Limited said, "We have seen recovery in Q4 FY'22 and the overall performance has been very good. The CV industry is on a recovery owing to the improvement in the macroeconomic environment and healthy demand from the end-user industries."

Colgate Strong Teeth reminds us that good nutrition starts with Strong Teeth

Bhubaneswar: Colgate-Palmolive (India) Limited, the market leader in oral care, announced the new identity of India's biggest toothpaste brand—Colgate Strong Teeth with its latest campaign 'Daant Strong Toh Main Strong'. The brand puts the spotlight on the link between Strong Teeth and Nutrition and the significant role of the strength of teeth to chew all kinds of food to aid in better digestion, and hence the body absorbs better nutrition.

This is also the first time the brand showcases the nation's heartthrobs—Shahid Kapoor and Rana

Daggubati playing the role of new-age dads, deeply invested in their child's health. Where they effectively communicate the secret to their daughters' strength is strong teeth using Colgate Strong Teeth Toothpaste that helps replenish natural calcium in the teeth. The new Colgate Strong Teeth sports a contemporary packaging with a young girl as a symbol of strength and strong teeth.

Speaking on the new campaign, Mr. Arvind Chintamani, VP, Marketing, Colgate-Palmolive India said, "As Indians, we understand the importance of chewing

and have grown up with our parents asking us to chew our food 36 times before swallowing. However, what we often forget is that teeth are our first digestive organ and teeth need to be strong to get the best nutrition from food."

The brand has been committed to creating innovative products to evolving customer needs for over 8 decades with best-in-class products. The all-new CDC Strong Teeth is a simple switch to ensure you keep your smile healthy and strong. The toothpaste will be available in online and offline stores in a 100 g pack for Rs. 63, 200g for Rs 110, 500g pack for Rs 253.

TVS Motor Company launches the new TVS iQube Electric Scooter with a host of exciting features

Bengaluru: TVS Motor today announced the launch of the new TVS iQube Electric scooter in three avatars that come loaded with best-in-class on-road range of 140 km on a single charge. They will offer a host of intelligent connected features such as 7" TFT touchscreen and clean UI, infinity theme personalisation, voice assist and TVS iQube Alexa skillset, intuitive music player control,

OTA updates, fast charging with a plug-and-play carry along charger, vehicle health and safety notifications, multiple Bluetooth and Cloud Connectivity options, 32 litre storage space, and much more.

Backed by the steadfast and trusted TVS Motor's engineering capabilities, TVS iQube results from robust testing, ably complemented by well-established network

support, a relationship manager, and a holistic digital ecosystem.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. Sudarshan Venu, Managing Director, TVS Motor Company, said, "The launch of the new TVS iQube is a testament to our commitment of offering world-class EV technology with never-before intelligent and personalised connected experience. TVS Motor

has been investing in electric technologies for more than ten years now, and TVS iQube has provided thousands of our customers with an unparalleled electric riding experience. TVS Motor will continue to scale new benchmarks in connected mobility and EV with our innovations and advanced technology offerings."

Mr. Manu Saxena, Senior Vice President - Future Mobility, TVS

Motor Company, said, "The exciting all new TVS iQube series provides more choice to a large group of customers. The new TVS iQube series packs higher range plus multiple charging options and comes with class-leading display and UI options. Additionally, it is loaded with the new age connected features, applications and connected on-device experience.

Union Bank of India launched Union Access, a digital accessibility initiative

Mumbai: Union Bank of India announced the launch of Union Access, a digital accessibility initiative especially for the disabled and senior citizens on the 11th Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD) that was celebrated today.

With this initiative, Union Bank continues to reinforce its commitment to provide accessible

customer experience for senior citizens and persons with disabilities. The Global Accessibility Awareness Day was thus celebrated with the launch of host of new initiatives: 1. Unveiling of a booklet on "Inclusive Social Media" to integrate accessibility in bank's social media communications

2. E-Learning course on "General Awareness

on Disability, Inclusion and Accessibility" for all the staff members

3. Bank conducted mass awareness through social media quiz that was based on accessibility awareness.

With its efforts, Union Bank of India aims to meet the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) notified "Indian Standards on ICT Accessibility".

Siraj a leader, sets the tone with the ball: Adam Griffith

New Delhi: Royal Challengers Bangalore's bowling coach Adam Griffith was effusive in his praise for Mohammed Siraj, after the pacer led the way in the team's third win of the season, in Mohali on Thursday (April 20). Siraj picked four wickets to derail PBKS' chase after the visitors posted a chasable total of 174/4. At the end of it, Siraj donned the purple cap with 12 wickets in 6 games.

"He's one of the best in the world at the moment," Griffith said in the post-match press conference. "Even in the last game when 444 runs were hit, he went for 30. So it's not just today, he's been bowling really well

for the whole tournament and even before that. I think you saw how well he was bowling for India. He's our leader, he's the guy that sets the tone for us with the new ball and it is no coincidence that our PowerPlays have been so good with the ball so far this tournament," Griffith said. Siraj's potency on Thursday - and through the season - has been his excellent lengths. The average lengths for fast bowlers in this season has been at 6.8m while Siraj's average has been 8.5m as he's bent his back and used hard lengths to perfection. Griffith feels Siraj's success has been down to how well he has controlled his lengths.

"He's taken it (his bowling) to another level. What I think he's doing really well is he's controlling his lengths exceptionally well. He's not falling into the trap of thinking I've got to pitch the ball up to swing it. He's still swinging it from that really aggressive length that the batter can't get down and drive him. It's also his ability to get the ball into the right hander and go across to the left-hander as well as swinging the ball has been the showcase for him this year," Griffith said. Though Siraj has been flawless this season, RCB have struggled for consistency from the other pace options. Harshal Patel has



conceded in excess of 10-an-over in four of the five matches preceding Thursday's fixture, but did well against Punjab. He even picked the wicket of Jitesh Sharma

who was threatening to pull off a late heist. Griffith admitted his pacers haven't pulled off a 'complete performance' yet, but it isn't too far away.

"There's been a little bit of inconsistency. There have been days when the others have been good as well. I thought Harshal today was really good tonight, especially with

his finger getting caught in the turn there. He executed really well. He bowled the one full toss but apart from that he was very good tonight. We're working on that, just making sure their plans are really clear and whatever is required of the guys... we're still searching for that complete performance but I don't think it is far away," Griffith said. RCB could have a shot in the arm with the availability of Josh Hazlewood soon. The Aussie pacer was meant to be ruled out for the first half of the tournament but is already with the RCB group and has been working on his way back to full fitness. Griffith provided an

encouraging update on the Australian.

"He's stayed in Bangalore to continue his preparation," Griffith said. "He's going really well. He's got a couple of things that he needs to tick off for Cricket Australia to then sign off so then he's available to play. He's doing everything he possibly can to make sure he's good to go. I chatted to him briefly yesterday after his bowling, he was really positive. We'll get back tomorrow, assess how he's gone, he'll train again and we'll go from there." After a successful trip to Mohali, RCB head back home to host top-ranked Rajasthan Royals in the afternoon game on Sunday.

Ramiz Raja slams PCB for appointing Mickey Arthur as Director of Cricket

New Delhi: "A first of its kind coach/director of cricket picked to run Pakistan cricket remotely, whose loyalty is first with his county job than Pakistan cricket. This is as crazy as a clown in a village circus," Ramiz told Cricbuzz

"A first of its kind coach/director of cricket picked to run Pakistan cricket remotely, whose loyalty is first with his county job than Pakistan cricket. This is as crazy as a clown in a village circus," Ramiz told Cricbuzz © Getty Ramiz Raja tore into the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on the Mickey Arthur appointment and called it 'crazy as a clown in a village circus' stuff. On Thursday (April 20), the PCB confirmed the much-awaited appointment of the former coach as the Director of the Pakistan men's cricket team.

"A first of its kind coach/



director of cricket picked to run Pakistan cricket remotely, whose loyalty is first with his county job than Pakistan cricket. This is as crazy as a clown in a village circus," Ramiz told Cricbuzz, launching a scathing attack on the PCB. Ramiz (60) is a former Pakistan captain who was the head of the PCB board till recently. The PCB said Arthur (54) will be involved in designing, formulating and overseeing strategies

behind the Pakistan men's team but he will not be travelling with the team for all assignments as he is associated with Derbyshire County Cricket Club. "(He) will also be a part of the coaching staff for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, away tour to Australia and home series against the West Indies. He will also be present with the side for Pakistan's matches against India in the ACC Asia Cup," the PCB said.

"A PCB chairman who doesn't understand cricket, probably was not even good enough to make it to the XI in a club game, heads a cabal of political, petty minded club runners for a management committee to run Pakistan cricket affairs, who are on a Rs 12 lakhs a month salary," Raja (60), who played 57 Tests 198 ODIs and was part of the country's World Cup-winning side in 1992, further said. Najam Sethi is the current chairman of the PCB. Arthur is the head of cricket, Derbyshire county, which said the Pakistan assignment is "secondary to his commitments at the Incoara County Ground." "Derbyshire remains Mickey's main focus, however he continues to be an ambitious coach and having our Head of Cricket lead Pakistan in the ICC World Cup, as well as in international series", will be a great

opportunity for our Club to be represented on the world stage," Derbyshire Chief Executive Ryan Duckett, said adding, "Mickey was approached by the Pakistan Cricket Board over the Christmas period and he was always very open with the Club, contacting me immediately and committing to Derbyshire." A coach of Mickey's calibre will naturally attract attention; however, I am delighted by his continued dedication to his role, the group of players and the Club as a whole." Arthur signed a contract extension to remain with Derbyshire until the end of the 2025 summer. Arthur (54) held his first stint with the Pakistan team from 2016 to 2019 during which time he guided Pakistan to No.1 in Tests and T20Is, and also helped the side win the ICC Champions Trophy in 2017.

Feels like I've been dropped: Rumana Ahmed

New Delhi: Former skipper Rumana Ahmed claims that she has been dropped from the upcoming tour of Sri Lanka, rather than rested for it as it was conveyed by the Bangladesh Cricket Board.

Monjurul Islam, BCBen's team selector, told Cricbuzz that duo were rested as they wanted to manage their workload considering they have lot of international games coming up. "Certainly I feel like I've been dropped. Look when you give rest to someone certainly you discuss it with that cricketer," Rumana told Cricbuzz on Thursday. "It is entirely their (team management) thing what they have given me (rest or not) but they have not discussed with me so I felt (I am dropped)," she said.

"They have not discussed with me, like you sit out (from this series) or things like that, so I cannot say anything



at the moment (regarding their motive). I am saying what I am feeling but they (team management) know the rest," she added. The three ODIs of the series are scheduled to be held on April 29, May 2, and 4, respectively, at the P Sara Oval in Colombo before the T20I series on May 9, 11, and 12 at the SSC Ground in Colombo. Rumana was dropped from the national squad for the first time since her international debut back in November 2011 against Ireland at the BKSP.

Rumana, who played a crucial role behind

Bangladesh women's team maiden Women's Asia Cup win in Malaysia in 2018, added that she feels the seniors are not very welcomed in the dressing room.

"Look this is going on for long time (seniors are not welcomed) as the vibe is now time is for juniors and it is a natural thing in Bangladesh and it is nothing new," she said. "I think in our country, we are lacking when it comes to respecting seniors and you will see in other countries seniors are treated for their experience and there is not much talk about their fitness," she added.

DC clinch thriller to end three-week wait for first points

New Delhi: The Delhi Capitals finally got on the board after a three-week, sixth match wait, in front of their home crowd at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. After a spirited bowling performance from the home team, the batting got off to a flying start, with a flurry of boundaries from David Warner to set the tone, despite the regular fall of wickets at the other end. The wicket of Warner caused a panic, but eventually, the Capitals stumbled home and heaved a sigh of relief, earning themselves a long-awaited win.

The game began with a delayed toss due to rain in Delhi, finally taking place at 8:15PM IST, and the game beginning at 8:30PM IST, one hour after the scheduled start time. The Capitals,

looking to open their account, got off to a terrific start, picking up three wickets within the powerplay - opener Litton Das, recent centurion Venkatesh Iyer, and captain Nitish Rana, setting the visitors back rather early. Jason Roy, the other opener, remained in the middle, a little more circumspect than he would normally be because of the three early wickets.

After a shocking powerplay for the KKR, the Delhi Capitals continued to peg them back with spin, with Axar getting rid of Mandeep Singh and the dangerous Rinku Singh in quick succession, before Ishant Sharma got rid of Sunil Narine to end with impressive figures of 2 for 19 in 4 overs. Jason Roy, who continued his



circumspect stay at the crease, soldiered on, joined by Andre Russell at the crease, who played an uncharacteristic role in an attempt to rescue the innings.

It came late. Not only in this game, in the IPL, the Russell surge has taken its time to arrive. And arrive it did. After KKR were under the threat of being bundled out for less than a hundred, Russell farmed the strike until the final over, before carting Mukesh Kumar for three successive sixes, including a ludicrous 112-meter one that landed in the stands at deep square leg. It was a three-ball rescue act that got KKR from a meek 96-9 to a total of 127. However, defending the total would be a tall ask against the home team,

who gave themselves the best chance of getting on the points table with a terrific bowling performance. David Warner has a poor strike-rate this season. Warner has not hit a single six this season. He wouldn't hit a six in the powerplay either, but he would hit 10 fours by the time he reached 45 in this phase, including four fours off one over from the miserly Sunil Narine. However, at the other end, he lost partners in quick succession - Shaw succumbing to Chakravarthy, Marsh to Rana, and Phil Salt to Anukul Roy. They were already almost half-way to their target, but for a team who haven't secured a single point after five matches, a touch of paranoia isn't uncommon.

Warner was trapped in front by Chakravarthy, and it was the key wicket KKR were looking for. The effect was visible, as that over went on to be a wicket- maiden. Sunil Narine built the pressure in the next over, but a misfield from Russell let the Capitals off the hook. After the wicket of Pandey, Axar Patel and Lalit Yadav kept ticking the score over and finally got past the line in the last over to get Delhi their much-awaited two points.

Brief Scores: Kolkata Knight Riders 127 all-out in 20 overs (Jason Roy 43, Andre Russell 38*, Axar Patel 2-13, Kuldeep Yadav 2-15) lost to Delhi Capitals 128-6 (David Warner 57, Varun Chakravarthy 2-16, Nitish Rana 2-17, Anukul Roy 2-19) by 4 wickets.