

## President of India Droupadi Murmu on a two-day visit to Bengal

**Kolkata (ABHIJIT SETH):** The President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu graced the celebration of completion of 80 years of UCO Bank in Kolkata and virtually inaugurated 50 new branches of UCO Bank. She also laid the foundation stone for renovation of Sri Aurobindo Integral Education and Research Centre at Rairangpur, Odisha, under a CSR initiative of UCO Bank. During the occasion held at the Science City auditorium in Kolkata, the President acknowledged UCO Bank as a pioneering and leading entity in the banking industry since its establishment in 1943. She mentioned that UCO Bank has significantly contributed to the



country's economic development by extending credit and financial services to diverse sectors including agriculture, industry, trade, infrastructure, and social welfare. The President also emphasized that banks hold a crucial responsibility of safeguarding public money while utilizing current savings to create assets for the future. Striking a balance between these two responsibilities is a challenge faced by every bank, she said.

The President further remarked that the rise of Fin-tech has revolutionized the way people manage and access their finances. The widespread adoption of Fin-tech in India, even in the most remote and economically challenged regions, exemplifies the country's willingness to adopt technology that empowers its citizens and promotes social justice. The Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal C. V. Ananda Bose along with

dignitaries like Soma Shankar Prasad, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, UCO Bank; Ministers of Government of West Bengal Chandrima Bhattacharya and Birbaha Hansda attended the celebration held in Kolkata at the Science City auditorium. Before attending the celebration program in Kolkata, President Murmu visited Belur Math in the morning. Belur Math serves as the headquarters of the Ramakrishna

Math and Ramakrishna Mission, and is located in Belur, Howrah. Following this, she travelled to Shantiniketan and visited the Visva-Bharati University, which was established by Rabindranath Tagore where she attended the annual convocation of Visva-Bharati. President Droupadi Murmu arrived in Kolkata last day and was warmly received by the Governor of West Bengal, Dr. C V

Ananda Bose and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee upon her arrival. This is the President's first visit to West Bengal and she was accorded a guard of honour. On the first day of her visit, the President paid a visit to the residence of Subhash Chandra Bose, the Netaji Bhavan, located in Bhowanipur, Kolkata. Later, she also visited the residence of Rabindranath Tagore, the Jorasanko Thakurbari, in Central Kolkata, where she paid her respects to the poet. The West Bengal Government had felicitated President Murmu during a program held at the Netaji Indoor Stadium, which was attended by the Governor and the Chief Minister.

## Malati swain of Belasundari Village Passes away

**Anandapur (KCN):** Daughter in law of Eminent Educationist Sri Somanath Swain of Belasundari village of Ghasipura Block Smt Malati Swain (Tikili) passed away due to a massive cardiac arrest at the age of 49. She was a caring, loving and pious Lady and survived by husband Dilip Swain, One son & daughter. Many people have condoled the bereaved family over the sad demise of Smt Swain and pray peace for the departed soul.



## Last date for linking of PAN-Aadhaar extended

**New Delhi:** In order to provide some more time to the taxpayers, the date for linking PAN and Aadhaar has been extended from 31st March 2023 to 30th June, 2023. Under the provisions of the Income-tax Act, every person who has been allotted a PAN as on 1st July, 2017 and is eligible to obtain Aadhaar Number, was required to intimate his Aadhaar to the prescribed authority on or before 31st March, 2023, on payment of prescribed fee of Rs.1000. The date for intimating Aadhaar to the prescribed authority for the purpose of linking PAN and Aadhaar has now been extended to 30th June, 2023. From 1st July, 2023, the PAN of taxpayers



who have failed to intimate their Aadhaar, as required, shall become inoperative and the consequences during the period that PAN remains inoperative will be as follows: no refund shall be made against such PANs; interest shall not be payable on such refund for the period during which PAN remains inoperative; and TDS and TCS shall be deducted/collected at higher rate. The PAN can be made operative again in 30 days, upon intimation of Aadhaar to the prescribed authority after payment of fee of Rs.1,000.

Narayan Jain, Tax advocate welcomed the extension and said that those persons who have been exempted from PAN-Aadhaar linking will not be liable to the consequences mentioned above. Those residing in Assam, Jammu and Kashmir and Meghalaya are exempted from PAN-Aadhaar linking. Non-residents as well as individuals aged 80 years or above are also exempted.

## AI Care For Drought

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Integration of multi-disciplinary expertise, observational data set and prediction tools for early warning on initiation of drought, particularly flash drought, in Odisha has been stressed by an internationally acclaimed expert. Prof. Binayak Mohanty, Professor at Texas A&M University, USA, who attended an international workshop organised at Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) here recently, also underlined the importance of soil moisture dynamics, temporal variability, intensity and frequency of observation for better crop and water management, particularly under drought condition. The workshop on 'Drought Scenarios in Odisha: Adaptation and



Mitigation Strategies' was jointly organised by SOA's Centre for Climate Smart Agriculture (CCSA) and the Bhubaneswar chapter of Indian Meteorological Society. Prof. Mohanty, who is known as a global leader in use of satellite remote sensing as a tool to study soil moisture, soil hydraulics and evapotranspiration at different scales, also serves in the science team

of NASA Soil Moisture Active Passive Mission. He is involved as an international advisor with CCSA. Experts who attended the workshop also emphasized the need for preparing composite drought indices for different blocks of the state by integrating the meteorological, hydrological, agricultural and socio-economic data. The workshop recommended that

assessment of effect of short and long-term drought on integrated farming system comprising agriculture, horticulture, agro-forestry, livestock and animal husbandry should be made and suitable remedial measures initiated, starting with most affected blocks of the state. SOA Vice-Chancellor Prof. Bijay Kumar Sahoo presided over the inaugural program which

was also attended by Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda. The other experts who took part in the deliberations included Dr. Arjamadutta Sarangi, Director of ICAR-Indian Institute of Water Management, Bhubaneswar, Dr. Prasant Kumar Mishra, former Director, Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, Dehradun, Prof. R.K. Panda, Director, CCSA, Dr.

Meenu Ramdas from IIT, Bhubaneswar, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Nayak, Regional Coordinator, Odisha Millet Mission, Prof. Basudev Behera, Professor of Agronomy, SOA's faculty of agricultural sciences, Dr. Nihar Ranjan Das of CCSA, Dr. Pravat Sarangi, faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Dr. Vasundhara Borde, former research scholar at IIT, Bhubaneswar. Two technical sessions were held which were chaired by Prof. U.C. Mohanty, a leading expert in Atmospheric Science. The newly launched CCSA aims to develop an innovative sustainable farming system to cope with the varying climate scenarios for enhancing productivity and income of farmers and increasing climate resilience, its Director Prof. Panda said.

## No Proposal From Odisha Govt For Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Metro Trains: Union Minister

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** The Central Government has not received any proposal from the Government of Odisha regarding metro train services between Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, informed Kaushal Kishore,

Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, in the Rajya Sabha, yesterday. Replying to a question by MP Manas Ranjan Mangaraj, Kishore said as per the Metro Rail Policy, 2017, respective State Government/ Union

Territory (UT) is responsible for initiating metro rail projects. The Central Government considers financial assistance for such projects in cities or urban agglomerates, based on feasibility of the proposal and availability of

resources, as and when posed by the concerned State Government/ Union Territory (UT). No proposals for Metro Trains for the cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack have been received from the Government of Odisha, he said.

## Six Tigers, 49 Leopards Died In Odisha In Last 10 Years

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Six Royal Bengal Tigers and 49 leopards have died in different forest areas of Odisha during the past 10 years, Odisha forest minister Pradip Amat informed the Assembly on Tuesday. Replying to a question of Congress member Tara

Prasad Bahinipati, the Minister said out of the 49 leopards that died during 2012-13 to 2021-22, 26 were killed by poachers. As per the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) survey report of 2018, Odisha has 28 Royal

Bengal Tigers and 760 leopards, the Minister said. Informing about the steps taken for the protection of the tigers, Amat said the state government has set up two projects on tigers and two anti-poaching camps. Special squads have

been deployed in the forests while foot patrolling is being conducted, he said. Besides, meadows developed in the forests and steps are being taken to prevent forest fires to increase the tiger population in the state, added Amat.

## UPI Merchant Transactions Of Over Rs 2000 To Attract Charges From April 1

**New Delhi:** A recent circular from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has announced that Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI) fees will be charged to merchant transactions on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) starting from April 1. The circular stated that transactions over Rs 2,000 using PPIs on UPI will incur an interchange fee of 1.1% of the transaction value, a fee usually associated with card payments to cover transaction costs. However, the circular also noted that peer-to-peer (P2P) and peer-to-peer-merchant (P2PM) transactions between a bank account and a PPI wallet would not require an interchange fee. Instead, the PPI issuer will pay a wallet-loading service charge of approximately 15 basis points to the remitter bank. The interchange fee will range from 0.5% to 1.1%, depending on the type of transaction. The fee for fuel will be 0.5%, while telecom, utilities/post office, education, agriculture, will be 0.7%. For supermarkets, it will be 0.9%, and for mutual funds, government, insurance, and railways, it will be 1%. These pricing changes will come into effect on April 1, 2023. The circular also mentioned that the NPCI would review the pricing on or before September 30, 2023.

# CUO organises Interdisciplinary International Conference on History of Development in India: Reflections on Economic & Communication Scenario in the 75th Year of Independence

**Korapat:** The two days international conference on the topic "History of Development in India: Reflections on Economic & Communication Scenario in the 75th Year of Independence" was organized by the joint efforts of the Department of Journalism & Mass Communication and the Department of Economics of Central University of Odisha began today on 28 March 2023. The inaugural session was held at Sunabeda Campus in a blended mode, inaugurated by Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, Vice Chancellor of the University. The other dignitaries included Shri Prabhu Chawla, eminent journalist and Executive Editor, of the New Indian Express Group, Prof. Prakash Chandra Patnaik, Professor, Rajiv Gandhi Chair for Tribal Studies, Central University of Odisha. Also present on the dais were

conveners of the Conference Dr. Minati Sahoo, Head I/c, Dept. of Economics and Dr. Sourav Gupta, Head I/c, Dept. of Journalism & Mass Communication. In his inaugural address, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Tripathi stressed the need for interdisciplinary studies in all aspects which is the call of the National Education Policy 2020. He urged the students to focus on the Indian Education system instead of the Western education system which is imposed upon us. He also focused on the importance of Indian culture and how the west is affecting our culture. He talked about the importance of Dharma, Karma, Artha and Moksha and lamented that the western world only focused on Kama and Artha leaving behind Dharma and Moksha. Dharma does not mean religion, but the good practices of our life. Indian



development can be possible if economics and communication are studied together, he said. Indian development can also be possible if we practice Indianness in our activities, instead of following the West. Eminent Journalist Shri Prabhu Chawla, also a Padma Bhushan Awardee, in his keynote address focused upon the role of journalism in society. From the freedom struggle to the present time, he said that the journey is not smooth. After much struggle, Indian journalism reached this stage. He also

talked about the status of media and technological innovation. He said that media had rightfully adapted the technology and innovation which became helpful in developing media, whether print, electronic, or digital. Media, as the fourth pillar of democracy, is not such a strong pillar now. To make it strong, journalism should always speak the truth always, he said. He also focused that journalism should take a side so that the truth should prevail. People lose hope in the media as

they see television programmes. But television is not media, it is a smaller part of it. So we should keep faith on media, particularly the Print media, he stressed. In the era of globalization where media is a package or a product, we should be truthful to the people, not to the market-driven goals, he said. Prof. Prakash Patnaik, Director, Rajiv Gandhi Chair for Tribal Studies, Central University of Odisha, Chairing the International Conference focused on the need for

multidisciplinary teaching and research. By following it we can fulfill the needs of the students as well as fulfill the NEP Goals 2020. Dr. Sourav Gupta, Head, I/c, Department of J&MC and the Convenor of the International Conference gave the welcome note and Dr. Minati Sahoo, Head, I/c, Department of Economics, and also the Convenor of the International Conference delivered the Vote of Thanks. On the occasion, a book titled "Development Communication: The Grassroots Reality" was released by the

dignitaries. The book is written jointly by Prof. P. Bobby Vardhan of Andhra University and Dr. Sourav Gupta of CUO. Also present were Prof. Sudhendu Mondal, Advisor, Academic and Administration of CUO, Prof. N.C. Panda, Deans School of Languages and Dr. Phagunath Bhoi, PRO, CUO. The meeting was also attended by eminent dignitaries, Faculty members, research scholars and students of the University in a blended mode. The meeting was followed by two plenary sessions where eminent dignitaries from India and abroad and delivered the lectures this included Prof. Prashant Panda, Prof. & Head, Dept. of Economics, Pondicherry University, Faisal Karimi, an eminent journalist from Afghanistan and

scholar, St. Jose State University, USA, Dr. Pradeep Panda, Economic Sector Lead, SDG, Planning & Convergence Department, Govt. of Odisha, Prof. Tapas Mishra, Professor & Head of Banking & Finance, Southampton University, UK, Prof. Mohd. Sahidullah, Professor, Dept. of Mass Communication, Chittagong University, Bangladesh. The Sessions were chaired by Prof. Prakash Ch. Patnaik, Director, Rajiv Gandhi Chair for Tribal Studies, CUO and Prof. N.C. Panda, Dean, School of Languages, CUO. The Sessions were coordinated by Dr. Sourav Gupta and Dr. Minati Sahoo, Conveners of the International Conference. The Session ended with technical parallel sessions from Economics as well as Journalism & Mass Communication.

## Complex Surgery In SUM



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** A young team of surgeons at the Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital here have successfully performed a highly complex surgery on a cancer patient which is being billed as the first of its kind in Odisha. The team performed the complex surgery on a 55-year-old man suffering from pancreatic cancer which was in advanced stage. The tumour involved the major blood vessels of all surrounding vital organs. The multi-disciplinary team, led by Dr. Jyotirmay Jena, Associate Professor in the Department of Surgical Gastroenterology, pondered over the case and after studying available literature and much deliberation decided to go for surgery. "What bothered us was that the tumour had affected vital parts like the celiac trunk, arteries of liver, stomach and spleen. Celiac trunk, also known as celiac artery, which divides into three

branches supplying blood to stomach, liver and spleen had to be removed. It would mean that there would be no blood supply to the liver which would be fatal," Dr. Jena told newsmen here on Tuesday. Dr. Jena said the team decided to operate because the cancer had remained confined to that area but tackling the blood vessels was the major hurdle it faced. "Surgery in such cases is generally avoided and life expectancy of the patient is only around six months. A very complex surgery known as 'Appleby Procedure' is done for this type of cancer cases only in a few hospitals across the world," he said. Dr. Jena said this surgery was taken up in selected patients when pre-surgery CT scan confirmed existence of alternate blood supply to the liver. But in this case there was no alternate blood supply to the liver which prompted the team to adopt a 'Modified

Appleby Surgery'. The team which comprised experts from surgical gastroenterology, cardio thoracic vascular surgery (CTVS), medical oncology, radio-diagnosis and anaesthesiology, decided to go ahead with the 10-hour surgery which was performed towards the end of February last. In this procedure, nearly 75 per cent of the pancreas containing the tumour was removed along with the celiac artery and all other important blood vessels involved. A new blood vessel was created through a bypass graft linking the aorta with the hepatic artery using a vein taken from the leg which saved the liver and stomach. Dr. Sangram Keshari Behera, Associate Professor, CTVS, said. "Though such operations have a high mortality rate of around 30 to 40 per cent, this patient had a smooth recovery after spending three days in the ICU. Focused attention, proper planning and execution helped," he said

adding the patient's final biopsy report showed complete tumour clearance. Dr. Santosh Singh and Dr. Anita took care of the patient in the ICU for 72 hours overseeing his smooth recovery. "Very few such surgery has been reported in India so far and this is the first such operation which has been successfully performed in Odisha," Dr. Jena said. Besides Dr. Jen and Dr. Behera, Dr. S.S. Mohapatra, Professor in Radio-diagnosis, Dr. Sumit Mohanty, Associate Professor in Gastro-surgery, Dr. Lalatendu Maharana, Associate Professor in Medical Oncology, Dr. Sasmita Panigrahi, Associate Professor in Anaesthesiology and Dr. Rupanweeta Biswal, Assistant Professor in Pathology were involved in the surgery. Dr. Uday Reddy, Dr. Harshal Bhoi, Dr. H.Swamyrajesh and Dr. Raghunath Raja, all MCH students, were also part of the team.

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**John Wick: Chapter 4 Box Office Collections: Keanu Reeves Starrer Crosses Rs 30 Cr On Its Opening Weekend In India**

'John Wick: Chapter 4', the latest installment of the billion-dollar action franchise, has taken the Indian and Global box office by storm with a blazing collection of ₹30 Crore (Gross Box Office) in India and \$137.5 Million worldwide. The film's wide release in 3D and IMAX screens added to the numbers, with most shows 'sold out'. Box office from previous installments - The original 'John Wick' earned \$86 million worldwide in 2014 followed by 'John Wick: Chapter 2' in 2017 and \$327.3 million for 'John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum' in 2019. Rohit Jain, Managing Director, Emerging Markets Asia, Lionsgate,



said, "We are thrilled to see the tremendous response from the Indian audience for John Wick: Chapter 4. The film's opening has outdone our expectations and is a testament to the popularity of the franchise in India. We couldn't be happier to partner with PVR

Pictures in India and thank them for their unwavering support and hard work in making this film a success. We take immense pride in bringing this franchise to India and are confident that it will continue to perform well in the coming weeks."

Kamal Gianchandani, CEO, PVR Pictures said, "The phenomenal response of the Indian audience towards John Wick: Chapter 4 has exceeded our expectations and is a testament to the popularity of the franchise in India. The film has excellent pre-

booking numbers to watch the perfectly choreographed action sequences and Keanu Reeves' exceptional performance. We are proud to be associated with Lionsgate, which has made invaluable contributions to the global entertainment industry through its presentation of artistic innovation, multiculturalism, and unparalleled quality films. This success showcases the growing love of Indian audiences for English movies and their appreciation for great storytelling and action-packed entertainment." John Wick: Chapter 4 released by Lionsgate and PVR Pictures, opened in theaters across the country on

March 24, 2023, and has received positive reviews from moviegoers and critics alike. The film's perfectly choreographed and high-octane action sequences and Keanu Reeves' exceptional performance alongside a power-packed cast have left audiences mesmerized and excited for the next chapter in the John Wick saga. The success of 'John Wick: Chapter 4' is a reflection of the growing popularity of English movies in India and that audiences today appreciate great storytelling and action-packed entertainment. This release is a milestone for Lionsgate and PVR Pictures in India, with a slate of exciting films lined up for the rest of the year.

**Deepika Padukone makes a stylish statement in a camouflage long jacket at the airport**

Trust Deepika Padukone to make heads turn with her impeccable style statements every time she steps out! Keeping up with the same, the actress made a stylish appearance at the Mumbai airport on March 28.

Dressed in a long, oversized camouflage jacket with a bright orange hood, Deepika looked chic as ever. She completed her stylish look with a tote bag, a pair of white sneakers, and statement sunglasses. The actress flashed her million-dollar smile as she greeted the paparazzi at the airport.

Deepika recently made headlines after a video of her refusing to hold hands with her husband, Ranveer Singh, went viral on social media. In the clip, Deepika is seen turning down Ranveer's hand while holding on to her saree pleats and pallu. Ranveer offered his hand, only to walk on when DP kept clutching her saree.

Check out the video here: Twinning in black, the couple looked stunning as ever on the red carpet. The couple also stopped to pose with Prakash Padukone, who also marked his presence at the event.

After the super success of 'Pathaan', Deepika is gearing up for Siddharth Anand's 'Fighter' with Hrithik Roshan. She also has 'Project K' with Prabhas and 'The Intern' with Amitabh Bachchan.



**Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli open up on sleeping early, the actress reveals, 'we have no interest in being awake at 3 am'**

Anushka Sharma and husband Virat Kohli are one of the most adorable celeb couples. The two, who never shy away from proclaiming their love for each other recently made a grand appearance at a leading sports award show, looking their glam best. At the red carpet of the same, the couple were asked whether they have a 3 am friend in their lives. To this, Anushka replied, "If either of us is awake at 3 am then we call (a friend) but we don't want to be awake at 3 am. We sleep very early, so we have no interest in being awake at 3 am." Virat, who is a Delhi boy is known for his dancing skills and being the livewire at a party. When quizzed about his



dancing prowess, the cricketer opened up and said, "I don't drink anymore but pehle party mein ghus ke agar 2 drink ho gayi to phir yes. (If I have 2 drinks at a party, then I am all set to dance). I don't care then 2-3 drink ke baad. Not anymore though. This is back in the day." The couple, who follow a holistic lifestyle are known to stay away from late night parties and soirées and prefer an

**Ram Charan Reveals His Upcoming Film 'RC-15' With Kiara Advani Is Titled As 'Gamechanger'**



The wait is over! As 'RRR' star Ram Charan turned 38 years old today, he took to Instagram and announced that the title of his upcoming film is 'Game Changer'. "#Gamechanger it is," he captioned the post. It was tentatively called 'RC - 15' as it is his 15th movie. Bollywood actress Kiara Advani who is famous for her roles in 'Kabir Singh' and 'Shershaah' is playing the female lead in the

film. As Ram Charan made the announcement on social media, fans shared their excitement in the comments section. "PowerStar is back with a new game," a user commented. "BoX Office King Is Coming," another user commented. A day before Ram Charan's birthday, the cast and crew of the film surprised the 'RRR' star with a pre-birthday bash. The pictures and video

from the pre-birthday celebrations have surfaced online. Several pictures and videos capturing the pre-birthday celebrations on the sets went viral. In the first picture, Ram Charan can be seen heading to the sets while rose petals are showered on him. He can be seen wearing a blue shirt and denim. Director S Shankar, choreographer-actor Prabhu Deva and Kiara Advani were also part of the

celebrations. The actor cut his cake which was covered with rose petals along with S Shankar. Sharing the pictures, Ram Charan's fan page captioned it, "It's a wrap for the song! Team #RC15 celebrated Idol @alwayramcharan's Birthday!" The film is an action drama that deals with current-day politics, features an ensemble cast. The upcoming project is jointly produced by Dil Raju and Shirish Garu under the banner of Sri Venkateswara Creations for a Pan-India release. 'RC 15' will release in three languages - Telugu, Tamil and Hindi. Apart from Ram Charan and Kiara Advani, the film also stars SJ Suryah, Jayaram, Anjali, and Srikanth. The film is slated to release in 2023.

**Political analyst demands removal of The Big Bang Theory over derogatory remarks on Madhuri Dixit Nene, slaps legal notice**

Political analyst Mithun Vijay Kumar has slapped Netflix with a legal notice over the use of derogatory remark against Bollywood actress Madhuri Dixit Nene in the first episode of The Big Bang Theory's second season. He has demanded the removal of the show from the streaming platform by accusing the content of promoting sexism and misogyny. The episode in question features Jim Parsons aka Sheldon Cooper comparing Aishwarya Rai Bachchan with Madhuri Dixit. In the scene, he calls Aishwarya 'a poor man's Madhuri Dixit.' To which, Kunal Nayyar aka Raj Koothrapalli responds saying, 'Aishwarya Rai is a goddess, by comparison, Madhuri Dixit is a leprous prostitute.' Referring to the scene, Mithun said in a press release, "It is important to

hold companies like Netflix accountable for their actions and to ensure that they are sensitive to the cultural values and sentiments of the communities they serve. I strongly believe that streaming service providers have a responsibility to carefully curate the content that they offer on their platforms. It is their duty to ensure that the material they present does not include derogatory, offensive, or defamatory content. I was deeply troubled by the use of a derogatory term in one of the shows on Netflix - Big Bang Theory. This term was used in reference to the acclaimed actress Madhuri Dixit, and it was not only offensive and deeply hurtful but also showed a lack of regard for her dignity." He further added, "I strongly believe that streaming service providers must take such

issues seriously and act quickly to address any instances of offensive or defamatory content. Furthermore, streaming service providers should be proactive in preventing such content from being streamed. This can be achieved through clear guidelines and rigorous screening processes for all the content published. Ultimately, streaming services have a significant influence over the content that is consumed by millions of individuals, and with this influence comes a responsibility to ensure that the content they offer is respectful, inclusive, and free from harmful stereotypes. I hope that this incident will serve as a wake-up call to all streaming services providers to work towards creating a more equitable and respectful media landscape."

## One Nation, One Pension

The Central Govt. employees including Railways and all the State Govt. employees along with teachers are in continuous struggle since the New Pension Scheme, now National Pension Scheme (NPS) was given effect from 01.01.2004 and became applicable to all new entrants to central government services (except the Army, Navy and Air Force) only with an Executive Order on 22.12.2003 as a part of the implementation of the new economic policy following the IMF-World Bank policy on pension reforms. Subsequently PFRDA Act was passed in 2013 in the Parliament and legally came into force with effect from 01.02.2014 through a Gazette Notification. While some State Governments like Odisha implemented it from 01.01.2005, some like West Bengal and Tamilnadu are still under Old Pension Scheme (OPS). Further, due to the rigorous agitational programmes of the employees and

workers, some State Governments like Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Chhatisgarh, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh have already declared to rollback to OPS. The Govt. of Andhra Pradesh has offered its employees a guaranteed pension of 33% of the last basic pay without any monthly deduction from the employees' salary as done under the NPS, i.e. 10% of employee's salary every month in addition to 14% similar contribution by the employer. Similarly, the Govt. of Maharashtra is now thinking to exit from NPS. While our hon'ble MPs and MLAs are enjoying multiple pensions under OPS, it is a matter of surprise that apart from NPS and OPS, there are some categories of employees in various States and Establishments who have no pension at all (NoPS). The Nation has also One Rank One Pension scheme (OROP) scheme under which uniform pension is paid to armed forces personnel retiring at the same rank with

the same length of service, regardless of when they completed their service or retired. Further, recently in January 2023, the High Court of Delhi came in the case of Srinivas Sharma vs Union of India and held that that personnel of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) comprising BSF, Assam Rifles, CISF, CRPF, Indo Tibetan Border Police, National Security Guard (NSG) and Seema Suraksha Bal with total of 11,09,511 shall be governed by the OPS. On the other hand, various Trade Unions of the country are in action mode to demand a minimum guaranteed pension of Rs.9000/- for the workers in the unorganized sector. Thus, during the period of last 20 years from 2003 to 2023, the struggle for OPS is getting momentum. Now under the banner of National Joint Council of Action (NJCA), all the Central Govt. employees including Railways and all the State Govt. employees along with teachers are

accelerating the movement. On the backdrop of such movements on one hand and the decision of various State Governments to rollback to OPS on the other, now, the Hon'ble Finance Minister on 24th March, 2023 has

with the ruling parties to come up with several promises and manifestos in the pre-election year for motivating the voters. Thus, there is nothing for the employees to be surprised with the formation of the proposed NPS Committee. Since the employees have several bitter experiences how the Govt. has moved away from its written assurances earlier with regard to pay and pension, now the functionality of the proposed Committee on NPS seems to be quite apprehensive. It is just an eye-wash to

overcome the election year only. In a democratic welfare country like India, there shouldn't be separate principles at least with regard to pension, i.e. one for the people and another for the people's representative, one for the defence personnel and another for the civilians, one for the

socio-economic justice to those who in the heyday of their life ceaselessly toiled for the employer on an assurance that in their old age they would not be left in the lurch. Any kind of discrimination amongst employees and workers should be forbidden. The Right to Equality, one of the Fundamental Rights enshrined both in the Preamble and under Article 14 to 18 of the Constitution of India states that the State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India. Equality before the law means like should be treated alike. The right should be exercised without distinctions of race, religion, wealth, social status or political influence. Thus, there should not be several categories of pension in a welfare country like India. The Govt. of India is now giving several clarion calls like; One Nation - One Ration Card, One Nation - One Election, One Nation - One Identity Card, One Nation - One Fertilizer, One Nation - One Uniform, One Nation - One

Language etc. In the same analogy, why can't we go for One Nation - One Pension? Since the law says to treat equally all, now time has come to think in this regard more seriously to provide equal pension to all without any distinctions in the category of employees or political influence. Hope, the proposed NPS Committee will study in details the drawbacks of various pension systems now prevailing in the India, viz; NPS, OROP, NoPS etc., guide the Central Govt. for ensuring a single pension system irrespective of categories of employees and workers with a minimum guaranteed amount subject to maximum 50% of the last pay drawn as given under OPS to honour the Constitution and to suggest for repealing NPS under PFRDA Act 2013.



declared to set up a Committee to propose changes for improvising NPS. But the demand of the employees and workers is not to improve, but to scrap NPS including PFRDA Act, 2013 and restore OPS. Since 2024 is the year of General Election, it is quite evident and familiar

employees have several bitter experiences how the Govt. has moved away from its written assurances earlier with regard to pay and pension, now the functionality of the proposed Committee on NPS seems to be quite apprehensive. It is just an eye-wash to

organized sector, another for the unorganized sector etc. Pension is neither a bounty, nor a matter of grace depending upon the sweet will of the employer, nor an ex-gratia payment. It is a payment for the past services rendered. It is a social welfare measure rendering

**General Secretary  
Confederation of  
Central Govt.  
Employees and  
Workers  
Odisha State  
Coordination  
Committee  
Mobile: 9437022669,**

### Letter To Editor

**Sir**  
Even though article 19 of our Constitution promotes freedom of speech nowadays we see the same being misused knowingly and unknowingly by politicians, leaders, factions and parties. Leaders of all parties just ignore or it seems as if they forget that the article also has some restrictions. The words used by some of the politicians, irrespective of all parties, sometimes go beyond the decency limit resulting in verbal and physical conflicts between party workers and ending up in complete chaos. The recent 'caste defamation issue' and it's aftermath is a clear example of how expression of words without being prudent can end up in legal problems and lead to utter chaos and conflicts. Leaders of all parties go for a tirade at the drop of a hat ending up in court cases, arrests and conflicts. What leaders forget is that expressing words without being sagacious, can result in counter derogatory remarks finally ending up in court cases and clashes. Leaders got to understand that they have to exercise restraint as the public are watching and listening and can definitely affect them during election. In this matter the famous aphorism by Benjamin Franklin "A slip of the foot you may soon recover, but a slip of the tongue you may never get over" turns out to be cent per cent apt.

**M PRADYU  
KANNUR**

### Sir, Edify SME's to reduce pollution

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's) play an important role in India's economy About 30% of country's GDP is from SME's. These SME's have been identified as a major source of air and water pollution in many source as per apportionment studies. One of the causes of pollution from these sectors is a lack of regulatory practises such as environmental monitoring, guidelines, and best practices, a comprehensive fuel policy, regulatory enforcement, and poor policy implementation on the ground. As a result of the alarming increase in air and water pollution, it is time for regulators to act as an ombudsman, working on pollution mitigation measures and ensuring effective policy implementation. For better compliance, SME's should be trained by centre and state governments to make understand environmental laws and regulatory strategies, and also to make aware of ambient and stack-based monitoring. These should be trained for pollution load assessment of industrial emission. SME's should be trained for water audit for effective waste water management and also dissemination required for waste management to decrease pollution.

**VijayKumar H K  
Environmentalist  
Raichur, Karnataka**

## Honour killing--a heinous crime

**Pratap chandra sahu**

An honour killing is the homicide (murder) of a member of family by the other member as it is believed that the victim has brought shame or dishonour for the family, so he/she deserves for honour killing. Honour killing is one of the cultural crimes present in our country. Honour killing usually committed by male family members against female family members, who are held to have brought dishonour upon the family. However men can also be the victims of honour killing. The term "honour killing" applies both men and women in the cultures that practice it. The distinctive nature of honour killing is the collective nature of crime that means many members of an extended family plan to act together and then commit crime. Honour killings are directed mostly against women and girls. Although there

are various reasons why family members decide to kill the daughter in the name of preserving their family honour, but the most obvious reasons are refusing to enter an arranged marriage, being in a relationship that is disapproved by their family, having sex outside marriage, being rape victim, dressing in a way which is viewed as inappropriate, reannouncing a faith. The fear of losing of their caste

status through which they gain many benefits and earn respect in society make them commit this heinous crime. Honour killings are taking place, because the mentality of people has not changed and they cannot accept the marriages can take place in the same gotra or outside one's caste. The unlawful laws of the khap panchayats are imposed through social boycotts where victims are killed or forced to commit suicide. All these inhumane

activities are done in the name of brotherhood and honour of community. In india, honour killing are governments to take strong measures to prevent any atrocious act by the khap panchayats. The need of hour is to check such

homicide and murder which are taken serious crimes under indian penal code. The perpetrators can be punished as per section 302. Honour killing violates articles 14, 15(1), 19(2) and 300 of the constitution of india. The supreme court in a judgement 2012 has termed the khap panchayats illegal and has directed both the central and state

governments to take strong measures to prevent any atrocious act by the khap panchayats. The need of hour is to check such incidences with full force. The problems must be tackled at several fronts, like mentality of the people has change, the government should make sincere efforts to educate the people and formulate the policies. Honour killing is not justified in any manner and it should be stopped with immediate effect.



**Nabarangapur  
9437788860**

# Collector Sikta Patnaik urges employees to undergo cancer screening more often

**Hanumakonda:** District Collector Sikta Patnaik has organised a free cancer screening camp at Integrated District Office Complex (IDOC) here on Tuesday. Additional Collector Sandhya Rani asked the employees not to be negligent with regard to health issues and underscored the need for regular health checkups. "Women, who work like machines, generally neglect their health. Many health problems arise after the age of 40 years. One should be aware of the symptoms of the disease and consult a doctor without any lax," she said. Free breast and cervical cancer screening tests were conducted for the employees. Oncologist Dr Srivalli said that cancer has four stages and in the first stage 100 percent cure is possible, while in the second stage, the chances of cure is 90 percent. "In the third stage, there is a 70 percent chance of cure, but in the fourth stage only 50 percent chance is there. If the disease does not progress, it may need to be treated with drugs or radiation. Therefore, it should be confirmed in the first stage. After about 10 years, cervical cancer becomes more advanced. Cervical cancer screening every five years and breast cancer screening every two to three years can help detect cancer at an early stage," she said.



TGOA leader Hari Prasad, Mena Srinu, Assistant Director of I&PR Laxman Kumar, Bhupal Reddy, Dr. Srinivas, Suresh Kumar, Naga Narayana, Madhava Reddy, Seshu, Raghupathi Reddy, Venkateshwarlu, Asnala Srinivas, Vijayanirmala, Women Officers Mrs. Neeraja, Vasantha Lakshmi. M a d a v i l a t a , Vijayalakshmi, other union leaders, medical and health department officials Dr. Madanmohan, Dr. Umashree, Dr. Ashok Reddy and other district level officials were present.

# Surprise celebration of Ma's birthday at Taj Bengal Hotel

**Kolkata :**Shri Bobby Chakraborty is a popular Actor/Activist/Teacher of Method Acting. He helps hundreds of young people and students through his de-addiction campaigns. Above all, however, Sri Bobby is also a son. In his own words (not as a celebrity but as a loving son) Sri Bobby explains in a heartfelt way how he celebrated his Precious mothers Birthday. (His mother who had been struck by a serious illness a few months back). In a way he is also setting an example for all children to follow in taking care of their elderly parents. Sri Bobby Chakraborty said, "Ma suffered from a brain stroke in



December 2022. Her right side became inactive. Her memories gone. The blood sugar level shot sky high. Those were dark days for me, but I don't give up on life so easily. My difficult path in life has made me extremely resilient inside and my mother, my parents are my first priority, come what may. With the help of two able doctors, Dr. Subrata Biswas and Dr. Pinaki Mukherjee, she started reviving. Physiotherapy was on too. Ma was bedridden and confined to the indoors for 3 months. As her birthday, which was on 5th March, was approaching, I was planning to take her out, as she was in a slightly better shape by February end. My dear friend and well wisher Mr. Vijay Shrikent, who is the General Manager at Taj Bengal Hotel, kindly requested me to bring over Ma to his hotel, for a private celebration. I kept it a secret from Ma. All she knew was we will be going out on 5th March, somewhere! When she reached Taj Bengal, she was taken up by a pleasant surprise. Under the able leadership of Mr. Shrikent, his efficient team comprising of Mr. Arnab Chatterjee, Mr. Sanjib Roy, Mr. Saurabh Mitra, Arijit and others planned a grand celebration at the beautiful poolside with beautiful yellow roses, music, tasty titbits, all sugar free, grilled food, remembering Ma's condition and restrictions. A specially made sugar free cake was cut by Ma, in the traditional, royal Taj Bengal style, with a beautiful s w o r d ! W h i l e leaving, as we thanked everyone at Taj Bengal, especially Mr. Vijay Shrikent, for their impeccable warmth and hospitality, I could sense Ma was extremely happy like a little girl, which brought tears in my eyes!

# More Than 500 Apps Blocked Over Cyber Fraud, Spoofing Concerns: Amit Shah

**New Delhi:** The Union Home Ministry has identified over 500 apps which were being used for spoofing and committing frauds in India, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday. "The apps have been blocked on Indian C y b e r c r i m e Coordination Centre's ( I 4 C ) recommendations due to security reasons and action has been taken as per law," Mr Shah said, while reviewing the working of the cyber crime centre at NDCC Bhawan in Delhi. The unit has prepared an analytical report on modus operandi of top 50 cyber attacks and shared data with states. Interestingly, AIIMS cyber attack is also being investigated by this unit. As per the probe, at

least four IP addresses were traced, and previously unknown email addresses and phone numbers were found, which linked back to entities or locations in Chinese territories. "Cyber security is no longer limited to digital world. It is a matter of national security and the Modi government is committed to ensuring that the digital world is safe and secure for everyone," he added. The home ministry's Cyber Crime Helpline number 1930 is now linked with over 250 banks and financial intermediaries. "It assists law enforcement agencies in taking real time action and restricting flow of fraudulent funds. Due to quick reporting system and action of the task force, Rs 235 crores embezzled by cyber

criminals from over 1.33 lakh people have been recovered so far," Mr Shah added. With more than 1 crore fingerprints integrated with National Automatic Fingerprint Identification System, the central government is now focusing on training officers to conduct cyber investigations and forensics. The home minister said that the I4C will organise Cyber Jagarukta Diwas on the first Wednesday of every month to reach out to all states and help promote cyber hygiene. As per ministry data, 99.99% police stations of the country have been connected with CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems) and they are now registering 100% FIRs directly on the system.

# Massive Protests In Manipur Over Demand For National Register Of Citizens

**Guwahati:** Manipur's capital Imphal saw clashes between protesters and the police after thousands organised rallies against the state government's alleged "delaying tactics" in implementing the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and setting up the Manipur State Population Commission. Six key student organisations supported by hundreds of women vendors of the "Ima Market" (Mothers' Market) and members of the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) took out a rally towards Chief Minister Biren Singh's official residence. A huge contingent of police prevented the protesters from moving towards the Chief

Minister's residence, leading to clashes and injuring many on both sides. After hours of clashes, arguments and chaos, the Manipur Police said the situation has been brought under control. The students of the six organisations led by the Manipur Students' Federation assembled first in front of Ima Market in central Imphal and then they started a rally with the support of women traders. The protesters held placards that read "protect indigenous rights and future", "save forests, save environment". The students' organisation, COCOMI and the imas (women or mothers) of the all-women market announced to continue their protests demanding that steps be taken by the Manipur government to

tackle illegal migration, implementation of the NRC and population commission in Manipur. Salam Upen, the spokesperson of the six student organisations, said their efforts for protection and preservation of the indigenous people would continue until their demands are met. According to the protesters, the influx of outsiders from both inside and outside the country, including people from Myanmar, Nepal and Bangladesh has significantly affected the identity, culture, economy, administration and environment of Manipur. The student organisations demanded detecting and deporting illegal immigrants from Manipur.



The Defence Secretary, Shri Giridhar Aramane with his Romanian counterpart Mrs Simona Cojocar, in New Delhi

# President Pays Tribute to all Luminaries of Bengal in the Civic Reception Organised in her Honour by State Government

**Kolkata:** President, Smt Droupadi Murmu paid her tribute to all the luminaries of West Bengal, starting from Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Iswar Chandra Chatterjee, Rammohan Roy, Kabiguru Rabindranath Tagore and reminisced the sacrifices done by revolutionaries in India's freedom struggle like Netaji Subhas, Binoy, Badal, Dinesh, Kshudiram, when the entire country is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. While addressing the civic reception given to her by the West Bengal Government in the city today, Smt Murmu said, Bengal is a sweet



language and recited some excerpts from the famous poem written by the Bengali playwright, poet and lyricist

Dwijendra Lal Roy's famous poem 'Dhanadhanyo Pushpe Bhora'. Smt Murmu said that

sacrifice and martyrdom, culture and education have been the life-ideals in the land of Bengal. The people of Bengal are

cultured and progressive. The land of Bengal has given birth to immortal revolutionaries on one hand and prominent

scientists on the other. From politics to the justice system, from science to philosophy, from spirituality to sports,

from culture to business, from journalism to literature, cinema, music, drama, painting and other art forms, Bengal's remarkable pioneers have found new ways and methods in many fields. The President even recalled the creativities of the film doyen of the city Satyajit Ray and the Kolkata's matinee idol Mahanayak Uttam Kumar and also praised the ace cricketer of the city Sourav Ganguly in her speech.

The President said, the people of Bengal have always given priority to the ideals of social justice, equality and self-respect. She was happy to note that a street on the former East Esplanade, in Kolkata has been named as 'Sido-Kanhu-Dahar', in

memory of the Santhal leaders who spearheaded the Santhal rebellion to oust the British colonial authority and the corrupt zamindari system. She said that such initiatives give strength to the ideals of our freedom struggle, especially to the self-confidence and self-pride of our tribal brothers and sisters.

Dr C V Anand Bose, Governor, West Bengal, who was present on the occasion along with the Chief Minister, West Bengal, Smt Mamata Banerjee, lauded the women power in the year when the country is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and also hailed the President assuming the highest post of the State in this particular conjuncture.

## Open drains pose threat to residents in Cuttack

**CUTTACK:** Three months have passed since the death of a class III student after falling into an open drain at Bidanasi, but the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) continues to be in a state of blissful slumber.

Amid the outrage over the tragic death of the child and the grave danger that such drains pose to human lives in the city, the CMC authorities had assured to take expedient steps for covering the channels. But there has been no change in the ground situation, thanks to the apathy of the authorities.

As per an estimate, over 60 per cent of the drains in the city are lying uncovered. Most of the drains passing along the road at residential areas like Jhanjiri Mangala



Gada, Raja Bagicha, Barapathar, Sutaht, Meria Bazar, Jhola Sahi, Telenga Bazar and Gopaljiew Lane in the city lie uncovered. While concrete slabs on several drains on the roadside have been damaged causing frequent mishaps, the CMC is yet to take corrective action

to address the issue. Several corporators alleged that last year the civic body had covered some drains with concrete slabs in their localities. However, due to sub-standard work, the concrete slabs were damaged. "The civic body had

covered the drains passing through Press Colony, Netaji Nagar, Santoshi Nagar, Kunja Bihari Lana in Nuapada. But the slabs got damaged due to sub-standard work," alleged corporator of ward no 50 Santosh Bhol. While efforts to elicit a response on the issue from CMC commissioner Nikhil Pawan Kalyan proved futile, a senior engineer of CMC said a decision to cover all drains in the city was taken in a review meeting held recently.

"Work sarkars have been instructed to conduct ward-wise surveys to take stock of the open drains and submit a report by March 31," said the engineer. After going through the reports, the civic body would cover the drains before monsoon.

## Jumbo intrusion: 14 families of Chadheipani in Odisha move to safer places

**UMERKOTE:** Around 14 families of Chadheipani in Raigarh block have shifted to other villages after a herd of 15-20 elephants moved in to the area on Sunday night. After the group of elephants came from the forests bordering Chhattisgarh, locals started to beat drums and light fire at strategic locations to keep the jumbos at bay.

Villages such as Kundei, Khiloli, Hatvarandi, Samardihi, Sinapali, Marigaon, Kanadihi and Khudku face elephant intrusion frequently. As a result, residents have to remain alert since the jumbos often cause damage to life and property. As per the tracking information by forest



officials, the herd migrated from Chhattisgarh to bordering villages of Raigarh before entering Kundai, Hatvarandi, Seunapali Mringa, Kanadihi, Daripara, Khiloli forest areas recently. On being informed, forest officials reached Chadheipani on Monday to take stock of the situation.

However, villagers are in a state of panic as the wildlife protection members are reportedly on strike demanding a hike in their salaries leaving the forest department short-staffed. They demanded that the forest department should provide all necessary assistance for their

safety. "Elephants are migratory by nature and will leave after getting food here. Our staff are monitoring their movement and steps are being taken to facilitate their safe passage," said a s s i s t a n t conservator of forests (ACF) D h a n u r j a y a Mohapatra.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Ambulance employees felicitated for their humanitarian works

**Bhubaneswar** : Ziqitza Healthcare Limited (ZHL), the operating agency for 108 ambulance services in Odisha, today felicitated its ambulance employees for showing exceptional humanitarian support in difficult times to patients while on duty. Whereas the company also felicitated 13 meritorious children of their staff members who were top scorers in the Class 10th examinations. The awards were given under the Ziqitza Odisha Scholarship 2022, organized here today.

A total 7 Cluster Leaders, 7 Maintenance Executives (ME), One Quality Auditor, 21 Crew members were awarded for their distinguished efforts. Attending as chief guest, Sri Sabyasachi Biswal, State Head - Odisha, ZHL

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

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

to patients are among few noble works."

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

## LIC HFL revises its rates for loan products

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

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

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

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

## Vedanta Lanjigarh's Archery Students Win 14 Medals at State Meet They are being trained under the Vedanta Archery Training Initiative

Bhubaneswar: Vedanta Limited, Lanjigarh, India's premier producer of metallurgical grade alumina, has achieved a new milestone in its efforts to foster the holistic development of youth and children in the local communities. In a stellar achievement, students from its Archery Training Initiative bagged 14 medals at the recent State School Meet held in Sundargarh. Overall, they won 5 gold, 4 silver, and 5 bronze medals in the U-17 and U-14 categories in the competition, which witnessed the participation of over 200 students from Odisha.

Lauding their achievement, Mr. GG Pal, Dy. CEO - Alumina Business, Vedanta Limited, said, "Participating in sports is a great way to inculcate several life values in our youth, including those of hard work, focus, determination and discipline. It is heartening to note the continued outstanding performance put forward by the students



of our grassroots sports training initiatives. It comes as an added fillip in our efforts to ensure the all-round development of our youth, and through them our communities."

The archery and karate training initiatives were launched by Vedanta Limited, Lanjigarh to nurture the innate skills of the local youth at the grassroots level. Through these initiatives, it has been empowering students to showcase their sporting talent at major platforms by providing them extensive support in the form of professional training,

top-quality equipment and uniforms/jerseys in both of these sports. Through its training programmes for archery, one of the most indigenous sports of the country, and karate, a popular martial art, it helps students with an aptitude for these sports emerge as top performers.

Under these initiatives, 100 students receive regular training from professional coaches, with 40 students in archery and 60 students in karate. This has enabled numerous youths from Lanjigarh to participate in various championships at the

state level, in both karate and archery. In FY22-23 alone, its archery training students bagged 34 state medals, winning 11 gold, 9 silver and 14 bronze medals.

Vedanta Aluminium, a business of Vedanta Limited, is India's largest producer of aluminium, manufacturing half of India's aluminium i.e., 2.27 million tonnes in FY22. It is a leader in value-added aluminium products that find critical applications in core industries. Vedanta Aluminium ranks 2nd in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index

(DJSI) 2022 world rankings for aluminium industry, a reflection of its sustainable development practices. The company operates a 2 MTPA (million tonnes per annum) capacity alumina refinery in Lanjigarh (Kalahandi district, Odisha), India since 2007 and an associated 75 MW captive power plant. With its world-class aluminium smelters, alumina refinery and power plants in India, the company fulfils its mission of spurring emerging applications of aluminium as the 'Metal of the Future' for a greener tomorrow.

## Apeejay Education and AWS Announce New Accelerator Program

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

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

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

## HCL's Roshni Nadar Malhotra says demand environment robust

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

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

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

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

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

## Empowering the mother is crucial for ensuring wholesome childcare and development

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

During the conversation, Mr. Sumanta Kar, Secretary

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

idea is to make caregivers empowers in order to ensure a Domino Effect that encourages sustainable and positive change for a better today and brighter tomorrow. Of course, there are many challenges faced during the journey; hence, maintaining balance and health are crucial. Besides this, gender equality and equity are paramount."

Sairee Chahal, Founder & CEO of SHEROES and Mahila Money says, "Women have many aspirations - from growing skills, launching businesses and building remote careers, to accessing capital to fuel their businesses.

## Not sounding pompous, but there aren't many players hungry to score as I am: Chhetri

**IMPHAL:** He might be in the twilight zone of his illustrious career but his insatiable appetite to find the back of the net every time he dons the 'India Blues' is what keeps 38-year-old Sunil Chhetri going.

Chhetri, the third most prolific international scorer (84 goals from 132 matches) among active international players behind Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi, said his hunger to score is the same as it has always been.

"I don't want to sound pompous, but I feel that there aren't many players who are as hungry to score as I am," Chhetri said ahead of India's match against the Kyrgyz Republic in the Tri-Nation International football tournament here. "My hunger to score is the same as it has always been, and it will be the same against the Kyrgyz Republic," noted Chhetri.

Having beaten Myanmar 1-0 in the first match on Wednesday last, India needs just a draw in the last match of the tournament on Tuesday. In the Myanmar match, Chhetri had found the target but the referee had disallowed the goal, ruling that he was offside.



India head coach Igor Stimac had also claimed that Chhetri should have got a penalty for a foul on him by a Myanmar player.

"Off-sides and penalty decisions are a part of the game, and you think about them for a certain amount of time, but then you move on and look forward to the next match," said Chhetri, who made his India debut in 2005.

"What you rather do is minimize mistakes and move on," the talismanic striker also felt that joining the national camp just after losing the Indian Super League final for Bengaluru FC was like a boon.

"The national team camp gave us an outlet. If the camp wasn't there, it would have been more difficult for us to cope," Chhetri said, referring to

Bengaluru FC's defeat to ATK Mohun Bagan in the ISL final via penalty shootout.

"It's not a switch of a button, but when you have to take the flight the next day to the national camp, it gives you a bit more in terms of what you are thinking. You come and see the set-up and it takes your mind far from the loss, you start training, and your mind is further. After months of hard work, when you lose a final (of ISL), you can go into a rabbit hole if you have time to think. But thankfully for us, we joined straight at the national camp," he said. Chhetri warned his teammates not to get complacent against their opponents on Tuesday.

"Kyrgyz Republic have physically strong and fast players. Don't be

fooled by what happened against Myanmar, because they are a top side. We have seen their last 10 games, and believe me when I say, they are a very good side," he added.

"All the matches that we have played against them in the past have also been tough matches," Chhetri said. He was impressed with the support from the crowd who turned up to fill the Khuman Lampak Stadium to the brim against Myanmar.

"We got such amazing support from the crowd in the first game against Myanmar. This is the second time I have come here, and the first time that I've played in Imphal, but I understand why the people of Manipur are crazy about football. I just hope that we can get a positive

result against the Kyrgyz Republic and hope we can give an amazing game to the people. I also saw a lot of travelling fans, as well as little girls and mothers, come to the stands, and that is really good for the game," he said.

The India captain also spoke about the motivating effect these matches could give to the younger players from the state, which has produced several international players, both men and women.

"Many of us who have been playing for a long time have not been here for matches. So watching all the Indian Football stars gives the younger kids that extra motivation," said Chhetri.

"Even more than the others, seeing the likes of Suresh (Wangjam), Jeakson (Singh), Yasir (Mohammad) could really motivate the kids here, though judging by the sheer number of quality players that come out of this state, they do not need as much motivation. I just hope that as a national team, we can give them that much more to help them dream more," he concluded.

## Nitish Rana to captain KKR in Iyer's absence



**Kolkata:** Kolkata Knight Riders have named Nitish Rana as stand-in captain for IPL 2023. The left-hander will fill in for Shreyas Iyer, who will miss the start of the season with a back injury.

Rana, a flamboyant left-handed batter, has been with the franchise since 2018 and has scored upwards of 300 runs in each of the five seasons. The 29-year-old has captaincy experience having led Delhi teams in the Indian domestic circuit. He has also represented India in two T20Is and an ODI with all three of his international experiences coming on the tour of Sri Lanka in July, 2021. The two-time IPL

champions were left to elect a new captain after their incumbent skipper, Iyer, suffered a relapse of a back injury during the fourth Border-Gavaskar Test against Australia in Ahmedabad. Other captaincy options included long-serving Knight Riders Andre Russell and Sunil Narine as well as current New Zealand Test captain Tim Southee.

The management however remains hopeful that Iyer, whose services they secured for INR 12.25 crore last year, will feature at some point in the season. "While we are hopeful that Shreyas will recover and participate at some stage in the IPL 2023 edition, we feel fortunate

that Nitish, with the captaincy experience having led his state side in white ball cricket and the IPL experience he has had with KKR since 2018, will do a great job," a release from the franchise stated.

"We are also confident that under Head Coach Chandrakant Pandit and the support staff, he will get all the support needed off the field, and the highly experienced leaders in the squad will provide all support that Nitish may need on the field. We wish him the best in his new role and Shreyas a full and speedy recovery."

KKR begin their quest for a third title with a clash away to the Punjab Kings on April 1.

## SC agrees to hear plea on issues related to All India Football Federation

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to list for hearing a plea on issues related to the All India Football Federation (AIFF), including objections raised to certain aspects of its draft constitution. A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala took note of submissions of senior advocate Rahul

Mehra, who had filed a PIL on the issue in the Delhi High Court, that the matter needed a hearing. "It will not be deleted (from the cause list) on the next date of hearing," said the bench while declining the submission that the matter be kept high on the board. "The matter is urgent and has not been heard for quite some time," Mehra submitted. On February 9, the top

court had said it must bring the curtain down on issues plaguing the AIFF, including those pertaining to approval of its draft constitution. The bench had asked senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, assisting it as an amicus curiae (friend of the court), to have a meeting with the counsels of all stakeholders and find out key objections to the draft constitution of the AIFF.

## Indore pitch rating changed from 'poor' to 'below average'

**New Delhi:** The ICC (International Cricket Council) has changed the rating of the pitch used for the third Test between India and Australia to 'below average' after an appeal by the BCCI. The pitch had been rated 'Poor' by match referee Chris Broad following a finish before lunch on the third day, with Australia winning the match. Following the initial rating, where Indore was

awarded three demerit points, it has now been changed to one demerit point.

"Having reviewed footage of the Test match, the ICC appeal panel, consisting of Mr. Wasim Khan, ICC General Manager - Cricket, and Mr. Roger Harper, ICC Men's Cricket Committee Member, were of the opinion that, while the guidelines had been followed by the Match Referee in accordance



with Appendix A of the Pitch Monitoring Process, it was deemed that there was not enough excessive variable bounce to warrant the "poor" rating. Instead, the appeal panel concluded

that the pitch should be rated as "below average," said the ICC in a media release.

Initially, Broad in his report had said, "The pitch, which was very dry, did not provide a balance between bat and

ball, favouring spinners from the start. The fifth ball of the match broke through the pitch surface and continued to occasionally break the surface providing little or no seam movement and there was excessive and uneven bounce throughout the match." According to ICC's Pitch and Outfield Monitoring process, a venue could be suspended for 12 months if they accumulate five or more demerit points.

## Fantastic Four sparkle at Worlds, but Indian boxers have a long way to go

**NEW DELHI:** The indomitable Nikhat Zareen continued to shine bright, Lovlina Borgohain rediscovered her winning touch, as hosts India capped off a memorable campaign in the Women's Boxing World Championships, fetching four gold medals.

The highlight of the tournament was Nikhat becoming the second Indian to win the World Championships twice after the legendary MC Mary Kom, who has an unprecedented six titles on the global stage.

The emergence of three new champions in Lovlina (75kg), Nitu Ghanghas (48kg) and Saweety Boora (81kg) and some promising performances from the likes of Preeti Pawar (54kg) were also key

takeaways from the tournament. Nikhat had to battle through six exhausting bouts, including playing back-to-back pre-quarters, quarterfinals and semifinals. She got precious little recovery, and the fact that she defeated tough opponents under the immense pressure of performing at home, is a testament to her mental resolve and fitness.

The 50kg field was one of the toughest with 35 boxers vying for the top honours. Several pugilists had either gained or cut down their weight to make the cut for the light flyweight class as it is an Olympic category.

"These World Championships were tougher than last time as I had to manage my

weight, and follow a strict diet," Nikhat, who won the 52kg title last year in Istanbul, said.

Considered a high-performing asset, Lovlina's triumph is also an encouraging sign.

For one, Lovlina has broken the 'bronze jinx' that she admitted ahead of the tournament was affecting her psychologically.

The 25-year-old had three bronze, two at the World Championships and one at the Tokyo Olympics, coming into the mega event.

The win at home following a series of underwhelming results, including the 2022 Commonwealth Games, will do a world of good to Lovlina's confidence.

However, both Nikhat and Lovlina are still



adapting to their new weight categories and have several aspects to work on.

Another boxer who impressed despite making a pre-quarterfinal exit was young Preeti.

Competing in the 54kg category, the 19-year-old packed a punch in her three rounds as she topped the top seed and last edition's silver medalist Lacramioara

Perijoc of Romania before going down to two-time Worlds medallist Thailand's Jitpong Jutamas in a fiercely-contested bout.

The performances of the last edition's bronze medalist Manisha Moun (57kg), Commonwealth Games bronze medalist Jaismine Lamboria (60kg) and

Manju Bamboriya, all competing in Olympic categories, however, left a lot to be desired. Jaismine promised a lot but didn't quite deliver as she was completely outboxed in the quarterfinal. Overall, India topped the medals tally, but it should be noted that the field was depleted. More than 10

countries boycotted the event after the International Boxing Association (IBA) went against the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) recommendations and allowed Russian and Belarusian athletes to compete under their own flags.

To put things in perspective, five of the boycotting nations -- USA, Ireland, Canada, Poland and Netherlands -- had finished in the top-10 in the last two editions of the tournament. In the light heavyweight (81kg) and heavyweight (81+) categories, there wasn't much competition as only 13 and 12 pugilists respectively were competing for the top prize. Saweety, who

received a first-round bye, had to play only three bouts to be crowned champion.

While her win is a great personal achievement, but in the context of the Olympics, it doesn't mean much as 81kg is a non-Olympic category.

The nearest weight category she can drop down to before 2024 Paris is middleweight (75kg), where Lovlina has already made the cut for the first Olympic qualifiers, the Asian Games in Hangzhou. Similarly, Nitu, who had a fabulous run in the non-Olympic minimum weight division, will have to contend with being a standby to Nikhat in the 50kg category for the Asian Games as 48kg doesn't feature in the Paris Olympics curriculum.