

## Congress Wants 'Systematic' Opposition Unity After Rahul Gandhi Setback

**New Delhi:** The Congress has planned a nationwide "save democracy" movement to protest against the disqualification of Rahul Gandhi as the member of parliament, a day after a court convicted him of defamation for comments that many considered insulting to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The decision was taken at a strategy meeting this evening attended by top Congress leaders, including party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, former Congress president Sonia Gandhi and former Union Minister P Chidambaram. "We discussed political strategy on Rahul Gandhi's



disqualification. Abhishek Manu Singhvi briefed the members on the legal strategy. We have planned protests across the country in the coming days," said senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh. The party also welcomed the statement of support of all opposition leaders and called for "systematic" opposition unity. Several Congress lawmakers and leaders of regional opposition parties

- Mamata Banerjee, Arvind Kejriwal, MK Stalin, Uddhav Thackeray, KCR, Akhilesh Yadav - backed Mr Gandhi and attacked the ruling BJP government for its "dictatorship". "The Congress welcomes the statement of support of all opposition leaders, we should now take the issue of opposition unity forward in a systematic way," Mr Ramesh said, adding, "The Congress

president has been coordinating with opposition parties every day in parliament, now this has to be done outside also." Besides Mr Kharge and Sonia Gandhi, Congress general secretaries Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, KC Venugopal, Jairam Ramesh, Rajiv Shukla and Tariq Anwar, senior leaders Anand Sharma, Ambika Soni, Mukul Wasnik, Salman Khurshid

and Pawan Kumar Bansal, among others, were also present at the meeting. Rahul Gandhi "stands disqualified from the membership of Lok Sabha from the date of his conviction", the lower house of parliament said in a notice earlier today. "I am fighting for the voice of India and am ready to pay any price for it," he tweeted in Hindi, in his first reaction after the disqualification. The 52-year-old was convicted and sentenced to prison for two years by a court in Surat on Thursday after he was found guilty of defamation in connection with a 2019 speech in which he referred to thieves as having the surname Modi.

## Rahul Gandhi disqualified as Lok Sabha MP after conviction in criminal defamation case

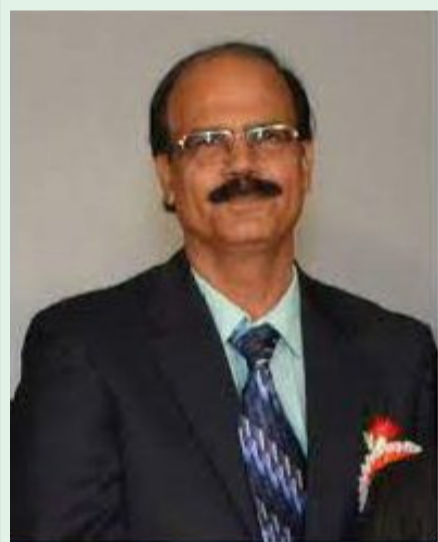
**New Delhi:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has been disqualified as the Member of Lok Sabha from the date of his conviction in the criminal defamation case over his 'Modi surname' remark. His disqualification as Wayanad MP is effective from March 23, the day of his conviction, the secretariat said in its notification. A court in Surat sentenced Rahul Gandhi to two years in jail in a defamation case on Thursday, filed on a complaint by BJP MLA Purnesh Modi for his alleged remark, "How come all thieves have Modi



as the common surname?" However, he was later granted bail by the court and his sentence was suspended for 30 days to let him appeal against the ruling. Rahul Gandhi has been convicted under sections 499 and 500 of the IPC. He had made the comment during a Lok

Sabha election rally in Kolar of Karnataka on April 13, 2019. "Why all the thieves, be it Nirav Modi, Lalit Modi or Narendra Modi, have Modi in their names," the Congress MP had allegedly said during the rally. This is a developing story. Refresh the page for updates.

## Datteswar Hota Appointed As First VC Of Odisha University Of Health Sciences



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Governor Ganeshi Lal today appointed Prof. Datteswar Hota as the first Vice-Chancellor of Odisha University of Health Sciences, Bhubaneswar. Lal, who is also the Chancellor of Universities in Odisha, made this appointment by exercising his power conferred under Sub-Section (7) of Section 9 of Odisha University of Health Sciences Act, 2021. Hota has been appointed the VC of Odisha University of Health Sciences for a period of one year with effect from the date he assumes the charge as such or until further order, which is earlier.

## Odisha Govt To Provide Aid To 50,952 Children Who Lost Parents To Pandemic

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Odisha government has identified 50,952 children aged below 18 years, who have lost either their mother or father or both parents due to Covid-19 and other reasons in Odisha during the pandemic so far. "The Odisha government has launched the Ashirbad scheme, under which financial assistance is being provided to these children," said Women and Child Development



Minister Basanti Hembram in Assembly on Friday. In a written reply to a question of Congress

MLA Tarapasrad Bahinipati, the Minister said the government is providing Rs 2,500 per month to a child who

has lost both parents while a child who has lost a parent who was also the breadwinner for the family is receiving Rs 1,500 per month. Besides, Rs 1,000 per month is being provided to each orphan child, who resides in any child care institution, she said, adding, the assistance will continue till the child turns 18. The children who lost their parents or main earning person of the family on April 1, 2020

or thereafter to Covid-19 have been covered under the scheme. Deposited in the bank accounts of the beneficiary or family members who have taken responsibility for the children after the death of their parents. Apart from the above, 108 children from Odisha who lost both parents due to Covid-19 pandemic, have been covered under PM Cares scheme, informed the minister.

## Controversial Law AFSPA Extended In Parts Of Arunachal, Nagaland

**New Delhi:** The Union home ministry on Friday extended for six months the "disturbed area" status in parts of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958. According to two separate notifications, the decisions have been taken after review of the law-and-order situation in both the states. The AFSPA gives armed forces personnel, operating in disturbed areas, sweeping powers to search, arrest, and to open fire if they deem it necessary for "maintenance of public order". The home ministry said the central government in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 of the AFSPA 1958 (28 of 1958) had declared the Tirap, Changlang and Longding districts in Arunachal Pradesh and the areas falling within the jurisdiction of Namsai and Mahadevpur police stations in Namsai district of Arunachal Pradesh, bordering the state of Assam, as 'disturbed area' under Section 3 of the Armed Forces



September 30, 2022. One more police station area has been brought under the ambit of the AFSPA through the fresh notification. "And whereas a further review of the law and order situation in the state of Arunachal Pradesh has been undertaken. Now, therefore, Tirap, Changlang and Longding districts in Arunachal Pradesh and the areas falling within the jurisdiction of Namsai and Mahadevpur police stations in Namsai district of Arunachal Pradesh, bordering the state of Assam, are declared as 'disturbed area' under Section 3 of the Armed Forces

review of the law and order situation in the state of Nagaland has been undertaken. Now, therefore, Dimapur, N i u l a n d , Chumoukedima, Mon, Kiphire, Noklak, Phek and Peren districts in Nagaland and the areas in Nagaland falling within the jurisdiction of i) Khuzama, Kohima North, Kohima South, Zubza and Kezocha police stations in Kohima District; ii) M a n g k o l e m b a , Mokokchung-I, Longtho, Tuli, Longchem and Anaki 'C' police stations in Mokokchung District; iii) Yanglok police station in Longleng District; iv) Bhandari, Champang and Ralan police stations in Wokha District; and v) Ghatashi, Pughoboto, Satakha, Suruhuto, Zunheboto and Aghunato police stations in Zunheboto District, are declared as 'disturbed area' under Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 for a period of six months with effect from April 1, 2023, unless withdrawn earlier," the notification said.

## Cabinet Clears 4% Hike In Dearness Allowance For Government Employees

**New Delhi:** The central government has raised dearth allowance for its over one crore employees by 4 per cent, taking the total to 42 per cent from 38 per cent. Union Minister Anurag Thakur said the centre will spend ₹ 12,815 to fund the hike in dearth allowance, or DA. The government gives DA to its employees and dearth relief to pensioners to compensate them for rising prices. It is calculated based on the latest consumer price index for industrial workers, or CPI-IW. The DA hike has been applied retrospectively from Jan 1, 2023, the government said.

## Another Western Disturbance To Trigger Rains In Odisha From March 26

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Meteorological department predicted another westerly disturbance from March 26. The impact of the western storm will be seen in several districts from May 26. Under its influence rain with wind speed reaching up to 30-40 kmph gusting to 40 kmph is very likely to occur. The weather department also forecasted thunderstorms. Similarly, the intensity of rain may increase from March 27. As many as 11 coastal districts and adjoining areas are likely to be affected by the phenomenon on May 27. According to the Regional Meteorological Centre hailstorm is likely to occur at many places. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast that rain



accompanying by thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds blowing at 30 kmph to 40 kmph are likely to occur at several places in Odisha's Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, K a l a h a n d i , K a n d h a m a l , Rayagada, Sundargarh, K e o n j h a r , Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak and Jajpur on March 26. The intensity of rain is expected to increase from March 27, the weather office forecast, adding that 11 coastal districts will be affected on March 11.

One or two places in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, C u t t a c k , Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Nuapada, Bolangir, Kandhamal, Boudh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj will witness thunderstorm with lightning and gusty surface wind reaching 30-40 kmph. There is a possibility of rain and thundershowers at most places in state on March 26 to 28, the met department said. Farmers have been advised to cut the crop as there is a risk of crop damage due to the westerly disturbance



# Utkal University Celebrates 'A Day With Japan' Tension Mounts In Odisha Assembly After Rahul Gandhi's Disqualification

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Anthropology department of Utkal University here celebrated 'A Day With Japan' recently. The event was celebrated under the Japanese Language Pilot Project (JLPP), sources said. Since the academic year 2015-16, the Japanese language pilot project (JLPP) has been offering elementary level Japanese language course to interested students, research scholars and faculty members of Utkal University and interested candidates from outside too. This course aims at enabling students to gain primary knowledge about



Japanese language and society. The event 'A Day With Japan' commenced with the welcome address and introduction of the guests by Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patra, coordinator, JLPP followed by the

address of Dr. Kanhu Ch. Satpathy, HoD, Anthropology. Nishtha Ahuja, a research scholar and visiting faculty of Delhi University, was the main attraction of the programme. She taught Japanese at Utkal University for

two weeks and narrated her experience in Odisha before the participants. Professor Nabin K. Panda, Mentor, JLPP and HoD, Asian Studies Department, University of Delhi, also gave a presentation on

Japanese language. 'Japan is the Ram Rajya of the contemporary world with zero tolerance towards crime' said Palak Tripathy, an Indian Diaspora residing in Japan. Tripathy joined the event through video conference and shared his valuable insight of Japanese language. Chief guest Swaraj Mishra, posted at the Tokyo Branch of State Bank of India (SBI), shared his personal experience about Japan. Activities like screening of Japanese Pop songs, performance of special 'Bon Odori' dance, origami crafting, lesson on the use of chopsticks and traditional Japanese game Fukuwarai were the main attraction of the event.

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Tension mounted in the Odisha Assembly as the Congress members stalled the proceedings of the House by creating a ruckus over the disqualification of Rahul Gandhi. The House witnessed several adjournments as the Congress legislators protested Rahul Gandhi's disqualification as MP. Later, the Speaker adjourned the House till Monday.

The Congress MLAs stormed into the well and shouted slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. They termed the disqualification as 'murder of democracy'. Gandhi, on Friday, was disqualified as a member of Lok Sabha a day after his conviction in the Modi surname defamation case. Gandhi's scion who represents Wayanad Parliamentary Constituency of

Kerala was disqualified under provisions of Article 102 (1) (e) of the Constitution of India read with Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act. On Thursday, a court in Surat sentenced Gandhi to two years in jail in a defamation case, filed on a complaint by BJP MLA Purnesh Modi for his remark, "How come to all thieves have Modi as the common surname?"

## DJ Azex Death: Relationship With 3 Girls, WhatsApp Group For Expose And More

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** More shocking developments are coming to fore in DJ Azex alias Akshay Kumar Maharana death case as the matter is becoming murkier day by day. As per sources, the deceased was in relationship with three girls while the trio had formed a WhatsApp group to expose him. The incident came to light during probe by cyber experts. The three used the WhatsApp group to discuss as to how he had trapped them. While the statement of his girlfriend Jigyansa has been recorded by police, two other girls will be questioned by the cops soon, sources added. On the other hand, his mother Laxmipriya Moharana warned of immolating herself in



front of police station if she doesn't get justice. "I have lost my 28-year-old son. I know the pain. My son shouldn't be defamed after death," she said. "The WhatsApp group creation matter is false. The truth behind the death of my son is yet to be revealed even after seven days of the incident. We have provided necessary evidence to the police regarding the person for which he died. Efforts are being made

to suppress the case with misinformation," she added. DJ Azex was found hanging at his residence in Bhubaneswar on March 18 night. Holding Akshay's girlfriend and her male friend accountable for abetting his suicide, his mother alleged that he was being subjected to torture and mental harassment by the duo. As per the contents of the FIR, Akshay and his girlfriend, who is

an MBBS student in a private college here, were in a relationship since a year. She was apparently exploiting him for money and was demanding a two-wheeler. WhatsApp chats revealed that Akshay had even transferred Rs 15,000 to her account through PhonePe. The girl however ditched him and got involved with another male friend who started threatening Akshay to leave her failing which he would leak an intimate video of them, the FIR read. Akshay was known to be one of the most popular DJs in the country. Post-mortem of the deceased has revealed that he died due to asphyxiation. The body also bore some ligature marks, the autopsy report said.

## "Biodiversity Heritage Site" Recognition for Gandhamardan Hill range

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Gandhamardan Hill range, which houses a plethora of medicinal plants as well as a unique ecosystem, was accorded the 'biodiversity heritage site' tag. These hills are also termed the ayurvedic paradise of Odisha because of the presence of ample varieties of medicinal plants.



The Forest, Environment and Climate Change department declared the Gandhamardan hill system spread over Bargarh and Bolangir districts as a biodiversity heritage site. A notification issued by the state forest and environment department said that

status was accorded as per section 37 of the Biodiversity Act and Rule 20(2) of the Odisha Biodiversity Rules, 2012. Gandhamardan hills are the home to 1,200 species of plants and 500 species of animals. 'Biodiversity heritage site' recognition will help in the

preservation, protection, conservation, and management of the species that are facing extinction. Gandhamardan region has two major religious tourism sites, the Nrusinghanath Temple on the northern slope and the Harishankar Temple

on the southern slope. Gandhamardan Hill range is the third natural site in Odisha to get biodiversity heritage site tag. In the past, Mahendragiri in Gajapati district and Mandasaru Hills in Kandhamal district had received the biodiversity heritage site tag.

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## Sumbul Touqeer Khan Gets Bitten By Monkey, Rushed To Hospital With Injury

Sumbul Touqeer Khan, who became a household name with her daily soap 'Imlie', was recently seen in Salman Khan-hosted reality show Bigg Boss 16. She was the youngest contestant on the reality show and won thousands of fan following with her stint. Her bond with Shiv Thakare on the show was loved by viewers and they were lovingly nicknamed ShivSum and often trended on the internet. The actor recently took a trip to Ooty along with actress Ulka Gupta and left her fans surprised when she broke the news that she got bitten by a monkey on her leg. She shared a few stories and photos of her injury on social media, and wrote, "That monkey bit me". Ulka Gupta then shared a snap with Sumbul from the hospital and uploaded a picture of a monkey, and wrote, "Why did you do this." Sumbul's fans were worried after they saw the pics of her injury. They even wished her a speedy recovery and also warned her to be vigilant. Both Sumbul and Ulka constantly shared



updates from their trip to Ooty. The actress has been a part of several shows

such as 'Jodha Akhbar', 'Waaris', 'Chandragupta Maurya', and more. She became a household

name with her stint on 'Imlie' and fans loved her chemistry with lead actor Fahmaan Khan.

She is also known for her work in Ayushamman Khurana's crime-drama 'Article 15'. She also did 'Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein', and a cameo in the web show 'Dear Ishq'. The actress has carved a space in the heart of the masses with her acting prowess and received immense love from the audience. She is quite active on social media handles and often shares updates regarding her personal and professional life. For the unversed, Sumbul recently shared that she has bought a new house in Mumbai.

## Sara Ali Khan Jets Off To Delhi For Next Schedule Of Homi Adajania's 'Murder Mubarak'



Sara Ali Khan is buzzing with activity as she has a tight schedule with multiple projects lined up. Amidst fulfilling her varied work commitments Sara Ali Khan was seen checking off to Delhi for the next schedule of Homi Adajania's 'Murder Mubarak'. The actress is also seen promoting 'Gaslight' off lately which is all set to release on 31st March 2023 on Hotstar. She was seen leaving for Delhi for her second shoot schedule of Homi Adajania's 'Murder Mubarak'.

The shutter big spotted the actress at the airport and she was seen dressing up comfortably and casually. As she chose a cute white crop top paired with light blue ripped jeans and stylish sneakers. She had her hair beautifully cascading down her shoulder, which gave off a casual and carefree feeling.

The no makeup look exuded natural beauty and made her look as refreshing as the breath of fresh air. Her casual yet stylish appearance suited her easy going demeanor, which is adored by her fans.

The actress posted a boomerang on the story where she was seen blowing flying kisses to the camera as she departed to Delhi. It was captioned as "Bye Bye Mumbai. Time to (camers emoji)."

Sara Ali Khan has been setting trends and expressing her sense of style with her relaxed yet stylish outfits. She always looks effortlessly gorgeous in every outfit she chooses to carry. She is loved by her fans for her relatability and carefree personality and not to forget her chic outfits!

On the work front, she will be next seen in Pavan Kipralani's 'Gaslight' which is slated to be released on 31st March 2023, Homi Adajania's 'Murder Mubarak', Ae Watan Mere Watan, Laxman Utekar next opposite Vicky Kaushal.

## Sunny Leone: There is something magical about being part of this entertainment industry

A decade ago, she was introduced into the Bigg Boss house to add more glam and spike up the ratings. After that, the doors to Bollywood opened up for Sunny Leone and she quickly embraced the opportunities that came her way.

In a chat with Bombay Times, she talks about the fast-growing entertainment space in India, how she fits into it all and how the next few years seem packed with the kind of work she always desired to do. Excerpts:

You're completing a decade of living in India and being a part of the entertainment industry here. What do you think has worked for you and

made you turn India into your home?

It has been so amazing. My husband Daniel (Weber) and I could erase some of the bad memories, but it has been a fulfilling decade which we have spent here. It's been a dream — we've gotten into production, films, shows, television and entrepreneurship in India. I love being here and I am very happy about it. A long time ago, Daniel and I were staying at a five-star hotel, our make-shift home. I was shooting for Jism 2 at that time and I met a woman who had told me that once you are here, India will get a hold of you and you will never

with a gripping teaser and groovy songs, the makers of Gumraah have certainly piqued curiosity amongst the audiences about the intriguing storyline of the film. While the audience awaits the release of Gumraah, makers drop the most mysterious yet enthralling trailer of the film and fans can't keep calm but look out for the arcane events taking place in Aditya's life. The trailer promises unmissable drama, lots of twirls, and a mystery that will unfold on April 7, 2023. Gumraah stars Aditya Roy Kapur in a dual role along with Mrunal Thakur who will essay the role of a lady cop for the first time. The Malang star actor



will be seen portraying a double role for the first time in his career, making it even more special for his fans. Helmed by debutant director Vardhan Ketkar the film is being produced by Bhushan Kumar's T-Series and Murad Khetani's Cine1

Studios. Gumraah is to release in cinemas on the 7th of April 2023. Gumraah is an official Hindi remake of a Tamil hit action-thriller film Thadam, released in 2019. Directed by Magizh Thirumeni, the film starred Arun Vijay and Tanya Hope in the

lead roles. Aditya and Mrunal will be sharing the screen space for the very first time in the film. Aditya Roy Kapur was last seen in web-series 'The Night Manager' which also featured Anil Kapoor and Sobhita Dhulipala in the lead roles.

## Farhan Akhtar Explores Rajasthan Deserts For Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif And Alia Bhatt Starrer 'Jee Le Zaraa' Location Recce

Bringing us yet another road trip film after Dil Chahta Hai and Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara, Excel Entertainment had announced their next in collaboration with Tiger Baby for a project titled 'Jee Le Zaraa' starring Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Katrina Kaif & Alia Bhatt in the lead. Written by Zoya Akhtar, Farhan Akhtar and Reema Kagti;

produced by Reema Kagti, Zoya Akhtar, Ritesh Sidhwani & Farhan Akhtar, the film will be directed by Farhan Akhtar. Giving us a glimpse of the recce from 'Jee Le Zaraa', director Farhan Akhtar shared a picture where he can be seen standing in the desert of Rajasthan. He further wrote the caption - "Searching for gold #locationscout

#jeelezaraa #rajasthan". Ahead of this, the producer Ritesh Sidhwani commented - "And he is back on the director's chair" As the director shared the picture of the recce, Alia Bhatt who will be seen playing the lead in 'Jee Le Zaraa', reacted by dropping a comment writing - "Can't waitttt" Excel Entertainment was founded by Ritesh

Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar in 1999. From having won national awards for their first couple of films like Dil Chahta Hai and Rock On, to being India's official entry at the 92nd Academy Awards for Gully Boy, this duo's always made a mark in films over the years. Excel Entertainment in collaboration with Tiger Baby will be coming together for 'Jee Le Zaraa'.

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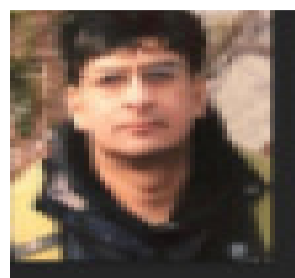
## NTR 30: SS Rajamouli Joins Jr NTR And Janhvi Kapoor As They Kickstart Film's Shoot

Actors Jr NTR and Janhvi Kapoor finally began shooting for their much-awaited upcoming film 'NTR 30' with a pooja ceremony on Thursday. Pictures and videos from the launch ceremony have surfaced on social media. In one of the pictures, Jr NTR and Janhvi can be seen joining filmmaker SS Rajamouli on stage as he gave the clap for the first shot and announced the commencement of the shoot. Janhvi who is set to make a debut in the South industry also shared a glimpse of her special journey.



# Classical Indian dance workshop

Saikat Kumar Basu



An outstanding dance workshop and discussion platform with live performances was organized by the West Bengal State Music Academy in Kolkata on March 14/2023 at the West



Kathak and Sattriya Nritya. All these unique dance styles were illustrated with vibrant live performances by different dance experts with their beautiful costumes, traditional jewellery and make ups, sling with accompanying classical dance music representing each dance form and

State Music Academy Bhavan, highlighting about the famous Uday Shankar dance style. It is important to mention that Ms Mamata Shankar is the daughter of legendary dance couples, Nrityacharya Uday Shankar and performer Amala Shankar; and niece of Bharat Ratna Ravi Shankar, the internally acclaimed

hence needs constant exploration, improvements and improvisations to cater to the creativity it demands. With changing times, modern dance forms and movements have got a new thrust towards the incorporation of gymnastics in dancing but that is not true dancing

Indianess and Indian heritage and traditions in his creative art; and not simple fusion or adoption of Western dances in an Indian format.

This program highlighted the various aspects of Indian classical and modern dancing hitherto unknown to the general audience.

why dance education is important for the society, suggested "Education and educational awareness programs have always extended the horizons of the mind and prepares young children to appreciate our society, heritage and culture. It inculcates in them the much needed social and moral values, provide them the ethical courage and self confidence to expand their knowledge and explore unknown realms of life and society. Education plays a vital role in cognizance of educational upliftment while awareness has its own outlooks for development perspectives enunciated with knowledge, intelligence, traditions and

courage." To illustrate her points, Professor Suparna Sanyal Mukherjee further elaborated that ".....Awareness program in any discipline helps to inspire Outstanding Performances in association with education, philosophy, value education, history, geography, sociology and anthropogenic outlooks along with all the creativity and effective disciplines. Awareness program is also envisaged with the rhythmic formation of Education and Educational Philosophy in the society at large. ....Hence, dance is also a performing art and motivational text which promulgated people at large in each and every corner of life.' There by, it can

Bengal State Music Academy Bhavan funded by the Information and Cultural Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal. This has been an initiative taken by Ms. Mamata Banerjee, the honourable Chief Minister of West Bengal. The theme of this program has been 'Lecture Demonstration on Dance Awareness' highlighting the importance Indian classical and modern dance forms and styles through live performance. The objective has been to educate and aware the public, academics, researchers and performers about the significance of dance in the Indian society, their individual history, origin, evolution and stylistic modifications over time and to understand the similarities and differences among various Indian dance styles. The program was a grand success with the hall packed

with enthusiastic audience who actively participated through their numerous questions being answered by the experts and loud applause.

An internationally acclaimed dance scholar and a distinguished academic as well as the prestigious Uday Shankar Professor of Dance at the Rabindra Bharati University, Professor Amita Dutt was the first speaker at the WB State Music Academy program. Professor Dutt is also an internationally acclaimed Kathak dancer and choreographer and travels across India and overseas with his famous dance troupe called Ananda Chandrika Arena. She mesmerized the audience by presenting an erudite lecture covering all the eight Indian classical dance forms, namely- Bharat Natyam, Mohini Attam, Kuchipudi, Kathakali, Odissi,



elegant styles.

Professor Amita Dutt said, "India has had a long and variegated history of dance forms. Some of our dance styles have been polished, practised and performed for generations resulting in highly accomplished and intricate dance forms. These are termed as classical and they not only have a rich history but are also performed today with energy and dedication. It is important for all Indians and even people from outside to be aware of our rich cultural tradition. Performances are aesthetically pleasing. But discussions acquaint the audience with the details and unique features of each dance style. Awareness leads to a realization of our incomparable and distinctive dance styles."

Legendary dancer, choreographer, artist and National Award winning actress honourable Ms Mamata Shankar was the second speaker in the WB

Indian sitar player. Ms Mamata Shankar mentioned that simply floating the hands and legs and swaying head is not actually the Uday Shankar style of dancing as many may think. But it is rather the deep philosophical thoughts behind the dance moves, presentation style and unique choreography that constitutes the famous Uday Shankar dance style. The unique globally acclaimed and highly appreciated dance style is a heritage that has paved the path for new age dancers and choreographers for further exploration and improvisation to discover and design new styles and forms in modern dancing. Master choreographer and dancer, Nrityacharya Uday Shankar has opened an opportunity for us to follow the path shown by him; but he himself insisted on newer creativity, ingenuity, thought and moves to enrich us with even higher qualities and rich artistic expressions through dancing.

Nrityacharya, Uday Shankar emphasized that dance is not static but a dynamic performing art; and



Philosophy. The dance must speak with movements following the music and present a story in front of the audience that must be self explanatory in nature, free flowing, rich in our own heritage and not just copy paste from Western dance forms. The unique aspect of the Uday Shankar dance style lies with the adoption of

Such a monumental workshop is important in connecting people to our glorious heritage of performing arts like dancing and helping them to understand and appreciate this unique art form. Professor Suparna Sanyal Mukherjee, Head of the Department of Education, Seacom Skills University, Santiniketan (West Bengal) when asked



## Letter To Editor

### Sir, Remembering Pash

Avtar Singh Sandhu, also known as Pash, was born on September 9, 1950, in the village of Talwandi Salem in Jalandhar, Punjab. Pash's poetry has always had political overtones. Pash was opposed to religious fanaticism and harshly criticised the state's authoritarian nature. On March 25, 1988, he was assassinated in New Delhi by Khalistani militants. Decades after his death Pash's ideas still reverberate to the contemporary socio-political milieu. With the country's communal tensions on the rise, it's a good time to remember Pash's revolutionary spirit.

Vijaykumar H K Raichur, Karnataka



be suggested said that the future global collective action of an educated society, including efforts to promote local and indigenous knowledge of our national heritage, tradition and culture through education and awareness such as the one organized by the West Bengal Dance Academy has significant impacts on our society." The workshop is believed to have placed lasting impact on the audience and the participants who attended this lecture demonstration on dance awareness.

Kolkata, West Bengal India





PM launches TB-Mukt Panchayat initiative at the 'One World TB Summit' at Rudrakash Convention Centre at Varanasi, in Uttar Pradesh

## IIT Kharagpur Ranks 1st in Agriculture & Civil Engineering in India in 13th QS World University Ranking by Subject 2023

Kolkata: Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IIT KGP) ranked first in Agriculture Forestry and Civil & Structural Engineering in India, according to the latest edition of the world's highest QS World University Ranking by Subject for the year 2023. The Institution's strongest field Engineering & Technology ranked at 82nd with an overall score of 76.7 among all the universities globally and 4th in India, as per the 13th QS World University Rankings by Subject, 2023 announced on 23rd March 2023.

In India, IIT KGP ranked first in Agriculture & Forestry along with Civil & Structural Engineering. Domestically, the Institute overall ranked second in Architecture & Built Environment, Material Science, Environmental Sciences, Accounting & Finance, Economics & Ergonomics. Core areas of the premier institute including Computer Science & Information Systems, Mineral & Mining Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Electrical & Electronics, Earth & Marine Science and Statistical & Operational Research

held 3rd position in all over India. Globally, the institute ranked 74th in 2023 compared to 80th rank in 2022 in Electrical and Electronic Engineering; 94th in 2023 compared to 109th in 2022 in Computer Science & Information Systems & 106th rank in 2023, improving its rank from 118th in 2022 in Mechanical, Aeronautical & Manufacturing Engineering. Speaking on the QS Rankings by Subject 2023, the Director, IIT Kharagpur Prof. V K Tewari remarked, "IIT Kharagpur stands out

from other IITs with its multi-modal curriculum nurturing creativity, capacity building, affordable healthcare and rapid technological amalgamation. As an Institute of Eminence, we have to acquire the opportunity in the digital economy space fostering skill development and encouraging entrepreneurship. The Institute is gearing up to establish bridges with ISRO and futuristic technologies with DRDO in unmanned & robotic technologies, cognitive technologies and secure systems, directed energy

technologies, sensor systems and software, life support engineering and baseline technologies in materials. We are also planning to steer ahead in areas like precision agriculture, energy storage systems, hardware security, hydrogen storage, quantum communication, additive manufacturing, 3D printing & composite manufacturing. The institute also ranked #1 in Architecture & Regional Planning (ARP) in Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF) 2022.

## Telangana NTPC: 800 MW unit of power project synchronized with grid



**Peddapalli:** The first ultra-super critical unit (800 MW) of the 2x800 Telangana Super Thermal Power Project of NTPC-Ramagundam Project was commissioned and synchronised with the grid in the wee hours (00:53:18 hrs) of Friday. The unit is being stabilised gradually. Commissioning of various auxiliary equipment and systems viz., boiler, turbine auxiliaries,

coal handling system, ash handling system, water system, electrical system, etc., is under process, for sustained operation of the unit. This plant has several environment-friendly fuel-efficient features with improved cycle efficiency of 42 per cent, a unified control system and control room, gas insulated substation, installation of rooftop solar panels on all plant buildings,

highly concentration slurry disposal system for water conservation and Flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) for SO<sub>x</sub> reduction. Established as per the provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, the 5x800 MW (4,000 MW) supercritical thermal power plant is mandated to supply 85 percent of the energy generated there to Telangana.

## Superfast Train Stopped By Congress Workers In Madhya Pradesh In Protest

**Bhopal:** A superfast train was today stopped by Madhya Pradesh Youth Congress workers protesting against Rahul Gandhi's disqualification as a member of parliament, a day after his defamation conviction for a remark seen as an insult against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Scores of Congress workers chanting "Rahul Gandhi Jindabad; Narendra Modi Murdabad" slogans stopped the train at Rani

Kamalapati railway station in Bhopal. They also carried banners proclaiming "Black Day For Indian Democracy". "Madhya Pradesh Youth Congress today stopped Dakshin Express train at Rani Kamalapati railway station in Bhopal to protest against the autocratic disqualification of Rahul Gandhi's Lok Sabha membership," said Vikrant Bhuria, Madhya Pradesh Congress chief, adding it is the start of a

revolution. Some of the workers were also seen lying on the rail tracks. The PM Modi-led government at the Centre has been widely accused of using the law to target and silence critics. Mr Gandhi was sentenced to two years imprisonment but walked free on bail after his lawyers vowed to appeal Thursday's verdict. The Lok Sabha Secretariat has declared

the 52-year-old Congress leader's constituency in Kerala's Wayanad vacant. The Election Commission can now announce a special election for the seat. Several Opposition parties - including Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress and Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party - reacted sharply to the disqualification of Rahul Gandhi as a Member of the Parliament.

Reacting to his disqualification this evening, Rahul Gandhi said he is "ready to pay any cost". "I am fighting for the voice of India. I am ready to pay any price," he tweeted in Hindi. The case against Rahul Gandhi stemmed from a remark made during the 2019 election campaign, in which the Congress leader had asked why "all thieves have Modi as (their) common surname".

## "Attack On Democratic Forces": MK Stalin On Rahul Gandhi's Disqualification

**Chennai:** Describing Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's disqualification as "an attack on progressive democratic forces," Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin today demanded the revocation of the action against the Wayanad MP. Reacting strongly to the Lok Sabha action on disqualifying the former Congress president over his conviction by a Surat court in a criminal defamation case, Mr Stalin said, "I strongly condemn the fascist action of disqualifying the young leader of India, Rahul Gandhi, from the post of



Member of Parliament." "This intimidating tone of action appears to send a message across that even the leader of the national political party and MP does not have the democratic right to express his opinion," Mr Stalin, the DMK president, added. An appeal is a

fundamental right of anyone who is convicted and the judge had pointed this out in his judgment and gave 30 days' time for the Congress leader to respond, he said in a statement here. "Disqualification of Rahul Gandhi by then is a deprivation of the democratic right of a MP. The Supreme

Court had not upheld the 2-year imprisonment. The district Court had given only the verdict and there's an appeal in the High Court. The Supreme Court has to deliver the final verdict," he said. On Thursday the local court in Gujarat's Surat sentenced Rahul Gandhi to two years in jail for criminal defamation for his "Modi surname" remark in the 2019 general election campaign in Karnataka, in a case filed against him by BJP legislator and former Gujarat minister Purnesh Modi.

"This shows the extent to which the BJP leadership is scared of Rahul Gandhi. This is due to the huge impact Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra had created among the people. The Centre is unable to reply to the issues raised by Gandhi in Parliament. They had disqualified him fearing that his continued presence in the Parliament would cause a political crisis for the BJP," Mr Stalin claimed. Through the action, the BJP has lost the ability to utter the word democracy. It is not befitting of the Central government to remain silent on questions raised in the Parliament.

## CSI hosts National Women's Conference in Kolkata

**Kolkata, (ADVAITA SETH):** The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) recently organised its first National Women's Conference in Kolkata which was inaugurated by Smt. Chandrima Bhattacharya, the Chief Guest and Minister of State for

Finance & Programme Monitoring and Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare of the Government of West Bengal. The theme of the two-day National Women's Conference held on 23rd & 24th March 2023, Empowered Women: Inspiring a Better Tomorrow, was in alignment with India's G-20 Priority of Women-led development and focused on the significant role played

by women in driving the economic and social progress of a country. "I am honoured to be here at the first National Women's Conference by ICSI and express my gratitude to ICSI for choosing Kolkata to start this annual initiative. Women are



already empowered and we have to celebrate this empowerment with the entire society", said Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya. CS Manish Gupta, President, Institute of Company Secretaries of India said, "Currently women account for nearly 50% of Company Secretaries (CS) in India and ICSI is working out a scheme to create more opportunities for them. The Institute has always been at the forefront when it comes to

Entrepreneurs: Driving Change & Innovation; Women Achievers: Role of Equity, Inclusion, and Encouragement; and The Art of Mindfulness: Maintaining Work-Life Balance. Distinguished guests and speakers from the Government, Regulators, Industry, Academia, and Profession attended this first of its kind event that honoured both Women and their social, economic, cultural, and political achievements.



# Global Meet On Tourism Investors

**New Delhi:** Ministry of Tourism organised a roundtable interaction with heads of mission in New Delhi today as a run up to first Global Tourism Investor's Summit.

As an initiative under India's G20 Presidency, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India shall be organizing the country's first Global Tourism Investors' Summit (GTIS) in New Delhi from 17-19 May 2023.

The Roundtable Interaction with Heads of Missions was chaired by G. Kishan Reddy, Minister of Tourism, Culture and DONER. While addressing the Heads of the Missions at Vigyan Bhawan today, Shri Reddy remarked that guided by the Vision of Prime Minister, tourism development and promotion is being

undertaken in Mission Mode by the Government.

He also stated that the current investment landscape of the country makes it an appropriate destination for investment in various sub sectors of the Indian tourism industry such as Hospitality & Lodging, Wellness tourism, Adventure tourism, Eco-Tourism, Rural Tourism and others. The Minister thanked all the participating Missions for attending the Roundtable Interaction and invited them to actively participate in the forthcoming Investors Summit and be a part of India's growth and development in the tourism sector.

Arvind Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism mentioned that in order to showcase investible opportunities to



investors, till now 25 states have shared 350 plus investible projects with a total investment potential of around Rs. 64,000 Cr. (USD 7.7 billion) with the Ministry of Tourism. He stated that GTIS will also have several knowledge sessions focused on topics such as sustainability, digitalization, technology, insights, state-specific issues, and other sub-sectors of tourism. These sessions

will facilitate business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-government (B2G) engagements. K B Kachru, Member, CII National Committee on Tourism and Hospitality stated that GTIS is the right platform for all the tourism & hospitality industries operating outside India to come, witness the huge Indian market, and leverage the available investment opportunities.

A total of 42 Foreign

Missions participated in today's Interaction. The G-20 Presidency will give India's tourism sector an unparalleled opportunity to highlight India's tourism offerings and share India's tourism success stories on a global stage. India's tourism market is set for a growth trajectory due to improved infrastructure, global connectivity, higher disposable incomes and the development of niche tourism products

opening opportunities for foreign investors.

Tourism sector has emerged as one of the fastest growing economic sectors and has a significant impact on trade, job creation, investment, infrastructure development and social inclusion. The objective of GTIS 2023, being organized in partnership with Invest India as the Investment Promotion and Facilitation partner and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) as the Industry Partner, is to provide a common platform for interactions between global and domestic players and explore the investment opportunities in the Indian travel and hospitality sector. India has a diverse portfolio of niche tourism products which includes cruises,

adventure, medical, wellness, sports such as Golf and Polo, MICE (meetings, incentives, exhibitions), ecotourism, film, rural and spiritual tourism and the Investor Summit will provide a two-way platform for showcasing of the unique offerings of India while the potential investors from foreign countries can identify the state-specific investment possibilities in the segment unique to that State. A web-site www.gtistourism.in has also been developed which will help in taking forward the public-private engagements beyond the event as well. All the G20 countries are expected to participate at the mega event.

100% FDI in the tourism and Hospitality sector is allowed under automatic route. In the last 8 years

from 2014-2022, India has received FDI inflows worth USD 9.2 billion in the hotel and tourism sector whereas India had received FDI inflows worth USD 7.2 billion from 2000-2014. States are also actively working on policies and providing incentives and concessions to attract private investments for Homestays, MICE infrastructure, Wellness tourism, Eco tourism etc. In line with the push towards streamlining of approvals, the Ministry of Tourism is integrating with National Single Window System (NSWS) platform and reduce the number of approvals required to setup a new project in Tourism & Hospitality sector. 7 States are actively working with NSWS to provide a unified interface to identify and apply for approvals required for setting up a hotel.

## UDISE information approved, uploaded by state: Ministry

**BHUBANESWAR:** Ministry of Education on Thursday said the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) report shows that there is a clear decline in the enrolment rate in upper primary and secondary levels in Odisha.

In a strong clarification to School and Mass Education minister Samir Ranjan Dash's reply in the state Assembly that UDISE+ report on Odisha's high dropout rate of 27.3 per cent (pc) at secondary level is not reliable, the Ministry stated the UDISE data undergoes a three-stage verification and is the most trusted pan-India database on school education in the country.

The information on students used to calculate the enrolment, dropout and transition rates has been uploaded to the UDISE+ portal by the government of Odisha itself, said the ministry in a release.



The ministry had released the UDISE report on 2021-22 session in November last year which indicated that dropout rate at upper primary level in Odisha was 7.3 per cent and 27.3 per cent at the secondary level against the national average of 3 per cent and 12.6 per cent respectively. It further pointed out that the dropout rate for girls at upper primary level was 6.5 per cent and 25 per cent at secondary level against the national average of 3.3 per cent and 12.3 per cent respectively.

For the UDISE+ report of 2020-21, Odisha has reported a total of 21.42 lakh students in upper primary and 13.25 lakh in secondary level.

Similarly, in 2021-22, the same in respect of upper primary was 20.72 lakh and 12.46 lakh at secondary. This indicates a clear decline of enrolment across both levels in the state. Sharing the details of enrolment in 2020-21 and 2021-22 academic years, the ministry said in 2020-21, of the total 7.58 lakh students in Class VIII, only 6.27 lakh transited to Class IX in 2021-22, showing a net decline of 1.32 lakh students or 17.3 per cent. In 2020-21, of the total 6.40 lakh students in Class IX, only 6.19 lakh transited to Class X in 2021-22 showing a net decline of 0.2 lakh students or 3.1 per cent. In 2020-21, of the total 6.86 lakh students in Class X, only 3.43 lakh transited to Class XI in

2021-22 showing a net decline of 3.42 lakh students or 49.9 per cent. In 2020-21, of the total 3.66 lakh students in Class XI, only 3.46 lakh transited to Class XII in 2021-22 showing a net decline of 0.19 lakh students or 5.2 per cent. Evaluation of the data reflects that enrolment and students transiting from Class VIII to IX, Class IX to X, Class X to XI and Class XI to XII have declined indicating a large number of students are dropping out at the transition of upper primary to secondary level and subsequently to higher secondary level.

Explaining the process of feeding data into the portal, the ministry said the task is undertaken by headmasters and the data goes through a three-stage verification at block, district and state levels. This data is finally certified by the state project director (SPD). The data once certified by SPD of the respective state is considered as approved by the state.

## OSL director bags ET's influential personality award

**BHUBANESWAR:** Orissa Stevedores Limited (OSL) director Charchit Mishra has been conferred ET's 'influential personality award east 2023' for dynamic leadership in shipment and logistics. The award was presented to Mishra by the acting British deputy high commissioner to Kolkata, Peter Cook at Kolkata on Thursday.

"I am grateful and humbled to receive an award that speaks volumes not just about me but about our journey as a company. It bears



testimony to how beautifully we set sail into the world of shipping, mining, logistics, and exports of the eastern region with sheer determination and expertise," said Mishra. He added, "This


may be an award for me as an influential personality, but there are always a number of people steering my knowledge and OSL towards excellence. We have always strived for distinction by

pushing our boundaries, creating new goals and receiving every challenge as an opportunity. It has been my greatest pleasure to contribute to various philanthropic activities in an effort to make the world better".



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## Bandhan Bank registers strong business growth in Q4FY22 Mahindra Promises, "Get Highest Productivity Per Liter of Fuel"

Kolkata : Bandhan Bank, the universal bank with inclusive banking at its core, today announced its financial results for the final quarter of financial year 2021-22. The Bank continued to witness strong business growth, as the economy revived strongly.

The Bank's total business (deposits and advances) grew 18.6% year-on-year to reach around Rs. 1.96 lakh crores on March 31, 2022. The Bank serves 2.63 crore customers through 5,639 banking outlets across 34 of the 36 states and union territories in India. The total number of employees working at Bandhan Bank stands at 60,211.



During the fourth quarter of the current financial year, the Bank's deposit book grew 24% over the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The total deposits now stand at Rs. 96,331 crore. In this period, the Bank's retail deposit book showed a substantial

growth and grew 21% year-on-year to Rs. 74,441 crore. The current account and savings account (CASA) book grew by 18% year-on-year, and the CASA ratio now stands at 41.6% of the overall deposit book. With respect to advances, the bank saw 16% growth over the

corresponding quarter of the previous year. The total advances are now at Rs. 99,338 crore.

Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR), an indication of the stability of the Bank, is at 20.1, much higher than the regulatory requirement.

To cater to its customers across the

country, Bandhan Bank is focussed on diversifying its presence across India and also growing its product portfolio in areas like SME Loans, Gold Loans, Personal Loans and Auto Loans.

Speaking on the results, Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, MD & CEO, said, "The Bank has yet again proved its resilience with a strong performance in Q4 of FY22. Our belief in our business model has been further strengthened. We thank our customers for their continued trust and support, which has made Bandhan Bank a preferred banking partner for millions of Indians."

Pune : Mahindra's Construction Equipment Division (MCE), a part of the Mahindra Group, today announced their unique and disruptive customer value proposition "Get Highest Productivity Per Liter of Fuel or Give M a c h i n e B a c k" Guarantee for their BS4 range of Backhoe Loaders – Mahindra EarthMaster.

The new range features the proven and reliable 74 HP CRi Mahindra Engine and many other technological advancements, besides the cutting-edge iMAXX Telematics solution, all of which together, ensure guaranteed better fuel efficiency. Given the fact that fuel is one of the major element of the operating cost (nearly 50%), with unique features as Banana Boom, joystick lever, robust design, and bigger buckets, EarthMaster range is well suited for all types of backhoe applications,

be it mining, trenching, crushers, building construction or any other work in construction industry. Mahindra BS4 Backhoe Loader – EarthMaster, with this competitive advantage will provide them an edge, complete peace of mind and scale up their CE business, delivering higher prosperity.

Speaking on the occasion, Jalaj Gupta, Business Head, Commercial Vehicles Business Unit, Mahindra & Mahindra Limited said, "The 'Guaranteed Higher per litre productivity (or Give Back Machine') Promise is a landmark move in the construction equipment space. Given the spiraling fuel prices, there wasn't a better time to introduce this Customer Value Proposition. We firmly believe that it will reaffirm our customers' faith in Mahindra's ability to create technologically

advanced, class-leading products and set higher standards for the Indian CE industry. The Service Uptime Guarantee further reinforce our commitment to our customers and our confidence in our products and after-sales capabilities."

Jalaj Gupta further added, "Our new BS4 machines have delivered higher fuel efficiency, which is the outcome of Mahindra's superior technological prowess rooted into a deep understanding of the Indian customer. Additionally, MCE is offering Service guarantee to ensure higher uptime for our customers through guaranteed speedier turnaround of the machine. The state-of-the-art iMAXX Telematics technology is further helping lower the Cost of Ownership by providing a firm control to the owners over their machines, remotely."

## Virecords top download speed of 5.92 Gbps during the ongoing 5G trials in Pune

Mumbai : Vodafone Idea (Vi) and Ericsson (NASDAQ: ERIC) today announced achieving a technology milestone during the ongoing 5G trials by demonstrating a peak download speed of 5.92 Gbps. The new speed record by Vi, was achieved on a single test device during its 5G trials in Pune, Maharashtra, being conducted on a combination of mid-band and high-band (mmWave) 5G trial spectrum using Ericsson Massive MIMO radios, Ericsson cloud native dual mode 5G core for Standalone architecture and NR-DC (New Radio - Dual

Connectivity) software. With 5G Standalone NR-DC software, Vi can deliver latency-sensitive and high-performing applications such as AR/VR and 8K video streaming as well as innovative new use cases for consumers and enterprises once it deploys 5G on its commercial network.

Earlier during its 5G trials and use cases' showcase in Pune, Vi had demonstrated speeds of over 4 Gbps. The new speed record of 5.92 Gbps has been achieved using the Govt allocated 5G spectrum for the trials.

Commenting on this achievement, Jagbir

Singh, Chief Technology Officer, Visaid, "The trial demonstrates how Vi is constantly testing and preparing its network for new 5G based applications that will rely on the low latency, reliability and high speeds of 5G. Given the growing consumer demand for immersive media and video streaming services, the 5G speeds that we have demonstrated will help us prepare for the mobile broadband speeds and greater network capacity requirements of customers, as we ready for '5G for a Better Tomorrow' in India."

Vi's focus on leveraging new

technologies and partnerships for a better tomorrow for its users has led the company to showcase a wide range of 5G use cases during the 5G trials in Pune and Gandhinagar, to make enterprises and citizens smarter.

Amarjeet Singh, Vice President and Head of Customer Unit Vi at Ericsson says, "Achieving this technology milestone of 5.92 Gbps download speed by leveraging Ericsson's 5G Standalone NR-DC software and cloud-native dual-mode 5G Core represents a milestone in India's evolution to 5G Standalone with mmWave. Based on our

global 5G deployment across 121 live networks, we are confident we can help our customers like Vi seamlessly evolve their network to 5G."

5G is expected to account for 39 per cent of all mobile subscriptions in India by 2027 according to Ericsson Mobility Report, November 2021 edition. 5G is on track to become the dominant mobile access technology by subscriptions globally by 2027. By this time, 5G is expected to account for around 50 per cent of all mobile subscriptions worldwide – covering 75 per cent of the world's population and carrying 62 per cent of the global smartphone traffic.

## Business icons confer with Utkal Tycoons Awards

Bhubaneswar: Noted business icons of Odisha conferred with Utkal Tycoons Award in an exotic platform organizes by Utkal Updates and Addiction Fashion Management today at WelcomHotel by ITC Hotels, Bhubaneswar. As part of Epari Sadashiv Jewelry presents Odisha's unique award show and fashion fest 'Utkal Tycoons Awards' with Bhubaneswar Runway Week Season-6, numbers of well known and successful face of Odisha business fraternity got thumping applause for their wonderful contribution to the economy of Odisha.

Their contributions were recognized and awarded.

Program starts with lighting of lamp by organizer Sushree Sangeeta Sahu, John Ajay, Gaurav, Sridhar, Epari and Sunil Murarka. Surya Narayan Patra, Speaker, Odisha Assembly attended as chief guest and Sulochana Das, Mayor, Bhubaneswar as guest of honour. Today, Utkal Tycoons Awards conferred to Rashmi Sahoo, Director, Frozit; Nirupama Biswal, Director, Gayatri Devi Group; Kabir Taneja, Director, Espirit Toyota; Ratnamala Swain, real estate player; Sukirti Pattnaik, MD, Indulge

the Saloon; Sreejet Patnaik, MD, Mother's Public School; Harshvardhan Didwania, Co-founder and MD, EeVe Scooters; Pradeep Pansari, Director, Rajhans, Rajiv Swain, MD, Odisha Hotel; Punya Prakash Parida, MD, Embassy and Biraja Prasad Rout, founder, Biggies Burger.

To uplift the fashion statement of Odisha to higher level Bhubaneswar Runway season-6 also organized where eminent fashion designers showcase their creativity and woo the audiences with their authentic design statements. 30 models participated in the event

to showcase designs. Oily wood celebrities like Elina Samantray and Bhoomika graced the occasion as guest designers and brands like Priya's (Priya Mohapatra), Tasa Wings (Sipra Das), TP Garments (Savitri Panigrahi), AJ Fashion Realm (Selina Dashon) and Reemly Design Studio (Reemly Studio) participated and showcase their designs. Priya's By Priya Mohapatra showcases handloom collection "EKATRA" which is amalgamation of sambalpuri handloom fabric and pipli appliqué work. AJ Fashion Realm

by Selina Dason has showcased summer collection which is inspired by gorgeous butterfly hamdryas. Sipra Das's Tasa Wing has brought collection 'Fusion' which is inspired form 'the galaxy' is fit for festive season, evening party and wedding season. Reemly's Design studio is showcasing the Bridal Collection "RooH" at Bhubaneswar Runway Week 2022 (season 6). TP Garments are here with some of our evening gowns collection, rich in colours, unique designs, patterns, and Using shades nude, grey, navy blue, teal blue.

## Vedanta Aluminium sweeps awards for fly-ash utilization

New Delhi: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, has scored a hat-trick of awards at the 11th edition of Fly Ash Utilization Conference Expo Awards by Mission Energy Foundation for efficient management of fly-ash. Vedanta Power Plants at Jharsuguda (Odisha) won in the >=500 MW and <=500 MW categories respectively, and Vedanta's Chhattisgarh-based subsidiary BALCO won in Captive Power Plant category. Around 160 companies participated in the competition, and Vedanta Aluminium led

the way for its significant steps in ensure gainful utilization of fly-ash in circular economy avenues.

Fly-ash is a by-product of thermal power generation using coal, which caters to electricity requirement of Vedanta's aluminium smelters. The inherent properties of fly-ash find impactful usage in the cement, construction & infrastructure industries, to offer three-fold benefits in terms of cost, quality and sustainability. The company supplies fly ash from its Jharsuguda and BALCO plants to cement industry for the

production of low-carbon 'green' cement. Besides improving product quality, in cement manufacturing, every tonne of fly-ash used can help save around 700-800 kg of carbon emissions, 4.2 million KJ of energy, and 341 litres of water.

Similarly, Vedanta Aluminium is working with hundreds of local brick manufacturing MSMEs near its operations in Odisha and Chhattisgarh, transitioning them away from mud bricks. Bricks made of fly-ash are not only lighter and stronger than traditional clay bricks, but also play a

crucial role in preserving nutrient-rich topsoil from being used as raw material. This amounts to estimated savings of 1.9 metric tonnes of topsoil for every tonne of ash brick manufactured. Besides, ash brick manufacturing is an eco-efficient process, contrary to the energy-intensive process of producing clay bricks in brick kilns that results in substantial greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, for every tonne of ash bricks manufactured, an estimated 5900 kg of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions are avoided. It also makes for a healthier working

environment for those involved in the brick manufacturing process.

The company has also entered a long-term partnership with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for building greener roads with fly-ash in Odisha. To find out innovative ways of utilizing this industrial by-product, Vedanta Aluminium also conducts technical & business workshops with global waste utilization experts to create greater awareness on the benefits of using fly-ash in cement construction and develop the market for such products.

## ICICI Lombard launches Professional Indemnity Insurance for Doctors

Mumbai: ICICI Lombard, one of the leading private general insurance companies has launched Professional Indemnity Insurance for doctors. This new offering covers all specializations, provides instant policy issuance, and comes equipped with transparent and competitive pricing, a hassle-free claim process, and legal counsel services support in case of claims.

As professionals, doctors are vulnerable to human errors where they can be held liable by the kin of the patients. As a solution to situations of such nature, this policy has been curated to provide support to medical practitioners against the scope of various human errors that can happen while rendering professional services to patients.

Speaking on the same, Mr. Sanjeev Mantri, Executive Director, ICICI Lombard said "Doctors and healthcare professionals are prone to uncertainties and risks while they are in the forefront to save lives. Error, omission, or

at times unintentional negligence are a part and parcel of their professional life. Any aggrieved person possesses the right to claim damages for medical negligence against them. In such cases, our Professional Indemnity insurance safeguards doctors against all professional risks such as legal defense costs, compensation claims, injury among others, as well as against invalid claims. As a company, we are inclined towards protecting the interests and providing the best financial and legal security to the medical practitioners as they truly deserve the same."

Professional Indemnity insurance supports doctors both legally and financially in the event of a law suit. The key features of this offering comprises of coverage against legal liabilities such as defense costs incurred during investigation, cost of representation, and compensation for claims arising out of bodily injury or death caused due to error, omission

and negligence.

It will also provide coverage against invalid claims where there is no fault of the practitioner by covering the legal fees and settlement compensation to be paid against the claims awarded by the court, or in cases of medical malpractices allegations and legal suit due to breach of confidentiality allegations.

ICICI Lombard, among other companies, delivers end-to-end wellness solutions to its valued consumers through its insurance products. Doctors are focused on giving their best when it comes to saving lives. However there are uncertainties which can put their job at stake. The professional indemnity insurance for doctors under the SME category is an innovative offering from this leading general insurance company and goes on to show their focus on delivering a stellar experience to their customers. The product is available with our traditional distribution partners as well as on our website [www.icicilombard.com](http://www.icicilombard.com)

## RapiPay launches De Dhana Dhan Offer

New Delhi/ Bhubaneswar: RapiPay Fintech Private Ltd, one of the leading fintech companies in India, has announced the launch of RapiPay De Dhana Dhan offer pan India for its 5 Lakhs + agents, also known as, Direct Business Outlets (DBOs). The new scheme incentives thousands of lucky DBOs daily with prizes such as Smart TVs, Smartphones, mobile accessories and cashbacks.

To become eligible, DBOs need to do AEPS or Recharge transactions

on RapiPay between 6am – 12pm in the morning and 5pm to 11pm in the evening. The first winner of Smart TV is from Darbhanga (Bihar) and he has been awarded his 55 inch Smart TV with much fanfare and celebration on 12th May 2022. Similarly, every week winners of TV and Smart phones are being gratified instantly so that they don't have to wait for their prizes for long. Mr. Nipun Jain, CEO, RapiPay Fintech Ltd. said "We believe, it is important to bring excitement in the business with regular incentives for

our DBOs, RapiPay's De Dhana Dhan Offer is a step towards that. An effective incentive scheme like this does not just improve customer experience and build your business, but also helps with DBOs retention. Moreover, as a category leader, we are committed to grow the Assisted Payments space and take the financial inclusion to the last mile. "RapiPay is one of top players in AEPS and Micro ATM services. It has witnessed 200% growth in AePS and Micro ATM transactions from April 2021 to March 2022.



# Shaheen Afridi, Haris Rauf picked up by Welsh Fire in Hundred draft

**New Delhi:** England's Tom Abell and Sophia Dunkley became the first picks in the 2023 The Hundred drafts, on Thursday - both picked by Welsh Fire. Overall, 64 players were snapped across the men's and women's categories by 8 teams.

The order for selection was based on last year's finishing positions. Welsh Fire went on to snap the Pakistan pace duo of Shaheen Afridi and Haris Rauf later in the draft, both of whom are yet to play in the tournament.

Meanwhile, Grace Harris (London Spirits), Laura Wolvaardt

(Manchester Originals), Kate Cross (Northern Superchargers), Suzie Bates

(Oval Invincibles) and Harmanpreet Kaur (Trent Rockets) were the other first picks for each team of the women's draft.

Danni Wyatt, Sophie Devine and Alice Davidson-Richards were snapped using the Right to Match card.

Meanwhile, in the Men's draft, several top foreign players, including Kieron Pollard, Babar Azam and Trent Boult, were ignored in favour of local talents. Australian all-rounder Tim David



was retained by Southern Brave using the Right to Match.

The third edition of The Hundred is set to begin on August 1. Each team will be able to sign two more players as 'wildcards' after the group stages of the T20 Blast. The women's team will be allowed to make signings outside of the draft process.

Birmingham Phoenix: Sophie Devine, Hannah Baker, Eve Jones, Katie Levick, Ben Duckett, Jamie Smith, Miles Hammond.

London Spirit: Grace Harris, Sarah Glenn, Sophie Munro, Sophie Luff, Mitchell Marsh,

Olly Stone, Michael Pepper.

Manchester Originals: Laura Wolvaardt, Amanda-Jade Wellington, Kathryn Bryce, Katie George,

Laurie Evans, Ashton Turner, Josh Tongue.

Northern Superchargers: Kate Cross, Georgia Wareham, Alice Davidson-Richards,

Reece Topley, Tom Banton, Michael Bracewell, Bas de Leede.

Oval Invincibles: Suzie Bates, Dane Van Niekerk, Mady Villiers,

Paige Scholfield, Heinrich Klaasen, Ross Whiteley, Ihsanullah.

Southern Brave: Danni Wyatt, Anya Shrubsole, Chloe Tryon, Maitlan Brown, Leus du Plooy, Tim David, Devon Conway.

Trent Rockets: Harmanpreet Kaur, Lizelle Lee, Kirstie Gordon, Grace Potts,

Tom Kohler-Cadmore, Sam Hain, Brad Wheal.

Welsh Fire: Sophia Dunkley, Shabnim Ismail, Georgia Elwiss, Freya Davies, Laura Harris, Alex Hartley,

Tom Abell, David Willey, Shaheen Afridi,

Glenn Phillips, Haris Rauf, Roelof van der Merwe, Stevie Eskinazi, Daniel Douthwaite.

## Impact Player, toss, broader DRS ambit: What's new in IPL 2023

**New Delhi:** Cricket is all set to add a new umpiring signal to the 20 or so that already exist. Come IPL 2023, the umpires will be seen raising and crossing their arms to signal the introduction of Impact Player, a new concept which the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) says "will add a new tactical/strategic dimension to the game."

Couple this with the new rule at the toss, where the captains can declare their XI after the flip of the coin, the IPL's latest season will add a few innovative dimensions to the ever evolving game of T20.

"We will need to go through some permutations and see how it affects the balance of side," says the head coach of a team, stating that the



new rules will change their cognitive powers. The BCCI, in a note introducing the new umpire signal and rules of the Impact Player, said that it "would maintain IPL's position at the forefront of innovative cricket and continue the evolution of the T20 format."

As per BCCI mails to franchises, the captains can choose their XI after the toss, something that was introduced recently in SA20. Previously, the

captains had to announce the XI before the toss. Another new rule is the expansion of the DRS scope with no balls and wide balls coming under its ambit. "A player may also be allowed to review any decision taken by on-field umpires concerning wide or no ball," the playing conditions state.

It adds, "The Impact Player can be introduced (i) before the start of the innings;

or (ii) after completion of an over; or (iii) in case of a batter, at the fall of the wicket or the batter retiring at any time during the over (as provided in Clause 1.8 (iv) below). The bowling team can also get an Impact Player during the fall of the wicket, but that Impact Player will not be permitted to bowl the remaining balls in that over if the wicket has fallen mid-over."

Says the BCCI: "Currently the Captains have to exchange the teams before the toss, this has been changed to exchange of teams immediately post the toss, to enable teams to choose the best 11 depending on whether they are batting or bowling first. It will also assist the teams to plan for the impact player."

## Lionel Messi Becomes 2nd Player After Cristiano Ronaldo To Score 800 Career Goals, Stars In Argentina Win Over Panama

**New Delhi:** Argentina captain Lionel Messi became the second player ever to reach 800 goals with a goal in Argentina's 2-0 win over Panama on Thursday (March 23). Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo, who holds the all-time record for career goals (830), is the only other player that has reached 800 goals.

The 83,000 screaming fans were not disappointed in Lionel Messi and his Argentina team's first international match since lifting the FIFA World Cup 2022 title last December. Messi's Argentina beat Panama 2-0 with two late goals Thursday night at the Monumental de Nunez Stadium in Buenos Aires, in the first of two matches for the team to celebrate its triumph in Qatar.

Thiago Almada opened the scoring in the 78th



minute, pushing the ball into an empty net after a free kick taken by Messi hit the post. Eleven minutes later, the Argentine great netted the second with another free kick to the delight of the capacity crowd.

"I always dreamed of this moment, celebrating with you," an emotional Messi said after the match, standing with his family on the pitch. He lifted the World Cup trophy once more in front

of his fans and took a slow victory lap with his teammates, who carried miniatures of the same trophy, as fireworks erupted over the stadium. It was Messi's 800th goal in his professional career. If he scores another in Argentina's next friendly against Curacao on Tuesday, he will hit the mark of 100 goals for the national team. Argentina's full squad in Qatar attended the match. Messi and

others brought their families to the stadium. Coach Lionel Scaloni was one of the most emotional; he was tearful before and after the match. The match culminates a week in which the 35-year-old Messi was widely celebrated as a hero after helping Argentina win its third World Cup title, a remarkable change from years when some of the same fans accused him of apathy with the national team.

## Tamim lauds Ireland victory as a 'perfect series'

**Dhaka:** Bangladesh ODI skipper Tamim Iqbal is happy for his side to tick all the boxes in the just concluded three-match ODI's series against Ireland.

Bangladesh swept aside the visitors by earning a 2-0 win over them in the three-match series with the second game getting washed away due to rain. From the way they imposed their authority in the middle in every game, it looked like they are making a statement before going into the ICC World Cup, scheduled in India from October-November.

In the last game of the series their pacers picked all the 10 wickets for the first time in their history to prove that gone are the days when they are considered to be a spin-oriented team. Bangladesh registered their two highest team totals in this format (338-8 and 349-6) during the opening two

ODIs while in the third game, they showcased an even more powerful performance to register their first-ever 10-wicket win in an international game.

"We can call it the perfect series. If we had to nitpick, it would be avoiding the abandoned game. Otherwise, we did everything within our control. The wicket wasn't easy for batting in the early stages. We batted out the difficult period in the Powerplay twice (in previous games) to get to big scores. I am very satisfied as a captain that we have ticked almost every box," Tamim told reporters at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium on Thursday.

Tamim added that picking Mehedy Hasan, who was not fit in the opening two games after injuring his eyes while playing football, ahead of Yasir Ali is a big step moving forward as it helps to operate better as a bowling unit.



"We had this thought process from the first game. If Miraz wasn't injured ahead of the first game, we would have picked this eleven. We have faith in Miraz's batting ability. He showed it. If we can trust him and if he can deliver, it becomes easier to operate with six bowlers," said Tamim.

"Sometimes five bowlers and part-timers make it difficult on good wickets. Anything can happen. When we knew that it would be a sporting wicket, we decided to go with six bowlers. We might do this in overseas conditions, depending on the opponent and conditions," he said

adding that they decided to demote Mushfiqur Rahim at number six largely due to the fact there are times when they finish well and Mushfiqur have the ability to do the job.

Mushfiqur made quick fire 44 in the opening game while proved his worth by scoring fastest hundred for his

country in the second game that got abandoned eventually. "The coach and I decided to bat him at No 6 from the last series. Nothing against his batting at No 4 where he has an exceptional record, but we don't finish well. So his experience and amount of shots were the reasons. He is

someone who is very aggressive when there are less overs remaining in the innings. It clicked for us. He batted unbelievably well. If he can carries on like this, that's the best possible thing for us," he said

"Batting at No 6 is very tricky. We will not get a good start always. He might have to come to bat at 100 for four. Whether its Riyad bhai, Afif or Mushy, I have a soft corner for the batters at No 6 and 7. It is one of the most difficult positions to bat on, apart from opening the innings," he added.

Tamim also credited their pacers for bowling brilliantly throughout the series and wasn't ready to term those performances as 'flocks'.

For the first time in Bangladesh cricket history, their pacers took all 10 wickets in the same innings of an international game

during the third and last ODI against Ireland and helped the Tigers bowl their opposition all out for just 101 runs in 28.1 overs.

Pacer Hasan Mahmud claimed a career-best bowling figure of 5-32 while the other two pacers Taskin Ahmed (3-26) and Ebadot Hossain (2-29) shared the remaining five wickets before Tamim (41 not out) and Liton Das (50 not out) did the remaining task quite handsomely.

"They were brilliant and were exceptional. They worked really hard off the field and are now getting the results. Their successes aren't flukes. Having such a pace bowling unit makes life easier. It was not because Hasan took five wickets, Ebadot and Taskin took four wickets. The way they bowled in the entire series, I am really happy," he said.