



Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik at the 75th Year Foundation Day celebration of Odisha Public Service Commission at Hotel Swosti Premium, Bhubaneswar on 8-7-2023.

RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN TO HOST VISITOR'S CONFERENCE 2023 ON JULY 10 AND 11

New Delhi: Rashtrapati Bhavan will host the Visitor's Conference 2023 on July 10 and 11, 2023. The President of India is the Visitor of 162 Central Institutions of Higher Learning. On July 10, 2023, the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu will deliver her inaugural address. Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan will also address the Conference. On July 11, 2023, the Conference will deliberate on the Theme - Education for Sustainable Development: Building a

better world. Five different groups will brainstorm on sub-themes such as Contributions to the realization of NEP-2020; Internationalization efforts and G-20; Research contributions and recognitions; Diversity, equality, inclusivity and wellness; Plans and action items for Amrit Kaal. In the concluding session, outcome of deliberations will be presented before the President. President Droupadi Murmu will address the concluding session. On July 10, 2023, before the commencement of Visitor's Conference, President Murmu will

present the Visitor's Awards 2021 in the categories of 'Innovation', 'Research', and 'Technology Development'. The Visitor's Award for 'Innovation' will be conferred on Prof. Venkatesh Singh from the School of Physical and Chemical Sciences, Central University of South Bihar for developing indigenous Charge Pick-up Panels for Resistive Plate Chamber Detector using Silicon Fiber Sheet. The Visitor's Award for 'Research in Physical Sciences' will be presented to Prof. Surajit Dhara from the School of Physics,

University of Hyderabad for his work in soft matter and liquid crystals. Prof. Mohammed Latif Khan from Dr Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar will receive the Visitor's Award for 'Research in Biological Sciences' for his contributions in understanding of forest biodiversity, regeneration of RET (Rare, Endangered and Threatened) plant species and threat status assessments of forests in the Eastern Himalayas and Central India. The Visitor's Award for 'Technology Development' will be conferred on Prof. KC

James Raju from the School of Physics, University of Hyderabad for his contributions in frequency tunable microwave devices using ferroelectric thin films. The President will also present the 6th Visitor's Award, 2020 for Research (Physical Sciences) to Prof. Anunay Samanta, School of Chemistry, University of Hyderabad for his research contributions to the spectroscopy and dynamics of short-lived chemical species formed on photo-excitation of molecular systems and materials.

Discount For AC Chair

New Delhi(KCN): With a view to optimize utilization of accommodation in trains, Ministry of Railways has decided to delegate powers to Zonal Railways to introduce discounted fare scheme in trains with AC sitting accommodation. This scheme shall be applicable in AC Chair Car and Executive classes of all trains having AC sitting accommodation including Anubhuti and Vistadome coaches. The element of discount shall be upto maximum 25% on the basic fare. Other charges like reservation charge, Super fast surcharge, GST, etc., as applicable, shall be levied separately. The discount may be provided in any or all the classes on the basis of occupancy. The train having classes with occupancy less than 50% (either end to end or in some specified legs/sections depending upon the sections where discount is to be provided) during the last 30 days shall be taken into consideration. The fares of competitive mode of transport shall be the criteria while deciding quantum of discount. The discount can be given for the first-leg of journey and/or last leg of journey and/or intermediate sections and/or end to end journey, provided occupancy is less than 50% in that leg/section/end to end, as the case may be.

The discount shall be implemented with immediate effect. However, no refund of fare shall be admissible for already booked passengers. Such discount shall be initially implemented for a period as decided by PCCMs of the zones corresponding to the originating station of the train, subject to a maximum of six months for the journey dates

In case of those trains where flexi fare scheme is applicable in a particular class and the occupancy is poor, flexi fare scheme may be withdrawn initially as a measure to increase the occupancy. In case this does not result in improved occupancy, only then discount scheme may be made applicable in those trains/classes. Tickets on PTOs/



from when it is implemented. Discounted fare may be given for the entire duration or part duration or month wise or seasonal or for week days/weekends based on demand pattern of the aforementioned period. For trains with inter-zonal O-D pairs/destinations, discount in fare may be given in consultation with PCCMs of other Zonal Railways/Managing Director or COM/CCM in the case of KRCL. Further review shall be made regularly and based on the occupancy, the discount may be modified/extended/withdrawn. If modification of discount/withdrawal of the scheme is decided, the same may also be implemented with immediate effect. However no difference of fare shall be charged or collected from already booked passengers.

Difference of fare on Rly passes/Concessional vouchers/MLA/ex-MLAs coupons/Warrants/MPs/Ex-MPs/Freedom fighters etc shall be booked on original class wise fare and not on discounted fare. Tatkal quota shall not be earmarked in such trains for the decided period in case the discount is provided on end to end basis. Further, if discount is provided for part journey of the train, then tatkal quota may not be provided for the part of the journey where discount is given. The discount shall for tickets booked upto preparation of 1st chart and during current booking. The discount may also be permitted onboard by TTE. This scheme shall not be applicable on special trains introduced as holiday/festival specials etc. The provision of this scheme shall be applicable upto a period of 1 year.

Karnataka High Court Stays Probe Into Poll Code Violation Case Against JP Nadda



Bengaluru(KCN): The High Court of Karnataka has stayed the investigation against BJP national president JP Nadda for allegedly violating the model code of conduct in an election speech during the recent Karnataka Assembly polls. The criminal petition filed by Mr Nadda seeking to cancel the case registered against him by the Harappanahalli police was heard by a single judge bench of Justice M Nagaprasanna that gave an interim order staying the investigation on Friday and adjourned the hearing of the petition to July 21. On May 7, 2023, during the campaigning for the Assembly elections, Mr Nadda held a BJP election rally at IB Circle of Harappanahalli town in Vijayanagara district. Mr Nadda, on the occasion, allegedly said that if the BJP loses the elections, the voters will be deprived of the schemes brought out by the central government. He had also apparently stated that if the Congress comes to power in the state, many projects of the Centre including Kisan Samman Nidhi will be closed. The officials of the Election Vigilance Division lodged a complaint with the Harappanahalli Police Station stating that the speech violated the Model Code of Conduct. The police registered a case and started an investigation. Mr Nadda had filed the petition in the High Court seeking to quash this investigation.

Opposition slams Odisha govt over poor show in school Performance Grading Index

Bhubaneswar,(KCN): Soon after Odisha slipped to the 24th spot in Performance Grading Index for schools published by the Ministry of Education, politics has intensified in the State with Opposition BJP and Congress holding the BJD government responsible for the dismal show. While Opposition BJP and Congress have attributed the Odisha government's failure as the reason behind the poor performance, BJD claimed the transformation of schools under the 5T initiative is benefitting the students. "The BJD government is coming up with false statements every day to cover up the failures of its 23 years of governance. The failure of the government is quite evident from the PGI report. The quality of education is deteriorating with each passing day," BJD leader,



Lekhashree Samantsinghar said. "The 5T transformation never aims at improving the quality of education, rather it only aims at making a secretary-level govt officer a political leader of BJD," Samantsinghar alleged. Echoing the same, senior Congress leader Sura Routray said, "The 5T transformation is only limited to painting the schools green. There is a shortage of teachers in schools. Odisha's nosedive in the PGI ranking is very

unfortunate." On the other hand, the ruling BJD has refuted the allegations and said the transformation of schools under the 5T initiative has benefitted the students to a large extent. "If you ask the parents, students, locals, members of the school committees about the transformation, you will get the answer. There were many schools that lacked proper infrastructure. Now with the 5T initiative, these rural

schools are at par with institutions in urban areas," senior BJD leader, Debi Prasad Mishra said. Odisha, which ranked 10 in the PGI report in 2020-21 academic year, has slipped 14 positions and to the 24th spot this academic session. The PGI looks at the Indian education system as one of the largest in the world with about 14.9 lakh schools, 95 lakh teachers, and nearly 26.5 crore students from varied socioeconomic backgrounds.

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik under house arrest: BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi

Bhubaneswar,(KCN): The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP from Bhubaneswar, Aparajita Sarangi on Saturday hit out at the BJD-led government over the visits being undertaken by the 5T Secretary and said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is under house arrest. She launched a verbal attack at the BJD while addressing a gathering at the party's zone-level meeting held at Malipada in Khordha. "Reposing faith in him, 4.5 crore people of Odisha have made him the Chief Minister. On his behalf, we want to see a minister, an MP or an MLA on the dais. We never want to see a secretary," Aparajita said. "The Chief Minister is ill. And he has been under house arrest. This was not the case for 25 years, but this pattern is being observed over the past four years now," she asserted. "We want to see the Chief Minister announcing programmes, sharing dais with his ministers, MPs, MLAs, Sarpanches, and ward members. If a government employee comes forward by bypassing all, I think all of us should come forward to condemn such practice," she added. Taking a jibe at the Chief Minister, Aparajita further said, "If I can't discharge my duties as an MP, I should resign. We don't want proxy rule. We don't want a remote-controlled government." On the other hand, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) lost no time to hit back at the BJP. BJD leader Bibhuti Balabantary said, "The Chief Minister took part in a government programme today. Then, how can he be termed as under house arrest? Despite knowing everything, Aparajita madam is doing politics."



75K CR For Water Sector

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today said that his government has approved projects worth Rs 46,000 crore for water sector development in the last four years and committed to invest another Rs 75,000 crore in next five years. The Chief Minister has asked the Water Resources Department to formulate strategies and build climate resilient sustainable water infrastructure to make Odisha a water secure state at the earliest. Shri Patnaik today felicitated the Water Resources Team of Odisha and Ganjam district for the success

in getting National Water Awards. Appreciating the commitment and efforts of the state and district officials, the Chief Minister expected the same commitment would continue so that Odisha would be a role model to others at National and International level. Secretary to CM V K Pandian moderated the meeting. It may be recalled here that while the State has received the award as the second best State in water conservation and management, the Ganjam district has got the top award among the districts at 4th National Water

Awards. A felicitation programme was organized at Lok Seva Bhawan for the purpose. He asked all Collectors to take up water conservation measures on a large scale as done by Collector Ganjam to meet the water requirement of their Districts. Shri Patnaik said that the Water Resources Department is implementing 5-T principles in letter and spirit. And the results are here to see. Many of the irrigation projects such as Lower Suktel, Kanupur project, Subarnarekha, Chheligada and many other projects are nearing completion.



“My sincere appreciation to the entire team”, he praised the Department. The CM continued that the kind of in-stream storage structures and mega lift projects have been taken up will change the face of irrigation potential of the state and in turn, the lives of millions of State

farmers. Stating that his government provides top priority to development of water resources, Patnaik said, “We have completed a number of projects in recent years to fulfill the aspirations of people. Expectations of people from the Government have been growing. So, we should keep working hard. Any impact on water resources has a tremendous impact in agriculture and in the lives of our farmers.”, he advised. Speaking on the occasion, Water Resources Minister Tukuni Sahoo praised the vision of the Chief

Minister for taking Odisha on the path of transformation. She cited the example of Kalahandi and spoke about its transformation in food production. She assured that the Department would work hard to fulfill the objectives of the Chief Minister. Chief Secretary Pradeep Jena appreciated the efforts of the Water Resources Department in providing irrigation facilities, water conservation, participation of farmers in Pani Panchayat and its efforts in reducing the impact of climate change. Development

Commission and ACS Water Resources, Anu Garg highlighted the achievement of the Department and how different irrigation projects are changing the lives of people in water scarce districts. During the programme, Collector Ganjam Dibyajyoti Parida, and two Field Officers – Engineer Susant Majhi and Engineer Purna Chandra Panigrahi shared their experiences in implementing various projects of the department. They highlighted that the team efforts and focus on timely completion of projects have led to this success.

ODOP Award Challenge Open

New Delhi: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) launched the One District One Product (ODOP) Awards on June 15 on the Rashtriya Puraskar portal. These prestigious awards aim to recognize and honour those who have demonstrated exceptional accomplishments within their respective Districts, States/UTs, and International Missions abroad in achieving economic development through the ODOP approach. The Awards focus on the following: (i) Encouraging constructive competition, innovation, and efficient

public service delivery in successful ODOP interventions; (ii) Promoting replication and institutionalization of best practices through experience sharing and (iii) Recognizing innovations done for successful identification and solving bottlenecks in the supply chain of ODOP products. The application process for these awards commenced on 25 June 2023 and the applications will remain open till 31 July 2023. All States/UTs, district administrations, and Indian Missions abroad are eligible to participate and are strongly encouraged to apply. District administration,

State Administration, and Missions Abroad are encouraged to actively apply for the awards so that an example could be set which could fuel innovation and effective public service delivery under ODOP. In line with the Prime Minister's vision of AatmaNirbhar Bharat, numerous initiatives have been undertaken by various Ministries of the Government of India. One such initiative is the One District One Product (ODOP) program, spearheaded by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). The ODOP initiative aims to foster socio-

economic development of all districts of the country. The idea is to select, brand and promote One Product from each District of the country, to identify and solve problems associated with each of the chosen ODOP products at all points in their respective supply chains to increase their market accessibility and harness their export potential. With an objective of enhancing the product, bettering the life of the producer and improving the process, the interventions undertaken by the ODOP team encompass the development of all aspects of the district.

Illegal parking on Bhubaneswar's Janpath to invite action: BMC

Bhubaneswar,(KCN): Tightening its noose on the menace of illegal parking, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) warned that illegally parked vehicles on Janpath road in Sahid Nagar area would now be impounded.



According to sources, the BMC will also send notices to the houses and malls which do not have parking facilities. “We have initiated a process to identify the persons who have taken

approval for a housing plan with parking facility but using the parking place for other purposes. They will be served notices soon. We will allow them some time to ensure parking facility

as per the plan,” said BMC Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange. The BMC has also directed people, who have multiple vehicles, to strictly adhere to parking guidelines and

use multi-level car parking (MLCP) at Sahid Nagar. The MLCP in Sahid Nagar offers parking spaces for 200 four-wheelers, 300 two-wheelers, and 200 cycles. Notably, BMC has fixed Rs 10 per hour for a two-wheeler, Rs 20 per hour is charged for a four-wheeler. Thereafter, the parking fee will go on increasing by Rs 5 and Rs 10 for an extra hour for two-wheeler and four-wheelers, respectively.

Odisha EOW detects 'biggest' QR code manipulation scam of Rs 14 crore

Bhubaneswar,(KCN):The Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Bhubaneswar on Saturday claimed to have detected a new type of Cyber financial fraud. Senior officials said that it is also the biggest QR Code manipulation scam of Rs 14 crore. The EOW has arrested Karan Kumar Singh, a resident of Sec-19, from Noida, Uttar Pradesh and brought him to Bhubaneswar on a three-day transit remand. As per reports, the EOW had registered a case

based on the complaint filed by Sanjib Kumar Parida, Chief Technology Officer of 'IServeU Technology Pvt Ltd', a Bhubaneswar-based Fintech Company. The complainant had alleged that they had entered into Technology integration agreements with the Directors of Noida based Company M/s Payone Digital Services Pvt.Ltd during April-May 2023. The agreement was for providing Digital Payment Services, and facilitation of the

Finotech Service, and accordingly, IServeU had extended its UPI API to the company for the commercial utilization. The arrested accused, Karan Kumar Singh and his brother Lallu Singh are the Directors of M/s Payone Digital Services Pvt. Ltd. The complainant's company came to know on reconciliation that there was a significant difference in the cash balance in their Nodal Bank account maintained with the FINO Bank.

On verification of the UPI logs, it came to light that Karan Singh and Lallu Singh allegedly manipulated the QR Codes generated by the complainant company and embezzled the extra credit of Rs 14.33 crore. The money was fraudulently diverted to more than 125 different Bank accounts from the Payout wallet of which, the User ID and Password were shared to Payone Digital Services Pvt. Ltd by the complainant company IServeU.

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Chitrangda Singh Drops Glimpse Of Her First Shot From Gaslight

Actress Chitrangda Singh shared a behind-the-scenes moment of her first shot from her upcoming film 'Gaslight'. She shared that this is the "most complex" role she has played so far. Chitrangda took to Twitter, where she shared a clip of her shooting for the film, which will release on March 31. "My first day! My first shot as Rukmani! #bts This is probably the most complex role I have played so far...so special! So grateful.. so excited," Chitrangda wrote as the caption.



The film also stars Vikrant Massey and Sara Ali Khan. 'Gaslight' is a psychological thriller and sees Sara essaying a specially-abled character. The film, produced by Ramesh Taurani, Tips Films Ltd and Akshai Puri, 12th Street Entertainment and directed by Pavan Kirpalani, also stars Chitrangda Singh, Akshay Oberoi and Rahul Dev. 'Gaslight' will drop on Disney+ Hotstar on March 31, 2023.

Kichha Sudeepa-Starrer 'Underworld Ka Kabzaa' Mints Rs 26 Crore On Opening Day



'Underworld Ka Kabzaa' starring superstars Upendra, Kichha Sudeepa, Shriya Saran, and Shivarajkumar is creating waves at the box office with a massive gross collection of 26 crores on its day one. Even though the film took a slow start, the evening and night shows picked up in single theatres and the movie seems to have a great weekend ahead. 'Underworld Ka Kabzaa' is a story about the Mafia World and the journey of Arkeshwara in the underworld. The film features Shriya Saran, Upendra and Kichha Sudeepa in pivotal roles and is ruling the theatres from 17th of March 2023 in Kannada, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam. The film produced by Anand Pandit Motion Pictures in association with Sri Siddeshwara Enterprise and Alankar Pandian, is currently running in theatres in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam.

Teachers' Scam: Major Part Of Proceeds Are Invested In Tollywood, ED Tells The Court

A major part of the proceeds of the multi-crore scam in the recruitment of teaching and non-teaching staff in different state-run schools in West Bengal was invested in the Tollywood film industry, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) told the special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court here on Friday. ED Counsel Phiroze Edulji told the court that amounts as high as Rs 6.50 crore was transferred to a number of Tollywood actors and actresses from two bank accounts held by expelled and arrested youth Trinamool Congress leader Kuntal Ghosh over a period of time. One such Tollywood actor, Bonny Sengupta aka Anupiryo Sengupta



had admitted accepting Rs 40 lakh from Ghosh for purchasing a vehicle and late Thursday evening, he had already returned that amount to ED. However, no other actor or actress who has received money from Ghosh has come up with a submission on this count. Sources said that

telling the counsel of Ghosh that his client should divulge the sources of unaccounted money in his bank account. "If one earns Rs 5 crore from illegal means and then pays tax on Rs 2 crore, the entire money does not become legal," the judge observed. Meanwhile, the ED has already freed 10 bank accounts of Ghosh and 15 bank accounts of another expelled and arrested youth Trinamool leader Santanu Bandopadhyay, from where transactions of several crores of rupees were detected by ED sleuths. After hearing arguments from both ends, the special court ultimately extended the judicial custody of Ghosh till March 30.

Man Vs Algorithm: Filmmaker Nandita Das Reveals The Dark Secrets That Kapil Sharma's 'Zwigato' Exposed

It's been 87 years since Charlie Chaplin released "Modern Times". The film, a satirical black comedy, told the story of a factory worker and his struggle to survive in the modern, industrialised world in the face of the Great Depression. Little seems to have changed, rather only the means of exploitation of workers have changed. And when it comes to gig workers, the conditions are far grimmer since they're not full-time employees and are devoid of any benefits and security that a permanent job brings.



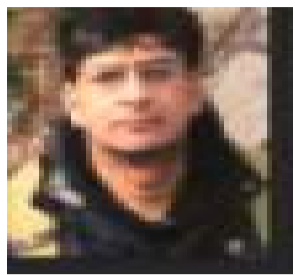
Filmmaker-actress Nandita Das' new film "Zwigato" tells the human story of a gig worker who works with the titular food delivery platform. Nandita told IANS that the idea of the film came into existence during a discussion about growing unemployment and the complexity of gig work with her publisher friend Samir Patil. The filmmaker said: "We then began writing a short film about a day in the life of a delivery rider. Then Sameer (Nair), CEO of Applause Entertainment, who was to produce it, nudged me to expand it for a feature film. Initially, I felt the subject would not immerse me enough, but

as I began to delve deeper into it, I was drawn to the human aspects of this collision of new technology and the life of the workers, who are just a cog in the wheel." While the gig economy has been functioning since the 21st century as different kinds of freelance jobs emerged, of late, it has gone mainstream with the advent of the high-speed Internet coupled with the pandemic. Services like Zomato, Swiggy, and Dunzo have not just brought comfort to the people but have also strengthened India's GDP. Every day, countless delivery partners and cab drivers snake through the roads of Indian cities to feed people or to help them with transit and delivery of their goods. Whatever be the conditions, bad weather, traffic congestion, festivals, the machinery of India's gig economy keeps running without fail. But, when one looks at the microscopic level, it paints a different picture of the humans behind this machinery, and unlike machines, humans wear out, battle anxiety, mental burden and financial insecurities on a daily front. Nandita said: "With the rise of the gig economy, the struggle between man and machine that Chaplin depicted in 'Modern Times' has now shifted to one between man and algorithms. So 'Zwigato' is a story about the relentlessness of life, but not without its silver lining." "During the pandemic, we consumers, for our own convenience, became more and more dependent on the gig

workers and less and less aware of their struggle. All of us have ordered during Covid-19 and seldom did we thank them or rate them or even acknowledge their existence. While this was the trigger point, 'Zwigato' is also about our normalised biases of class, caste, and gender." All of these subtly find their way into the film, making the invisible, visible. And, a huge credit for blending these themes into the narrative goes to the solid research work that Nandita put up. The team invested two years in the research of the film. The more the mind brews the primary data, the merrier is the output. Nandita added: "Before starting the film, I understood the world of incentives and algorithms as little as my protagonist did! As I delved deeper, I became more and more fascinated and disturbed by what I got to know about the gig economy. We gathered facts as well as personal stories by interviewing many riders. Their struggles, dilemmas, fears and aspirations helped me understand their world closely." Nandita and her team also spoke to ex-employees of food delivery companies and in confidence, also with senior managers in analytics departments of food delivery apps. "These conversations enabled us to understand the shifts that are made in the app and algorithms and the thought process behind such changes. While all of it is not in the film, it was important to understand how things work in the gig economy," Nandita said. "I was surprised by the fact that a small change in the size of the 'zone' from where the orders can come from -- the invisible button that all of us click on -- makes a huge difference to them. "The farther away the deliveries are, the more the riders have to spend on fuel. They get a petrol fee for going out of their zone but not for returning, and this is not just in India but everywhere in the world." Asked about her choice of casting a television superstar in the form of Kapil Sharma for a humane story like this, the filmmaker said that the decision was driven by her instinct. "Casting Kapil was no act of bravery, I found him to be natural, uninhibited and candid. I had never seen his show but in the clip I saw he felt real and right for my character, Manas." "I reached out to him on an impulse, not fully knowing if he would be right for the part or if he would be open to doing the film. He promptly responded. And the first time we met, we knew we wanted to work together. Then we had many interactions and rehearsals that convinced me that he would perfectly represent the common man that he no longer was in real life," Nandita told IANS. She also said that in this case working with a superstar came with no limitation, "Casting is extremely crucial in a film. If the characters are believable that is when the audience takes that leap of faith and travels with the characters on their journeys. Looking the part is really 50 per cent of casting. So it was not a limitation for me at all. And for Kapil to do something different from what he has been doing was in fact exciting and not limiting at all."

Proposed guidelines for posting on various social media platforms

Saikat Kumar Basu



Social media has been readily transforming into an open platform for virtual cross dialogues around the globe. Millions of people, across the globe, regularly and actively participate and communicate across various social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, WhatsApp, SnapChat, WinChat, Pinrest, Signal, Telegram, LinkedIn etc to mention only a handful. Such mass communications have both positive socio-cultural as well as socio-political and socio-economic impact on our lives. Brutal trolling, unethical character assassination as well as unacceptable medial trial as well as social media trials have become a regular feature of our life in both developed as well as developing nations.

There is no doubt that social media platforms are now an integral part of social and domestic life as well as one of the rising cornerstones of our democracy as well as respecting freedom of speeches. However, due to lack of any proper well monitored legal restrictions and virtual surveillance, they are

often transforming into important platforms for social bullying, infuriating racist and sensitive communal and explicit sexual comments. Often the social media platforms are evolving into obnoxious tools of immoral personal attacks, political propaganda and name calling, efficient vehicle of spreading fear, communal disharmony, unjustified rumours, dangerous fake news and targeted news to negatively impact target communities and target audience groups to create social and political unrest and divisions, disruption of communication platform and in propagating pornography, terrorism, anti-social activities, anarchy; promoting hate speech, racism, gender and communal insensitivity as well as providing support for being disrespectful to others or any specific community or socio-ethnic or socio-religious groups and in encouraging use of hate speech, pornography addiction and harmful games and attracting towards Dark Web features.

The worst impacted social groups under these circumstances are our younger generation. They are growing half educated or partially educated being NET fed with fake news, hate speech, unacceptable and provocative political messages encouraging them

towards anti-social activities as various forms of negative virtual addictions from gaming to pornography. Hence, there is a need for moral monitoring and surveillance on the extent of free speech on social media platforms to strictly identify whether it is being used for anti cultural and various antisocial activities. Any web administrator needs to be cautious of what content and posts are being made under their banner; and then take appropriate steps to edit or delete or ban such infuriating post(s) and/or comment(s). Let us explore with an example or case study. Say you are a group that is highly active in promoting science in the society by effectively and efficiently the tool of science communication. Let us review how sample guidelines provided for posting or for commenting under the banner of this science communication group sounds under scrutiny.

A list of do's and don'ts have been provided below as an example. It is exhaustive but not

1. All posts should be directly or indirectly related to science communication, scientific research and development, science history and scientific achievements, endeavours, initiatives, scientific policies, guidelines or protocols concerning both India and abroad.

2. Posts can be around past or contemporary science news or any relevant information on scientific developments and achievements, nature and aesthetics, science education, biographies of scientists, science communicators, science workers or science advocacy, or regarding relevant environmental news, messages or comments.

3. Any news or updates on national or international science conferences, seminar, symposia, colloquiums and workshops are welcome.

4. Posts related to scientific information and/or data published in different national/ International journals, magazines, newsletters, bulletins, proceedings or abstract book with proper citation and references are welcome.

5. Popular science publications by any members, students, supporters, followers or invited guests or members from other organizations are welcome.

6. Relevant links to important science and/or science communication related news, reports, publications, documentaries, science or science perspectives or personality based movies are all welcome. But an individual posting any link should be responsible for the content intended or included.

7. Life history or achievement of old and

new scientists, researchers, academics, explorers, administrators, science communicators, general public, philanthropists, non-government agencies associated with scientific or scientific management or environmental and administrative activities related to science, scientific achievements, scientific endeavours, inspirational stories, scientific speeches, letters, comments and new/old manuscripts, notes or diary entries are all welcome.

8. Postings, Photos and videos of all science related themes/contents representing disciplines such as environment, ecology, statistics, mathematics, physics and chemistry (both pure and applied), all branches of engineering and technology, computer science, information technology and artificial intelligence, zoology, botany, physiology, psychology (pure and applied), anthropology (physical and social), archaeology, museology, biomolecular sciences, new/applied biology, neurobiology, biochemistry, nutrition and health sciences, molecular biology, biotechnology, microbiology, pharmacy, pharmacognosy and pharmaceutical sciences, drug development and medicinal chemistry, all

branches of geological, geographical, natural, biological, environmental, sports, medical, health and agricultural sciences including pure and applied social sciences (sociology, economics, commerce, law and jurisdictional studies, gender and religious studies, languages and linguistics, history, political science, home science, library and information sciences, management etc) are most welcome.

9. Postings associated in raising education and awareness among members, students and general public against various unscientific social and cultural practices, superstitions, social discriminations, misinterpretations of natural events, unscientific public perceptions and about any other important sociology-cultural issues that warrants scientific discussion, encouragement and support are welcome.

10. But such postings as discussed above must be respectful towards the sensitivity of the issues and worded appropriately to avoid confusions, contradictions, miscommunications and misunderstandings or misinterpretations at any cost.

11. If even any posting(s) has been made with good intentions; but found to be unnecessary, infuriating,

inflammatory, provocative, disrespectful or inappropriate in any form should be removed with immediate effect.

12. Under NO circumstances any direct or indirect or even subtle messages or postings or comments concerning any religious, racial, ethnic, caste, creed, negative cultural, communal, political, gender or sexuality oriented issues are allowed in this public forum for posting or forwarding or discussion or dissemination in any form at any time.

13. All comments must be polite, respectful and general avoiding any finger pointing or personal attack or cross communication postings that are impolite or insulting or provocative or has any direct/indirect religious, political, racial, gender, ethnic or sexual connotations, must be immediately removed.

14. Individual(s) or member(s) continuing bullying or harassment or making repeated illegitimate comments/posts or any individual(s) or group(s) making unnecessary/unwanted/unprovoked/unacceptable/unparliamentary personal or general comments with direct/indirect communal, religious, political, racial, gender or sexuality related comments/statements/texts/posts/attacks on

others will be removed from this group with immediate effect.

15. Memberships of such individual(s) or group (s) as discussed above should be revoked by the authorities.

The above protocol is not exhaustive and is just a beginning to demonstrate how social media could be a more respectful and trustworthy option; if monitored with certain community friendly restrictions and user guidelines. My objective has not been restricting, restraining or demoralizing people from posting in social media. But to become more responsible and involved in the process to avoid making sensitive posts or comments that harm or hurt another individual, community, society, culture, government, constitution or any racial or religious or gender based humiliation. Social media is a powerful platform empowering common people to make his/her voice heard by all. However, the excitement has also changed into nightmares due to the repeated abusive use and practices of dehumanizing on social media platforms.

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HOW good is the quality of drinking water supplied to Berhampur?

Rabindra Kumar Mishra



The audit by Principal Accountant General has detected multiple deficiencies in the testing of drinking water, which has raised serious question marks on the water quality people of the city consume.

The Odisha State Urban Water Supply Policy 2013 mandates 100 per cent water quality is supposed to be maintained, and accordingly, the Urban Water Supply Protocol was approved by the government, prescribing parameters for testing and frequencies to be strictly followed.

However, the audit found several discrepancies in the system by the Berhampur PH division, which has a

testing laboratory in the water treatment plant (WTP) at Jagadapur.

As per the urban water quality monitoring protocol, samples must be tested for 26 parameters for each production well and distribution system every month.

However, limited tests were conducted by Spectro Pvt Ltd for samples taken from the water treatment plant at Jagadapur. The tests were conducted for PH, conductivity, turbidity, total dissolved solids, total alkaline, total hardness, chlorides, residual free and nitrate, the report said. However, tests for minerals like iron, calcium, magnesium, chloride, fluoride, sulphate, nitrate sodium, potassium, phosphate, silica, and dissolved oxygen were not conducted.

"In the absence of regular check of all the 26 parameters, the supply of unsafe drinking water to

consumers cannot be ruled out," the audit said.

Similarly, as per government instructions, metal parameters in water samples must be tested annually once for each intake and production well, stand posts and tube wells. This is to prevent the intake of metals such as lead, cadmium and nickel in drinking water beyond permissible limits, which impacts the human body.

A huge population was at risk of a very serious health condition, as the presence of excessive metals delays physical and mental development in children, leading to kidney problems, liver damage, skin allergy and high blood pressure.

However, the audit noticed that only three sets of tests for PH, chlorine and turbidity were carried out at the testing laboratory of WTP at Jagadapur. It further found water contents have more PH

and turbidity.

During physical verification of sites, it was found testing machines like hot air ovens, incubators, autoclave machines and colony counters for bacteriological tests in the testing laboratory were lying idle for the last two years, and no bacteriological tests are being done. Despite the detection and graveness of the report, the superintending engineer of the PH division stated that suggestions for the audit would be taken into care in future, but no compliance was sent to the Accountant General's office.

Sociologist and Human Rights Activist Mr. Rabindra Kumar Mishra viewed that, In India, the constitutional right to clean drinking water is derived from fundamental rights, including the right to food, clean environment, and health protected under the "Right to Life" in Article 21. Courts recognize it as a

negative right; preventing water source pollution is essential for a dignified life. Poor Water has been given by the government to its people for decades, is gross Negligence of Human Rights Violation, and if the content of the press report is true, it is serious as it affects the citizens' Right to Health, Right to Life, Livelihood, right to live with Dignity, & Sustainable Development. So, there is a need for big bang water reforms to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6. Several issues, including overexploitation, inequitable distribution and riparian issues related to water resources. Besides chemical contamination, microbiological contamination also needs to be investigated.

Rabindra Mishra raised the objection before National Human Rights Commission (NHRC): This is the prime duty of the state to ensure safe drinking water for its

citizens. Therefore, Rabindra urged honorable NHRC to initiate an investigation through SIT and direct the government to take departmental action against officials of the Odisha and Berhampur Water Supply and Sewerage Board, including private firms. Because of government negligence may have led to the death of many people in our city and surrounding areas of Berhampur due to fatal kidney, liver, and heart diseases, as it can be observed that the human and fundamental right to life of many victims has been violated due to negligent conduct of the public officials, and Rabindra said, Truth can only be checked by the formation of SIT by NHRC.

Sociologist, SDGs Analyst, Social & Developmental Activist, Humans & Animals Rights Activist, Ex Vedantian, Independent Researcher.

Letter to Editor

Sir

It's definitely music to ears for car manufacturers and car users in India as the car sales in the country has reached an all time record in sales within six months, starting from January to June 2023. Business reports say that it is for the first time that the country has seen a record sale of cars- more than twenty lakh units sold within six months. Automobile analysts say that if this trend continues India will rank third after China and US.

Car sales also reveal the country's rise in economy as it shows that cars are now being used by the above middle and middle class families. Launch of new and updated vehicles, consumer friendly prices, easy loans, the need for a safe family vehicle post covid are some of the factors for boost in sales of these passenger vehicles. Though this is music to the ears it also alerts our traffic and transportation system to be more well-planned with conditioned roads, smooth flowing traffic, efficient maintenance and management and an infrastructure to accommodate more vehicles.

**M PRADYU
KANNUR
Geeth Thalikavu Kannur 670001.**

Prime Minister Modi warns Telangana CM KCR for corruption

Hanumakonda, (KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi has issued a stern warning to Telangana Chief Minister KCR, accusing his family of corruption, as central investigation agencies intensify their focus on their alleged wrongdoings. Addressing a BJP 'Vijaya Sankalpa Sabha' at the University Arts and Science College grounds here on Saturday, Prime Minister Modi urged the people of Telangana to remain vigilant against the corrupt practices of the BRS government. In a scathing critique, he claimed that KCR had been resorting to theatrical tactics to divert attention from the scandals plaguing his administration. Earlier, the PM laid the foundation stone for several infrastructure

development projects worth around Rs 6,100 crores in Warangal. They include 176 km long National Highway projects worth over Rs 5,550 crores and a Railway Manufacturing Unit in Kazipet worth over Rs 500 crores. Addressing the gathering, Modi expressed his pleasure at visiting Warangal, renowned for its rich cultural heritage and historical significance. However, he did not shy away from criticizing both the BRS and Congress parties, accusing them of rampant corruption. Using strong language, he labelled the KCR-led government as the most corrupt in the nation, suggesting that the pervasive corruption has even reached Delhi, prompting the



involvement of central investigation agencies in probing KCR's family for their alleged illicit activities. During his speech, Prime Minister Modi unleashed a scathing attack on the Telangana

government, drawing applause and laughter from the audience. He humorously remarked that the state government's primary activity seems to be cursing him from morning till evening,

suggesting a preoccupation with criticizing him rather than focusing on governance. He further criticized the government's track record, claiming that it has failed to address

key issues such as unemployment, the scarcity of government jobs, teacher vacancies, and the TSPSC paper leak scam. Modi also pointed out the government's inability

to fulfil promises such as constructing double-bedroom houses and providing loan waivers to farmers, leaving sarpanches, or village council heads, disgruntled. Asserting his party's commitment to integrity, Prime Minister Modi assured the audience that the BJP does not make empty promises. He emphasized that if the BJP pledged to provide ration, every household would receive ration rice, and if they promised Ayushman Bharat, millions of people across the country would benefit from the healthcare scheme. In addition to criticizing the BRS government, Prime Minister Modi warned the Congress party to be wary of aligning with the

BRS, highlighting the widespread corruption associated with both parties. He called upon the citizens to exercise caution in dealing with these political entities. The Prime Minister's speech also featured remarks by Kishan Reddy, the BJP State President, who lambasted the BRS party for its alliance with the Congress and accused Chief Minister KCR of misusing public funds and pushing the State into bankruptcy. Reddy pledged to fight against the Kalvakuntla family and restrict their influence to a farmhouse. Before the foundation laying ceremony, the PM visited the historic Bhadrakali Ammavari Temple, where he participated in a special prayer ceremony.

Amarnath Pilgrims Stranded At Baltal, Pahalgam Urge Officials For Help

Srinagar: Amarnath pilgrims stranded at the twin base camps of Baltal and Pahalgam following the suspension of the Yatra due to inclement weather have urged authorities to evacuate them. The yatra was suspended on Friday following widespread rain and landslides, particularly along the twin tracks -- the traditional 48-kilometre Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the 14-kilometre Baltal route in Ganderbal district. Nearly 50,000 pilgrims are put up at various base camps in Kashmir valley with almost 19,000 at Baltal base camp in the Ganderbal district. Ronali Shah said she has been stuck at Panjtarni base camp since Thursday noon. "We reached here three days ago at 4 pm. Despite the sunny weather, the



helicopter services operator did not fly us down to Pahalgam" Shah said. She even urged authorities to change the private helicopter service provider that flew stranded pilgrims from the Panjtarni base camp. "The private helicopter left behind the yatis who had made online bookings while they were taking passengers who

had booked tickets offline," a man accompanying Shah said. However, several are determined to wait for the weather to improve and proceed with the yatra thereafter. Two pilgrims from Punjab said they have been waiting for the rainfall to subside and are praying sincerely so that they can resume their pilgrimage. Rahul,

one of the pilgrims who encountered a landslide near Nathal said he somehow managed to escape and reach the Panthachowk base camp here. Narendra Kumar, another yatri, said the pilgrims had to face difficulties on the way due to heavy rain, landslides and shooting stones. "We had to run several kilometres to escape the shooting

stones. Now we are stuck here at the camp," Kumar said. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who is also the chairman of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, is scheduled to address a press conference later today. The Met office has predicted widespread moderate to heavy rain, accompanied by thundershowers, under the influence of monsoon winds and western disturbances across Jammu and Kashmir till Sunday. The 62-day annual pilgrimage to the 3,888-metre-high cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas commenced from the twin tracks of Pahalgam and Baltal on July 1. The yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 31.



Kolkata(KCN) : On 21st June 2023, Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (CSIR-IICB) Kolkata celebrated the 9th International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2023 at its Jadavpur premises. On this occasion Mrs Lili Gouda, a renowned Yoga

Teacher from Kolkata was invited to conduct the Special Yoga session. Theme of the year was "Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam". Mrs Gouda said, Yoga is not only for the fitness, it is also very much useful for the treatment of various

kinds of psycho-somatic ailments and stress management. Yoga is India's greatest contribution to the World. Yoga Programme was highly impressive and well appreciated by the participants.

Sharad Pawar's "Erred In Trusting Some People" Attack On Nephew



Mumbai: Sharad Pawar has alluded to his nephew Ajit Pawar while speaking about whom not to trust at a public event in Maharashtra's Nashik. The escalation has parallels with how Shiv Sena's Eknath Shinde revolted with a large group of MLAs and

Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister has led to internal turmoil in the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). The escalation has parallels with how Shiv Sena's Eknath Shinde revolted with a large group of MLAs and

allied with the BJP to become the Chief Minister. "I erred in trusting some people. I won't repeat the mistake," Sharad Pawar said at Nashik today, alluding to his nephew. He also scoffed at Ajit Pawar's suggestion that

he should retire from politics. "Do you know at what age Morarji Desai became Prime Minister? I don't want to become the PM or a minister, but only want to serve the people," Sharad Pawar said, referring to his

nephew's comment that he should retire now that he is 83 years old. Sharad Pawar, referring to "Na tired hu, na retired hu (am neither tired nor retired)" comment by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, told the news channel Mumbai Tak, "Who are they to tell me to retire? I can still work." On the succession battle in the family after Ajit Pawar's comments that he was sidelined as he wasn't somebody's son, Sharad Pawar said, "I don't want to say much on this topic. I don't like discussing family issues outside the family." Sharad Pawar said Ajit Pawar was made minister and also deputy chief minister, but no ministerial position was given to daughter Supriya Sule even though it was possible.

Indian Army in Collaboration with Fire And Emergency Department Organised an Awareness Programme On Fire Emergencies at Magam, Kashmir



Handwara Kashmir(Aasif Malik): A Lecture cum Demonstration was organised by Fire and Emergency Service Department at Magam Army Camp. The lecture was conducted by a special instructor in firefighting from Fire Department, Srinagar, arranged by Fire

Department, Kupwara. The event was aimed at creating awareness about life saving techniques, which one must know to protect life and property in an event of domestic fire until the firefighters come for their rescue. Apart from educational value, the lecture cum demonstration was

conducted to recognise the selfless devotion of firefighters, who risk their lives every day for this noble cause and also to spread this awareness among the youth. The event was organised at ground of Magam Army Camp which was witnessed by 108 persons from Magam block.

State Celebrates Vanamahotsav

Bhubaneswar(KCN): About 78,990 hectares would be afforested by utilizing 3.78 crore seedlings including Urban Tree Plantation (UTP) of 4.61 lakh seedling & avenue plantation of 5000 RKM during this rainy season. Besides, 6.42 crore seedlings will be distributed to the beneficiaries and institutions during 2023-24. Plantation of forest species along with medicinal plants are emphasized and encouraged to be planted, Forest department officials said during the state-level 74th Vanamahotsav celebration here inside the premises of the Government High School, Ghatikia.

Forest, Environment & Climate Change Minister Pradip

Kumar Amat graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Satyabrata Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue & Disaster Management and FE & CC Department, attended the event as the Guest of Honour and awarded the people who conducted massive tree planting. The occasion started functioning with a plantation done by the chief guests, guest of honour, dignitaries and students in the premises of the school. Debidutta Biswal, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force welcomed the chief guest and other dignitaries present on the occasion and highlighted the importance and objectives of Vanamahotsav. Chief Minister Naveen



Patnaik addressed the meeting in virtual mode and expressed his immense pleasure in celebration of the 74th state level Vana Mohatsava and he advised the public to go for intensive tree planting inside the state to mitigate

issues on global warming. A brochure titled, "74th Vanamahotsav" in Odia, highlighting the activities under different plantation programmes and schemes of the State Forest Department was released on this

occasion. Another Book titled Mangrove of Odisha was also released. To create awareness among the school students, competitions like debate, essay writing and sit & draw were conducted. The

winners of the competitions in each item were awarded on this occasion. Adhapada Vana Surakshya Samiti of Sambalpur District was awarded as the best V.S.S of the State with monetary reward of Rs. 2

lakhs. The Headmaster, Government High School, Ghatikia, Bhubaneswar, gave the vote of thanks at the end. The 74th Vanamahotsav was celebrated in the first week of July. The

Forest Cover of the state is increasing with the help of the Forest Department through massive plantation and protection of existing forests throughout the state under various schemes of the Government of Odisha.

This year, site wise plantations are to be continued throughout the State in the component of Artificial Regeneration (AR), Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR), Urban Tree Plantation (UTP), Avenue Plantation etc.

Among others, Minister Ashok Chandra Panda, MP Sulata Deo, MLA Susanta Rout, MLA Ananta Narayan Jena and Mayor Sulochana Das attended the event.

Odisha government announces substantial hike in ex gratia for wildlife attack victims

BHUBANESWAR: Odisha government on Wednesday announced a substantial hike in ex gratia compensation for damage to life and property in wildlife attacks, in a decision that seeks to address growing man-animal conflict in the state.

Now, kin of people losing their lives in human-wildlife conflicts will be entitled to a compensation of Rs 6 lakh, up from Rs 4 lakh earlier. Similarly, existing compassionate grant of Rs 1 lakh, provided for permanent injury in wild animal attacks, stands hiked to Rs 2.5 lakh for suffering disability of more than 60 per cent and Rs 1.5 lakh for less than 60 per cent disability.

The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said, the compassionate grant provided for permanent injury, temporary injury,

loss of property and crop damage has also been increased significantly as a measure to check escalation of conflicts.

The announcement comes days after The New Indian Express carried a report 'Man-Animal Conflict: Too much pain, too little relief' highlighting how poor compassionate grant is forcing people to live in misery, making the crisis worse in the state. PCCF (Wildlife) SK Popli said with the fresh announcement, Odisha's compassionate grant has become highest among states in the east-central belt. "Our compassionate grant for those permanently injured is also one of the highest in the country," he said.

As per the notification, people who suffer temporary injuries will be provided free treatment and a compensation of Rs

5,000, while those in need of treatment of more than a week will be provided free treatment and financial aid of Rs 10,000. The PCCF said compensation for loss of livestock in wild animal attack has also been raised to Rs 37,500 for cow and buffalo and Rs 32,000 for bullock against the existing assistance of Rs 5,000. The compassionate grant for crop damage has also been doubled. As per the notification, financial assistance provided to farmers for loss to paddy and cereal crops in wild animal attacks has been increased to Rs 20,000 from existing Rs 10,000 per acre. Similarly, compensation for cash crops has been hiked to Rs 25,000 from existing Rs 12,000 per acre. Moreover, financial assistance for partial

damage to house in wild animal attack, which was Rs 2,000 till now, has been increased to Rs 10,000, while assistance for complete damage of house, which was Rs 10,000 has been hiked to Rs 20,000. Provision of a house under Biju Pucca Ghar for permanent damage to property is still there. However, the government has decided an amount equivalent to the pucca ghar will be given where it is not possible to provide the victim with a concrete dwelling, forest officials said.

Rs 6 lakh ex gratia for kin of people losing lives in man-animal conflict Rs 2.5 lakh for suffering disability of over 60 % Rs 1.5 lakh for suffering disability of less than 60 % Rs 10,000 and free treatment for those who suffer temporary injuries

Some farmers count blessings, many distressed over crop loss

BARGARH: While some farmers of Bargarh district are gearing up for the procurement of the rabi paddy which is scheduled to begin from May 6, several others who suffered crop loss due to hailstorm and pest attack are now in distress. The procurement of paddy for the rabi season in Attabira block of the district will begin from May 6 while in other blocks including Bargarh, Bheden, Barpali, Bhatli and Ambhabona, the process is slated to commence from May 12. Considering the summer heat, necessary arrangements like drinking water and tarpaulin sheds have been ensured for the farmers who will be participating in the procurement process. This season, paddy will be procured from as many

as 85,000 registered farmers in the district across 62 market yards and 100 Paddy Procurement Centres (PPC). Around 84 Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) and Women SHGs will be engaged to ensure the process is completed smoothly.

On the other hand, due to unforeseen calamities, hundreds of farmers who suffered complete loss of their standing paddy crops are in a bad state. Unseasonal heavy rainfall between the end of March and first week of April shattered their hopes of reaping a bounty. Subsequently, due to fluctuation in temperature, the paddy crops were infested with pests later identified as neck blast. To add to the woes, the recent hailstorm on April 26 ravaged crops over large

tracts of land. As per the eye estimation report, Bargarh has recorded crop damage of over 6050 hectares of land in 52 villages. This includes the maximum damage in Bargarh block at 2631 hectares, followed by 2314 hectares in Attabira, 885 hectares in Bheden and 220 hectares in Barpali. The farmers of Attabira and Bheden have already submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister through Attabira MLA Snehangini Chhuria, demanding to take appropriate action towards compensation considering the hailstorm related damage. Farmer leader, Ramesh Nahapatra said, "While the eye estimation report was sent on April 26, several other land on

which crops were damaged due to hailstorm were identified much later. The actual figures could be ascertained only from the joint verification report." However, on the basis of field visit and observation, crops over at least 10,000 hectares of land has been damaged this season, he said. "Considering the massive damage, input subsidy and crop insurance compensation to the farmers should be disbursed at the earliest," he added. Paddy procurement centres will be opened in Koraput district from June 3 and about 12.42 lakh quintal paddy has been targeted to be lifted by Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation through 20 LAMPS, 15 SHGs and three pani panchayats.



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Emcure launches EmWocal campaign to raise awareness on Anaemia

Pune: To raise awareness on important women's health issues around Anaemia, Breastfeeding and Menstruation, pharma major Emcure Pharmaceuticals has launched the EmWocal initiative. It is an awareness campaign that has been launched in association with the Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists of India (FOGSI). Harnessing technologies like Augmented Reality (AR) and personal digital assistant, the initiative aims to reach 1 crore women across India. EmWocal campaign will be live in nine Indian

languages (Hindi, English, Odia, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Bengali). At the core of the EmWocal campaign will be smart kiosks displaying QR codes, and thoughtfully installed at the waiting areas of hospitals and clinics. This is to make sure that the long waiting time to see the doctors can be well utilised by visiting patients in educating themselves. Women scanning the QR code will be guided on to Augmented Reality (AR) videos, Frequently Asked Questions and chat with a personal digital assistant among

others. Patients will also be asked to partake in the digital interaction related to their basic health and lifestyles. The nudges provided by the personal health assistant during the AR journey will help patients discuss their problems with doctors and in turn help doctors having better informed patients.

As per India's fifth National Family Health Survey (2019-2021), the prevalence of anaemia in females aged 15-19 years is a whopping 59.1 per cent whereas that among pregnant women aged up to 49 years of age was 52.2%. Through digitally accessible information

and informative videos, EmWocal campaign will raise awareness about anaemia and prompt women to take appropriate actions to deal with this. While the benefits of breastfeeding for the child are widely discussed, the EmWocal campaign will drive understanding on the significance and benefits for the mother's health. EmWocal's third awareness area is menstrual health. Menstruation is still considered a taboo in India with multiple misconceptions which need to be changed.

Pratin Vete, President - India Business, Emcure

Pharmaceuticals said, "Issues related to women's health are still widely associated with irrational taboos. This leads to lack of awareness, and in turn affects the health of most women. It gives us a great satisfaction to launch EmWocal, a long needed initiative to help women deal with their health issues through easily available and medically verified information. The best thing about this initiative is that it is personalized to the women accessing the information and guides them to discuss important issues with their doctors."

JioFiber expands footprint to major cities and towns across Odisha, now available at Bargarh and Semiliguda

Bhubaneswar: Continuing its rapid expansion across various key cities and towns in Odisha, JioFiber, the most popular high-speed broadband service in the country, has now commenced its services in key areas of major cities and towns across the state. Further consolidating its leadership in the high-speed broadband segment in the state, JioFiber broadband service has now become available in the towns of Bargarh and Semiliguda. With this, JioFiber service is now available in key localities of 29 cities and towns across Odisha including Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri, Jatni, Angul, Sambalpur, Rourkela, Jharsuguda, Belpahar, Brajaraj Nagar, Sundargarh, Bolangir, Keonjhar, Bhawanipatna, Koraput, Rayagada, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Jajapur Road, Bhadrak, Talcher, Khordha, Berhampur, Balasore, Jeypore,

Rajganapur, Dhenkanal, Semiliguda, Bargarh and fast expanding its services to other major cities and towns in the state. In Bargarh, JioFiber high speed broadband service is now available at Sibananda Nagar, Kharajpur Tikra, Bhatli Chhak, Milan Vihar, George High School area and is in the process of fast expanding its services to other parts of the town. Similarly, in Semiliguda town of Koraput district, JioFiber is now available at Sastri Nagar, Indra Nagar, Aravinda Nagar, Satya Nagar, Saraswati Nagar, Kodigaon, Santoshi Maa Nagar, Gopabandhu Nagar, Kailash Nagar, Santi Nagar, Talasahi and nearby areas and expected to roll out fast in other areas of the city over the next few weeks. JioFiber has also fast expanded its service across the existing cities and towns where JioFiber has already been available, covering new areas and city

outskirts. Fast expanding footprints of JioFiber has helped thousands of students and teachers in pursuing education and benefiting from dependable and seamless high-speed broadband internet. Hundreds of professionals especially from IT and other service sectors could also continue working from home smoothly from their native places in the state. Several small enterprises and educational institutions in these cities have seamlessly switched to the digital mode in tune to the demand of their respective businesses and professions. It is worth mentioning here that JioFiber now offers zero entry cost for new post-paid plan users, wherein users get Internet Box (Gateway Router), Set Top Box and Installation valued at Rs 10,000 at zero cost when they opt for a JioFiber Post-paid connection.

'DigiSaathi' - 24x7 Helpline for information on Digital Payments now enabled on additional channels

Mumbai: DigiSaathi - a 24x7 helpline for information on digital payment products and services is setup by NPCI on behalf of a consortium of payment system operators and participants (banks & non-banks). DigiSaathi will be accessible on WhatsApp for the customers to access all the information they need pertaining to digital payment products and services. DigiSaathi will assist the users with all their queries on digital payments via the chatbot facility on WhatsApp by simply messaging on +918928913333. The facility will soon also be available on other social media channels as well.

Launched recently by Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), DigiSaathi is an automated response system that helps customers in addressing their queries related to multiple products and services under the payments system umbrella including Cards (Debit/Credit/Prepaid), UPI, NEFT, RTGS, IMPS, AePS, NETC, BBPS, USSD, PPI Wallets, ATM, QR (UPI/Bharat), NACH, TRedS, CTS, MTSS, Mobile and Net banking. The Consortium of Payment System Operators and Participants including ecosystem Partners, Banks, Card Networks,

PPIs, Fintechs, Payments Council of India (PCI), and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) came together for implementing this to empower people to adopt digital payments with even more conviction. DigiSaathi is available in both English and Hindi for customers wherein they can access information about any of the digital payment products and services. It even guides them on how to avail or use any particular product or service. DigiSaathi also helps customers with their transaction-related queries, by guiding them and sharing the contact details of concerned banks/Institutions.

Kansai Nerolac Paints Ltd announces results for Q4 2022 & FY

Mumbai: Kansai Nerolac Paints Limited (KNPL), one of the leading Paint companies in India, today at the Board meeting announced its audited results for the quarter and year ended 31 March 2022.

For the quarter, the company earned Net revenue from operations of Rs.1412.8 Crores, a growth of 4.2% over the corresponding quarter of the previous year. For the year, the company earned Net Revenue from operations of Rs.

5948.9 Crores a growth of 24.7% over the corresponding period of the previous year. EBITDA was at Rs. 82.9 Crores, a de-growth of 59.9% over Q4 of 2020-21. PAT was at Rs. 24.5 Crores, a de-growth of 80.9% over Q4 of 2020-

21. For the year period EBITDA was at Rs. 647.3 Crores, a de-growth of 23.3% over previous year. PAT for the year was Rs 374.3 Crores, a de-growth of 29.5% over previous year. The Board has recommended a final

dividend of 100% (1.00 ₹ per share). In addition, the Company had declared interim dividend of 125% (₹ 1.25 per share) paid on November 22, 2021. Accordingly, the total dividend is 225% (₹ 2.25 per share) for the

financial year ended March 31, 2022, as compared to total dividend of 525% (₹ 5.25 per share) including Special Dividend of 200% declared last year. Commenting on the results, Mr. Anuj Jain, Managing Director,

Kansai Nerolac Paints Ltd said, "The quarter witnessed impact in terms of demand for decorative on account of the steep price increase towards end of Q3 FY 21-22. In Automotive, Passenger Vehicle demand was good

though impacted because of supply side constraints. On raw material costs, the quarter continued to witness inflationary pressures along with volatility in crude and exchange rates on account of the tough geo-political situation globally.

Overwhelming response received to Asian Granito India Limited's Rs. 441 crores Rights Issue

Ahmedabad: Asian Granito India Limited (AGL) today announced that its Rights Issue of Rs. 441 crores, largest ever by any Ceramic Company in India, achieved successful closure, receiving overwhelming response from the shareholders and investors despite challenging times. The public portion of the Rights Issue was subscribed more than 1.38 times receiving bids for 6.87 crore shares or Rs. 432 crores of bids received. On an overall basis, the Company received bids for over 8.89 crore shares or Rs. 561 crores of bids in the Rights Issue on the closing date (May 10) against 6.99 crore shares or Rs. 441 crores offered, representing more than 127% subscription.

The allotment of equity shares will take place on or about 19th May, 2022. The Rights shares are expected to be listed on the BSE and NSE on or around 24th May, 2022. Equity shares in the Rights Issue were offered at a price of Rs. 63 per share. The Rights Entitlement Ratio for the Rights Issue was 37:30 (37 Rights Equity Shares of Rs. 10 each for every 30 equity shares of Rs. 10 each held by the equity shareholders on the record date). The Rights Issue of the Company was open for subscription from April 25, 2022 till May 10, 2022. The proceeds of the Rights Issue would be utilised to fund the Strategic Mega Expansion Plans in Value Added Luxury

Surfaces & Bathware Segments including Tiles, Sanitaryware and SPC Flooring etc. and to fund various strategic initiatives.

The Company had launched a highly innovative campaign to create awareness about the Rights Issue, using broad-based and multiple means of communication. These included television, print, digital and social media, emails and SMSs to reach out to the shareholders. The Rights Entitlement (RE) was actively traded in demat form on the stock exchanges since SEBI introduced this platform and it was a resounding success reflecting broad-based interest in the Rights Issue.

Policybazaar findings indicate a higher propensity to purchase insurance in tier-2 & 3 cities after the Covid outbreak

Bhubaneswar: Policybazaar, one of India's largest online insurance marketplaces, conducted an online survey to understand the changing consumer sentiment towards insurance purchase, household finances and investments over the last two years of the pandemic. Policybazaar surveyed 5000 consumers to closely understand the behavioral shift in insurance buying trends. Interestingly, the findings revealed a growing level of propensity to buy insurance, especially in tier-2 and 3 cities of India. At 89%, the highest number of respondents willing to renew their health cover belong to tier-2 cities, as compared to 77% from tier-1. Similar trends

were observed in term insurance, where 59% of respondents who want to increase their coverage belong to tier-3 cities, as compared to 26% from tier-1 cities. The survey results clearly point towards the sense of urgency spurred by the pandemic with respect to insurance awareness across the country. The pandemic has definitely given the cognitive push when it comes to health insurance purchase. Out of the respondents who had contracted Covid, 25% were hospitalized. We found out that 18% of them ended up spending over Rs 15 lakhs, and 22% were not adequately covered by their existing policy. Also, it is disquieting to see that 13% of those who got Covid did not have health insurance in

place. These figures clearly demonstrate that one should opt for at least Rs 15-20 lakhs coverage for each family member. However, health insurance trends definitely drive positive optimism. As many as 62% of the total respondents had an active policy and didn't just depend on their corporate cover. The figures also vouched for the fact that Covid had acted as a catalyst in health insurance purchase. While 50% of these policies were bought after Covid first wave, 41% were purchased after the Delta wave. Also, 80% of these policies were family floater plans, thereby revealing a higher inclination towards ensuring sufficient coverage for the entire family.

Symphony limited ropes-in ace cricketers Harbhajan Singh and Shikhar Dhawan for a unique AI-led campaign

Bhubaneswar: India's most loved air cooler brand Symphony limited has roped in the country's sought-after cricketers Harbhajan Singh and Shikhar Dhawan for a unique AI-led nationwide initiative. The brand has partnered with Rephrase AI to create hyper-personalized video films for over 2,300 retailers across India. This is the first time in the consumer durables industry that a brand has leveraged artificial intelligence and initiated geo-targeting for each retailer. The heartwarming videos will witness India's popular cricketers appreciating dealers for their constant support and efforts for providing

great customer service. Known for being one of the largest homegrown brands, Symphony has always supported small and local businesses and has been a strong advocate of Vocal for Local. Along with the personalized videos, Symphony has also given letter of recognition, a certificate and a couple of goodies as a token of appreciation. The brand has taken this thought a notch higher by paying a tribute to the work of their trade partners. It strikes an emotional chord by going out of the way in reaching out to the people that matter. Commenting on the initiative, Mr. Anuj

Arora, Global Chief Marketing Officer, Symphony Limited says, "We are ecstatic to have partnered with reputed cricketers, Harbhajan Singh, and Shikhar Dhawan. They came on board to create AI driven customized videos for our dealership partners who are an integral part of our company. The objective is to create brand love and deepen the bonding with our trade partners. We are consistently brainstorming and innovating to come up with intriguing campaigns. With this initiative, we hope to strengthen our relationships and reach new heights together."

Harmanpreet, Nigar refuse to get drawn into past results

New Delhi: Nooshin Al Khadeer, Indian national women's team head coach, said on Saturday (July 8) that they are not looking to experiment against Bangladesh in the three-match T20I series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium from July 10.

India are favourites to clinch the series and are far ahead of their opponents in terms of ranking; India are the fourth ranked side in T20Is whereas the hosts are placed well below at number-nine. So far, Bangladesh and India have played 13 games between them, with India winning 11 matches out of them and Bangladesh winning the remaining two.

"Well, I don't see that happening (experimentation) because for us, every match is important and

there is nothing like experiment. We want to play our best side because the whole idea is to win," Khadeer told reporters ahead of the series opener.

"And I'm sure Bangladesh also is also going to have the same attitude. So, it's never an experiment or I would say, experimenting is never a motivation.

"Things have changed over time and obviously they have for Bangladesh cricket too. I have seen in the Under-19 and the Emerging teams. They sent about six Under-19 cricketers for the seniors' World Cup. It just shows how much cricket has grown over time in Bangladesh," she said.

"That itself is a very positive thing. And then in the Emerging tournament, we had to play the finals against them, some good attitude

they have shown over a period of time. So step by step, I think the subcontinent teams have really been doing well. If you see, Sri Lanka has beaten New Zealand recently, so what other proof do you need? These things indicate to India to really do well and not experiment actually."

Indian skipper Harmanpreet Kaur echoed the same sentiments, adding that she is well aware that they will be met by some stiff opposition from Bangladesh playing in their own backyard.



"They are a very good side and they always play really good cricket in home conditions," said Kaur. "They are very competitive when they are playing good cricket and we just want to keep things very simple. Whatever things always gave us a result, we just want to focus on that. We

are not going to think who is better, who is bad. We just want to focus on the good cricket and that is our goal." Bangladesh skipper Nigar Sultana in turn said that they are eyeing for an important win against India that can change the momentum for the team going forward.

is nothing more than wins that motivate a team. Everything changes with the winning moment and we are looking for such a win," said Nigar. "Why not win the series? Why can't we win the series? We have all the artillery in our possession that can help

us win the series and we need to be positive," she said. "We are not thinking whether India is strong or weak. If we think too much about opponent, in that case we will forget about our own strengths.

"I think our bowling attack is the best and if we can take our chances early and bowl according to our plan, in that case no one can be a threat for us," she said.

Nigar said that she is impressed with young Shorna Akhter, who came into the squad at the expense of experienced Rumana Ahmed but added that she feels the doors are not closed for the seniors. For context, Bangladesh did not pick Jahanara Alam in both ODIs and T20Is and many feel this is a new beginning for the women in red and green.

"I would say Shorna Akhter is a game changer and we have seen her potential in the Under-19, how she scores in pressure moments. We missed her in Sri Lanka due to injury but she made a strong comeback. She plays all over the ground and also bowls good leg spin, which is an advantage for us. If she does well it will be good for us," Nigar said. "I think this team is for this series and look, who will come when and who will not be around will totally depend on the situation, we are not getting the seniors in this series but they can make a strong comeback later. Hopefully those who are in the squad will also perform well and make a strong claim to remain in the squad. The whole thing depends on the selection panel and they will do what is best for the team."

WI pick Kirk McKenzie, Alick Athanaze for first Test against India

New Delhi: West Indies have named uncapped Kirk McKenzie and Alick Athanaze in their 13-man squad for the first Test against India in Dominica. Allrounder Rahkeem Cornwall, who played his last Test in November 2021 in Galle, and left-arm spinner Jomel Warrican, who missed the tour of South Africa in February, return to the national fold.



Roach, Jomel Warrican Traveling Reserves: Tevin Imlach, Akeem Jordan "We were very impressed with the approach to batsmanship of McKenzie and Athanaze on the recent 'A' Team tour of Bangladesh," lead selector Desmond Haynes said. "These are

two young players who got good scores and played with great maturity, and we believe they deserve an opportunity." Left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie was unavailable for selection. "We are without Motie, who is doing his rehabilitation, and this has created an

opportunity for Warrican and Cornwall in the spin bowling department. They have both played at Test match level before and are capable of doing the job," Haynes said. Haynes also revealed that Jayden Seales and Kyle Mayers weren't quite ready for their return to red-ball cricket yet. "We had Jayden Seales here in the camp and he has made good progress during his rehab from surgery. However, we felt he is not yet quite ready to return, and we don't want to risk him at this stage. Kyle Mayers was also considered but he has some niggles, and the precaution is not to have him in the rigors of a five-day match at this stage.

Tamim Iqbal unretires a day after retiring

New Delhi: Tamim Iqbal has come out of retirement a day after announcing it in an emotional press conference. The development comes after Tamim's meeting with the Bangladesh Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina. "Today afternoon, the Prime Minister invited me to her house. She admonished me and asked me to play again, so I have decided to come out of retirement at this moment," Tamim said on July 7 outside the PM's residence. "I can say no to everyone but it was impossible for me to say no to someone of the PM's authority. Papon (Nazmul Hasan) bhai, Mashrafe (Mortaza) bhai were big, big factors

too. Mashrafe bhai called me here and Papon bhai was also here. Prime Minister also gave me one and a half months break for my treatment and other things. After becoming mentally free, I will play the rest of the matches." Tamim's retirement had come as a surprise months before the 2023 World Cup in India but incidentally came on the heels of his face-off with the management. Nazmul Hasan, in particular, was critical of Tamim admitting in a press conference that he wasn't fully fit for the opening ODI against Afghanistan but will still play. Cricbuzz learnt that Tamim's

honest admission did not go down well with the team management, who had a chat with him and advised him to take rest if he felt he's not hundred percent fit, but Tamim decided against it eventually. There were also reports that head coach Chandika Hathurusingha has spoken to Nazmul Hasan and expressed his dissatisfaction over the whole affair. Once Tamim announced that he's played his last international game, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) called an emergency meeting and appointed Litton Das as the interim captain for the remaining two ODIs against Afghanistan. Nazmul, addressing the

media late in the night, also publicly asked Tamim to take back his "emotional" and "hasty" decision. "I assumed that he took the decision emotionally," BCB President Nazmul told the media after Tamim's statement outside PM's residence. "Of course it's a matter of big relief. If we don't have captain, how can we play?" "I knew that if I could sit with him and talk, I could convince him. Today we were called on by the Prime Minister. Tamim said he would withdraw his retirement letter. But he has taken one and a half months leave for regaining his physical and mental fitness."

USA to remain co-host of 2024 T20 WC despite recent turmoil

New Delhi: The United States will continue to remain the joint hosts of the 2024 Twenty20 World Cup along with Cricket West Indies (CW). Cricbuzz can confirm that the matches will be spread across the US and the Caribbean islands (across the West Indies) with a formula for the distribution of number of games in each country to be finalised.

A formal clarification on the matter was issued at the Chief Executives Meeting (CEC) of the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Saturday and a source, who was a member of the CEC, has confirmed this to Cricbuzz. An announcement on the issue could be made

after the ICC is done with the on-going series of meetings on Monday.

The CEC clarification, when it was raised by a participant, comes amid speculation of internal turmoil in the USA Cricket and questions being raised over the country's right to host the global event. There was further clarification from the CEC that by virtue of being the co-host, the United States national team will auto-qualify for the tournament and it will be one of the 20 teams that will compete in it. There will be four groups in a 55-match tournament to be played over 25 days starting in June next year. There will be four groups in the 55-

match tournament to be played over 25 days starting in June next year.

Over the next couple of days, the global administrators will formally kick-start discussions around the principles of financial distributions for the next cycle of the ICC events. One may recall that it was one of the contentious points among members and it had led to the much-debated Position Paper and emergence of the Big Three who had argued that the distribution model should be commensurate with the revenue generated from each member country. The ICC, under the chairmanship of Shashank Manohar, managed to neuter the



Big Three -- the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and Cricket Australia (CA) - but the financial distribution principle underwent major overhaul. The Big Three were allotted a major chunk of the revenue but not

necessarily to their satisfaction. India has been a major source of revenue for the ICC with more than 70 per cent of its income coming from the Indian firms. That could go beyond 80-85 per cent this time around after Disney Star's recent mega bid for the ICC rights of

next four years. It was tipped to be around \$ 3 billion and there will be renewed focus on the distribution model. A decision will be deferred to another meeting but the ICC members will start discussing it. For the record, Jay Shah, the secretary of the BCCI, is the chair of the

finance and commercial affairs (F&CA) committee of the ICC.

Meanwhile, there will be discussions on how the Future Tours Programme (FTP) should look post the 2027. There has been a global call for a balance between international cricket and domestic, franchise-based Twenty20 leagues and ICC will start planning for it.

Recently, the World Cricket Committee of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the authority of the game's laws, passed a resolution stating that the game has reached an important crossroads, recommending urgent intervention from the game's leaders (ICC)

to ensure international and franchise cricket can thrive together harmoniously. Incidentally, the meeting was held in Dubai, the headquarters of the ICC.

The ICC Board, meanwhile, will get an update from the working group on Afghanistan. The country under the Taliban has not allowed women's cricket, a requirement for a full member of the ICC, and it had led to calls for sanctions against the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB). Although serious action against the ACB is unlikely, the ICC may come out with a statement on Afghanistan.