

## 21 New Airports Approved

**New Delhi(KCN):** Government of India has accorded 'In-Principle' approval for setting up of 21 new Greenfield Airports namely- Mopa in Goa, Navi Mumbai, Shirdi and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, Kalaburagi, Vijayapura, Hassan and Shivamogga in Karnataka, Dabra (Gwalior) in Madhya Pradesh, Kushinagar and Noida (Jewar) in Uttar Pradesh, Dholera and Hirasar in Gujarat, Karaikal in Puducherry, D a g a d a r t h i, Bhogapuram and Orvakal (Kurnool) in Andhra Pradesh, Durgapur in West Bengal, Pakyong in Sikkim, Kannur in Kerala and Hollongi (Itanagar) in Arunachal Pradesh across the



country. Out of these, 11 Greenfield airports viz. Durgapur, Shirdi, Kannur, Pakyong, Kalaburagi, Orvakal (Kurnool), Sindhudurg, Kushinagar, Itanagar, Mopa and Shivamogga have been operationalised. State Government of Tamil Nadu has submitted an application to Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) for

grant of first stage clearance i.e. 'Site-Clearance' for development of a Greenfield airport at Parandur, Kancheepuram District, Tamil Nadu. As per GFA Policy, the proposal has been sent to Airports Authority of India (AAI), Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Ministry of Defence (MoD) for their comments. After completion of this consultation with stakeholders, the proposal is required to be placed before the Steering Committee on Greenfield Airports for their recommendation, with respect to award of Site Clearance. As per the GFA Policy, 2008, the responsibility of implementation of

airport projects including funding of the project, land acquisition, R&R etc rests with the concerned airport developer including the respective State Government (in case the State Government is the project proponent). The timeline for construction of airports depends upon various factors such as land acquisition, mandatory clearances, removal of obstacles, financial closure etc. by the respective airport developers. This information was given by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation Gen. (Dr) V. K. Singh (Retd) in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha today.

## PRESIDENT OF INDIA TO VISIT ODISHA FROM JULY 25 TO 27

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):**The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu will visit Odisha from July 25 to 27, 2023.

In the evening of July 25, 2023, the President will interact with a group of medical students sponsored by ATUT-BANDHAN family and lay the foundation stone for a new building block of Raj Bhavan Odisha at Bhubaneswar. On July 26, 2023, the President will grace the valedictory function of 75th year celebrations of the High Court of Orissa at Cuttack. On the same day, she will also address the annual function of SCB



Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack and grace the convocation of National Law University Odisha at Cuttack.

On July 27, 2023, the President will interact with the members of PVTGs at Raj Bhavan Odisha. On the same day, she will launch this year's theme of

Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya "The Year of Positive Change" for conducting nationwide seminar and conferences and lay the foundation stone for its "Lighthouse Complex" at Dasabatia, Tamando, Bhubaneswar.

## Low Pressure-Induced Very Heavy Rainfall To Lash Odisha Districts During Next 2 Days



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Due to the prevalent monsoon trough, heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Odisha during next 48 hours. India Meteorological Department (IMD) regional centre today issued Orange Warning in some districts of the State for next two days. In its evening bulletin, the IMD regional centre mentioned, "The

cyclonic circulation over Westcentral and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal now lies over Westcentral and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal off North Andhra Pradesh-south Odisha coasts and extends up to 7.6 Km above mean sea level tilting southward with height. Under its influence, a Low Pressure Area is likely to form over the same region during next 24 Hours. The

system is likely to concentrate into a Depression over the same region around 26th July 2023. Subsequently, it is likely to move slowly west-northwestwards across north Andhra Pradesh-South Odisha coasts." Light to moderate rain or thundershower is very likely to occur at most places over the districts of South Interior Odisha and at many places over the rest districts of Odisha. Highest maximum (day) temperature of 34.4oC was recorded at Jharsuguda and the lowest minimum (night) temperature of 21.4oC was recorded at Nuapada in the plains of Odisha.

**Cuttack(KCN):** On the eve of completion of 75th year of glorious journey of Orissa High Court in the field of dispensation of Justice, when the Grand Finale, after a yearlong marvellous celebration is going to be held tomorrow (26 July, 2023) being graced by Her Excellency Shrimati Draupadi Murmu; a very significant event in the direction of delivery of justice has taken place yesterday (24 July, 2023) which is undoubtedly a salutary step in the field. A Division Bench comprising of Hon'ble Justice Debabrata Dash and Dr. Justice Sanjeev Ku. Panigrahi on a single day went on a marathon

delivery of judgements in Seventy Five (75) numbers of Criminal Appeals pending for last seven years or so which had been filed challenging the verdicts of the Sessions Courts across the State in murder cases under section-302 of the IPC. All these Appeals had been heard from 21 June, 2023 onwards. When the Indian Judiciary has been devising new methods, forging new tools and innovating new strategies for taking justice to common man; this is one of the noblest addition to the cheering step taken by the Orissa High Court. Out of seventy five Appeals;



many having been allowed, convicts therein have been set at liberty. This praiseworthy action of delivery of such Seventy Five (75) judgments a day before the celebration of 75 years of journey of this Great Institution is a fitting tribute to the grave concern raised by Her Excellency, the President in Her address on the

Constitution day at New Delhi on the issue of long pendency of Criminal Appeals to the great sufferance of large number of persons lodged in jails, whose Trials and Appeals are not disposed of within a reasonable time although promised under the Constitution and resultantly, so many innocent persons

are languishing in jails and for the delay, the prime periods of their lives getting lost beyond restoration. This remarkable achievement has not only added another feather on the cap of this great institution with glorious tradition but also has given true colour and flavour on the Celebration day of completion of its 75th year. This event undoubtedly gets noted as an important one amongst so many observed during the year and would certainly be one that would stand tall for the days to come.

## Opposition trains gun on Odisha govt over 5T Secretary team's US visit

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** After much hue and cry over 5T secretary's whirlwind tours across Odisha, politics is now active over the US visit by the team of the powerful office in the state. The 5T Secretary VK Pandian, IT Secretary Manoj Mishra, IT Minister Tusharkanti Behera, and BJD MP Sujit Kumar have now left on a 10-day visit to the US. The team's objective is said to get more investments to Odisha in the Electronics and IT sector. The team is likely to hold talks and discussions with various companies in Silicon Valley. It is said that the team will apprise the software and internet companies about the investment opportunities in Odisha as there are plans to have a dedicated fiber net grid and its laying. The team is also scheduled to meet the Non-resident Odias there



on July 28. Meanwhile, the Opposition parties have slammed the Odisha government over the foreign tour. The BJP alleged that the government had also visited several countries in the past to bring investments. However, the state government should publish a white paper on the exact amount of investments received. The party has further alleged that the state government has made such foreign tours by spending crores only to please the officers. BJP secretary, Jatin Mohanty said, "Every time the state government is sending

officers on foreign tours by spending crores of rupees. They are nothing but pleasure trips. How much investments have been received, the government should publish a white paper." The Congress too raised questions on the investments received by Odisha so far. Chairman of Odisha Congress Campaign Committee, Bijay Patnaik said, "Everybody saw how much investment came from Italy and Dubai tours. What investments will come from the USA? If the state government's idea is to bring investments, then

scores of people would not have migrated to Surat." It is worth mentioning that the Odisha Cabinet had approved the semiconductor manufacturing and falbess policy a day before the US visit by the team. As per the government, the semiconductor manufacturing and fabless policy will develop an end-to-end semiconductor ecosystem, transform Odisha into a leading centre for semiconductor manufacturing & create a repository of semiconductor design talent. Meanwhile, questions are

now being asked on how success will be achieved through the policy for the semiconductor manufacturing sector. Responding to the allegations levelled by the Opposition, a senior ruling BJD MLA, Debi Mishra said, "Such statements are unfortunate. States are competing with each other for investments and there is a need to provide better opportunities than what other states are providing to bring investments." Many say that the Odisha government had met several industrialists and conducted road shows across the country and abroad under several editions of Make In Odisha. However, the overall foreign investments were not that satisfactory. Under such circumstances, it remains to be seen how much success is achieved from the current foreign trip.

## Vedanta engaged in illegal coal mining at Sundargarh's Jamkani, alleges Congress

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Vedanta company is engaged in illegal coal mining at Jamkani in Sundargarh district, alleged Odisha Congress citing that illegal mining activities are rampant near the human settlement which has sparked resentment.

Congress campaign committee chairperson, Bijay Patnaik targeted the Odisha government by levelling such allegations. Patnaik also alleged that Vedanta doesn't have environmental clearance for the same. According to Patnaik, new process should have been followed if there is no physical possession within 5 years of getting permission as per the 2013 rules. The senior Congress leader further alleged that people are now living under haphazard conditions. There has been no gram sabha and no action has been taken



towards rehabilitation, Patnaik said. "As per norms, if there is no environmental clearance, Vedanta needs to take it. If it already has, the Company should fulfil the conditions," said Patnaik. Similarly, if the land acquisition has not taken place and people are staying there, land acquisition should be carried out as per the new Act, said Patnaik adding that all these amount to violation of law. Patnaik further questioned the way Vedanta is carrying out

coal mining and informed that he would write a letter to the Odisha government in this regard. "If the state government does not take steps and stops coal mining, we will not refrain from taking legal action in the matter," Patnaik added. Responding to the allegations, BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty said, "Bijay Patnaik should first clarify whether he is the spokesperson of the Congress or the BJP." Meanwhile, Vedanta officials could not be contacted over the allegations.



# IIM Sambalpur Hosts Valedictory Function for Odisha's Master Weaver Small Business Management Training Programme

**Sambalpur, (KCN):** IIM Sambalpur, one of the premium B-schools of renowned organisations including Flipkart and SIDBI in order to drive aimed to encourage a greener world and to increase understanding products. Soon, the platform will feature products of around 100 Weavers' and the project website 'www.bunkarvelly.com'



the nation, organised a Valedictory Function of the Small Business Management Training Programme for Master Weavers of Odisha and Plantation Drive at the campus. The event aimed to promote strategic collaborations with support the handloom business in Odisha. At the IIM Sambalpur campus, there was a significant plantation effort to kick off the occasion, students, faculty, and authorities in attendance planted as many as 500 trees. The of the value of environmental preservation. As a successful outcome of this program, around 17 Master Weavers who have taken training have on-boarded the ONDC digital platform and now have started selling their weavers that will further boost their visibility and opportunities. The digital catalogs of weavers on ONDC were showcased. On the occasion, the book entitled "Training Manual for The Small Business Management Training Programme For Master

## OSSC question paper leak: BJP seeks SIT probe, Congress wonders where is 5T



**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** The state units of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress party on Monday launched a fierce attack on the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) over the leak of the question paper of the recently-conducted Main Written Examination for JE (Civil). Alleging rampant corruption in the government recruitment process, the saffron party wished to know how question papers reached the arrested persons of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. "How did the question papers reach the middlemen of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh who had been active here?" asked state BJP spokesperson Anil Biswal. "The present chairman of the Odisha Staff Selection Commission is a former police DG. Doesn't he know the modus operandi to be followed when a complaint is received? Is the racket being run by middlemen only? Is none of the OSSC involved in it?" he asked. "I want to say what role the Odisha government is playing in such scams. All these things are coming under the GA department. Its investigation should be conducted by the SIT. And the officers of the OSSC involved in the scam should be brought under the purview of investigation," he demanded. Demanding action against those responsible, OPCC chief Sarat Pattanayak said there is 5T but no

## Infighting in BJD out in open as leaders come out against party MLA, office bearer

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** It a time when the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has reportedly been struggling with infighting, two BJD leaders of Niali on Monday took a dig at Cuttack district BJD president Debashis Samantaray over his statement on Niali MLA Pramod Mallick. They also didn't spare MLA Mallick. A few days ago, Samantaray had participated in a party programme held in Niali. On this occasion, while speaking to journalists, he heaped praise on Niali MLA Mallick. "Niali people have faith in him (Pramod Mallick). He should also believe that Naveen Patnaik will field him as MLA candidate; and he will win for the fourth time. If the Niali area has become a citadel of the BJD, the credit goes to Pramod Mallick," Samantaray had said. "He has the right to get a ticket. And there are some aspirants who once came to me. I asked them to get the blessings of the people of the constituency first and then go to



Naveen Patnaik for his blessings," he had said. However, Samantaray's such words have not gone well with some BJD leaders. On Monday, BJD leaders from Niali, Bipin Behera and Trupti Ranjan Behera called a press meet to lash out at Samantaray. "It is up to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to take a call

transparency. "Someone must be there. If none of the OSSC is involved, how the question papers are leaking? If it has been leaked, why the state government is not punishing the guilty ones? There is 5T here. So why these things are not being settled. There is no transparency anywhere except in words," said Pattanayak. "The state government should stop playing with the future of poor students of the state," he added. Taking the side of his government, BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty said, "Odisha unit of the BJP speaking on any issue including job scam is like a devil reciting Veda. In the states where the BJP is ruling, many such scams have been reported and nothing has so far been done. They are now politicising the issue when nine persons have already been arrested on the basis of the enquiry report of the government's agency.

on the selection of candidates. But, he (Samantaray) had said that MLA Pramod Mallick will get the ticket for the fourth time. This has exasperated the aspiring candidates and the people," said Trupti Ranjan Behera. Echoing the same, Bipin Behera said, "We have been working for the party since its formation and even prior to that when there was Janata Dal. He (Pramod Mallick) may be lacking in discipline... And it has already been proved. The fact why he is against me is that when it comes to the time spent in the party, he is younger to me."

# Odisha Chief Secy Orders Action Against Engineers Who Consumed Liquor In Office



**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Odisha Chief Secretary PK Jena has directed the Water Resources department to initiate stern action against two engineers of the department who were found consuming liquor at Narayanpur section office of Water Resources department a few days ago. A purported video of the incident went viral on social media. Mahanadi North Division of the Water Resources department, sources said. The two engineers along with a few others allegedly consumed liquor at Narayanpur section office of Water Resources department a few days ago. Someone from the locality had reportedly recorded the video in his mobile phone and uploaded the same on social media, sources said. "The Chief Secretary has directed the department to initiate appropriate action against the two engineers," said a source.



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## Bigg Boss OTT 2, Weekend Ka Vaar Written Updates: Falaq Gets Eliminated, Abhishek Gets His Captaincy Back



Salman Khan is back looking dapper in a black shirt and grey pants. He starts the show with a dig into housemate's relationships just like Falaq Naaz-Abinash Sachdev and Jad Hadid-Jiya Shankar. Salman shows a mirror to the housemates about their relationships. SK and Pooja chat about Jiya's 'badalte rishte.' The actor hails Pooja and Bebika's relationship, and calls it a 'genuine affection.' Salman takes a dig at Jiya and Jad's relationship and clears the air on the 'father figure' comment of the actress. SK even confronts Abhishek and Manisha on their 'gesture' comment on Jiya and Jad's relationship. He even questions Jad for his changed feelings for Jiya. Salman schools Jad for his recent actions and conversations about Jiya as well as Manisha Rani.

Abhishek comforts Manisha on the Aashika issue, on the other hand, Jiya talks to Avinash and Falaq about Jad.

Salman announces the bottom 3 of this week- Falaq, Jad and Avinash and the housemates vote Falaq out of the house. Avinash and Jiya are heartbroken with the news, the actor tells Falaq to wait for him.

Abhishek and Elvish's roast session starts, and both social media stars roast the Bigg Boss OTT 2 contestants. Elvish burns Bebika and she gets pretty offended, on the other hand, Abhishek wins hearts by ending the roast on a lovely note by saying 'Not everyone is roastable, some are lovable and I love you my dearest friend Manisha.'

Krushna enters the stage as Mithun Daa and rocks the stage. Jokingly, the actor discloses his payment for performing on Bigg Boss OTT 2 Weekend Ka Vaar ie Rs 15 Lakhs. Krushna plays the 'Bath' game with housemates, adding an entertainment factor to the episode.

Fan asks Manisha Rani about Abhishek and Jiya's bed issue, and asks her if she is insecure about Abhishek, Manisha answers honestly. Also, Abhishek's friend Mahesh enters the stage and talks to him, raising important questions. Suggests he stays close to Manisha, Elvish and Aashika, also asks him to stay away from Jiya.

Jiya activates BB verse and chooses Abhishek's captaincy amongst Pooja's bangles, Avinash's bracelet and the latter's captaincy. The YouTuber is super happy to get back his captaincy.

Jiya and Avinash are heartbroken as Falaq gets eliminated. Avinash says that she has a place in his heart that no one else can ever take. Jiya shed tears as she didn't even say 'goodbye' to her.

Fun banter between Abhishek and Bebika, she hurts the social media star, Manisha gets upset. Abhishek and Bebika discuss Manisha Rani and Abhi backs her up and calls Rani the most 'real.' Bebika and Abhishek get into a massive fight over the 'Manisha issue.'

## Cillian Murphy Opens Up On Controversial Sex Scene From 'Oppenheimer'

Actor Cillian Murphy has said his sex scenes with Florence Pugh in 'Oppenheimer' are "perfect". The 'Peaky Blinders' star, who is from Cork, Ireland, plays the lead in 'Oppenheimer'. Murphy said the sex scenes with co-star Florence Pugh, who plays love interest Jean Tatlock, actually have a good reason for

so f\*\*\*\*\* powerful. And they're not gratuitous. They're perfect. And Florence is just amazing." Praising Pugh's work, he continued: "I have loved Florence's work since 'Lady Macbeth' (William Oldroyd's 2016 period drama about a woman embittered by a loveless marriage) and I think she's f\*\*\*\*\*

wife, producer Emma Thomas, to play the lead. Even though Murphy and Nolan had collaborated on Nolan's 'Dark Knight' films (2005-2012), 'Inception' (2010) and 'Dunkirk' (2017), the pair are not particularly close. "Myself and Chris don't keep in touch, you know," Murphy said. "We don't hang out and go to have pizza. We work

lot of research for his role. "You can do all the research, and I did for 'Oppenheimer', I did six months of research, but when it comes down to it, it's just you and the other actors and the director, and what matters is the truth... and that moment," Murphy added. "All the f\*\*\*\*\* research in the world isn't going to help you there. I've



appearing in the film. Jean Tatlock is a young Stanford Medical School student and Communist Party member and Oppenheimer's lover. While Florence Pugh had a shorter screen time than expected, her scenes definitely have a huge impact in the movie. Speaking to the Sydney Morning Herald about the sex scenes, Murphy said: "Those scenes were written deliberately. He knew that those scenes would get the movie the rating that it got. And I think when you see it, it's

phenomenal. She has this presence as a person and on screen that is staggering. The impact she has (in 'Oppenheimer') for the size of the role, it's quite devastating." The film is director Christopher Nolan's first romantic story, in the sense that Oppenheimer's complex and passionate relationship with his mistress Jean (Pugh) is a central thread of the story. Development on 'Oppenheimer' was announced in September 2021, with Murphy approached by Nolan's

together. And then we don't see each other, and then we work. So, when I got a call from Emma, I knew it must've been about something. And then Chris got on the phone, and he said, this is my next project, I'd like you to be my Oppenheimer." Explaining his reaction, Murphy says: "I had to f\*\*\*\*\* sit down. But it was one of those great, glorious, pure moments of the kind of joy that you get only a few times in your life."

Murphy also said he did a

become better at doing that, being open." Murphy also said he does not see himself as a celebrity, and his anonymity is one of the most important tools in the actor's toolkit. I don't know if (fame) is destructive, but I don't think it's useful," Murphy said. "I've always felt that way. It always seemed logical to me that the less people know about you, the more willing they are to invest in you on screen. That seems entirely logical to me."

## Karan Soni Is Excited About 'Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse' Indian Dubbed Versions

As audiences are eagerly waiting to witness the Spider-Man mania in 'Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse', the film has already started creating massive buzz globally with phenomenal early reviews. Indian audiences are rejoicing with the special entry of the first ever Indian Spider-man, Pavitr Prabhakar and Deadpool fame, Karan Soni who voiced Pavitr

Prabhakar in the original film said how people reached out to him to not mess it up. Speaking about people's response to him voicing for Pavitr Prabhakar and the film being dubbed in nine Indian languages, Karan Soni shared, "I think it's so exciting that the movie is being dubbed in nine Indian languages. It's just very exciting because I grew up in India, and we absolutely love

Spider-Man. When it was announced that I was playing him, I cannot tell you how many messages I got from people. Firstly, they were just excited, and then there were a few more serious messages, saying mainly, 'Don't mess this up.' I don't think we did!"

The makers had recently announced that the Hindi and Punjabi version of the film will have Indian

Cricketer Shubman Gill voice Pavitr Prabhakar. The news took social media by storm exciting the fans even more to get engrossed in the Spider-Man Universe again. Sony Pictures Entertainment India releases 'Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse' in English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Gujarati, Marathi, Punjabi and Bengali on 1st June 2023, only in Cinemas.

## New Poster Of Suriya's 'Kanguva' Unveils Actor's Fierce Avatar



After treating the audience with a scintillating first glimpse of the most awaited magnum opus 'Kanguva' on the special occasion of superstar Suriya's birthday, the makers have now arrived with an intriguing new poster. The hype for this Pan India cinematic spectacle has always been at its peak and with the first glimpse, it just boosted up onto the next level while the new poster takes the audience more into the world of 'Kanguva'.

Introducing the raw and rustic world of 'Kanguva', the first glimpse truly arrived with a whole lot of enthralling visual experience, human emotions, powerful performance and never seen before action sequences on a massive scale. Rising the excitement, the new poster is here featuring Superstar Suriya with his charismatic screen presence and carrying a whole lot of intensity on his face and riding a horse holding a sword. Bringing an absolute second treat to Suriya's fans on his birthday, the poster is truly fascinating and guarantees a blockbuster on its way.

Studio Green has signed up with top distribution houses to release the film on a massive scale, across the globe in early 2024.

'Kanguva' is directed by Siva and features Suriya and Disha Patani in the titular character.

## Dhindhora Baje Re: KJo Teases New Song From Alia- Ranveer's 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani'



There are few people who can match up to Ranveer Singh's energy and actor Alia Bhatt is surely one of them. On Sunday, the makers of 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani' dropped the teaser of the film's new song 'Dhindhora Baje Re'. The clip shows Alia and Ranveer dancing at a giant Durga Puja pandal. The duo is seen twinning in traditional red attires. Sharing the song's link, Alia took to Instagram and wrote, "#DhindhoraBajeRe... Song Out Tomorrow! #RockyAurRaniKiiPremKahaani, in cinemas this Friday." Ranveer also dropped the teaser on his Instagram account. "Revel in Love," he captioned the post. The song's teaser has left fans excited. "Woahhh.... love the energy," a social media user commented. "Can't wait," another one wrote.

The song is sung by Darshan Raval and will be out on Monday. 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani' marks filmmaker Karan Johar's comeback after seven years.



# The National Education Policy (NEP): Transforming Higher Education

Prof (Dr.) S N Tripathy



The National Education Policy (NEP) in India aims to bring about comprehensive reforms in the education sector, particularly in higher education. One of the key recommendations of the NEP is to expand the gross enrolment rate in higher education, with a specific focus on increasing participation in vocational education. Among many issues listed by the NEP (NEP section 9.3), the absence of teacher and institutional autonomy assumes significance in comprehending the rationale behind the higher education reform. The steady growth in privatization did not lead to much of an improvement in the quality because privatization mutated to commercialization, which is inimical to delivering quality education (NEP section 18.2). The NEP observes

fragmentation of the higher education system has restricted the free flow of ideas within the sector, generating confusion and conflicts in regulating the industry resulting in a severe compromise to promote multidisciplinary in teaching and research. Setting up regulatory authority by dismantling the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council for Technical Education was earlier recommended by the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) in 2007 and the Yash Pal Committee Report in 2009. The NEP argues that fragmentation of the Indian higher education system has created fault lines between general and professional education, public and private, centre and the state and national and foreign institutions, with many being in operation without proper approval. These fragmentations must be clarified for the regulators and the stakeholders, rendering regulatory interventions ineffective and

enforcement difficult. This has made the present system of regulation and funding unsustainable. The NEP has suggested establishing an overarching Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) (NEP section 18.3). This will be supported by four pillars, National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC), National Accreditation Council (NAC), the Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC), and the General Education Council (GEC). The NHERC will focus on "light but tight" regulation, emphasizing transparency in financial probity (NEP section 18.3). Private- and public-funded HEIs will be treated equally. Good governance, transparency in economic affairs and financial integrity through disclosure will be the central focus of the NHERC. However, it may be noted that accounts may show that no profit is being made, whereas accounting manipulations ensure siphoning out of surplus. After all,

subversion of the educational processes is not a big deal in education, and this is a root cause behind the poor quality of higher education. The NEP recognizes the importance of increasing the gross enrolment rate in higher education. It sets an ambitious target of achieving a 50% enrolment rate by 2035, a significant increase from the 26.3% recorded in 2018 (NEP section 10.8). However, the NEP emphasizes a change in the composition of enrolment, with a particular emphasis on vocational education. By 2025, the NEP recommends that at least 50% of learners should be enrolled in vocational education programs (NEP section 16.5). This shift reflects the need to align education with the demands of the job market and equip students with practical skills. Online Teaching Is a Game Changer: The higher education sector is undergoing transformative changes with the integration of technology and improved internet

connectivity. While some resistance to online teaching existed, it is no longer significant in the current scenario. Online education eliminates the constraints of time and space associated with traditional classroom teaching. By digitizing and recording lectures, online teaching becomes a digital product that can be accessed by anyone, anywhere in the world, subject to the teacher's or institution's discretion. This shift has significant implications for the market as online teaching gains prominence. However, it is essential to note that offline and online education are not equivalent in their impact on learning outcomes. Classroom interactions and dialogue have a unique value that online teaching cannot fully replicate. Nevertheless, teachers will be better prepared for the classroom as online transactions become more formal and transparent. While challenges and

differences exist between offline and online teaching, adopting technology offers new opportunities and possibilities for education delivery, market dynamics, and the overall quality of education. According to the NEP, granting autonomy to teachers and institutions will enable them to chart their paths and compete for success. This autonomy will foster a highly competitive market, especially with the potential entry of top-ranking foreign universities in India. While online teaching is generally considered cost-effective, additional expenses may be incurred to provide special assistance to students who require support in coping with the challenges of online learning. The NEP emphasizes a balanced contribution from the public and private sectors in expanding higher education. Both sectors are responsible for increasing enrolment rates and ensuring equitable access to quality education. The

involvement of private institutions is expected to stimulate healthy competition and enhance the overall quality of education. Furthermore, the NEP highlights the importance of regulating and monitoring private institutions to maintain standards and prevent exploitation. Role of the National Research Foundation: The NEP acknowledges the crucial role of research in driving innovation, economic growth, and social development. To facilitate research and ensure coordination between research institutions and higher education institutions (HEIs), the NEP proposes the establishment of the National Research Foundation (NRF). The NRF will provide funding for research, promote collaborations, and facilitate knowledge exchange between researchers and academia. By bridging the gap between research and education, the NRF

aims to strengthen India's research capabilities and enhance the quality of higher education. The NEP's recommendations for higher education in India outline a comprehensive plan to expand enrolment rates, with a focus on vocational education. The involvement of both the public and private sectors, along with the phasing out of affiliation, will contribute to a more equitable and diverse higher education landscape. The categorization of institutions and the promotion of multidisciplinary education and research universities aim to foster excellence and innovation. Finally, establishing the National Research Foundation will support research and collaboration, strengthening the research ecosystem and enhancing the overall quality of higher education in India.

**Former Professor of Economics, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, currently at Berhampur, Odisha**

## Nothing is more laughable and contrary to the elementary principles of jurisprudence than the so-called basic structure theory, based on which the Supreme Court has rendered hundreds of judgements and even quashed the NJAC

Mathews J Nedumpara



It is known even to a law student that only a person aggrieved, namely, one whose rights are infringed, alone can go to a Court, and where the fundamental rights are infringed, one could go straight to the Supreme Court under Article 32. Without pleading infringement of a right, no one can go to a court. This is a universal principle. But the celebrated Kesavananda Bharati case laid down that one can go to a court without any of his right, much less fundamental rights, being infringed. Even if Kesavananda Bharati does not say so, it is so understood and done today. In Kesavananda Bharati the full court of the Supreme Court held that the Parliament

has the power to abrogate every article of the constitution, including the fundamental rights, but not the "basic structure". Since then, petitions are filed in the Supreme Court under Article 32, claiming that the "basic structure" is infringed, though no fundamental right is violated. It is not too difficult to understand the folly of the basic structure theory but for which the so-called freedoms and liberties of the citizens, nay, the very concept of democracy would be put to democracy. It requires no great loud thinking to comprehend a situation where the basic structure is abrogated but no fundamental right, and vice versa. The scenario where one could go to a court complaining violation of no right, much less fundamental right, but the violation of the basic structure, is

ex facie irrational. Because if the violation of the basic structure does not result in the violation of any legal right, much less fundamental right, why would a citizen be at all concerned and why would he need a right to go to court. On the contrary, rights and fundamental rights in particular, if violated, pre- Kesavananda Bharati, a citizen has a right to approach the Court, which under Article 32 is guaranteed. In other words, if in the pre- Kesavananda era a citizen could approach the court complaining of violation of his right and the Supreme Court under Article 32, directly without approaching any other court where a fundamental right is violated, what additional right or remedy does Kesavananda confer on him. The answer is absolutely in the negative. To emphasize,

Kesavananda Bharati did not bring any new rights or remedies unknown to law. It did not create any new forum as well. It was a hype. As a lawyer who had taken the trouble to read the entire judgement of the Kesavananda Bharati running into 700 pages, two decades before, i can in all humility, assert that the judgement is nothing but an inconceivable piece of literature which conveys nothing in particular. I do admit that i have indeed recommended my juniors to read the judgement because a lot of issues are discussed and it is quiet informative from a pure academic point of view. It is a discussion with no beginning or end. What is true of the Kesavananda Bharati is equally true of most of the so-called landmark judgments of the Supreme Court, including the judgement on privacy. It just happened to be

sensationalised. I vaguely recollect a judgement by Justice Chettur Shankaran Nair of the Kerala High Court which had dealt with the issue of privacy in just 4 pages quoting Semayne's case, where CJ Coke said that 'to every man his home is his castle', the principle of privacy stated emphatically. Coming back to the basic structure theory, i beg to submit that the Supreme Court allowed itself to be misled by the South Bombay lobby of lawyers who had been literally holding it for ransom. These "legends" were anti-democratic and because of the overwhelming influence they had over the bar and the bench, create an illusion that the Parliament is anti-democratic and that it's primary job is to enact laws which take away and curtail the rights and

liberties of the citizens and the judiciary is a bulwark against the anti-democratic legislature and executive. The legislature and the executive can be criticised ruthlessly, but the right to criticize the judiciary is the exclusive province of those who can muster the support of half a dozen retired judges, scores of retired bureaucrats and ex servicemen. Let me try to make sense of the basic structure. Whether the basic structure should be altered, for instance, instead of a parliamentary democracy we should adopt the presidential form of government, which will certainly alter the basic structure of the constitution, is for the Parliament to discuss. The basic structure is not a justiciable issue. It is a political concept.

To conclude, whether the basic structure is infringed or not, if fundamental rights are violated, judicial review will lie. On the contrary, if no fundamental right is violated, and assuming for arguments sake that the basic structure is violated, no judicial review will lie. Because why should there be a judicial review when there is no person aggrieved. Kesavananda Bharati has opened the gates for busybodies to institute petitions under Article 32 where they claim no violation of their fundamental or legal right. Through PILs they destroyed the foundations of democracy by making the judiciary a supreme legislature and supreme executive with no accountability to the people. The tragedy of this country is that the

powerful lobbies invoke Article 32, curiously even asserting that no fundamental right is infringed and seek quashing even of a constitutional amendment. The NJAC was thus quashed, the National Tax Tribunal was aborted. For those who still believe in the glory of Kesavananda Bharati, I must add that Kesavananda Bharati did not prevent Indira Gandhi from declaring emergency. It was the daridranarayas, the poor, who voted Indira Gandhi out of power and restored democracy. Have faith in the wisdom of the common people, have faith in the democracy.

**The Author is the president of National Lawyers campaign for Judicial transparency and reforms 98205 35428**



## PRESIDENT OF INDIA PRESENTS NATIONAL GEOSCIENCE AWARDS

**New Delhi, (KCN):** The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu presented the National Geoscience Awards-2022 at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre today (July 24, 2023). The National Geoscience Award is instituted by the Ministry of Mines, Government of India with the aim to honour individuals and teams for extraordinary achievements and outstanding contributions in various fields of geosciences. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the field of Geoscience is very wide. It also includes the study of natural disasters like landslides, earthquakes, floods and tsunamis.



These subjects are called Public Good Geosciences because they are useful in the protection of a large number of people. The President said that mining is the primary sector of our economy. Mineral development has a vital contribution in the economic development of the country. During the last

few years, many progressive changes have been brought in the mining sector by the government. These changes are enhancing the capacity and productivity of the mining sector. The President said only that path of science and development proves correct which goes towards the welfare of

humanity. That's why the geoscientist community has to keep moving forward in the direction of human centric mining. She appreciated Indian geoscientists for strengthening India's economy by contributing in the efficient use of minerals. The President said that nowadays special attention is being given

to minerals like Rare Earth Elements, Platinum Group of Elements and Semiconducting Elements. Keeping in view the priority of environment protection, mining of some traditional minerals and their results are being analyzed from a new perspective. She appreciated the Ministry of Mines for acknowledging the contribution in the field of Sustainable Mineral Development in today's awards. She was happy to note that for Sustainable Mineral Development, equal attention is being given to all the three dimensions - economic, social and environmental.

## Mob Surrounds Meghalaya Chief Minister's Office, 5 Injured In Attack

**Tura:** A mob attack at the office of Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma left five security personnel injured. Mr Sangma is unharmed. He is, however, still inside his office in Tura as hundreds have surrounded the compound. Garo Hills-based civil society groups have been on a hunger strike demanding for a winter capital in Tura. Trouble started this evening when hundreds of people gathered outside the Chief Minister's office and started throwing stones. Five security personnel were injured in the attack. They were brought inside Mr Sangma's office. Mr Sangma was talking



to the protesters when some people in the crowd started throwing stones. The civil society groups that have been demanding a winter capital in Tura include ACHIK and GHSMC. Mr Sangma has asked the protesters to meet for a discussion on the winter capital demand and job reservation. Cabinet ministers and other stakeholders will attend. He asked the

organisations to end their protest before they can begin talks in state capital next month. Sources said Mr Sangma had been discussing the matter with the civil society organisations for over three hours, when some people in the crowd - allegedly not part of the groups - gathered outside the Chief Minister's office and started throwing stones. The police fired tear-gas to control the crowd.

## "Served Country, Couldn't Protect Wife...": Ex-Soldier On Manipur Video

**Imphal:** The husband of one of two women paraded naked and molested by a group of men in Manipur is a Kargil war veteran. He rued that though he protected the country, he could not save his wife from being humiliated. At a press conference in state capital Imphal, he raised a serious question on the role of the Manipur Police, alleging his wife and others were taken away by the mob

from a police vehicle and the cops did not resist. The husband served the Indian Army as a Subedar of the Assam Regiment. "I fought for the nation in the Kargil war and was also in Sri Lanka as part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force. I protected the nation but am dejected that after my retirement, I could not protect my home, my wife and fellow villagers. I am sad, depressed," he



said. "Police were present but took no action. I want that all those people who burnt the houses and humiliated the women get exemplary punishment," he said. "Here, the majority community has always kept the minority communities like us oppressed. We cannot no longer stay with other community. Government now should find out a permanent solution," he added.

## Whiskey And Chicken Last Year, Tomato This Year In Telangana Leader's Outreach

**New Delhi:** A leader of Telangana's ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), who briefly trended on social media last year for giving whiskey and chicken to supporters, has surfaced again in a viral video - this time distributing something else.



prices have gone up in recent weeks - the tomato. In the video, long lines of men and women are seen queuing in front of a large table where speckless tomatoes have been neatly arranged inside pink plastic baskets. Pink is

the BRS' official colour. Mr Srihari's kitchen staple philanthropy meets three objectives - birthday wish for KTR, supporters' goodwill, and free vegetable in times of price rise. The government's

agricultural marketing company National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India Ltd (NCCF) today began selling tomatoes at a subsidised rate of ₹ 70 per kg through the Open Network for Digital Commerce

(ONDC), news agency ANI reported. "We have partnered with ONDC for sale of tomatoes in Delhi NCR," NCCF managing director Anice Joseph Chandra told ANI. Incorporated in December, 2021, ONDC goes beyond the current platform-centric digital commerce model where the buyer and seller have to use the same platform or application to be digitally visible and do a business transaction. Consumers can place their orders from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm daily and the delivery will be made the next day. "There will be doorstep delivery at no extra cost to the consumer," she said.

**New Delhi:** Congress's Shashi Tharoor, at the end of another chaotic day in parliament, sharply criticized the BJP governments at the Centre and in Manipur, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not speaking on the issue. In every nation with a parliamentary system, the Prime Minister is accountable to parliament, and he should take the members "into his confidence" if there is any particular reason for not dismissing the elected government of Manipur, he said. There is "no end to ineptitude and callousness of the state government," Mr Tharoor added. "It has been an irony for some time. The Prime Minister barely speaks in a house where he is a member. He is one of our most eloquent orators... He speaks from every stage and at every available opportunity," Mr Tharoor told NDTV in an exclusive interview. "This is one of the gravest crisis our country has faced in a long time... There has been a horrendous loss of lives... 140 or more were killed... there were rapes



and violence. On top of that horrendous displacement -- 50,000 people lost their homes. And now it is spreading. In Mizoram, there has been a backlash and Meities are fleeing the state," Mr Tharoor said, declaring that there cannot be a more important subject that needs PM Modi's attention. "I have no doubts that the state would have found itself under President's Rule (had it been an Opposition-ruled state)," Mr Tharoor added. "We have had stories of FIRs being filed and ignored for 17 days, really horrific stories of handing over of weapons... The state government is essentially absent without leave. If all this is acceptable to the central government, they must tell the parliament why," he

underscored. The united opposition, he added, is ready for a debate on the issue, but it is essential that the Prime Minister speaks first. Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned for the day today amid unrelenting protests by opposition members for PM Modi's statement on the Manipur situation. The protests continued even though Union Home Minister Amit Shah assured the House that the government will discuss the issue. Rajya Sabha proceedings too were adjourned for the day following an uproar over the Manipur issue and the suspension of Aam Aadmi Party's Sanjay Singh for the rest of the monsoon session. The BJP has alleged that the opposition is running away from a discussion in Parliament as it does not want certain facts to become public.

## Cough Syrup Suspected In Gambia Deaths Clean: Health Ministry Sources

**New Delhi:** Cough syrup from a Haryana-based firm that allegedly caused deaths of children in Gambia, has passed all tests, sources in Union Health Ministry told NDTV today. The investigation was conducted by the government's pharmacology chief. "If any question or communication comes from the Gambia government, we will also reply according to our report," sources said. "We have done a complete investigation from our side regarding Maiden Pharma. The investigation did not find anything that was wrong. Controlled samples kept at the manufacturing unit of Cough Syrup passed the test. All four syrup samples passed," sources said. "The government there may have its own findings, we did not find any problem here," a source added. In October last year, the World Health Organization (WHO) had issued an alert stating that the four cough syrups being supplied to Gambia by the India-based Maiden Pharmaceuticals Ltd were of substandard quality and claimed that they were linked to the death of many children in Gambia. In March, a joint probe by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the US and the Gambian health authorities had suggested a strong link between the deaths of many children in Gambia and the consumption of made-in-India cough syrups that were allegedly contaminated.



The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu in a group photograph with Probationers of Indian Forest Service (2022 batch) and Officers/Officer Trainees of Indian Defence Estates Service (2018 and 2022 batch) at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi



# Digital Academy For JJM

New Delhi: Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was exchanged between the Department of Drinking water and sanitation and Echo India to establish JJM Digital Academy. The online portal of JJM Digital Academy was launched by the Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in the presence of Minister of State for Food Processing Industries and Jal Shakti Prahlad Singh Patel, Secretary Department of

Drinking Water and Sanitation, Vini Mahajan and Additional Secretary & Mission Director- JJM Shri Vikas Sheel. ECHO India, a non-profit organization has supported the Department in establishing JJM Digital Academy. Through the Academy, the Department aims to build the capacity of various stakeholders associated with water supply programme like administrators, engineers, Panchayat functionaries, technicians, sanitation workers and foot

soldiers. The academy will equip them with necessary knowledge and skills to effectively contribute in achieving Mission objectives. The Academy will be using digital technology in delivering training through innovative approach. The Academy will also build a repository through recording of all sessions for knowledge sharing and future reference of prospective learners. The Key Resource Centres (KRCs) and

Implementing Support Agencies (ISAs) will be on board at the JJM Digital Academy platform for training the stakeholders. National and State governments will also be holding sessions to share their best practices. A number of UN and bilateral agencies, RWPF partners, trusts, foundations, institutions and civil society organizations have joined hands to provide knowledge content through this program. They will be publishing their calendars and reaching out to field

officers, Gram panchayat functionaries to provide right knowledge, at right place and at right time. Minister Jal Shakti, Shri Shekhawat told that the energy generated through the collective efforts of partners, government and communities will create right environment for the sustainability of water supply to households. JJM Digital academy provides a platform to harness this energy.

## Orissa High Court case clearance rate over 126 per cent till June this year

CUTTACK: The Orissa High Court recorded a case clearance rate (CCR) of 126.66 per cent (pc) during the first six months of this year. While 49,635 cases were instituted and 62,869 disposed of, the number of pending cases went down from 1,64,771 on January 1 to 1,46,582 by June 30. During this period as many as 1,368 judgments were delivered. Of the 62,869 cases disposed of, 39,620 were civil and 23,249 criminal. Around 29,735 civil and 19,900 criminal

cases were instituted, as per the half-yearly statement released by the high court. While the clearance rate in January was 159.96 pc, it went down to 148.62 pc in February, 131.56 pc in March, 126.72 pc in April and 109.82 pc in May, but again increased in June. In the case of subordinate courts across the state, the CCR was 87.02 pc during the first six months. The CCR was nearly 130 pc in February due to disposal of cases in the Lok Adalat and withdrawal of cases.

While 2,32,363 cases were instituted, 2,02,210 were disposed of and the number of pending cases went up from 18,37,220 on January 1 to 18,68,897 by June 30. During the period, 71,368 judgments were delivered by the district courts of which 18,124 were in uncontested cases, as per high court records. Of the cases disposed of by district courts during the six months, 1,55,962 were criminal and 46,248 civil. As many as 41,365 civil and 11,90,728 criminal cases were instituted in the six months.

## Suspension axe on Odisha teacher for beating 70 girl students over poor academic performance

BERHAMPUR: A teacher of RCM Upper Primary school in Ganjam's Soroda NAC was placed under suspension on Saturday on the charge of mercilessly beating around 70 girl students of Class VII who failed in the recent half-yearly examinations. The accused teacher was identified as Palvert Baliarsingh. The missionary school is government aided and has boarding facility. Sources said on March 6, Baliarsingh huddled the students, most of whom were tribals, in a room of the hostel and thrashed them with a baton. The teacher



was reportedly furious over the dismal performance of the students in the recent examinations. Unable to bear the torture, at least seven girls fell sick. However, instead of taking them to the hospital, the school management allegedly treated them in the hostel.

The school authorities managed to suppress the matter but a video clip of the incident went viral on social media following which action was taken against Baliarsingh. Contacted, in-charge headmaster of the school Pabitra Mohan Mantri admitted that the incident took place in the hostel. The

matter has been apprised to the authorities concerned, he added. Despite repeated attempts, no officer of the district education department was available for comment. Sources said parents of the victim students are yet to lodge a complaint with police in this connection.

## Potato bumper harvest turns nightmare for Odisha farmers



BHUBANESWAR: A Bumper harvest of potato this year has turned into a nightmare for the farmers who are struggling even to recover the input cost as the farm gate price of the vegetable is depressingly low. With wholesale price of potatoes at Rs 10 per kg in major markets of the state, there are no takers for the local produce at a time when more than 70 per cent of the crop has already been harvested. Traders are offering to buy the vegetable from potato growers at Rs 5 a kg

as the market rate has remained low compared to previous years. "We are expecting that the rabi potato production of the state may touch six lakh tonne with an average yield of about 20 tonne per hectare. A clear picture of production and productivity will emerge after potato harvesting is over," sources in the horticulture directorate told TNIE. Price of potatoes is not picking up due to bumper harvests across the country in

neighbouring West Bengal, a major supplier of vegetables to the state. With no institutional mechanism for buyback from the farmers with a remunerative minimum support price, the potato growers are at the mercy of the market dynamics. With no cold storage facilities or organised potato mandi, the farmers are left with little choice but to sell their produce at whatever price is available in local markets, the sources maintained. General secretary of

Aiginia vegetable merchant association, Shakti Shankar Mishra said he is not in position to tell the farm gate price of the potato produced in the state as the vegetable is yet to arrive at the mandi. He said harvesting is still underway and it will take a couple of days for the arrival of locally produced potato.

As per the area expansion programme through cluster approach, the horticulture directorate has increased the tuber cultivation from 27,155 hectare in 2021-22 to 33,000 hectare in 2022-23 with an anticipated production of 7.26 lakh tonne of potato. The government had also provided quality seeds of 50,000 quintal to farmers during this kharif season. Under the area expansion programme, the state government has made a plan to scale up potato production to over 13 lakh tonne by 2025-25.



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## Delhivery has Outlier Growth Prospectswith 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 VenturaSecurities 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 borderservices 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.

## AWS launches AWS Lift program to help India's SMBs kickstart their digital journey and enable cost savings

Bhubaneswar: AWS today announced the launch of AWS Lift in India, a program to help SMBs, focused on helping medium and large businesses with annual revenues of 80-625 crore, get started on their digital transformation journey. New and existing customers that join the program will receive a starter pack of AWS Promotional Credits over 12 months, providing access to all 200 fully featured services on AWS, the world's most comprehensive and broadly adopted cloud platform. The program will help eligible SMBs experience the benefits of AWS services without worrying about associated costs. Their first dollar billed on AWS services will unlock US\$750 (62K INR) of AWS

promotional credits in their account and increased usage of AWS services is rewarded with AWS promotional credits to offset their bill, up to a maximum of US\$83,500 (69L INR) over 12 months. With a minimum billing fee of just USD \$1 and no lock-in periods or hidden fees, AWS Lift helps to alleviate cost pressures and provides SMBs with a commitment free approach to get started on AWS. As they start experimenting on AWS, SMBs will experience the flexibility of AWS's pay-as-you-go model, as well as develop the operational muscle and transform processes to drive new revenue growth. In January 2020, Amazon announced its commitment to digitize 10 million SMBs in India by 2025. In 2022, AWS

supported the digital upskilling of small businesses through SMB Vidyalaya and also expanded its set of software solutions through Amazon Digital Suite. "Today's announcement of AWS Lift in India is part of our ongoing commitment to provide support to SMBs and help them accelerate innovation and enhance productivity," said Puneet Chandok, President of Commercial Business, AWS India & South Asia (Amazon Web Services India Pvt. Ltd.) The AWS Partner Network (APN) is a global community of over 100,000 partners from more than 150 countries, with almost 70% headquartered outside of the United States, helping customers all over the world to digitally

transform on the cloud. Redington, a leading market multinational with a distribution service across gamut of IT products, smartphones, non-tech products and services, is an AWS Partner. "Redington is delighted to be a part of the launch of the AWS Lift program in India, and we see tremendous opportunities for our customers and partners through this initiative. The AWS Lift program is designed to help SMBs in their growth journey by providing access to AWS cloud services and credits to help them scale their business," said Rakshit Bhatt, Head Cloud, Redington Limited. In India, AWS has helped thousands of SMBs across industries digitally transform their businesses by leveraging the power of AWS cloud,

including customers from health care (Narayana Nethralaya, Mahajan Imaging, Sahyadri Hospitals), manufacturing ( Shyam Steels, Vishakha Group), retail and consumer goods (Hamvor, Nandu's Chicken), media & entertainment (Qube Cinema, Punjab Kesari) etc.AWS customer Tork Motors, an Indian electric motorcycle and powertrain manufacturer, shared how they are accelerating their digital transformation. "Through our collaboration with AWS, we were convinced that AWS can help us run our cloud native applications seamlessly with close to 100% uptime while simultaneously helping our team build the right skills as we start our journey with AWS," said Kanishk Nadkarni, Head of Software, Tork Motors.

## 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.

## realme Announces Global Launch of realme GT3: Unleashing the World's Fastest Charging Power 240W

Bhubaneswar- realme, the most trusted technology brand, launched the realme GT3 - its next-generation speed flagship with the world's fastest charging power: 240W globally at Mobile World Congress 2023. realme will be the first brand in the industry to mass produce the 240W fast charging

technology. Starting the first generation, the realme GT Series has represented realme's most cutting-edge technology innovations, from the mind-blowing suitcase design on the GT Master Series to the true premium flagship realme GT2 Pro Series, and now the speed limit breaker - realme GT3.

Since its inception, the realme GT Series has been at the forefront of realme's technological advancements, introducing groundbreaking features such as the stunning suitcase design in the GT Master Series and the true flagship series, realme GT2 Pro Series. Continuing this legacy of

pushing boundaries, the latest addition to the lineup, realme GT3, is set to break speed limits and set new benchmarks in the industry. On the announcement, Madhav Sheth, CEO realme India, VP, realme, and President, realme International Business Group, said, "realme was founded with the purpose

of empowering the youth through leap-forward technology and design. With this Dare to Leap spirit, realme is entering its fifth year in the industry and aims to set new industry standards. With realme GT3, realme is raising the bar for fast, efficient, and safe charging for smartphones.

## 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.

## 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 & Parikhit Naik were choosen as best crew members for their outstanding effort in serving people at distress going an extra mile.

## LIC HFLrevises 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, LICHFL 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."



# BCCI to release India bilaterals tender in next two days

**Mumbai:**The media rights tender for the bilateral cricket games in India will be released in the coming day or two. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and its consultants, Ernst & Young, have informed the potential parties that the highly anticipated announcement will be made by Tuesday (July 25), if not within the next 24 hours. The target date to complete the media rights sale is set for August 19. Prospective participants have not been clearly informed whether the method of sale will be through e-auction or closed bidding as there seems to be still some debate on this. However, considering the BCCI's past experience and blockbuster sale of the Indian Premier League (IPL) media rights last year, it is perceived that the sale will be conducted through online bidding. The media rights will be valid for a period of five years, from 2023 to 2027. The exact number of matches and their breakdown in terms of Tests, ODIs, and T20Is has not been finalized yet, as the BCCI apparently is yet to lock in a few series. However, it is expected to be around 100 matches, which is similar to the number in the last cycle. For reference, the previous cycle had 103 games. The new cycle is expected to follow the recent trend in world cricket, with fewer ODIs and more T w e n t y 2 0 Internationals than in the last cycle, while the number of Tests is likely to remain the



same. In the previous deal that ended in March, the BCCI had sold the bilateral rights to Disney Star for INR 6138.10 Crore, approximately INR 61 Crore per international game across formats. The base price this time is expected to be substantially higher than that number. The rights will be sold in different packages, with linear and digital rights separated, and bidders will not have the option to present a consolidated package bid. Other packages, such as the non-India/rest of the world rights, will also be available. However, it is unlikely that the tender will include a special non-exclusive package like the one that contributed significantly to the final value of the IPL tender, which reached INR 48390 Crore (\$6.2 Billion). The BCCI aims to complete the sale by August 19, allowing the new buyer at least one month to market the first series in the cycle - a three-match ODI series against Australia in September, planned as a preparatory series for the World Cup in October-November.

## Ayesha Naseem retires from international cricket for religious reasons

**NewDelhi:**In January 2020, Ayesha Naseem - then 15 years old - was hoping that she could become an inspiration. She was fast-tracked to the national side at the back of her standout power-hitting ability. At that point, when she hadn't even played an international game, she hadn't set sight on becoming the greatest cricketer. All that she hoped for was to become an inspiration for parents who didn't allow their daughters to play in the conservative region of Abbottabad, in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. She wanted to get the girls out of their homes to cricket grounds. Born in the village of Bagan, her family moved to Karachi where she started playing cricket along with her brother. "In my hometown, girls aren't even allowed to step out, let alone play cricket," she had told Cricbuzz then. Ayesha



had a stronger support system; she got access to cricket as well as education. In 2015, when her family returned to Abbottabad and she started playing formal cricket, there were roadblocks. "People frowned upon me for playing cricket. They constantly dissuaded me and suggested that I was a bad influence on their daughters." Eventhough it was becoming difficult to pursue the sport from her native town and she had the choice of playing from Karachi, she opted not to exercise that option. "What's the point of me returning to Karachi? I had so many friends who were talented but didn't get that opportunity. I had the support of my family, and when others see me excel, I hope they will start sending their daughters to play as well. All that these girls need is the trust and support of their parents."

Ayesha isn't the first woman from Abbottabad to play for Pakistan. Qanita Jalil, one of Pakistan's finest seamers, played 117 internationals in a career spanning 10 years from 2005 to 2015. In Ayesha, Pakistan had one of the most promising young talents to take that legacy forward and higher. Even in a short, injury-filled career, where she often batted low down the order, Ayesha managed to make an

impact. The brute force with which she tonked the ball (T20I strike rate of 128.12) not only made her stand out among the rest of her teammates but also put her alongside the best of the power-hitters in the women's game. The last of her standout knocks was a 25-ball 43 against India at the World Cup earlier this year. Soon after the tournament, at the age of 18, she conveyed the message that she wanted to retire from the game for religious reasons to the Pakistan Cricket Board. Multiple efforts were made by the board to have her reconsider the decision, but to no success. The PCB is yet to make Ayesha's retirement decision public. In only 4 ODIs and 30 T20Is, she made the followers of women's cricket take notice of her cricketing talent. Unfortunately, she couldn't fulfill the dream that she saw as a 15-year-old.

## Lahiru Thirimanne retires from international cricket



**NewDelhi:**Sri Lanka batter Lahiru Thirimanne has announced his retirement from international cricket. The top-order batter announced his decision on his Facebook page, leaving the sport with 44 Tests, 127 ODIs and 26 T20Is to his name in a career spanning 13 years. "As a player I have given my best, I have tried my best, I have respected the game and I have done my duty honestly and ethically to my motherland," Thirimanne wrote on his Facebook page. "It was a difficult decision to make, but I

cannot mention here the many unexpected reasons that influenced me to take this decision willingly or unwillingly. I take this opportunity to thank the SLC members, my coaches, teammates, physios, trainers and analysts for their support and encouragement." Thirimanne made his international debut in the 50-over format, in a triangular series fixture against India in Mirpur. He scored his first century against Australia in Adelaide in 2013 and went on to have an even better year in 2014. Thirimanne topped the batting charts in Sri

Lanka's title-winning Asia Cup campaign with two hundreds and was also part of the T20I squad that won the T20 World Cup. He had his best run of form in the 50-over format in 2015, when he scored 861 runs - including a World Cup hundred. In Tests, Thirimanne scored three tons, the last of which came in a victory against Bangladesh in Pallekele in 2021. His final appearance in the longest format came in Bengaluru against India last year. Thirimanne signs off with 2088 runs in Tests, 3194 runs in ODIs and 291 in T20Is.

## Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty Clinch Historic Korea Open Title

**NewDelhi:**History was written on Sunday as India's men's doubles pair in badminton Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty clinched their first Korea Open title with win over world no. 1 Indonesian duo Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto in a thrilling 3-game final. Satiwk and Chirag won 17-21, 21-13, 21-14 to clinch the Korea Open 2023 title in Yeosu, Korea on Sunday. This is the third Super 500 title of their career so far after Thailand Open 2019 and Yonex Sunrise India Open 2022 and third BWF World Tour title in 2023 as well, having previously won Swiss Open 2023 (Super 300) and Indonesia Open 2023 (Super

1000) earlier this year. The Indian pair started the game on bad note. They lost the first round 17-31 to the Indonesians. But this has been the feature of their game for the last couple of years ow. They know how to stage a fightback and this is exactly what they did here too. Satwiksairaj and Chirag bounced back strong to win the second game 21-13. In the final round, they closed the game at 21-14. They maintained the lead throughout the match, putting pressure on the Indonesians. They had 7-3 lead which was reduced by 1 point at break with score reading 11-8. The Indian pair showed great levels of fitness and temperament to pull off a stunning come-from-behind

victory. Earlier, Satwik and Chirag had beaten second-seeded Chinese pair Wang Chang and Liang Wei Keng 21-15, 24-22 in the semi-finals to book the spot in the final. This has been an incredible year for Satwik and Chirag. With less than a year to go for Paris Olympics, chances look bright for a medal from badminton. Himanta Biswa Sarma, the president of Badminton Association of India (BAI) congratulated the Indian pair on the wi. Sarma wrote on his Twitter: "You made us all proud with your hatrick of Super 500 wins this year: Switzerland, Indonesia, and now South Korea. We not only enjoyed your superb performance but also the victory dance thereafter. Keep it up!"

## Ravi Dahiya's Asian Games Dream Comes Crashing As He Shockingly Loses Wrestling Trials

**NewDelhi:**Ravi Kumar Dahiya, silver-medalist of Tokyo Olympics 2020, won't be travelling for the Asian Games 2023 as he was knocked out of the wrestling trials by Maharashtra's Atish Todkar by 20-8 at the Indira Gandhi Arena on Sunday. Olympic and World medalist, Ravi Dahiya crashed out in the first round of wrestling selection trials for the acclaimed tournament. Dahiya started wrestling in his early teens and won the silver medal in the 2015 Junior World Wrestling Championships at Salvador de Bahia in the 55 kg freestyle category. He picked up an injury in 2017 which kept him out of action for more than a year. In his comeback year, he won the silver medal at the 2018 World U23



Wrestling Championship in Bucharest, India's only medal at the competition, in the 57 kg category. Dahiya remained unbeaten at the 2019 Pro Wrestling League, representing the title-winning team, Haryana Hammers. He was ranked fifth at the 2019 Asian Wrestling Championships in

Xi'an, after losing the bronze medal match. In his World Championships debut in 2019, Dahiya defeated the European champion Arsen Harutyunyan in the round of 16, and the 2017 world champion Yuki Takahashi in the quarterfinal, to earn one of the six available quota places for the 2020 Summer Olympics. He lost to

defending champion and eventual gold medalist Zaur Uguev in the semifinal round. He managed to take the bronze after defeating Reza Atri of Iran. On the back of his medal win, Dahiya was included in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports' Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) in October 2019. He is also a

bronze medallist in the 2019 World Wrestling Championships and a three-time Asian champion. Dahiya won gold at the 2020 Asian Wrestling Championships in New Delhi and the 2021 Asian Wrestling Championships in Almaty. In the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games, he won the gold medal in the men's 57kg freestyle wrestling category in Birmingham, England. At the 2022 Yasar Dogu Tournament, he won the gold medal after defeating Uzbek Gulomjon Abdullaev 11-10 in the final. At the 2022 World Wrestling Championships, he lost to Uzbekistan's Gulomjon Abdullaev in the pre-quarterfinals.