

PRESIDENT OF INDIA PRESENTS BHOOMI SAMMAN 2023



New Delhi, (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu presented the "Bhoomi Samman" 2023 at a function organised by the Union Ministry of Rural Development in New Delhi today (July 18, 2023). The awards were received by State Secretaries and District Collectors along with their teams who have excelled in achieving saturation of the core components of Digital India Land Records Modernization

Programme (DILRMP). Speaking on the occasion, the President said that acceleration of rural development is essential for the overall development of the country. For the development of rural areas, modernization of land records is a basic requirement as the livelihood of most of the rural population is dependent on land resources. A comprehensive integrated land management system is of

utmost importance for the overall development of rural areas. The President said that digitization increases transparency. The modernization and digitization of land records would have a great impact on the development of the country. Digitization of land records and its linkages with various government departments would help in proper implementation of welfare schemes. It would also be of great

help in case of loss of documents due to calamities like flood and fire. The President was happy to note that under the Digital India Land Information Management System, a Unique Land Parcel Identification Number is being provided which could be useful like Aadhaar Card. She stated that this number would help in making proper use of the lands as well as forming and implementing new

welfare schemes. Linking of E-Courts with land records and registration data-base would have many benefits. The transparency that is coming from digitization would curb unethical and illegal activities related to land. The President said that access to land related information in a free and convenient manner would have many benefits. For example, it would help in resolving disputes related to ownership and use of land. She stated that a large population of our country is involved in disputes related to land and a lot of time of the administration and the judiciary is consumed in these matters. Through digitization and linkages of information, the energy of the people and institutions, which gets consumed in resolving disputes, would be utilized for development.

Opposition Meet Ends With 26 Parties Agreeing To Put Up United Fight Against BJP Under 'India' Banner



Bengaluru (KCN): The opposition meet in Bengaluru ended on Tuesday with sources saying it has been decided by all 26 parties to collectively contest against the BJP-led NDA under the banner of the "Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (India)". The 26 opposition parties have decided to give a new name to their alliance, which will be known as Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (India), Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said. "The war is now between India and NDA, Narendra Modi vs India, their ideology and India. No one is able to

fight the idea of India in the history," said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. While the leaders were giving further details of the deliberations, sources said that they have signed a pact in this regard over seat sharing and creation of state-wise committees. They discussed politics of hatred, the failures of Central government and raised their voices against the administration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as per the sources. Kharge tweeted: "I am happy that 26 parties are present in Bengaluru to work unitedly. Together, we are in government in 11 states today. The BJP

did not get 303 seats by itself. It used the votes of its allies and came to power and then discarded them. "The BJP President and their leaders are running from state-to-state to patch up with their old allies. They are scared that the unity they see here will result in their defeat next year. "Every institution is being turned into a weapon against the opposition. Our intention in this meeting is not to gain power for ourselves. It is to protect Democracy, Secularism and Social Justice. Let us resolve to take India back to the path of progress, welfare and true democracy."

Mega Meet Of 38 NDA Allies In Delhi Amid Opposition Huddle



New Delhi (KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi is chairing the BJP's mega gathering of 38 parties as the Opposition's meeting ended in Bengaluru with the announcement of its name - I.N.D.I.A. The meeting is underway at a five-star hotel in Delhi, where PM Modi greeted the partners of the "time-tested" alliance. Earlier in the day, PM Modi tweeted: "It is a matter of immense joy that our valued NDA partners from across India will be attending the meeting in Delhi today. Ours is a time-tested alliance which seeks to further national progress and fulfil regional aspirations." The leaders of the allies welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a massive garland. The grand meeting saw the leaders of 38

political parties descend on the capital city ahead of the general elections next year. Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde greeted PM Modi with a bouquet at the NDA leaders' meeting. Uddhav Thackeray, who heads the other faction of Shiv Sena formed after Eknath Shinde's shock rebellion, attended the Opposition huddle in Bengaluru. Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomes E Palaniswami, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and the current leader of opposition in the state Legislative Assembly. Mr Palaniswami's party, the AIADMK, is an important ally for the BJP, which doesn't have much presence in south India. Jitan Ram Manjhi, the chief of the Hindustani Awam Morcha Secular, attended the

meeting today. Mr Manjhi's party, unwilling to merge with Nitish Kumar's Janta Dal United, snapped ties with the ruling grand alliance in Bihar and joined the BJP-led bloc. N Biren Singh, the Chief Minister of Manipur - which is burning due to ethnic clashes between the Meiteis and the Kukis, was in the national capital for the grand meeting of the alliance. The violence-hit northeastern state is scrambling to restore peace as the Meiteis and the Kukis continue to fight the other over the Meitei's demand for Scheduled Tribes status. Chirag Paswan, the leader of the key faction of the Lok Janshakti Party who returned to the ruling National Democratic Alliance, hugged Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the meeting.

KISS Wins International Green Gown Awards 2023

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) has won 2023 International Green Gown Awards for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Sustainability. The prestigious award was presented at a ceremony as a part of the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development on July 17, 2023. KISS stood out as the sole NGO in India to be shortlisted for this distinguished category. Among the 93 finalists representing 25 countries, KISS was recognised as one of the 12 winners for its Project Uday - creating changemakers in tribal pockets. The International Green Gown Awards, supported by esteemed organisations such as the United Nations Environment Programme, the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), L'Agence universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), International Association of Universities (IAU), and Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI), celebrate and endorse the outstanding efforts of educational institutions worldwide in promoting sustainability. KISS rightly deserves the award as it has served as a shining example of impactful and innovative practices in sustainability.

Good News For Working Journalists! Odisha Govt Raises Health Insurance Coverage Limit To Rs 5 Lakh

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today escalated the ceiling of health insurance coverage meant for working journalists under the State government's Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana from the present limit of Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh, informed the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) in Bhubaneswar.

At least 8,717 journalists working in the State will benefit from this announcement. As per the provisions envisaged in the scheme, the insurance coverage is given to five members of a beneficiary journalist's family, including the spouse and three wholly dependent children up to the age of 25 years. It is pertinent to mention, the 'Odisha State Working Journalists Health

Insurance Scheme-2016' which was later implemented as 'Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana' is a welfare scheme. Beneficiaries of the scheme are renewed every year and it provides for indoor and outdoor treatments. The insurance comes with a cover of an amount as decided by the Government from time to time.

Odisha @ EPI 11

New Delhi (KCN): NITI Aayog released the third edition of the report titled 'Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2022' for States/UTs of India today placed Odisha in Eleventh Position. The report was released by Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Suman Bery. Throughout the post-pandemic era, Indian exports have proven their resilience by successfully navigating the challenges thrown up by the post pandemic supply-chain issues and geopolitical factors. To maintain this momentum, India aims to become a global export player by promoting States and further districts as export hubs. The EPI 2022 recognizes that by unlocking regional competitiveness and leveraging our innate diversity, India can



enhance its export potential. The Export Preparedness Index by NITI Aayog in association with the Institute for Competitiveness, delves deeper beyond states and examines exports at the

district level. The EPI 2022 report seeks to empower State governments with region-specific insights to assist decision-making, identify strengths, address weaknesses, and foster

comprehensive growth across States and UTs of India. The comparative analysis of export preparedness among States and UTs introduces a framework that fosters competitiveness within the country. This index empowers stakeholders to identify strategies and improve parameters that enhance its export competitiveness. It provides a comprehensive analysis for policy changes and the creation of a favourable export ecosystem using its data-driven approach. Consequently, this edition can serve as a catalyst for competitive federalism, elevating the export performance of every state and

contributing to the nation's overall development. It is important to note that each iteration of EPI has its own methodology and therefore does not offer itself to comparison across editions due to evolving factors. The report presents a comprehensive analysis of India's export performance in FY22, along with its sector-specific and district-level merchandise export trends. The EPI 2022 Report evaluates the performance of the states across four pillars - Policy, Business Ecosystem, Export Ecosystem, and Export Performance. The index uses 56 indicators which holistically capture the export preparedness of States and UTs in terms of exports at both the state and district-level.

SOA Completes 16 Years

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA), which completed 16 years of its existence as a top ranked Deemed to be University on Monday, will be introducing niche courses suitable for selected groups of professionals to further enhance their skill, knowledge and competence. The focus will be on micro-credentials, a short, competency-based recognition which would allow the learner to demonstrate mastery in a particular area, Prof. (Dr.) Amit Banerjee, Chancellor of SOA, said while releasing the second volume of 'SOAFAL MALA' — a compilation of 25 online lectures on popular topics delivered by eminent personalities in the SOA Fortnightly Academic Lecture

(SOAFAL) series during 2022-23. Stating that such courses were in vogue in the USA, Prof. (Dr.) Banerjee said students who had graduated from a university or institution could return to their alma mater to pursue such courses. The first volume of 'SOAFAL MALA', comprising 25 lectures, was published earlier. The speakers drawn from diverse fields including doctors, scientists, academicians, social activists, spiritual leaders, diplomats and administrators had delivered the lectures on different topics. Prof. (Dr.) Ashok Kumar Mahapatra, Principal Advisor to SOA on Health Sciences, who had conceived the idea of fortnightly lecture series



when he was the Vice-Chancellor of the university, Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda, Vice-Chancellor of SOA and Prof. Nachieketa K. Sharma, Director, University Outreach Program and Editor of the commemorative volumes, were present. Prof. Vijay Sakhuja, former Director of National Maritime

Foundation, New Delhi, who was present at the book release event, further elaborated on micro-credentials saying it was an academic instrument which could potentially enhance the vertically specialized knowledge obtained by business professionals. Those in administrative services and entrepreneurs could return back to academia

and learn special skills which could help them to excel in the field they were engaged in, he said. The more suitable destinations for such activity should be their alma mater— university or institution— which would offer them conducive environment in terms of academic life and professional

development, Prof. Sakhuja, who had delivered the first SOAFAL lecture of the third series on Integrated National Maritime Studies, said. Prof. Banerjee said the third cycle of SOAFAL was focusing on Integrated Maritime Studies. He said SOA had been ranked the 15th best university in the country this year but

it could not rest on its laurels and should move forward. Three other eminent persons, Prof. Harihar Panda, former Professor of National Defence Academy, Prof. Ajit M. Srivastava, former Professor at the Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar and Dr. Subhendu Patnaik, former Director of the Pathani Samanta

Planetarium at Bhubaneswar, who were among SOAFAL speakers, also addressed the gathering. Prof. Nanda, in his concluding remarks, hailed the SOAFAL initiative saying it was enabling the students and faculty to expand their horizon. Prof. Sharma welcomed the guests and outlined the SOAFAL initiative.

BOI's 22nd international branch

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit



Bank of India – a major public sector bank with a significant international presence recently opened IFSC SEZ Banking Unit and NRI help centre in our foreign Exchange back office cell in Gift city – Gandhinagar capital of Gujarat today. It was inaugurated by the Bank of India's MD & CEO Rajneesh Karnatak in the presence of the Bank's Executive Director Swarup Dasgupta and Executive Director of IFSCA – Pravin Trivedi. Rajneesh Karnatak, MD & CEO, BOI said: "The launch of the IFSC Banking Unit and NRI Help Centre is a significant milestone in Bank of India's journey to becoming a global bank. The Bank aims to touch a business of USD 4 billion with equal distributions of advances and deposits in the subsequent three years by March 2027 through its IFSC banking unit at GIFT City." The BOI IBU has the twin advantage of being situated in India, providing the benefit of the time zone window for its counterparts located globally with competitive pricing & quick processing from an experienced team. In GIFT City BOI will cater to the business of foreign corporations coming to India for business. Through the IBU the bank will provide a range of global banking solutions. On the loan side, it will give External Commercial

Borrowings, Trade Finance Facilities, Foreign Currency Loans and Syndication Loans. The IBU will provide services, such as External Commercial Borrowing (ECBs), Trade Finance Facilities, Foreign Currency Loans, Syndication Loans

lender also has a joint venture with the government of Zambia. While addressing the gathering at the time of inauguration of IFSC Banking unit and NRI Help center, Mr. Karnatak reiterated BOI's commitment to providing superior, proactive banking

Gross and net NPAs are at the lowest, if you compare with the previous five years. He reiterated BOI's commitment to providing superior, proactive banking



(Origination, Underwriting and Distribution), Foreign Currency deposit account -Current and Term Deposits, besides offering digital banking facilities through transaction-based Internet Banking facility, to various clients allowed as per IFSCA guidelines. Bank of India has a presence in 15 foreign countries through 21 foreign branches, 4 foreign subsidiaries, one joint venture, and one Representative office. The bank's overseas branches contribute around 15% mix business to its Global Deposits and 16% to its Global Advances. BOI has branches in New York, San Francisco, Paris, Singapore, etc. and subsidiaries in countries like New Zealand, Uganda, Tanzania, and Indonesia. Besides, the

services to niche markets globally while providing cost-effective, responsive service to customers in its role as a truly international bank. We are confident of achieving \$1 billion in business by March 2024 and \$4 billion in the subsequent three years," said Rajneesh Karnatak, MD& CEO of the bank at the inauguration ceremony. Karnatak further added that the IBU has the advantage of tax heaven for 10 years, lower cost of operation, compared to overseas operations, besides easier regulations for lending to corporates in foreign currencies as there is a unified regulator. Speaking about the performance of the banking sector in India, the BOI MD has rightly said that "The banking system in India is in a sweet spot at present. Banks are doing well.

customers in its role as a truly international bank. The NRI Help Centre will provide comprehensive support and services to NRI customers. The Centre will be staffed by trained officers who will assist people with a wide range of needs and customer support. The NRI Help Centre will have a dedicated team of officers working in shifts from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm. It will ensure extended support to NRIs across different time zones. A recorded ISD Telephone line +91 79 6924 1100 and a dedicated email ID FEBONRI@bankofindia.co.in has been established for any assistance. This Centre will also assist the bank's branches in resolving issues faced by NRI customers during branch visits.

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'Bigg Boss OTT 2' Day 30 Written Updates: Elvish Gets In Verbal Spat With Falaq, Avinash

'Bigg Boss OTT 2' house was converted into a free medical camp today where Abhishek, Jiya, and Avinash were made doctors who tested the other contestants and were given hilarious punishments. Abhishek and Jiya choose Elvish as their permanent patient and the YouTuber played well as a sport. Avinash chooses Aashika Bhatia as his permanent student, who needs physiotherapy, and the starlet gets a cold shower. Aashika gives savage replies to Avinash and receives applause from Manisha, Abhishek, and Elvish. As per the punishment, Aashika enjoys it and acts as a sport as well. Later, Aashika and Avinash get into an ugly spat on a



'towel.' Abhishek and Manisha side with Aashika on the towel issue. Aashika stands strong and argues full-on with Avinash and the housemates are shocked. In a shocking turn of events, Falaq openly denied Avinash's proposal

and said that she is not in a 'relationship' place and wants to settle down as soon as possible. She even said that she might not keep communication with the rest outside of the BB house and this shocked Avinash as well as Jiya. Later, Avinash was seen

calming Falaq down and saying that her mood swings do not affect his feelings and he really wants to see where this goes. Pooja Bhatt is still upset with last night's events and is maintaining distance from everyone but Bebika

in the house. Manisha takes permission from Falaq to flirt with Avinash, the actress gives her a green signal and the fun banter starts. Manisha's entertainment button gets switched on and both share a passionate hug. Bebika

and Falaq call it 'the new entertainment angel.' On the other hand, Manisha makes a plan with Elvish and Abhishek, asks Elvish to flirt with her so that Bebika proposes him. Bebika again drops the 'flirting with men' bomb about Manisha. Elvish and Abhishek talk about doing their chores, Avinash jumps in between. Elvish and Avinash yet again get into an argument. The 'Shysstem' continues! Falaq takes charge and argues with Elvish, and both get into an ugly spat. Elvish even refuses the assistant duties given by Avinash and things get ugly, again. Abhishek calms Elvish down and tells him to tone it down a little with the ladies of the house.

Nani's 'Dasara' Sets Get Authentic Touch From Director's Own Life

Tollywood actor Nani starrer 'Dasara' will be his first pan-India project and the team has been sparing no effort to make it stand out. Interestingly, the film's writer and director Srikanth Odela brought expert detailing to the sets and its intricacies since his father was a worker in the Singareni coal mines, lending an extra layer of authenticity to the story and the visuals. A massive set spread across 25 acres was built, recreating the world of coal mining. Close to 300 junior actors apart from the primary and supporting cast were present on the set every day and at times over 2000 artists and technicians filled the set on crucial days. The film was shot across 120 days amidst the dust and



grime, with most days clocking in a 24-hour schedule. Additionally an entire village set was also created complete with all amenities for those working on the film. If that wasn't all, an

elaborate train track was also built on the set through which trains would run, creating an entire world just for 'Dasara' across these 25 acres. Director Srikanth Odela says, "I envisioned

'Dasara' to be raw and real and we are so happy to bring that authenticity to audiences across the country. A massive set was constructed from scratch with a coal mine setup, a village setup, a railroad and thousands of

artists and technicians would be present on our bustling sets for days on end. We had created our own little world for Dasara, so as to offer audiences an unforgettable cinematic experience."

'Dasara' takes audiences through the socio economic condition, political ambition and power struggle of the Singareni collieries. Stepping into the shoes of Dharani, a hustler driven by his ambition and love, South superstar Nani in this action-packed entertainer grapples with the village's best kept secrets. Produced by Sudhakar Cherukuri, 'Dasara' stars Nani, Keerthy Suresh, Dheekshith Shetty, Shine Tom Chacko, Samuthirakani, Sai Kumar. Written & Directed by Srikanth Odela with music by Santhosh Narayanan and cinematography by Sathyan Sooryan Isc, the film is all set for its big nationwide release on March 30.

'The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes' First Look Out, To Release On November 17

The wait is finally over as the cult-favorite series, The Hunger Games, is back! Lionsgate has officially announced that the highly anticipated prequel The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes will be released this year on November 17. Lionsgate unveiled the official teaser poster of the film announcing its worldwide theatrical release, creating excitement amongst fans globally. With a brand new cast including Tom Blyth, Rachel Zegler, Peter Dinklage Hunter Shaefer, Josh Andrés Rivera, Jason Schwartzman, and Viola Davis among others, this highly coveted film is ready to set screens ablaze. As a 'tribute' to The Hunger Games lovers, the film will see 18-year-old Coriolanus Snow (Tom Blyth) be the last hope for his failing lineage, as the once-proud Snow family has fallen from grace in a post-war Capitol. He will be battling his instincts for both good and evil, as he sets out on a race against time to survive and reveal if he will ultimately become a songbird or a snake.

This prequel will also explore the dystopian world of districts during the 10th Hunger Games. Known for its subdued political messaging and riveting storyline, The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes promises to tap into the nostalgia of its earlier films and delve into the rise of the Capital.

Talking about the poster and the official announcement of The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes, Rohit Jain, Managing Director, Emerging Markets Asia, Lionsgate said, "With John Wick: Chapter 4 hitting it out of the park, we are excited to announce the global theatrical release date of The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes. Lionsgate and PVR Pictures 2023 will release The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes in theaters in India on November 17th, 2023.

Inside Ram Charan's Pre-Birthday Bash With Kiara Advani On The Sets Of 'RC 15'

As actor Ram Charan is about to turn a year older on March 27, the cast and crew of 'RC 15' surprised the 'RRR' star with a pre-birthday bash on Saturday. The pictures and video from the pre-birthday celebrations have surfaced online. Several pictures and videos capturing the pre-birthday celebrations on 'RC 15' sets went viral. In the first picture, Ram can be seen heading to the sets while rose petals are showered on him. He can be seen wearing a blue shirt and denim. Director S Shankar, choreographer-actor Prabhu Deva and Kiara Advani were also part of the celebrations. The actor cut his cake which was covered with rose petals along with S Shankar. Sharing the pictures, Ram Charan's fan page captioned it, "It's a wrap for the song!



Team #RC15 celebrated Idol @alwaysramcharan's Birthday!" The actor will be turning a year older on March 27 but celebrations have already begun. Earlier, after attending the 95th Academy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles, Ram received a grand welcome from choreographer-director Prabhu Deva and his team on the sets. Taking to Instagram, Ram Charan posted a

video of Prabhu Deva and a team of 'RC15' performing on 'Naatu Naatu' to welcome the actor. He was also presented with a massive garland made of marigolds. Sharing the video, he wrote, "Can't thank you all enough for such a warm welcome. Our Grandmaster @prabhudevaofficial sir thank you for the sweet surprise. Feels great to be back at shoot #RC15." The film 'RC15', billed as an action drama with current-day politics,

features an ensemble cast, with Kiara playing the female protagonist. The upcoming project is jointly produced by Dil Raju and Shirish Garu under the banner of Sri Venkateswara Creations for a Pan-India release. 'RC 15' will release in three languages - Telugu, Tamil and Hindi. Apart from Ram Charan and Kiara Advani, the film also stars SJ Suryah, Jayaram, Anjali, and Srikanth. The film is slated to release in 2023.

Why Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru infrastructure is in tatters



Barely two months before New Delhi has to host prestigious G-20 summit that would be attended by head of states of 20 most powerful nations of the world, the national capital is in tatters due to flood in river Yamuna and heavy rains. If the flood waters have entered the houses of rich and poor, the water logging across the capital have exposed the callous attitude of all those who are supposed to look after the civic affairs of the city. Imagine the flood waters of Yamuna have entered the plush houses of rich and famous in Civil Lines area. This place is at a shouting distance of the official residence of Delhi's Chief

Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Even the Managing Director of famous Sadhna TV Rakesh Gupta and his family was saved by the jawans of NDRF as the gushing flood waters have entered his spacious house. Luckily, NDRF jawans took Gupta's family in boats to safe place. Shocked Rakesh Gupta, who is also a well-known TV personality, says, "It was an life time experience for him and his entire family as the flood waters have swiftly entered his basement and first floor of my house." Rakesh Gupta was feeling sorry for all those who have lost everything due to floods. Surely, the worst part of current crisis in Delhi is that despite such a serious scenario where lakhs of people were facing tough time, the AAP-led Delhi government and the BJP dispensation are locked in a blame-game over cause of

flood. Delhi's Flood and irrigation control minister Saurabh Bharadwaj claimed that despite receiving several letters from the Delhi government, the Haryana government did not hand over the control of the ITO Barrage to it. "BJP has been continuously lying. After seven days, its government in Haryana has accepted that it controls ITO Barrage. Now after getting exposed, BJP has found a new excuse that the Delhi government did not maintain the barrage," alleged Bharadwaj. Denying the charges of Delhi's minister, Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar said Delhi couldn't "defame" his state with such allegations. Of course, this blame-game is not good. It is neither in the interest of humanity, nor the two states or the country. Meanwhile, all those who look after the affairs of our cities must look within and ask: Why our cities are not

worth living? As they offer jobs, people from small towns to villages throng big cities to earn their livelihood.



We have seen almost all the major cities like Mumbai, Gurugram, Hyderabad, Chennai and Bengaluru flooding in the monsoon season. This is alarming state of affairs. We have to accept that this situation is happening because we are not

prepared to handle the amount of rainfall or floods. With global warming, the southern peninsula will get more

pass certain laws to manage this. For example, we think the pavements on which we walk must all be concrete. No, it can be done in such a way where there is a stabilized surface and at the same time enough spaces for rain water to sink into the land. This needs to happen.

In both Delhi and Chennai, people have built their homes on the river bank, on the floodplains, and they get washed away after one big rain. In a year, it is again dry and people have already forgotten about it and build something again. In Delhi, even the government has built huge housing projects, transport department offices and temples.

And if we talk about Gurugram, one feels like shedding tears. Also known as the Millennium City, it is full of major IT, Finance and Banking sector companies of the world and thousands of professionals from other countries live there.

Spare a thought that what impression they would make for the town planners of India as the so-called modern city cripples as and when there is a heavy rain.

It is high time that Indian town planners make our cities live able.

India is urbanising rapidly. According to the World Bank, approximately 35 percent of the country's population lives in urban areas. This figure is expected to increase—projections by the UN indicate that by 2050 more than 50 percent of India's population will be urban. However, contemporary Indian cities are plagued by problems such as inadequate housing, unequal access to sanitation and water services, and poor public health. If we expect our cities to adequately serve their residents, they need much better infrastructure. What sort of

infrastructure do India's cities really need? Surely, we have to create infrastructure in our cities that are long lasting and people's friendly. We do not afford our bridges to crumble within couple of years of inauguration and roads sink in rainy weather. In the last couple of months, we have read news related to collapse of bridges often. Now even yet to be inaugurated bridges are crashing down. A 206-metre-long bridge constructed over river Burhi Gandak came crashing down in Begusarai district couple of month back in Bihar. The bridge, constructed at a cost of over Rs 13 crore. This speaks volumes about corruption that has seeped in our system. One must fight the menace of corruption without any delay. Unless we root out it, we cannot expect to create world class infrastructure. Till then we cannot make our cities worth living.

The Author is a Delhi based columnist and former Editor

A JUDGE IS FREE TO ERROR WITHIN HIS JURISDICTION, BUT NOT OTHERWISE



It is a fundamental principle of law that a Court is free to error within its jurisdiction and, howsoever erroneous its decision is, it could be final and binding. Dhananjay Chatterjee, a poor and young watchman, was found guilty of murder and sentenced to death by a Sessions Court in West Bengal. The Supreme Court confirmed the verdict. The President of India rejected his mercy petition and he was hanged. A lawyer friend of mine, who represented Dhananjay, told me that Dhananjay was falsely implicated in the case and the President rejected his mercy petition only because the public opinion mobilized by the wife of the then Chief Minister of West Bengal left His Excellency with no other option. Octogenarian hangman Nata Mullick, who was always proud of the unpleasant duty which he was called upon to perform and who carried out his last hanging by executing Dhananjay Chatterjee, was devastated because he was convinced that he was executing an innocent man and cried after completing the job at the Alipur Central Jail.

2. From a strict point of law, even assuming that Dhananjay was innocent, hanging him meant no illegality because a judicial decision is always treated as truth – *judicium semper pro veritate accipitur* – a judgment is always taken for truth – otherwise there would be no finality of litigation and it is in public interest to end all litigations. On the other hand, supposing that no trial was conducted, no

forum for appeal ever existed and, instead of the trial Court and the appellate Court, namely, the High Court, the Supreme Court under Article 136 of the Constitution were to appoint a Committee of, say, three retired High Court Judges, all persons of exceptional integrity, ability and competence, and were to report to the Supreme Court whether Dhananjay had committed murder and assuming that the said Committee, after taking evidence from witnesses, found him guilty and awarded him death sentence, such a judgment is one rendered void ab initio because the Supreme Court had no jurisdiction to substitute itself for the trial Court, the fact-finding authority, and the appellate Court, the High Court.

3. I am constrained to make the above comparison in the light of the judgment of the Supreme Court in the Maradu case ordering demolition of four buildings for alleged violation of CRZ-III. If the Supreme Court was acting upon as a Court of appeal against the decision of the Maradu Panchayat ordering demolition of the buildings, which had become final, authoritative and binding inasmuch as all the authorities below, namely, the Tribunal, the Single Judge and the Division Bench of the Kerala High Court confirming the order of demolition, then it would have been well within the province of the Supreme Court to order demolition because the Court is free to err within its jurisdiction. It is said *res judicata facit ex albo nigrum, ex nigro album, ex curvo rectum, ex recto curvum* – a thing adjudged makes what was white, black; what was black, white; what was crooked straight; what was straight, crooked.

4. That *res judicata pro veritate accipitur* – a matter which has been tried

and adjudicated should be accepted as true – is a fundamental principle of law. Stated in simple words, a judicial decision, whether right or wrong, is final and binding between the parties to the lis or *res inter alios acta alteri nocere non debet* – things done between strangers ought not to injure those who are not parties to them – a decision in a case between A and B will not bind C and D who were not parties to it. Even the concept of judgment in rem, namely, a judgment binding on all persons, whether they are parties to those proceedings or not, and a judgment in personam, meaning a judgment binding only between the parties to the lis only, has a limited application in the sense that whether a judgment of a Court has altered the status of a party to the proceeding, that will be binding on the rest of the world, for instance, where a suit between husband and wife seeking divorce is rejected, such a judgment is a judgment in personam binding only between the parties thereto and in a case where divorce is granted, the parties can enter into a marriage with A and B whose marriage the Court has dissolved. In the SLP before the Supreme Court in the Maradu case, none of the home buyers was a party. If the Supreme Court were to allow the plea of the Kerala Government against the order of the Kerala High Court quashing the show cause notice issued by the Municipality, all that it could have done within the framework of law was to allow the Municipality to proceed in furtherance of the show cause notice which it had issued. But the Court, instead, ordered demolition of the flats/buildings, which meant the flat owners being thrown out of their homes and their homes being reduced to rubbles.

5. The Supreme Court has no jurisdiction to

pass such an order because in the appeal before it the only controversy involved was whether or not the Corporation/Municipality was right or wrong in issuing the show cause notice alleging violation of CRZ. I am told that the Court probably noticed this aspect and even had suggested remanding the matter to the High Court to determine the issue after affording an opportunity of hearing to the flat owners. What made the Court to deviate from this judicial procedure, which it is bound to follow, was the Kerala floods of 2018. With utmost respect, I beg to submit that the Court was swayed by emotion. It went on to assume that the unprecedented flood of 2018 was because of structures which have been built in violation of CRZ norms, a total misconception.

6. It is unfair to blame the Court, except to say that the Court allowed itself to be swayed by considerations of environmental concerns, knowing not and not being told the ground reality that the buildings in question have nothing to do with the 2018 floods. At Maradu, where the buildings are situated, the water level did not rise even by an inch during the floods. On the contrary, these buildings provided shelter and rehabilitation to thousands of people whose houses were sunk or swept away in the floods. The floods could be due to climate change, but nobody knows the exact reason for certain. Even if it is due to climate change, that is because the Americans, Europeans and Chinese use fossil fuel because millions and millions of evergreen forests in Brazil and Africa are destroyed for farming. It is said, in the days of Noah (Bible) there were unprecedented floods in which almost the entire lives were perished. About

100 years before, according to Malayalam calendar era in 1099, there was yet another unprecedented flood with the Munnar town at 5,000 feet above sea level being entirely washed away. (In the said flood) The Periyar River changed its course resulting in the death of hundreds and thousands of people. The Supreme Court cannot be blamed for proceeding on such a misconception, something entirely extraneous in the adjudication of the appeal before it wherein only one issue fell for consideration, namely, whether or not the High Court was right in quashing the show cause notice. Nobody told the Court that it has no jurisdiction to substitute itself for the fact-finding or appellate authorities under the Municipality Act, the appellate authority contemplated being a judicial Tribunal.

7. In a constitutional democracy as ours, people are sovereign. The sovereign power of the people to frame policies and enact laws for the implementation of the policies is executed through their elected representatives. The executive Government is accountable to the people through their elected representatives for its every action, every deed, nay, every moment. The function of the judiciary is to adjudicate the disputes between citizens and citizens, citizens and State and State and State; it has no power to legislate; the province of the judiciary is to declare/interpret law and not to make it, except in the interstice, to fill in gaps. By its judgment and order dated 8th May, 2019 the Supreme Court ordered demolition of the buildings, entertaining a Writ Petition by the affected parties a Vacation Bench of the Court stayed

operation of the said judgment, directing the case to be listed before the Bench headed by Hon'ble Shri Justice Arun Misra. The Bench headed by Hon'ble Shri Justice Arun Misra did not take kindly the action on the part of the affected parties moving before the Vacation Court and securing an interim order. It did not mince words and by order dated 6.9.2019 directed the Chief Secretary of the State to remain present in the Court to explain as to why the flats/buildings were not demolished. On 23rd September, 2019 Shri Harish Salve represented the State Government. The Bench, in manifest conflict with the fundamental principle that the province of the Court is that of an adjudicator (a Judge) and not an actor or executive, demanded why its orders were not complied with. Neither the Chief Secretary nor Shri Harish Salve uttered a word, which they could have in all humility and with utmost respect to the Court, that enforcement of the provisions of the Municipal Act, which would also take within its ambit compliance of the CRZ norms, is in the exclusive province of the Government. They failed to bring to the notice of the Court, for, none did it before even in the curative petition settled by 'eminent' lawyers, that Section 406 of the Kerala Municipality Act, which empowers its Secretary to order demolition and also provides for the person aggrieved to seek regularization, it is open to the Government to regularize and in case it declines to do so, the party aggrieved can challenge the said order before the judicial Tribunal created under the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act. It appears that the Chief Secretary was mortally afraid of being hauled up for contempt and wanted to save his

skin. He accordingly undertook to come forward with a plan of action on demolition. The case was accordingly adjourned for further hearing to 27th September, 2019.

8. The Court, it seems, was under the erroneous impression that demolition of the buildings, which suffer from no structural or other defects, is for securing the lives and limbs of the flat owners. However, the Chief Secretary and Shri Salve failed to bring to the notice of the Court that no threat to the lives and limbs of the residents could even be remotely thought of; that the buildings are sound and safe and that their demolition would mean waste of valuable assets, in the construction of which tons of cement, sand, steel, wood, marble and great amount of human labour have been utilized, the destruction of which would cause enormous environmental damage, health hazard, mental agony and air pollution to thousands of people in and around the buildings, literally to every sane and right-thinking people of the State, except those who are sadistic, destructive and negative in their approach. Neither the chief secretary nor Shri Salve brought it to the notice of the Court that the people of Kerala in social media and otherwise compare the demolition of the buildings as the act of the mythical Naranathu Branthan (a person with least mental balance, a character in Malayalam folklore, who was considered to be a divine person, who pretended to be mad. His chief activity consisted of rolling a big stone up a hill and then letting it fall back down). They believe that the structures could be utilized for medical

college, educational institutions or housing for thousands of people who are rendered homeless in the natural calamities occurred in the State of Kerala continuously for two years or for thousands of migrant labourers who live in extremely inhuman conditions. To allow the demolition to happen, which comes close on the heels of the decision of the Supreme Court in Sabarimala case, which has caused enormous pain and agony to millions of devotees of Lord Ayyappa living in different parts of the world, and in the factional fight between the Patriarch faction and the Orthodox faction where the Patriarch faction is on the roads, would certainly lead to erosion of the faith and esteem of the Keralites in the Supreme Court as the ultimate Temple of Justice.

9. To err is human and Judges are humans. Keralites, the most literate people of the country and generally at least one member of their family is settled abroad, though are deeply pained by the decision of the Supreme Court in the Maradu case, still repose their utmost faith in the institution of judiciary. They hope, pray and trust that the Supreme Court will hear the flat owners, undo the injustice caused and render them justice. With utmost respect, nobody can brush aside the grievance that the flat owners are denied a patient hearing because the review petitions were all heard and dismissed in Chambers and when the case was listed for hearing on 27th September, 2019 the Court, with utmost respect, showed little patience to hear them.

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

Eastern Haematology Group organizes 'Eastern India Blood, Marrow & Cellular Therapy Meet 2023' in Kolkata

More than 150 doctors consisting of Haematologists & Haemato-Oncologists, Medical Oncologists, and supporting staffs associated with BMT attended the conference, including Odisha

Kolkata / Bhubaneswar(KCN) : EHG (Eastern Haematology Group) organised the 'Eastern India Blood, Marrow & Cellular Therapy Meet 2023' (EIBMCT Meet 2023) on Bone Marrow Transplant in Kolkata. It was a first of its kind Conference organized by Eastern Haematology Group in Eastern and North-Eastern India. EHG is an organization which consists of Haematologists and Haemato-Oncologists from 12 states of Eastern and North-Eastern India, including Odisha. More than 150 doctors consisting of Haematologists & Haemato-Oncologists, Medical Oncologists,

BMT Physicians, Nursing Staff, Transfusion Medicine Specialists, Scientists and other supporting staffs associated with BMT attended the conference to share their knowledge, experience and expertise to consolidate BMT practice and discuss about futuristic planning on BMT in Eastern and North-Eastern India. The Inaugural Programme was attended by: Prof. (Dr.) Debasish Bhattacharyya (Director of Medical Education, Govt. of West Bengal); Prof. (Dr.) Pit Baran Chakraborty (Principal, NRS Medical College, Kolkata); Prof. (Dr.) Rajib De (Organising Secretary, EIBMCT



2023); Dr. Sharmila Chandra (President, EHG); Prof. (Dr.) Rabindra Kumar Jena (Secretary, EHG); Prof. (Dr.) Tuphan Kanti

Dolai (Secretary, ISHBT). Prof. (Dr.) Rajib De, Organising Secretary, EIBMCT Meet 2023, said, "I would like to

thank all the participating members from different parts of East and North East India. As we know, Bone Marrow Transplant is

curative treatment for most of the life threatening haematological disorders like leukemia, other blood cancers,

thalassaemia and other inherited blood disorders, aplastic anaemia and other bone marrow failure disorders. This is a very sophisticated and curative mode of therapy performed in few centers of Eastern India. EIBMCT Meet 2023 on Bone Marrow Transplant will set a platform in bringing revolution in BMT practice. Today EIBMCT Meet 2023 not only witnessed scientific discussion on different aspects of BMT, but it also brought together all the centers across Eastern India which presented their institutional experience followed by detail futuristic plan for collaborative activities to consolidate BMT practice in this region of

India." The 13 BMT centers from West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Assam and Chhattisgarh which participated in the conference were: 1) NRS Medical College; 2) IHTM-Medical College Kolkata; 3) Tata Medical Centre; 4) Apollo Multispecialty Hospital; 5) Narayana Superspecialty Hospital; 6) Saroj Gupta Cancer Centre & Research Institute; 7) HCG EKO Cancer Center; 8) SCB Medical College, Cuttack; 9) IMS & SUM Hospital, Bhubaneswar; 10) Paras HMRI Hospital, Patna; 11) Gauhati Medical College & Hospital, Guwahati; 12) B Baruah Cancer Institute, Guwahati 13) Balco Medical Center, Raipur.

INDIAN ARMY CONDUCTED AGNIVEER OUTREACH PROGRAMME AT ITI, GALZOO, KUPWARA KASHMIR



Handwara Jk, (Aasif Malik): The Agniveer Recruitment scheme of the Indian Army was introduced in Jun 2022 and has been extensively promoted for the youth to know its benefits and procedure of enrolment. Indian Army propagating it's aim of youth empowerment conducted an outreach programme for the Agnipath recruitment scheme of

the Armed forces. To achieve the objective of maximum outreach of the scheme and to enroll technically adept and skilled soldiers into the folds of the Armed forces an outreach activity was conducted at Industrial Training Institute, Kupwara. Target audience being the final term students of ITI undergoing various courses at the institution

were given a detailed address on the benefits of the scheme and method of enrolment by technically qualified officers of the Indian Army. Staff and students of ITI enthusiastically participated in the interaction clearing various queries about the scheme and were motivated to consider Armed forces as a career option.

Jailed Tamil Nadu Minister, His Wife Approach Supreme Court Over Arrest Order

New Delhi: Tamil Nadu Minister V Senthil Balaji and his wife Megala have filed two separate petitions in the Supreme Court challenging the July 14 order of the Madras High Court by which it upheld his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case.

Besides upholding the arrest of the minister, the high court had also held as valid his subsequent remand in judicial custody by a sessions court in the money laundering case arising out of the alleged cash-for-jobs scam in the state's transport department when he was the transport minister.

He continues to be a minister without portfolio in the Tamil Nadu cabinet. Balaji, in his petition, said, "The very arrest and the remand order were both illegal and contrary to law. As such the impugned judgements upholding the same are liable to set aside."

Kalaagan of USA honours living musical legend of Odisha Pandit Dr. Gopal Panda with " Ratnaalok Samman" in Kolkata

Kolkata (Partha Roy): Kalaagan of United States of America honours living musical legend of Odisha Guru Dr. Gopal Panda with " Ratnaalok Samman" on 17th July 2023 in a elegant ceremony at ICCR Kolkata. The octogenarian Guru Gopal Panda was honoured for his contribution in various forms of traditional and classical music of Odisha and India. USA based Guru Supradipta Datta iconic disciple of Guru Aloka Kanungo coordinated the Kalaagan's Ratnaalok Samman for Guru Gopal Panda who is based in Bhubaneswar Odisha. Kalaagan's

Ratanaalok Samman was presented by Ms. Minakshi Misra Head and Zonal Director of ICCR Kolkata to Guru Gopal Panda. Guru Gopal Panda was presented with citation or " Manapatra" , a shawl , and honarium of INR 50000. Earlier, legendary Musicologist Pandit Dr. Gopal Panda, has been honoured with the central Sangeet Natak Akademi Award and Upendrabhanj Award by the Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi. Guru Aloka Kanungo lead Shinjin Nitralaya's senior students presented a unique Odissi dance composition titled "Tara Pallavi" as tribute to the legendary musicologist.



Music of Tara Pallavi composed by Sangita Panda, illustrious daughter of Pandit Dr. Gopal Panda, Rythm composition by Guru Dhaneswar Swain ,

Dance choreography by Guru Aloka Kanungo, Dancers presented Tara Pallavi : Sarbani Sen, Paulami Chakraborty, Nivedita Daw Dutta

Sagarika Mohanty Urjjasee Basak Swaralipi Roy . "Tara pallavi" is based on "Raag Tara". It is a unique raag, and used for the first time for

Odissi Dance by Sangita Panda. Though the pallavi is based on ektali - 4 matra In between The taal pattern changes to 6 matra khemta and jati

14 matra. The dance choreography was a treat to the eyes using the time and space intelligently. The dancers weave circles, triangles, diagonal and straight lines which was a visual extravaganza and treat to the eyes. Smt. Mahua Dhar President of Shinjan Nrityalaya , Dr. Subhashree Pattnaik of Nrutyadham from Bhubaneswar, Senior Journalists , internationally acclaimed Odissi and other dance artists , musicians, celebrities from different areas of performing arts, international researchers as well as students studying

performing arts & others in Kolkata, elite members of Odia community and representatives of various Odia cultural organisations based in Kolkata, attended the program. Guru Gopal Panda Odishi Academy is promoting research and innovation in Odia and Classical music of India under guidance of Pandit Dr. Gopal Panda and his illustrious daughter and acclaimed musician Smt. Sangita Panda who is also Secretary of the Academy. Tara Pallavi performance received wide applause and standing ovation from the audience.

Two Rescued After Hotel Washed Away By Flashfloods In Kedarnath

Rudraprayag: Two youths were rescued as a hotel in a village on the Rishikesh-Kedarnath National Highway got washed away in a flash flood triggered by heavy rains, officials said. Hotel 'Kedar Vatika', located between Phata and Tarsali villages near Kedarnath, got swept away by flood waters in the morning, according to a statement issued by Rudraprayag police.

A police team was clearing a road blocked due to a landslide in Tarsali when they saw the incident happen. They rushed to the spot and pulled out a youth from the debris, it said. The rescued youth informed police that another person was with him inside the hotel when the incident happened, it said. The police party searched the area, in the meantime, more debris along with flood water came gushing down the hill. Four policemen got injured during the rescue operation, according to officials. The operation was resumed soon after and the other person trapped in the debris was also rescued, the statement said.

Court Seeks Centre's Reply On Legal Help For Indian Man Jailed In Saudi Arabia

Bengaluru: The High Court of Karnataka has sought a reply from the Union Government regarding legal help for the Indian national who has been jailed in Saudi Arabia. The court on Monday asked the Centre whether the jailed person will be provided with an opportunity to appoint the advocate of his choice in an appeal and would the government help him in

this regard. It has also sought information on the jurisdiction of the local laws in Saudi Arabia and whether the investigation report from India can be submitted to courts there. The court further asked whether an Indian diplomatic request to postpone the hearing of the appeal in Saudi Arabia till the police investigation in India is completed can be

made. The hearing of the petition was adjourned to August 8. Shahilesh, from Mangaluru, has been convicted and imprisoned in Saudi Arabia, where he was working, for alleged derogatory posts against the king and Islam. His wife, Kavitha, has petitioned the High Court claiming that the posts, made on February 12 and 13, 2020, were made from

a fake profile on Facebook and the local police had failed to provide proof to Saudi Arabian authorities. The local police blamed Facebook for not cooperating with the investigation. Shailesh had put up a post in support of the Indian Government's Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizenship (NRC). He allegedly received a threat

call and deleted his account. Subsequently, a derogatory post against the Saudi king and Islam was uploaded. Shailesh was arrested in Saudi Arabia, tried, and sentenced to 15 years in jail. His wife lodged a police complaint in India alleging that her husband had informed her that a fake Facebook account was used to upload the post in his name.



Deogarh Gets 5T Care

Deogarh(KCN): Secretary to CM V K Pandian has extensively visited Deogarh District on Day II, while there is huge enthusiasm over his visit to this far flung district. Shri Pandian reviewed the progress of the ongoing Mega Pipe Water Supply Projects in Barkote, Reamal and Tileibani blocks costing Rs 609 Crore in total, covering the entire district. The Barkote and Reamal Mega PWS projects will be commissioned by June 2024. The Tileibani Mega PWS project which will also supply water to Deogarh town will

be commissioned by June, 2025.

Secretary (5T) directed the officials to adhere to the timeline and maintain quality. Sri Pandian visited the Jhadeswar Temple offered prayer and interacted with Sebayats, Trustee members and general public for holistic development of Temple along with better facility for the devotees and took suggestion on various aspects of transformation of the temple and its development. He directed the district administration to prepare a master plan for development of the temple.



Later, he visited Mission Shakti Cafe at Tileibani and interacted with Mission Shakti members on the functioning of the cafe and other

livelihood activities. Then, he visited Kansar Ashram School, transformed under 5T initiative and interacted with the students and teachers present. In

his address Sh. Pandian encouraged the students to aim high in life and work hard to achieve their goals. Then, he heard grievances of general

public at Kansar, and directed the district administration for quick disposal of the grievances. He also interacted with the young hockey players of Deogarh district.

He expressed his happiness on learning that the area had produced some international players like Roshan Minz who was also present during the interaction. Shri Pandian apprised Chief Minister regarding the potential for hockey in that area and requested for hockey training center with Astro turf. Chief Minister immediately directed the Sports department to sanction a new Hockey Training center in Deogarh district. Shri Pandian attended public grievance meetings at Parposi in Tileibani Block and Chhatabar in Reamal

Block. He heard the grievances from the public and assured early action.

Later, he proceeded to Ballam under Barkote Block for interaction with members of Mission Shakti, MBKs, Bank Mitras, CRPs and local public, heard their grievances and assured for early redressal.

Special Secretary to CM, R. Vineel Krishna, DIG Brijesh Rai, Collector, Deogarh, Somesh Kumar Upadhyay, S.P. Deogarh, Pramod Rath and other district level officials accompanied him during the visit.

ATLC To Scale Up Research



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Academy of Tribal Languages and Culture (ATLC) will have a state of art complex for furthering tribal language & culture study & research. This decision was taken at the Governing Body meeting of ATLC held under the chairmanship of SC, ST Development Minister Jagannath Saraka here today. Secretary SC, ST

Development, Roopa Roshan Sahoo, ATLC Member Secretary and SCSTRTI Director, Indramani Tripathy graced the occasion. During the meeting, it was decided to request the State Government to allot 5 acres of land in Bhubaneswar for establishment of the research complex. A detailed discussion was held for complete transformation of the ATLC and annual

budget of the Academy. It was also decided at the Governing Body meeting to set up Language Labs in all Blocks. ATLC will also be developed as a publishing house to promote literature by and on tribal life. Emphasis was given at the meet to use technology for digital archives of publications of ATLC. Tribal culture spaces

will be developed in all schools run by the SC, ST Development Department. At least 100 high schools will be taken up in the first phase. Among others, Director, ST Commission, Jayant Janardhan Sarad, Director (ST) Srikanta Tarai, Members, Padmashree Damayanti Beshra, Medinidhar Jani and Gulab Singh and others attended the meeting.

CS Lauds SBI Services



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Secretary Pradeep Jena inaugurated the Renovated Bank Premises of State Bank of India Secretariat Branch here on 17 July. He appreciated the services rendered by SBI Secretariat Branch Team. This Elite Branch is situated inside the complex of Lok Seva Bhawan in an exclusive site, which is easy to approach and soothing to transact

business. Chief Secretary Shri Jena inaugurated this Renovated Bank Premises by lighting the lamp and unveiling the plaque in the presence of Dinesh Kumar Khara, Chairman, SBI, Mumbai who was present in virtual platform. Chander Shekhar Sharma, Chief General Manager, SBI, Bhubaneswar Circle, Prasad Gajanan Deodhar, DGM, and Rajendra Narayan Sahu

Regional Manager graced the ceremony. Known as a hardworking, honest and cool Banker Sandeep Prusty, Chief Manager SBI Secretariat Branch coordinated the entire arrangement of inauguration ceremony. And other employees of the Secretariat Branch were present on the occasion. It is worthy to mention that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had

inaugurated the SBI Secretariat Branch on 7 December, 2007. Notably at least 33 newly renovated branches of SBI from all over India have been inaugurated today. This Branch of SBI provides smooth environment for transaction of business and customers are happy over the approach of the Team SBI headed by Shri Prusty, said a senior Secretary of Government of Odisha.



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Delhivery has Outlier Growth Prospects with Profit Round the Corner: Ventura Securities

New Delhi: Calling Delhivery as the proxy for eCommerce growth in India, leading brokerage firm Ventura Securities has said in its report that the logistics firm has outlier growth prospects with profits being just round the corner.

Citing the highly fragmented nature of the Indian logistics markets, the report adds that Delhivery is uniquely positioned to emerge as the sustainable business leader in an essential vertical having a total addressable market size of \$316 billion. The company's IPO comes at a time when the Indian government is focusing its investments on infrastructure-led growth through a slew of measures including its flagship initiative- the

PM Gatishakti Program. The move will likely benefit the company in long term.

Some of the company strengths highlighted by Ventura Securities include that Delhivery's revenues will grow at a CAGR of 56.7%, touching an amount of Rs 14026 crore by FY 2024. The integrated portfolio of logistics services allows Delhivery to deliver services which other competitors cannot do. The logistics major is being valued at 2.4 times the FY24 EV/Sales. This is attractive when compared to BlueDart and TCI Express that trade at the ratio of 3.1X and 4.1X their FY24 revenues. Delhivery's revenue base is well diversified into major segments like express

parcel, supply chain, Part truck load and cross borders services forming a large part of the total revenue. A few trends like shift in trends from unorganized to organized players, evolving customer trends and emergence of new markets will be helpful for Delhivery, the report says. To recap, Delhivery, India's largest fully integrated logistics company has filed RHP with SEBI for its INR 5,235 crore IPO. The issue will close for subscription on May 13. The anchor investment was received from top long only funds comprising of foreign and local funds. Out of INR 5,235 crore fund raise, INR 4,000 crore comprises of fresh issuance while the rest is for offer for sale.

Sony announces the Next-Gen Smart BRAVIA 32W830K Google TV with crystal clear picture and refined sound

Bhubaneswar : Sony India today announced the launch of BRAVIA 32W830K television with attractive picture quality and life like sound. The all-new 80 cm (32) HD ready Google TV lets you enjoy movies, games and shows from apps or broadcast in an instant with advanced voice controls and built-in Chromecast.

Now seamlessly integrate Google TV and bring together more than 700,000 movies, shows, live TV and more from

apps and subscriptions and organize seamlessly. With BRAVIA 32W830K, browse content from across your apps, intelligently organized just for you. Customers can easily find something to watch with personalized recommendations and bookmark shows and movies by adding a watchlist from phone and watch it on TV to keep track of what to watch. Users can even add to their Watchlist from their phone or laptop with Google Search and find

everything in one place. BRAVIA 32W830K supports Apple Home Kit and AirPlay that seamlessly integrates Apple devices like iPads and iPhones with the TV for effortless content streaming. Easily control your TV with Hands-free voice capabilities. The hands-free voice control is built into the TV, no need to reach for the remote every time to search for entertainment, get answers, or control the TV and smart home devices. Simply say, "OK Google" to issue a voice command.

Ambulance employees felicitated for their humanitarian works

Bhubaneswar : Ziqitza Healthcare Limited (ZHL), the operating agency for 108 ambulance services in Odisha, today felicitated its ambulance employees for showing exceptional humanitarian support in difficult times to patients while on duty. Whereas the company also felicitated 13 meritorious children of their staff members who were top scorers in the Class 10th examinations. The awards were given under the Ziqitza Odisha Scholarship 2022, organized here today. A total 7 Cluster Leaders, 7 Maintenance Executives (ME), One Quality Auditor, 21 Crew members were awarded for their distinguished efforts. Attending as chief guest, Sri Sabyasachi Biswal, State Head - Odisha, ZHL

Odisha inaugurated the programme by lighting up the lamp. Whereas Sri Deepak Srivastav, HR-Head Odisha and Rajiv Kumar Das, Head of Operation, ZHL were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on this occasion, Sri Sabyasachi Biswal, State Head, said, "Ziqitza Healthcare Limited & its employees are always committed to serve the public with utmost care. Our crew members have shown their highest resolve in serving people at many occasions. Be it bringing patients in stretcher from their home in case of no motorable roads, Donating blood to patients in difficult time, showing highest devotion towards duty during natural calamities or returning of money and other valuable belongings

to patients are among few noble works."

The crew members who got felicitated on the occasion were Sri Prasanta Ku Barik, Shaktisri Dalai, Uttam Kumar Mohanta, Susanta Kumar Majhi, Gagan Bihari Mahanta, Suman Kalayan Mahakud, Prasanta Behera, Sukant Paikray, Sudipta Rana, Dasrathi Maharatha, Biranchi Narayan Ratha, Rabindra Kumar Badatya, Bansri Harijan, Manisanta Hira, Rajkumar Patel, Gopabandhu Swain, Motilal Pradhan and Jitu Seth. This apart three crew members Bhabanishankar Mahakud, Padmalochan Maharana & Parikhita Naik were choosen as best crew members for their outstanding effort in serving people at distress going an extra mile.

LIC HFL revises its rates for loan products

Mumbai :: LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LIC HFL), one of India's largest Housing Finance companies, has revised the rate of interest for its loan products on the back of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) announcement on 4th May 2022, revising the repo rate. Accordingly, LIC HFL has revised its rates of interest upwards across retail loan product

categories. The new interest rate on home loans starts from 6.9% with effect from 13th May 2022.

Commenting on this interest rate revision, MD & CEO Shri Y. Viswanatha Gowd said, "RBI has after a long time increased the policy rates and the effect is being seen across the lenders. We have kept our home loan rates

competitive despite the increase in the cost of funds to support the aspirations of home buyers. For borrowers with CIBIL score 700 and above the rate hike has been limited to only 20 bps. In my view, this increase may not have significant impact on the EMI outgo. I am confident that demand for Home Loans continues to be high."

Tata Steel Meramandali Hosts 5th Safety Exposition on Elimination of Human-Machine Interface

Narendrapur: Tata Steel Meramandali (TSM) successfully hosted the 5th edition of Exposition on Elimination of Human-Machine Interface from February 16-18, 2023. The three-day event saw participation from all locations, including Meramandali, Sahibabad, Khopoli, and Hosur, with a total of 508 innovative ideas submitted for consideration. The event was organized as part of Tata Steel's Safety Excellence Journey, which has focused on reducing human-machine interference at the workplace.

Out of the 508 submitted kaizens, 200 were shortlisted by a selection committee and displayed for competition during the exposition. The event was inaugurated on February 16, 2023 by dignitaries from Tata Steel, including Sanjiv Paul, VP, Safety, Health & Sustainability (SH&S), Rajiv Mangal, VP, SH&S (Designate), Subodh Pandey, VP



Operations- TSM, Neeraj Kumar Sinha, Chief Safety and Agam Kumar, Chief Safety TSM, in the parking area of Safety Office, SMS-1. The opening ceremony was attended by representatives from all the Tata Steel participating locations, workers, and line managers. During the three-day exposition, Head of Departments (HODs) encouraged their colleagues to visit the event to gain insights into various engineering solutions that can be

implemented to make the workplace safer. A total of 6,500 workers, supervisors, safety professionals, and line managers from all departments visited the exposition to learn about the various initiatives that Tata Steel has undertaken to eliminate human-machine interference. The closing ceremony was held in the presence of Dr. Ramesh Kumar Behera, Deputy Director Factories & Boilers, Angul Division, and Er. Puspamitra Jena, Assistant Director

Factories & Boilers, Dhenkanal Zone, along with Ved Prakash Thakur, Chief Shared Services, TSM and Agam Kumar, Chief Safety, TSM. The dignitaries lauded Tata Steel for its efforts in eliminating human-machine interference and reducing hazards for workers. Members from nearby industries, the District Crisis Group Angul and Dhenkanal, all Chiefs, Heads of Tata Steel and more than 400 worker representation with line managers were

present at the event. The winners of kaizens in five different categories were awarded by the guests, and the evaluation committee members were also recognized for their contributions. The event was a resounding success and demonstrated Tata Steel's commitment to workplace safety and eliminating human-machine interference. The company plans to continue its efforts in this area to ensure that workers are safe and that the workplace remains hazard-free.

Apeejay Education and AWS Announce New Accelerator Program

Bhubaneswar – Apeejay Education, an academic institution in India established for more than 50 years, and Amazon Web Services (AWS), an Amazon.com company, today announced the launch of the National Education Policy Accelerator Program (NEPAP), an initiative to enable academic institutions in India to align with the technology requirements documented in the Government's National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020). This is the first program in India to support the technology transformation of education institutions as per the NEP 2020.

The NEP 2020 aims to strengthen India's education sector that directly contributes to the country's growth and development, demonstrating the need to integrate technology in education to improve learning and teaching at all levels. The accelerator program will address two key tenets of the NEP 2020 – on the extensive use of technology in teaching, learning, education planning, and management; and in the creation of open, interoperable, evolvable, public digital infrastructure in the education sector to support multiple platforms and point solutions.

The accelerator program will guide academic institutions on multiple aspects of the NEP 2020. It will support academic institutions by conducting digital innovation workshops to focus on identifying and prioritizing unique challenges of the academic institutions, and co-building solutions or proof-of-concepts (POCs) using technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML). AWS will drive these workshops based on the Amazon Working Backwards innovation methodology, which uses design thinking to identify and define a customer-focused problem or opportunity and develop prototypes. Through the accelerator program, AWS and Apeejay Education will support academic institutions with AWS credits, capacity building workshops, and access to dedicated resources, to build and implement the POCs. Apeejay Education will bring expertise on the use cases of digital solutions in the education sector, and support with testing the solutions to extend the reach to other institutions across India. Apeejay Education is a pioneer in the adoption of technology and cloud computing and today, Apeejay Styra University – part of Apeejay Education – runs its entire learning management, fee and billing, governance, administration and admissions systems on AWS. The university's digital readiness enabled it to offer online classes to students within 24 hours of the initial lockdown imposed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and scale its learning management system as needed. By running its critical systems on AWS, the university accelerated its journey to align with the NEP, and effectively engage its 35,000 students and 2,500 faculty members across 26 campuses in India.

HCL's Roshni Nadar Malhotra says demand environment robust

North Asia, Central America, Eastern Europe and Africa are newer geographies for the company, she said, adding "this is where we plan to grow in the future as new frontier countries, in addition to our existing large geographies and markets". Citing her interactions with various customers in Europe and the US, Nadar said their utmost priority has been about accelerating digital transformation programmes with efficiencies.

The demand environment for technology "continues to be robust" despite the challenges seen over the last two years, and global clients have a razor-sharp focus on accelerating

digital transformation with efficiency, HCL Technologies Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra said on Thursday.

North Asia, Central America, Eastern Europe and Africa are newer geographies for the company, she said, adding "this is where we plan to grow in the future as new frontier countries, in addition to our existing large geographies and markets". "The last two years have been unpredictable, challenging, and yet the demand environment continues to be robust," Nadar said at a media briefing. Citing her interactions with various customers in Europe and the US, Nadar said their

utmost priority has been about accelerating digital transformation programmes with efficiencies. Nadar noted that the majority of the company's "very steady healthy growth" has come organically, and that continues to be a focus for the IT services provider. "...Tuck in acquisitions, specialised acquisitions, which give us certain domain expertise and a certain strength in different business lines is something that we will do, but the focus has been organic growth." And that's something that we have demonstrated very well over the last couple of years, and we continue to focus on that as well," Nadar said.

Empowering the mother is crucial for ensuring wholesome childcare and development

New Delhi: To raise awareness about wholesome childcare and development, SHEROES, the world's largest social platform for women, recently hosted a panel discussion, with experts from SOS Children's Villages of India, India's largest self-implementing NGO. The sharing of journeys and experiences served as inspiration, especially since the stakeholders talked about their challenges, solutions they adopted, and milestones achieved despite hurdles.

During the conversation, Mr. Sumanta Kar, Secretary

General, SOS Children's Villages of India said, "At SOS Children's Villages of India, mothers serve a crucial role, across all initiatives. The organisation's Family Like Care programme is 600 plus Mothers and Aunts strong; these dedicated team members take care of more than 6000 plus children in 32 Villages, across 22 states / UTs. In the Family Strengthening Programme, as also the other Basket of Care Solutions, mothers or caregivers are empowered to secure a caring, loving and safe environment for their children, and communities. The core

idea is to make caregivers empowers in order to ensure a Domino Effect that encourages sustainable and positive change for a better today and brighter tomorrow. Of course, there are many challenges faced during the journey; hence, maintaining balance and health are crucial. Besides this, gender equality and equity are paramount." Sairee Chahal, Founder & CEO of SHEROES and Mahila Money says, "Women have many aspirations – from growing skills, launching businesses and building remote careers, to accessing capital to fuel their businesses.

'England are a better team with Anderson' - Moeen

London: Moeen Ali has thrown his weight behind veteran seamer James Anderson by claiming that England are a better side with him in the playing XI. Anderson has had a rough start to the Ashes and was even dropped from the XI for the third Test that England won to stay alive in the series. However, the 40-year-old is now all set to return to the XI in his home ground at Old Trafford for the crucial fourth Test in place of Ollie Robinson. "There's no doubt England are a better team with James Anderson in there," Moeen said. "In the two games he played I actually thought he bowled really well in both of them. I think he's

been a bit unfortunate with catches and things probably not going his way. "Being the best bowler England have ever had and being a legend of a player and a great guy as well, it's great to see him have the opportunity to play, it could be his last one, and hopefully he bowls well and gets us the win." Moeen himself will have a huge challenge ahead of him in Manchester as he is set to continue batting at No.3 in the absence of Ollie Pope. Even though England sent in Harry Brook at No.3 in the first innings in Headingley, the youngster returned to No.5 and came up with a match-winning effort whereas Moeen was

promoted up the order. "It's obviously going to be a challenge batting No 3 against Australia with the best bowling attack in the world," Moeen said. "I'm looking forward to it. I think Brook is a great player and will be a great player. I just personally feel like five is great for him and the impact he can have at five is much more than what he can probably do at three, at the moment. "I'm not saying he won't be a good No.3 I just feel right now for the team it's probably best that I go three. I do enjoy batting three, the challenge of batting three. I think for the team right now it's the best thing. I'm looking forward to playing against these guys and getting challenged. I



know it's not easy because they are obviously very good." The 36-year-old also admitted that England have fought well in the series so far against the top-ranked side and the current World Test champions even though they are trailing 2-1. "I think I think we've challenged the number one team in the world and we've gone toe to toe with them," he said. "At crucial times they've managed to win that battle but I don't think we're far off. All the games have been fantastic but the belief in the changing room is that we can win this series, 3-2 and there's no doubt we have that." On his own future in Test

cricket, Moeen remained non-committal having just made a comeback for the Ashes following Jack Leach's injury. "For me, it's going through these two games," he pointed out. "I just want to get through that and see. It's not easy. I find Test cricket very hard and it is the hardest and best format out there for sure. "I have really enjoyed my time since I've come back and it's been a brilliant environment. I wish it was this four-five years ago, I'm not thinking too far ahead. I'm sure Baz (Brendon McCullum) and Stokesy (Ben Stokes) will speak to me after the summer but for me at the moment it's just this series."

Sachin Tendulkar Applauds Carlos Alcaraz, Compares Him To Roger Federer



New Delhi: Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar was all praise for 2023 Wimbledon champion Carlos Alcaraz and drew a striking resemblance between him and the 20-time Grand Slam winner, Roger Federer. Tendulkar even hailed Alcaraz as the tennis world's next superstar. The young Spanish talent was mighty impressive as he secured his second Grand Slam title in a thrilling five-set victory over Novak Djokovic. After witnessing Alcaraz's remarkable win, Tendulkar was all praise for the young man and even acknowledged the rise of a future tennis icon. He said that he will now closely follow Alcaraz's career for the

next decade. "What a fantastic final to watch! Excellent tennis by both these athletes! We're witnessing the rise of the next superstar of tennis. I'll be following Carlos' career for the next 10-12 years just like I did with @Rogerfederer. Many congratulations @carlosalcaraz!," Tendulkar posted on Twitter. Carlox Alcaraz beat Novak Djokovic in the final, 1-6, 7-6, 6-1, 3-6, 6-4. It was a match that was fiercely contested and the Spaniard showed indomitable spirit to bounce back from one set down. At just 20 years old, Carlox Alcaraz became the youngest player to

conquer both the US Open and Wimbledon. He was dominant with his first serve and this was one of the key talking points of the game. The match itself was a generational battle, as Alcaraz became only the third youngest male player to clinch victory at Wimbledon. This feat comes behind tennis legends Boris Becker (17 years old in 1985) and Bjorn Borg (20 years old in 1976). Apart from this, Carlox Alcaraz also achieved a rare feat by becoming the first player after more than a decade to beat Novak Djokovic at the Wimbledon Centre Court. The last loss for the Serbian came against Andy Murray in 2013. Carlox Alcaraz's Wimbledon victory was the first time since 2002 that a player other than Roger Federer, Djokovic, Rafael Nadal, or Andy Murray had won the title. This feat has solidified Alcaraz's position as the world number 1 player — an extraordinary accomplishment for a player who has taken part in only 10 Grand Slams. He has won 2 Grand Slams so far.

Rafael Nadal Has A Million-Dollar Message For Fellow Spaniard Carlox Alcaraz

New Delhi: Carlos Alcaraz made history on Sunday by beating Novak Djokovic to clinch his maiden Wimbledon title. This feat drew praise from fellow Spaniard Rafael Nadal, who was quick to extend his congratulations. Nadal took to social media and was all praise for Carlos's impressive victory. He also said that the young Spaniard made Manolo Santana proud. Alcaraz's

victory signaled a changing of the guard in men's tennis, as this brought an end to Djokovic's decade-long reign on Wimbledon's Centre Court. The 20-year-old was prepared for the battle and showed excellent grit, skills and determination to clinch the match by 1-6, 7-6(6), 6-1, 3-6, 6-4. Nadal said, "Congratulations @carlitosalcaraz. You have given us immense joy today and for sure our

pioneer in Spanish tennis, Manolo Santana, has also been cheering wherever he is as a member of Wimbledon whom you have joined today. A very strong hug and enjoy the moment, Champion!!! We're having a great time with our team!" Nadal was not able to take part in Wimbledon this year owing to a hip injury sustained during his second-round loss in the Australian Open in January.

Dhaka: During the second T20I between Bangladesh and Afghanistan, the television feed displayed a particular statistic - one that Afghanistan head coach, Jonathon Trott, did not miss: "Afghanistan had scored the fewest powerplay runs in T20 cricket in the last one year among the ten nations." It was nothing different in the last game of the series, as they failed to capitalize on the powerplay despite having names like Rahmanullah Gurbaz and the dangerous Hazratullah Zazai. Both of them fell cheaply, as Taskin got rid

of them, giving the hosts early breakthroughs - Afghanistan never really got going in the series-deciding second game of the two-match T20I series. It was the same story in the opening game as well, considering Afghans never got the flying start that they wanted from the talented Gurbaz - who hasn't scored a fifty in last 13 T20Is innings, despite his phenomenal ODI form. The loss of Gurbaz certainly puts a toll on the other batsmen that eventually have an impact on their powerplay batting, considering he is the one



who is expected to give them a flying start. Trott certainly felt that they need to fix their powerplay batting issues in T20Is, as it has been a major concern for them. "I think there is a stat showing we are slowest scoring side in the powerplay, and we need to improve that," Trott

told reporters following their defeat in the series-concluding game at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium. "I think our power-play batting, we didn't get enough. I think they were 50 without loss after five overs (54-0 in six overs) and I think we were 21-2 after five overs (34-2 in

six overs)," he said. "So it's a huge gap of almost 30 runs and obviously two more wickets in hand. I thought we did well to get ourselves back in the contest, and then we scrapped." Trott said that they need to fix their problem, but admitted that it is a reality check for the Afghans. "Every time you lose, it's a reality check. You should stop and reflect as a side, not just pointing finger. It's the team's responsibility. You win as a team and you lose as a team. It's not an individual reality check but a reality check as a side" he concluded.

Bazball reduces the fast bowlers' workload - Hazlewood

London: Josh Hazlewood, whose fitness has been a concern in the recent past, has expressed that he is rejuvenated and raring to go in the fourth Test of the ongoing Men's Ashes series in England. Hazlewood, who missed a part of the IPL, the World Test Championship Final, and the third Test at Headingley, is back to peak fitness at the business end of the Test series. "I obviously sat the last game out and I feel better for it. Having a rest and getting a bit of strength back has helped me in getting ready for this game," said the Australian pacer. Hazlewood also recalled Australia's fond memories from the 2019 Ashes in Manchester, where they stormed to a 185-run win, to which Hazlewood contributed handsomely with six wickets across two innings. "I have memories of the last time here in 2019. Good to be back here and hopefully get



a game." However, Hazlewood provided an indirect insight into the effect of England's novel Bazball style of play, revealing that the attacking, more risky style of play, reduces the workload for the fast bowlers, as they are required to bowl fewer overs. However, he emphasized that in retrospect, he did not regret missing the Headingley Test despite his initial disappointment. "I felt pretty good to be

honest. We haven't bowled a lot of overs in terms of what Test matches usually look like for us. The way England play, it gets us in the field for a little less in terms of workload. I felt pretty good going into the game. It was probably the right call now I can sit back and look at the big picture," Hazlewood said, reflecting on his emotions when he was left out of the third Test. "I was desperate to play, which is

obvious, but now it makes sense." Hazlewood recalled that he was fatigued going into the World Test Championship final against India, but was fully prepared before the Ashes commenced. After missing the third Test, he's looking forward to the two remaining Tests - the final lap of what could be a memorable tour of England for Australia as they return with the World Test Championship title

and, potentially, the Ashes urn. "I was probably a little bit underdone for that World Test Championship (Final) and then got ready for the first game. I didn't seem too rusty when I was out there in the middle. Once you get that big day of workload underneath you, you feel a lot better. Hopefully after that little break, I'll come out firing again. "Missing Headingley is probably the reason to set me up for the last two games. I know they're back-to-back, but we haven't bowled a lot of overs. Hopefully with that work behind me now, I'm in a better position than I was a month ago. That sort of puts me in a good place to hopefully get through those last two games and play my role and do what I usually do." The fourth Ashes Test begins in Old Trafford, Manchester on Wednesday (July 19), with Australia leading the five-match series 2-1, and needing no more than a draw to retain the urn.