

Rain fury: CM assures best possible compensation to farmers after field visit

Plane bursts into flames while landing in South Korea, killing 179



Nayagarh, Dec 29(KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Majhi on Sunday assured the best possible aid to the rain hit farmers after his field visit. Following his spot assessments in the Nayagarh district Majhi interacted with the affected farmers and became compassionate to their sufferings for immense loss of paddy crops due to the recent

rains that lashed incessantly across the state. Odisha Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy also accompanied the Chief Minister. Majhi discussed the matter with the district administration to conduct a sincere survey on the crop losses and report to the government at the earliest. Worth mentioning, CM Mohan Majhi is also scheduled to undertake spot visits to Ganjam and Gajapati districts to assess the devastation caused by unseasonal rains in paddy fields and other standing crops on the following days.



Seoul(KCN): A passenger plane skidded off a runway at a South Korean airport Sunday, slammed into a concrete fence and burst into flames after its front landing gear apparently failed to deploy. All but two of the 181 people on board died in one of the country's worst aviation disasters. The Jeju Air plane crashed while landing in the town of Muan, about 290 kilometres south of Seoul. The Transport Ministry said the plane was a 15-year-old Boeing 737-800 jet that had arrived from Bangkok and that the crash happened at 9:03 am. A total of 179 people — 85 women, 84 men and 10 others whose genders weren't immediately identifiable — died in the fire, the South Korean fire agency said. Emergency workers pulled two people, both crew members, to safety. Health officials said they are conscious and not in life-threatening condition. Among the 177 bodies so far found, officials have so far identified 88 of them, the fire agency said. The passengers were predominantly South Korean, as well as two Thai nationals. Thailand's Foreign Ministry said its embassy in Seoul received confirmation from South Korean authorities that the two Thai passengers were among the fatalities. The fire agency deployed 32 fire trucks and several helicopters to contain the blaze. About 1,570 firefighters, police officers, soldiers and other officials were also sent to the site, according to the fire agency and transport ministry. Footage of the crash aired by South Korean television channels showed the plane skidding across the airstrip at high speed, apparently with its landing gear still closed, overrunning the runway and colliding head-on with a concrete wall on the outskirts of the facility, triggering an explosion. Other local TV stations aired footage showing thick plumes of black smoke billowing from the plane, which was engulfed in flames. Lee Jeong-hyeon, chief of the Muan fire station, told a televised briefing that the plane was completely destroyed, with only the tail assembly remaining recognisable among the wreckage. Lee said that workers were looking into various possibilities about what caused the crash, including whether the aircraft was struck by birds, Lee said. Transport Ministry officials later said their early assessment of communication records show the airport control tower issued a bird strike warning to the plane shortly before it intended to land and gave its pilot permission to land in a different area. The pilot sent out a distress signal shortly before the plane overshot the end of the runway and skidded across a buffer zone before hitting the wall, the officials said. Senior Transport Ministry official Joo Jong-wan said workers have retrieved the flight data and cockpit voice recorders of the plane's black box, which will be examined by government experts investigating the cause of the crash and fire. He said it may take months for investigators to complete their probe. The runway at the Muan airport will be closed until January 1, the ministry said. Thailand's prime minister, Paetongtarn Shinawatra, expressed deep condolences to the families of those affected by the accident in a post on social platform X. Paetongtarn said she ordered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to provide assistance immediately. Kerati Kijmanawat, the director of Airports of Thailand, confirmed in a statement that Jeju Air flight 7C 2216 departed from Suvarnabhumi Airport with no reports of abnormal conditions with the aircraft or on the runway. Jeju Air in a statement expressed its "deep apology" over the crash and said it will do its "utmost to manage the aftermath of the accident." In a televised news conference, Kim E-bae, Jeju Air's president, bowed deeply with other senior company officials as he apologized to bereaved families and said he feels "full responsibility" for the incident. Kim said the company hadn't identified any mechanical problems with the aircraft following regular checkups and that he would wait for the results of government investigations into the cause of the incident.

Cold wave set to return to Odisha today



Bhubaneswar, December 29(KCN): After a brief respite, Odisha is reviving for the return of cold wave conditions from December 30. The regional office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) in Bhubaneswar has predicted a significant drop in night temperatures, ranging from 2°C to 4°C, due to the influence of cold and dry winds resulting from the westward movement of a western disturbance currently affecting North India. The IMD further noted that the cold spell is expected to intensify in the first week of January. According to the midday bulletin, there will be minimal change in the minimum temperature over the next 24 hours, but it is likely to decline by 2°C to 4°C in the subsequent four days across the state. In Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, the night temperatures may dip to around 13°C and 14°C, respectively, this week.

Over the past 24 hours, the twin cities recorded temperatures of 16.9°C and 16.5°C, while G Udayagiri emerged as the coldest location in Odisha at 10.8°C. The IMD has also issued a dense fog warning for Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, and Kandhamal districts until December 30. Shallow to moderate fog is expected in parts of Bargarh, Bolangir, Nuapada, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, and Sambalpur. Light rain is also predicted in isolated areas of Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur, and Deogarh districts during this period. Residents are advised to prepare for colder nights and reduced visibility due to fog in affected areas.

Congress and BJD slam BJP govt over delay in crop loss assessment; Minister responds



Bhubaneswar, December 29(KCN): The Congress and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) have criticized the Odisha government, led by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, for delaying the assessment of crop losses caused by recent unseasonal rains. Both parties questioned the government's efficiency in disaster management and timely delivery of relief to affected farmers. The Congress MLA Rama Chandra Kadam accused the administration of ignoring farmers' grievances and failing to address their immediate needs. Meanwhile, the BJD leader Prasant Muduli emphasized the urgency of swift action to ensure farmers receive the support they deserve. Responding to the criticism, the Food Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister Krushna Chandra Patra defended the state government, arguing that thorough assessments take time to gather accurate data for fair compensation. The party assured that necessary steps are being taken to address the farmers' concerns effectively. Previously, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi reiterated the government's commitment to the farmers, stating, "Every farmer who has faced crop loss during the recent unseasonal rains will be compensated. The process has already been initiated."

Pranab Prakash Das resigns as OCA President

Cuttack, Dec 29(KCN): Heavyweight Pranab Prakash Das alias Bobby has resigned as President of the Odisha Cricket Association (OCA) on Sunday. OCA Secretary Sanjay Behera informed it to pressers today.



Addressing a pressers' meet, Behera said, "We have acknowledged Das' resignation. He has cited personal reason behind his step down." Notably, Pranab was elected as the President of OCA on October 28, 2022. He had joined the OCA team for reportedly developing the Barabati Stadium.

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Demand for Central university status to Sambalpur university at JV-90 annual get together Meet



Sambalpur, (KCN): The 19th Annual Reunion of the 1988-90 batch of Sambalpur University JV-90 was held on 29-12-2024 at the University campus in Jyoti Vihar, Burla. About 60 friends of the said batch who studied various subjects attended this annual meeting.

The meeting was conducted by the convener of the JV-90 Group Mr. Suresh Kar and Pabitra Narayan Nepak. The friends introduced themselves and other programs were held. Prominent literary (translation) scholars Sukomal Dash, and Dillip Barapanda conducted the main meeting. Also the meeting was graced by the Vice Chancellor of Sambalpur University, Prof. Bidhu

Bhushan Mishra as chief guest and the Registrar Dr. Nrupraj Sahu as the Chief Speaker and focused on role of old students for demanding the Central University status for Sambalpur University and other various developmental works of this Institution.

With this, the next year's Get Together meeting program was fixed for 28th December 2025. Finally, Naresh Agarwal delivered the vote of thanks.



Tigress Zeenat tranquilized in West Bengal after straying from Odisha's Simlipal forest

Baripada, Dec 29(KCN): Tigress Zeenat, who had wandered from Odisha's Simlipal forest into Bankura district in West Bengal, was tranquilized on Sunday afternoon in Gopalpur forest, after several attempts earlier in the day to sedate her.

Prakash Chand Gogineni, the Baripada Regional Chief Conservator of Forests (RCCF), confirmed that the tigress is now confined in a cage, and efforts are underway to safely return her to Odisha.

"My heartiest congratulations to the forest officials of West Bengal on the successful rescue of the tigress- Zeenat. My sincere gratitude to the district administration, police, panchayat functionaries and the local people for their invaluable support and collaboration in this remarkable effort. This rescue is a shining example of teamwork and dedication toward wildlife conservation. Your combined efforts have not only saved a majestic creature that strayed out of its habitat but also reinforced the importance of protecting our natural heritage. Thank you for your outstanding work!," posted West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on X.

Earlier, West Bengal's Chief Wildlife Warden, Debal Roy, provided an update, stating that the tigress was still located in the same area of Gopalpur forest, where she had been encircled with double netting. The perimeter of the netting was gradually reduced to contain the animal within a smaller, secured area. The tigress was first



tranquilized at 1:20 am on Sunday but failed to respond to the sedatives despite multiple doses. Roy explained that the amount of tranquilizer that can be administered to the animal is limited, and after repeated unsuccessful attempts, the operation to sedate her was halted temporarily at 4:30 am.

"The tigress was in an excited state, which made it difficult to sedate her," Roy noted.

Zeenat, who was brought to Simlipal from Maharashtra's Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) last month to contribute to the region's tiger gene pool, had strayed from her designated territory. Having crossed into West Bengal from Simlipal, she has been roaming the forests along the tri-junction of West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Odisha for nearly a week, covering over 120 km in search of new territory.

Silver plating of Shree Jagannath Temple's Gumuta begins

Puri, Dec 29(KCN): Scheduled silver plating in Puri Shri Jagannath Temple began on Sunday. Artisans and silversmiths have kick-started the silver-paving work from the 'Gumuta' of the temple, as per the blueprint.

According to the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration sources, the 'Manibandha' near Patitapabana is also being meticulously coated with silver, as a part of the beautification. Later, the Jamashila will also be



silver finished. Earlier in 2021, silver coating of all the doors of the Srimandir was resolved to be worked out. The doors were decided to be clad with silver sheets made out of over 2,500 kg silver donated by a Mumbai-based devotee. The doors were made out of Burma teak wood, which were then silver

plated having traditional pattachitra patterns. Two committees, one technical and another of senior servitors were constituted for supervision of the work. Accordingly, woodwork for four doors i.e-Jaya Bijaya Dwar, Beherana Dwar, Kalahata Dwar and Bhoga Mandapa Paschim Dwar was completed. However, woodwork was to start soon for Sata Paahacha Dwar and Dwar of Adi Nrusingha temple, Maa Bimala temple and Maa Mahalaxmi temple.

PM Lauds K'handi Farmers

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his "Mann Ki Baat" said "My dear countrymen, today I want to tell you about an effort in Kalahandi, Odisha, which is writing a new story of success despite a paucity of water and resources. This is the 'vegetable revolution' of Kalahandi. Where once farmers were forced to migrate; today, Golamunda block of Kalahandi has become a vegetable hub. How did this change come about? It started with a small group of just 10 farmers. This group together established an FPO – 'Kisan Utpad Sangh', started using modern



technology in farming, and today their FPO is doing business worth crores. Today more than 200 farmers are associated with this FPO, including 45 women farmers".

Together, these people are cultivating tomatoes in 200 acres and bitter gourd in 150 acres. Now the annual turnover of this FPO has also risen to more than 1.5 crores. Today,

vegetables from Kalahandi are reaching not only various districts of Odisha, but also other states, and the farmers there are now learning new techniques of potato and onion cultivation. Friends, this success of Kalahandi teaches us what all can be done with determination and collective effort. I urge all of you to encourage FPO in your area and Join farmer producer organizations and strengthen them. PM said remember – Big changes are possible even through small beginnings. We just need determination and team spirit.

Man dies after bee attack in Odisha's Mayurbhanj



Baripada(KCN): A 32-year-old man died Sunday after a swarm of bees attacked him outside his residence in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district, police said.

Biswanath Murmu, employed with the rural development department as junior engineer, breathed his last on way to hospital, they said. "He was attacked by a

swarm of bees in front of his residence in Mahuldiha area Sunday morning following which he fainted. He died on the way to the nearest government hospital,"

said Suchindra Mahalik, the inspector-in-charge of Rairangpur Town Police Station. The bees came in large numbers from a nearby hive and attacked him without any provocation, the officer said. The police have registered a case of unnatural death and sent the body for post-mortem. Mayurbhanj, known for its diverse forests and wildlife, occasionally experiences such incidents, Mahalik said.

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Salman Khan hosts intimate birthday celebrations

Hindi film superstar Salman Khan is celebrating his birthday Friday. Several pictures and videos from his birthday celebrations have surfaced on social media in which he could be seen indulging in intimate celebrations.

One of the pictures posted by his fan club shows him cutting the cake with a kitchen knife with his one hand inside the pocket. Another picture shows him posing with his head of security, Shera.

A video shared by his fan club gives a closer look into celebrations with his brother-in-law Aayush Sharma, and the actor's rumoured girlfriend Iulia Vantur in the frame.

Earlier, the poster of his upcoming movie Sikandar was unveiled. It shows Salman with his face away from the camera as he holds a spear. The



actor dons a suit in the poster.

Salman Khan could be seen standing tall surrounded by an aura of mystery and power. The visual sets the tone for a gripping, larger-than-life cinematic experience.

His towering presence in the poster reflects the unstoppable persona of Sikandar, a character poised to captivate audiences like never before. The film is directed by A.R. Murugadoss, who is

known for Ghajini, and also stars Rashmika Mandanna opposite Salman Khan. Sikandar marks the reunion of Salman Khan and Sajid Nadiadwala after their 2014 blockbuster, Kick, which also marked the

directorial debut for the latter. Produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, Sikandar promises to be a cinematic spectacle that blends action, drama, and emotion. Sikandar is being developed with a strong

focus on engaging storytelling and dynamic performances, setting the stage for yet another memorable Salman Khan performance. After the assassination of politician Baba Siddique, Salman took a brief hiatus from the shoot of the film in October this year.

The security apparatus of Salman was also beefed up following Siddique's murder after the Lawrence Bishnoi gang claimed responsibility for the murder. The anticipation surrounding Sikandar reflects Salman's enduring appeal and the significant impact he continues to have on the film industry. As fans await more updates, one thing is clear, Salman Khan to deliver the entertainment and drama that his audience craves. Sikandar marks the 1st collaboration between Salman and Rashmika.



Actress Parineeti Chopra recently took to social media to wish her husband and Aam Aadmi Party leader Raghav Chadha on his birthday.

On Monday, the Kesari actress posted a video featuring her cherished memories with Raghav alongside a heartfelt note. In her special post, Chopra mentioned how Raghav graciously taught her how to be strong, the value of emotional stability, and the true meaning of respect and love. Sharing the heartwarming video on her Instagram, the actress wrote, "Happiest bday my Ragaii. Your grace, honesty, patience and maturity make me wanna be a better person every day. You graciously lead me and teach me how to be strong, the value of emotional stability and the true meaning of respect and love."

She added, "I promise to never stop learning from you. Everyone around me says it because its true, 'they dont make gentlemen like you anymore'. I'm glad God gave me the best one of them all (Also in the middle of all this classiness, how are you actually the biggest jokester and goofball of all?? #ChupaRustam) P.S. He's gonna find this

reel tooooooo filmy guys. Send help!." The Ishaqzaade actress also thanked RJ Simran Singh for her popular dialogue, "oh jina shant mai uni tufan." She wrote, "Thank you so much @rjsimransingh for this audio, it encapsulates us perfectly." The sweet videos capture Parineeti's candid moments with Raghav. It also features

a compilation of Chadha's speeches from the political rallies. Parineeti and Raghav tied the knot September 24 last year. The duo exchanged vows in a private wedding at The Leela Palace, Udaipur, Rajasthan. Their grand nuptials were attended by cousin Priyanka Chopra's mother Madhu Chopra, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, Aaditya Thackeray, and Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann, Manish Malhotra, Harbhajan Singh, and Sania Mirza, among others. In an interview, the actress revealed that she decided to marry Raghav within five minutes of their meeting at an event in London. On the work front, Parineeti was last seen opposite Diljit Dosanjh in Imtiaz Ali's directorial Amar Singh Chamkila.

Bipasha Basu enjoys a cup of 'chai on beach' in Maldives



Actress Bipasha Basu, who is currently enjoying her Maldivian holiday with her family, shared a glimpse of "chai on beach."

Bipasha took to Instagram, where she shared a video. In the clip, the actress is seen holding a nice cup of hot tea with the backdrop of the beautiful sea and bright blue sky.

The actress had also shared a picture of herself flaunting her hair. She captioned it: "Rare good hair day on a beach holiday."

She had also shared a video from her date night with her husband Karan Singh Grover. The clip had "date night" written on it with the song "Doobey" from the film "Gehraiyaan" playing in the background. Bipasha married her beau Karan Singh Grover in 2016. They welcomed their daughter, Devi in November 2022.

Karan rose to fame by playing the lead role of Dr. Armaan Malik in the popular show 'Dill Mill Gayye'. The medical drama aired on Star One from August 20, 2007, to October 29, 2010. It was a sequel to the hit Star Plus series 'Sanjivani: A Medical Boon'.

Singh Is Kinng 2 in the works without Akshay Kumar, producer wants Ranveer Singh

Producer Shailendra Singh has made it clear that his first choice for Singh Is Kinng 2 is Ranveer Singh, and if things don't materialise with him, he will approach Diljit Dosanjh. Here's more about the project.

Producer Shailendra Singh, who had earlier 'gifted' the title Singh Is Kinng to Akshay Kumar and fellow producer Vipul Amrutlal Shah, is back at planning his passionate project - Singh Is Kinng 2. As per a media report, the producer has made up his mind and the initial work has begun on converting the romantic-comedy into a franchise, with the second part rolling next year. But, to the fans' disappointment, he is not thinking about getting Akshay Kumar back for the second part. A report in Mid-Day

quoted Shailendra Singh confirming that it took him 12 years to get the title back, and now that he has finally received it, he doesn't want to delay the production on the film, which could either be titled Singh Is Kinng 2 or Singh Is Kinng Returns.

He said the film is expected to be on the floor towards the end of next year. Shailendra said, "I had gifted the title to Akshay Kumar, and they tried to make part two, but I asked them to return the title as I wanted to make a sequel. After 12 years of going back and forth with Vipul and Akshay, I finally got the title three years ago. I have started the process of [making] Singh Is Kinng 2. I will begin production from October 2025 so that I can release it in 2026." The report further



mentioned that the producer had initially thought about getting Happy Singh, the protagonist, on a new mission to bring the Koh-i-noor back to India. However, that didn't work out, and now he has decided to change his protagonist altogether. He explained, "But that didn't get made. Now, I am mounting the second

part because it seems to be the era of sequels and remakes. We'll see whether the final name will be Singh Is Kinng 2 or Singh Is Kinng Returns. The hero won't be called Happy Singh. We'll create a new character." In all possibilities, the film is not going to have Akshay on board, who played Happy Singh alongside Katrina Singh

in the 2008 hit film. Shailendra Singh revealed that his first choice for the role is Ranveer Singh, who is quirky, energetic and has the qualities that suit the character best. "My first choice is Ranveer Singh. We reached out to his manager on Saturday. His energy, cheekiness and fun fit the character. Also, Ranveer has never played a Sardar

before." The actor was reportedly offered the same film in 2017 as well, but things didn't work out at that time. Shailendra insisted that the time is different today and the talks are on with the actor's team. The producer added that his second choice is Diljit Dosanjh.

He shared, "Now the time is right for both Singhs, Ranveer and Shailendra, to create magic. If Ranveer doesn't work out, then Diljit is my next choice," adding that he wants either Priyadarshan or Anees Bazmee to direct the film.

Singh Is Kinng is one of the most successful and celebrated films of Akshay's career. It also featured Sonu Sood, Jaaved Jaaferi, Kirron Kher, the late Om Puri and Ranvir Shorey, among others. It was directed by Anees Bazmee.

Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme, 2024: Some FAQs Part 5



Adv. Narayan Jain & CA Dilip Loyalka

(Contd. from 23rd Dec. 2024)
32. Whether the DTVSV Scheme, 2024 can be availed in a case where the enforceability of an assessment order passed by AO has been stayed by the High Court or Supreme Court:

CBDT vide Circular no. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ No. 30 has clarified that A quantum appeal pending on 22.7.2024 can be settled under the Scheme. Where an assessment order has been stayed, it does not tantamount to an appeal pending as on 22.7.2024.

33. The assessment order under section 143(3) of the Act was passed in the case of an assessee for an assessment year. The said assessment order is pending with ITAT. Subsequently another order under section 147/143(3) was passed for the same assessment year and that is pending with CIT (Appeals): Could both or one of the

orders be settled under DTVSV Scheme, 2024: CBDT vide circular no. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ No. 31 has clarified as under- The appellant in this case has an option to settle either of the two appeals or both appeals for the same assessment year. As per rule 4(1) of the Direct Tax Vivad se Vishwas Rules, 2024, the declaration shall be filed separately in respect of each order. Therefore, if a taxpayer decides to settle both appeals then he has to file separate declaration for the two orders.

34. There is no provision for 50% concession in appeal pending in HC on an issue where the assessee has got relief on that issue from the Supreme Court: CBDT vide circular no. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ No. 32 has clarified as under- If the appellant has got decision in his favour from Supreme Court on an issue, there is no dispute now with regard to that issue and he need not

settle that issue. If that issue is part of the multiple issues, the disputed tax may be calculated on other issues considering nil tax on this issue.

35. Addition was made u/s 143(3) on two issues whereas appeal is filed only for one addition. Whether interest and penalty be waived for both additions: CBDT vide circular no. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ No. 33 has clarified as under- Under DTVSV Scheme, 2024 interest and penalty will be waived only in respect of the issue which is disputed in appeal and for which declaration is filed. Hence, for the undisputed issue, the tax, interest and penalty shall be payable.

36. Once declaration is filed under DTVSV Scheme, 2024, and for financial difficulties, payment is not made accordingly, will the declaration be null and void: CBDT vide circular no. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ No. 34 has clarified as under- Yes. As per provisions of section 91(5) of the Scheme, it shall be deemed as if the declaration has not been made.

37. Whether the immunity from prosecution is only for the declarant or also for the Director of the

company or partner of the firm with respect to the disputes settled under DTVSV Scheme, 2024: CBDT vide circular no. 12 of 2024 dated 15.10.2024 in FAQ No. 35 has clarified as under-

If a dispute has been settled under the Scheme, the immunity from prosecution with respect to that dispute shall also extend to the director / partner of company / firm (being the declarant) in respect of same dispute under section 278B of the Act.

38. Whether reopening is permitted on issues which were not subject matter of appeal for which VSV scheme has been opted: Under the scheme, issues in the appeal are only settled. Issues not covered in the appeal can be reopened.

39. Whether assessee can pay taxes for one application and opt for lower tax and pay taxes for other application after 31 December: Yes. There is no bar in making payment at different times for different declarations. Assessee can make payment for a declaration before 31 December and after 31 December for other declaration subject to additional payment.

40. Consequence of making payment beyond 15 days of the receipt of the certificate

from the Designated Authority: There is no provision of accepting payment beyond 15 days of the receipt of the certificate, therefore such payments may not be considered as payment under the scheme unless such relaxation is announced later.

The scheme further provides the tax paid under the scheme cannot be refunded under any circumstance. At best, assessee can ask for adjustment of the tax paid with the disputed tax.

41. Where an appeal has been heard before 22nd July 2024, but order has not been pronounced, can assessee opt for the scheme: In case the appeal is pending on 22nd July 2024, the assessee can opt for the scheme.

42. Where assessee has filed an appeal with petition for condonation of delay prior to 22nd July 2024 and the delay has not yet been condoned, can assessee opt for VSV scheme: The following judgment was pronounced by the Supreme Court under KVSS 1998, in the case of CIT v. Shatrugsailya Digvijaysingh Jadega [2005] 277 ITR 435 (SC) wherein it has been held that:-

When a section contemplates pendency of an appeal, what is required for its

application is that an appeal should be pending and in such a case there is no need to introduce the qualification that it should be valid or competent. Whether an appeal is valid or competent is a question entirely for the appellate court before whom the appeal is filed to decide and this determination is possible only after the appeal is heard but there is nothing to prevent a party from filing an appeal which may ultimately be found to be incompetent, e.g., when it is held to be barred by limitation. From the mere fact that such an appeal is held to be unmaintainable on any ground whatsoever, it does not follow that there was no appeal pending before the Court.

Since the assessee has filed appeal prior to 22nd July 2024, and the appeal has not been rejected on or before 22 July 2024, the assessee can opt for VSV scheme,

43. Where CIT(A) has dismissed the appeal and time for filing appeal before ITAT has expired before 23rd July 2024 and assessee furnished a belated appeal with condonation of delay after 22nd July 2024 but before 16th August 2024 (before Finance (No. 2) Act, 2024 was passed) can he opt for VSV scheme: The scheme does not specifically provide for the appeals

for which due date u/s 249 has expired on or before 23rd July 2024 but appeal is filed after 22nd July 2024 with condonation of delay.

However, Supreme Court in the case of CIT v. Shatrugsailya Digvijaysingh Jadega [2005] 277 ITR 435 (SC) in relation to KVSS 1998 referring to Raja Kulkarni v. State of Bombay AIR 1954 SC 73, held that -

When a section contemplates pendency of an appeal, what is required for its application is that an appeal should be pending and in such a case there is no need to introduce the qualification that it should be valid or competent. Whether an appeal is valid or competent is a question entirely for the appellate court before whom the appeal is filed to decide and this determination is possible only after the appeal is heard but there is nothing to prevent a party from filing an appeal which may ultimately be found to be incompetent, e.g., when it is held to be barred by limitation. From the mere fact that such an appeal is held to be unmaintainable on any ground whatsoever, it does not follow that there was no appeal pending before the Court.

Further, CBDT Circular No. 33 of 2016 dated 12.9.2016 in

relation to Direct Tax Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2016 in FAQ No. 6 opined that a declarant shall be eligible for the Scheme, if:

- (i) the time limit for filing of appeal u/s 249 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 has got barred by limitation on or before 29.02.2016 (corresponding to 22.07.2024 under the VSV Scheme)
- (ii) the appeal with condonation application has been filed before Commissioner (Appeals) before 01.06.2016 (date of commencement of scheme) and
- (iii) the delay in filing of such appeal is condoned by the Commissioner (Appeals)

In view of the above, if the delay is condoned by the appellate authority the declaration can be filed and even if the decision on delay has not been pronounced, the declaration may be filed in view of the Apex Court decision.

However, a clarification from CBDT will ease the situation.

(Contd.)

Adv. Narayan Jain and CA Dilip Loyalka are Life members of AITP. They are author of the books "How to Handle Income Tax Problems" and "Income Tax Pleading & Practice".

Winter Is Here: Skincare Essentials For Travellers

Shahnaz Husain



If you are fond of the cold weather, traveling during winter might be one of the ways to enjoy your favorite holiday destination.

Winter makes your skin really dry and travelling makes it tired. The situation is often worse for travelers, with cold weather bringing their own set of troubles. Between the dry, cooler air, long travel, and all the changes in the schedule, diet, and environment, it's important to pack products that will moisturize and repair your skin in order to keep you looking your best.

Packing beauty essentials for a winter vacation can be quite a hassle

Maintaining a healthy skincare routine becomes even more essential when you're on the move, and Here are

the skincare essentials you'll need to deal with wintry weather if you're travelling.

When you are heading on a winter vacation ---- stuffing a variety of sunscreen, Lip Balm, Moisturizers, and hair styling products into your suitcase will make your journey comfortable for your outwardly outlook and refreshing your vital organs.

Winter is harsh on your skin if you are travelling to snow bound areas / mountainous hills with family in winter vacation then your skin care regime is required to adapt to the changing seasons

Apart from passport, aadhar cards, tickets, credit cards, which are absolutely essential travel documents, you will need the means to make yourself attractive, while traveling. Even though it is hard to look fashionable.

. Think about travel essentials and how to limit your grooming needs, so that you look pleasing and enjoy your trip. Traveling light is an advantage, so you need items that are compact and portable. Get

yourself a spacious shoulder bag and two small, plastic lined cases, for your toilet and make-

tidy. Remember to take a scarf along to protect your hair from over-exposure to the sun, as

too dressy. You will also need make-up cosmetics for the night. The lighting at night

mountains, the emphasis will be on comfort. Casual wrinkle-free clothes, light weight

spectrum sunscreen when out in the sun, not only on the face, but on all exposed areas. Apply

wear. Perhaps, a lip gloss will do. By the beach, you need make up products that are "waterproof" or "long lasting" and provide a matte finish.

You will also need pressed powder (compact) and powder blush-on. Remember to take a few tissues. If you have oily skin, or the weather is hot and humid, pre-moistened tissues are what you need. Carry them in your handbag when you go out, to clean and refresh your skin. Apart from these, take a deodorant and talcum powder.

Travel adds a wonderful dimension to one's life and personality. It enriches our experience and broadens our outlook. Travel also means a time that is refreshing and renewing. There is nothing more enjoyable than getting away from everyday and unwind. If you have taken care of your travel needs, all you have to do is relax and enjoy!

The author is international fame beauty expert and is called Herbal Queen of India



up. Your beauty aids should be within easy reach, so that you can freshen up your make-up and alight from your journey looking attractive and self-confident. Searching for a lipstick or comb in a cluttered handbag can really test your patience. A short hairdo that you can just brush and arrange is good, while for long hair, take along a headband and hair clips, to keep your hair

well as from wind and dust. You will need it if you are out motoring, boating or even walking by the seaside or hills. The make-up items and clothes you carry depend on what your trip entails. If you are holidaying in a big city and expect to meet people, you will need a few good clothes and accessories, for dining out. Take a few in-between outfits that are neither too casual, nor

demands more colour, so include darker shades of lipstick, blush-on, eye-shadow and mascara. A hair-piece can provide instant glamour. Don't forget to take your perfume, one or two good accessories and a neutral evening purse that goes with your dressy outfits. These will help to add the finishing touches.

If you are on a sightseeing trip, or on a vacation by the sea or

shoes and sunglasses will be needed. On a vacation, one probably needs to carry more skin care cosmetics and fewer make-up aids. An anti-tan sunscreen or sun block would be good. The effects of sun exposure are greater by the waterside, or near snow, because water and snow are reflective surfaces. By the sea, avoid sun-exposure between noon and 3 p.m. Apply broad

the sunscreen 20 minutes before going out. If you are out in the sun for more than an hour, re-apply the sunscreen. Use high SPF of 30 and above for sensitive skin. Apart from sunscreen, you need skin and hair care essentials, like cleanser, moisturizer, leave-on conditioner and hair serum. For your make-up, carry powder compact, eye-pencil, kaajal stick and lipsticks that are suitable for day

ICAR-CIFRI conducted an awareness-cum-distribution of inputs among flood-affected fish farmers of Tripura

Kolkata, (KCN):The state of Tripura witnessed heavy monsoon rainfall resulting in severe flooding and landslides in different districts during 19-22 August 2024. This resulted in significant damages to fisheries in the state (e.g., breach of pond dykes and submerging fish ponds, damage to fish production units & hatcheries, siltation, escape of fish, fish seed, etc.). The flood reportedly affected around 19874.815 ha water bodies, causing harm to approximately 130,832 fish farmers. Against this background, ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries (DoF), Govt. of Tripura conducted an awareness-cum-distribution of inputs among the flood-affected fish farmers of Tripura on 24.12.2024 in Udaipur, Gomati district of Tripura. The main objective of the programme was to create awareness about preparedness of the fish farmers to cope with natural calamities to avoid possible loss or reduction in fish production for accruing maximum benefit. The programme



was inaugurated by Shri Debal Debroy, Hon'ble Sabhadhipati, Gomati Zilla Parishad, Udaipur. In his inaugural address he thanked Dr. B. K. Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI for providing material and technical support to the flood-affected fish farmers of Tripura. The programme was also attended by Shri Jitendra Majumder, Hon'ble M.L.A., 33-Kakraban Assembly Constituency, Tripura. Dr. B. K. Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore stated that

ICAR-CIFRI is providing 30 tonnes of CIFRI CageGrow feed, 12 tonnes of lime and 4,80,000 fish seed to the 600 flood-affected fish farmers of five districts (Unakoti, West, Sipahijala, Gomati and South) of Tripura. Each farmer will get 800 no. fish fingerlings, 50 kg feed, and 20 kg lime. He advised the fish farmers to continue undertaking scientific fish culture techniques with diversification of fish species in their waterbodies and to

prepared for natural calamities like floods. Shri S. Das, TCS, SSG, Director of Fisheries, Govt. Tripura thanked the Director, ICAR-CIFRI for providing support to the flood-affected fish farmers of the state and also urged all the farmers to carry their fish culture activities. All possible support from the Department of Fisheries, Tripura will be there for fish farming. During the programme, a total of 7,650 kg CIFRI CageGrow feed, 3,060 kg

lime and 20,000 nos. of fish fingerling (25 fish farmers) were distributed among 153 flood-affected fish farmers. Honourable Public representatives from the Gomati district (Chairperson, Matarbari, Kakraban, Tepania Panchayat Samiti), Sahakari Sabhadhipati, Gomati Zilla Parishad; Agri standing President Gomati Zilla Parishad were also present in the programme. In the interactive session, Dr. S. C. S. Das, Senior Scientist, ICAR-CIFRI, RC Guwahati; Shri K. H. Tripura, DDF, Gomati district; Shri J. L. Saha, SF, Udaipur; Shri S. Roy, Training Superintendent, TFTI, Udaipur; Shri A. Saha, FO; Smt. T. Chakraborty, F.O; Shri N. Aich, F.O; Shri Biswajit S. Das, F.O Udaipur and other officials of the Department of Fisheries, Tripura took active part in the interaction. A total of 200 fish farmers, fisheries officials (including 55 women) and honourable public representative participated in the programme. The programme ended with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. S. C. S. Das, Senior Scientist, ICAR-CIFRI, RC Guwahati.

Kolkata - Phuket Flight to boost Tourism during "Amazing Thailand Grand Tourism & Sports Year 2025"



Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Thailand is celebrating "Amazing Thailand Grand Tourism & Sports Year 2025". Thailand is one of the most popular international destinations for Indians. Phuket is one of the most popular destinations among Indian tourists. IndiGo will now operate flights from Kolkata to Phuket in Thailand daily. The first flight on this route has been started from December 27. NSCB Kolkata airport authority has congratulated IndiGo. A cake cutting ceremony was organised at the Kolkata airport on 27th December 2024 in presence of the crew members of IndiGo's first flight on the Kolkata-Phuket route to mark launch of this new route. On Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, flight 6E 1901 will depart from Kolkata at 6 am (IST) and arrive in Phuket at 10:40 am (local time). On Wednesdays and Saturdays, the flight

will depart from Kolkata at 6:50 am and arrive in Phuket at 11:35 am. On Sundays, the flight will depart at 6:50 am and land in Phuket at 11:40 am. The return flight 6E 1902 will depart from Phuket at 11:40 am on Monday and Tuesday and arrive in Kolkata at 1:20 pm. On Wednesday and Saturday, it will depart from Phuket at 12:35 pm and arrive in Kolkata at 2:20 pm. On Friday, the flight will depart from Phuket at 11:55 am and land in Kolkata at 1:40 pm. And on Sunday, the flight will depart from Phuket at 12:40 pm and land in Kolkata at 2:20 pm. Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) is inviting visitors to ring in the New Year with the "Amazing Thailand Countdown 2025" at Nagaphirom Park along Bangkok's Chao Phraya River with the majestic Wat Arun as its backdrop. Nationwide festivities being organised, featuring global icons like BamBam.

First Commercial Flight Validation Test Successful At Navi Mumbai Airport

New Delhi, (KCN):The Navi Mumbai International Airport took a big step toward becoming operational on Sunday with its first commercial flight validation test being carried out successfully. An A320 aircraft from Indigo Airlines successfully touched down at runway 08/26 and was welcomed with a traditional water salute by two crash fire tenders. The landing was witnessed by senior officials from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Airports Authority

of India, Customs, Immigration, Central Industrial Security Force, City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra (CIDCO), India Meteorological Department, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security as well as Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL) and other key stakeholders. "This is a momentous day for Navi Mumbai International Airport. The successful completion of the validation flight is a major milestone, and we are now one step

closer to operationalising the airport, prioritising safety at every step. We are grateful to the DGCA and all the agencies involved in making the validation flight trial successful. Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) will not only offer world-class aviation facilities, it will also enable the overall development of the region," said Mr Arun Bansal, Chief Executive Officer, Adani Airport Holdings Limited.

Post-Snowfall, Commissioner SMC Inspects Clearance and Dewatering Operations in Srinagar

Srinagar, (Aasif Malik): Commissioner of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Owais Ahmed, accompanied by senior officials of the corporation, conducted thorough inspections across several areas today to assess the ongoing snow clearance and dewatering operations following the snowfall. During his visits, Dr. Owais toured areas such as CBD Lal Chowk, SMHS Hospital, and government housing colonies in Balgarden, Karanagar, Sanat Nagar, Chanpora, and the Leprosy Hospital in Bahrar Lal Bazar, along with dewatering stations. He engaged with on-site officers and supervisors to evaluate the progress of these operations and identify any challenges



faced. The Commissioner also interacted with local residents, gathering valuable insights into the effectiveness of the snow clearance and dewatering efforts. Dr. Owais gave on-the-spot directions for prompt snow removal and effective dewatering to safeguard public safety, facilitate transportation, and minimize disruptions to essential services. He expressed appreciation for the hard work of SMC frontline workers, who play a crucial role in these operations.

"Osamu Suzuki Legendary Figure In Global Automotive Industry": PM Modi

NEW DELHI, (KCN):"I cherish fond memories of my numerous interactions with Mr Suzuki," the PM said. New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday expressed deep grief over the demise of Suzuki Motor Corp's patriarch and long-time chairman Osamu Suzuki and extended his condolences to his family and colleagues. The Prime Minister, in a message on social media platform X, said: "Deeply saddened by the passing of Mr Osamu Suzuki, a legendary figure in the global automotive industry. His visionary work reshaped global perceptions of mobility. Under his leadership, Suzuki Motor Corporation became a global powerhouse, successfully navigating challenges, driving innovation and expansion. He had a profound affection for India and his collaboration with Maruti revolutionised the Indian automobile market."



PM Modi also recalled the several interactions he had with Osamu Suzuki and praised him for his hard work and humility. "I cherish fond memories of my numerous interactions with Mr Suzuki and deeply admire his pragmatic and humble approach. He led by example, exemplifying hard work, meticulous attention to detail and an unwavering commitment to quality. Heartfelt condolences to his family, colleagues and countless admirers," the Prime Minister wrote on X. Osamu Suzuki was a

visionary leader whose remarkable contributions shaped the global automobile industry, including in India where he shared a good rapport with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, according to a Maruti Suzuki statement issued on Friday. Osamu headed Suzuki Motor Corp for more than 40 years and revolutionised India's car market with the introduction of the popular Maruti 800 small car. During his Japan visit last year, PM Modi met Osamu Suzuki and

discussed further investment opportunities in India including setting up production facilities for electric vehicles and batteries as well as recycling centres, for realising the goal of sustainable growth. They also discussed strategies for building the local innovation system in India, including skill development through the Japan-India Institutes of Manufacturing (JIM) and Japanese Endowed Courses (JEC). Recalling Suzuki's association and contribution to India, PM Modi appreciated the transformational role of Suzuki Motors in the country's automotive industry. "Reforms undertaken by PM Modi are indescribable and these reforms are changing India into a 'Model Landscape' while the self-reliance (Aatmanirbhar) theme is supported by the Japanese investors very strongly," Osamu Suzuki had said.

DPIIT signs MoU with boAt to help startups



New Delhi, Dec 27 (KCN): Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has entered into a strategic alliance with boAt, an Indian company in audio and wearables market. This collaboration aims to foster innovation and provide tailored support to DPIIT recognised startups including startups in D2C and manufacturing domains. The key features of this mutual partnership includes: curate dedicated programs/initiatives for mentoring startups, innovators and entrepreneurs, provide

resources, guidance, and support for different milestones such as prototype development, and offer connections and insights for international expansion, wherever applicable and feasible. Speaking on the occasion, Joint Secretary Startup India, Sanjiv, said, "This endeavour will be instrumental in equipping our startups with the best expertise and enormous resources to raise the bar of efficiency while contributing to India's vision of becoming a hub for world-class manufacturing and entrepreneurship. By

connecting startups with industry tycoons like boAt, we aim to foster innovation, enhance product development, and support the establishment of globally competitive brands." Lauding the partnership, man Gupta, Co-founder of boAt, revealed, "This partnership with DPIIT reflects our commitment in the 'Make in India' initiative. By joining hands with the government, we are poised to nurture a thriving ecosystem for product startups, innovators, and entrepreneurs."

50% Decline In Student Suicides In Kota Compared To Last Year

New Delhi: The number of students in Kota has fallen to 85,000 to 1 lakh this year, down from 2-2.5 lakh. Kota: The Kota district administration has claimed that there has been a 50 per cent decline in the number of suicides by students this year as compared to 2023 in this coaching hub of Rajasthan known for preparing students for IIT-JEE entrance tests. However, no specific breakdown of the numbers has been provided by the officials. "In comparison to last year, the suicide rate among coaching students has decreased by 50 per cent this year, which is a significant figure in terms of the efforts yielding results. We expect this trend to continue in the future," Kota Collector Ravindra Goswami told PTI in a brief interview. Kota witnessed 17 cases of suicides by coaching students in 2024, compared to 26 such cases in 2023, as per reports.

Tigress Zeenat reaches Bankura after travelling over 120 km, forest guards on their toes

K o l k a t a / Baripada(KCN) : Tigress Zeenat, who escaped from Odisha's Similipal Tiger Reserve 17 days back, reached Ranibandh in West Bengal's Bankura district Saturday after terrorising villagers and eluding forest guards on its way. Chief Wildlife Warden Debal Roy told PTI the tigress reached Gopalpur jungle in Ranibandh from Manbazar in Purulia district. Forest personnel from West Bengal's Sunderban and Jhargram, and Odisha are ready with

tranquiliser guns and cages to capture her, he said. "She is now some distance away from the Gosaidihi village in Ranibandh. The locality has been surrounded by nylon nets. The waiting game continues but she will be trapped soon," he added. Another forest officer said tranquiliser shots had been fired targeting her on the basis of the location of her radio collar. "However, since visibility is poor in the jungle due to the prevalence of misty



conditions, forest personnel cannot directly go near her. It

is yet to be verified whether she has been hit," he said.

Zeenat travelled about 15 km to seek refuge in a forest in Manbazar block December 27 from Bandwan where she

was holed up between December 24 and 26. She has been in West Bengal for nearly a week after crossing over from Jharkhand. The big cat has so far not touched the baits kept in trap-door cages but devoured domestic goats that strayed into the forests. She has been travelling shorter distances over the last few days, officials said. Drones have been deployed to monitor her movements but heavy forests are

affecting the surveillance, they said. The tigress has covered over 120 km, roaming the forests at the tri-junction of West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Odisha, in search of new territory after leaving Similipal. She has shown no signs of heading back to Similipal so far, they added. Zeenat was brought to Similipal from Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Maharashtra last month with the goal of introducing a new gene pool to the tiger population.

Another involved in international cybercrime syndicate held

Rourkela(KCN): With the arrest of yet another suspect from Uttar Pradesh, Rourkela police have made a significant breakthrough in investigation into an international cybercrime syndicate based out of South-East Asian countries and having links to various Asian countries. IG (Western Range) Brijesh Rai, along with SP Nitesh Wadhvani and the investigation team, while briefing the media on the operation said that around 14 arrests have been made between January and August in 2024 in connection with the racket, many of whom were found to be operating out of Cambodia. Probe into the case was initiated after a senior Central government official reported a fraud of



Rs67.7 lakh involving a fake trading app masquerading as the legitimate SEBI-registered entity INDIRA Securities. "This case has far-reaching consequences, encompassing stock market fraud, scams via dating apps, cryptocurrency fraud, human trafficking, and cyber slavery, posing a threat to national

security," said the senior officer. The investigation, which began earlier this year, attracted the attention of the Home Ministry and other Central security agencies due to its international scope. Look Out Circulars were issued against more than 15 people involved in the scam. Based on the LOC, the Odisha Crime Branch and the Uttar Pradesh

Police managed to nab a key accused December 28. The accused has worked in multiple roles in Cambodia and India. A major concern for authorities was the fate of over 1,000 Indian nationals who had been trafficked and were trapped in Cambodia, unable to return home as their passports had been seized and they lacked the means to travel back.

Rs1.38cr digital arrest scam: UP woman, son held for duping elderly


Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Crime Branch of Odisha Police has arrested a woman and her son from Uttar Pradesh in connection with a digital arrest case wherein they duped a Bhubaneswar resident of Rs1.38 crore in May this year, official sources said, Saturday. "Neelam Aggarwal and her son Vansh Aggarwal have been taken into custody from Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh December 27. They were part of a wider network of cyber fraudsters," investigators said. About the crackdown, the Crime Branch said a senior citizen of Bhubaneswar approached the cyber police station May 22 this year alleging that he received calls from unknown numbers wherein the callers identified themselves as personnel from Fedex courier and Mumbai Cyber Crime. "The callers claimed that the Bhubaneswar resident could be arrested and jailed for years as his Aadhaar



details were found to have been used in money laundering. Calling it a way to evade arrest and settle the case as well as a method of identity verification, the crooks asked the senior citizen to transfer whatever money he had in his bank accounts to accounts shared by them. They also assured that the entire amount would be transferred back to his account after completion of the verification process," the investigators said. "With no way out, the victim transferred around `1.38 crore in his and his wife's accounts to multiple accounts of the fraudsters between May 14 and 18 this year," they said. After realising the fraud,

the victim lodged a complaint with the cyber police who registered a case (28/2024) under Sections 419, 420, 465, 467, 468, 471, 384, 120-B and 34 of the IPC and 66C and 66D of the IT Act, 2000. During probe, investigators learnt that Rs1.38 crore was deposited in three bank accounts. "Out of it, Rs1.12 crore was deposited in account of Vansheel Software Private Limited in Ghaziabad whose proprietors were Neelam and Vansh," they said. A Crime Branch team, led by inspector Anila Anand, reached UP and arrested the two from Vijay Nagar police station area and brought them to Odisha on transit remand


December 27. "The duo had created around 13 accounts for siphoning off the defrauded amount. All the accounts were created at different branches of PNB and SBI in Meerut, UP. The accused were previously arrested by Mandir Marg Cyber Crime police station in New Delhi in a similar case this year where they defrauded a man of Rs63 lakh," the investigators said. On verification through National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP), it has been ascertained that the duo is involved in more than 15 cases in different states across the country, they added.



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Capri Global Appoints Coaching Beyond as Consultant for UAE ILT20 League

Mumbai: Capri Global has announced an association with Coaching Beyond, a premier cricket coaching institute, as a consultant for the franchise team of the UAE ILT20 League. The institution will assist Capri Global in appointment of coaching staff and matters related to cricket operations. R Sridhar, former fielding coach of the Indian Cricket Team and one of the founding members of Coaching Beyond, will be the Director of Cricket for Capri Global during the UAE ILT20 League. Capri Global intends to strengthen the cricket ecosystem on the global platform by engaging the right sporting talent and nurturing them. The company aims to play a vital role as an enabler by empowering deserving talent to showcase their sporting strength to the globe. Speaking on the association, Mr. Rajesh Sharma, Director, Capri Global, said, “Capri Global aims to reinforce the visibility and

popularity of sports nationally and globally and popularize homegrown sports to create opportunities for aspiring talent. We are pleased to associate with Coaching Beyond, a brainchild of sports stalwarts who will assist us in evaluating the deserving talent and offer state-of-the-art sports training infrastructure, world-class technology, and training to sportspeople. Mr. Sridhar’s experience as a player and coach is almost unrivaled and his strategic insights, coaching approach, and collaborative style will be invaluable for our franchise team. We see great synergy coming through this alliance, including a host of exciting moments that are set to elevate the cricketing experience for the Indian audience on the global platform.” Coaching Beyond is a premier cricket coaching institute in India that provides performance-driven cricket coaching,

training, and education to individuals, teams, and coaches from the grassroots to various experience levels. It has recently launched its first high-performance cricket academy in Hyderabad and is on track to launch its second project in Chennai by August. R Sridhar, Co-Founder of Coaching Beyond, said, “We are delighted to announce our partnership with Capri Global for the upcoming UAE ILT20 League. It is an exciting opportunity to work and do justice to the enormous cricketing talent and add value to the international platform. With a focused team effort, inclusive vision, and holistic approach, we can achieve consistent success during the tournament. We are confident that the League will be a grand success and are looking forward to a successful season”.

Ashok Leyland launches industry first 8-wheel truck – AVTR 2620

Chennai: Ashok Leyland, flagship of the Hinduja Group and India’s leading commercial vehicle manufacturer, today, launched the industry first 8 wheeler truck – AVTR 2620. With this launch of AVTR 2620, Ashok Leyland becomes the first and only player in the country to have a full range of trucks based on lift axle technology from GVW of 25.5 to 47.5T. This new product can be operated as 25.5 T (6x2) truck with the lift axle down (offering

payload closer to regular 6x2 MAV truck) and a 4x2 truck (18.5T GVW) with lift axle up (lower fuel and operating cost similar to 4x2) during light load/partial load/return empty. This new product thus offers an excellent operational flexibility to customers to choose the option based on their load, offering best-in-class Total Cost of Operation (TCO) benefits. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Head - M&HCV, Ashok Leyland, said, “Ashok

Leyland has a history of introducing products which have disrupted the CV industry. AVTR 2620 with its unique lift axle configuration offers higher TCO advantage to our customers operating in Ecom, Parcel & tanker. AVTR 2620 is a testament of Ashok Leyland’s technological prudence & our commitment towards providing better logistical solutions to our customers, aligning with our philosophy of AppkiJeet, HamariJeet.”

OPPO India launches Reno12 5G series; makes AI phones accessible



Bhubaneswar: OPPO India today announced the launch of the Reno12 series, its first step towards accelerating the availability of AI phones in the country. The Reno12 series—“Your Everyday AI Companion”—boasts features such as AI Eraser 2.0, AI Clear Face, AI Best Face, and Smart Image Matting 2.0 for flawless yet fun photos without complex image editing. The devices also pack the AI Toolbox, powered by Google Gemini LLM, that comprises AI Writer, AI Summary, and AI Speak to enhance daily productivity. The Reno12 Pro 5G will be available in two variants: INR 36,999 for the 12GB+256GB model and INR 40,999 for the 12GB+512GB version.

The Reno12 5G will be priced at INR 32,999 and come with 8GB RAM and 256GB storage. The Reno12 Pro 5G will go on sale in India starting 18th July, and the Reno12 5G will be available from 25th July on the OPPO e-Store, Flipkart, and across mainline retail outlets. Speaking at the launch Peter Dohyung Lee, Head of Product Strategy, at OPPO said, “The Reno12 series marks a milestone for OPPO as we pledge to accelerate AI phone adoption. The Reno series, which showcases OPPO’s advanced GenAI capabilities, futuristic fluid design, and unparalleled energy efficiency, reflects our commitment to cutting-edge technology. We envision that AI will

make mobile devices more personalised and intuitive to not only enhance smartphone capabilities but also transform the way users interact with their devices.” The Reno12 Pro sports a unique Quad-Micro Curved Infinite View screen with a 43-degree curve for extremely narrow bezels of just 1.69mm and a 93.5% screen-to-body ratio. Both devices come with 6.7-inch FHD+ AMOLED displays with 120Hz refresh rate for smooth browsing and scrolling; their 1200nits peak HDR brightness ensures legibility even under direct sunlight. The handsets boast 10-bit panels that output 1.07 billion colours to display images with a high dynamic range (HDR) and subtle colour gradations for life-like, immersive pictures. The Reno12 Pro 5G—available in Sunset Gold and Space Brown—sports a Panda Glass back with dual textures: The top half is treated with anti-glare technology that is smudge-resistant, while the lower glossy area is defined by a smooth ribbon that carries the OPPO branding.

Nuvoco Vistas Launches Its Second Ready-Mix Plant in Patna



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., India’s fifth-largest cement group has widened its operational presence with the inauguration of its second state-of-the-art Ready-mix Concrete Plant (RMX) as Patna-II. Situated strategically at Ranipur Milki Chak,

Begampur, bypass, this plant marks Nuvoco’s continued commitment for providing top-quality building materials to the Patna region. Strategically located approximately 24 kilometers from the first plant, Patna-II is positioned as Nuvoco’s regional flagship plant. It

capitalizes on untapped market potential by providing quick access to Nuvoco’s Cement Plant in the region. Its proximity to nearby Industrial, Commercial, and Residential developments guarantee high-quality concrete solutions on time.

Mr. Prashant Jha, Chief of the Ready-Mix (RMX) Concrete and Modern Building Materials business at Nuvoco Vistas expressed his excitement at the inauguration of this latest plant, stating, “The launch of the Patna-II plant underscores Nuvoco’s dedication to providing

innovative solutions to meet the evolving needs of the construction industry in Bihar. This new facility will not only strengthen our presence in the region but also enable us to serve our customers more efficiently.” The Patna-II facility has a capacity of 60 cubic meters per hour and features a Twin Shaft Mixer capable of producing all grades of concrete. This includes Value Added Products (VAPs) under the brands of XCON - Xpert concrete with Nuvoco mixes, CONCRETO visualizing Self-Compacting Smart Concrete, Light Weight Concrete (Structural & Non-structural grades), Fibre Enriched Concrete, High Strength Concrete, Water & Crack Resistant Concrete, Foundation Expert Concrete. ECODURE - Range of Green Concrete, ARTISTE - Decorative Concrete Floors, and INSTAMIX - Ready to use Bagged Concrete.

Union Bank of India signs MOU with SIDBI for Co-Financing arrangement of MSMEs

Mumbai : Union Bank of India today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for a Co-Financing arrangement for MSMEs. The MoU was signed by Shri Lal Singh, Chief General Manager, Union Bank of India and Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, Chief General Manager, SIDBI. SIDBI is country’s principal financial institution

engaged in the Promotion, Financing and Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). Under the MoU, Union Bank of India would consider Joint financing/ Co-Financing with SIDBI to Projects/Units in the MSME. This MoU would help the Banks to increase their customer base, while helping the MSMEs to meet their funding requirements. The key highlights of the arrangement include joint

identification of viable projects and term loan and working capital financing to MSMEs. Initially the arrangement would be at specific centers and once the arrangement stabilizes at these centers, more locations would be covered. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Lal Singh, CGM (MSME), Union Bank of India, said “MSME is one of the key sectors of our Indian Economy contributing to GDP,

Exports, Manufacturing Output, Employment, Women Empowerment etc. MSME is one of the focused areas of the Bank and at Union Bank of India, we aim to become Bank of 1st choice for MSMEs. This tie-up with SIDBI aids in realizing the Bank’s vision to have increased credit flow to the MSME sector and extend operational convenience to the MSME clientele. Under partnership, Union Bank of India through its Pan

India branch network can provide general Banking products like Current Accounts, Savings Accounts, Working Capital facilities and other related services to the MSME Customers of SIDBI.” Also, speaking on the tie-up arrangement, Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, CGM, SIDBI reiterated SIDBI’s commitment towards timely financing for MSMEs across all sectors.

Unacademy produces 178 Rankers for UPSC CSE

Bhubaneswar: Unacademy, India’s largest learning platform*, today announced that 178 out of 685 rank holders of UPSC CSE 2021 are Unacademy Learners. Among the top rankers from the Unacademy platform are Gamin Singhla (AIR - 3), Aishwarya Verma (AIR - 4), Utkarsh Dwivedi (AIR - 5) and Yaksh Chaudhary (AIR - 6). 3 Learners have secured ranks between 1-5, 32 have secured ranks from 6-100 and 143 have secured AIRs from 101-685. From the 178 Rankers, 45 Learners were Unacademy’s Plus/ Iconic subscribers guided by India’s Top Educators. The other rankers were guided by Unacademy’s Last Mile Programme for UPSC CSE 2021 Interview. Last Mile Programme is an interview guidance program for the last stage of the UPSC CSE exam that helps Learners who have qualified the Mains exam to crack the Personal Interview stage. The questions are asked by retired bureaucrats, former UPSC members and Top Educators in a mock set-up. In last year’s Unacademy’s Interview Guidance Program 170+ Rankers qualified the Interview stage by securing AIR 2.

Blue Dart signs the UNFCCC Climate Neutral Now Pledge

Bhubaneswar: Blue Dart, South Asia’s premier express air and integrated transportation & distribution company and a part of the Deutsche Post DHL (DPDHL) Group has signed the ‘Climate Neutral Now’ (CNN) pledge by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The pledge highlights the organisation’s commitment

to ambitious CO2 reduction targets. Deutsche Post DHL Group has adopted a package of measures worth up to €7 billion to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in line with the Paris Climate Agreement, primarily to expand the use of sustainable technologies and fuels in its fleets and buildings. Its long term goal is to reduce GHG emissions to net zero by

2050. The Climate Neutral Now Initiative encourages and supports interested stakeholders to act now in order to achieve a climate neutral world by 2050 as enshrined in the Paris Agreement. The initiative is a tool to promote voluntary action on climate change. Blue Dart has already invested extensively in remaining a Sustainable Provider of Choice by being the first

in the industry to set quantified carbon-reduction targets. The organisation, as a part of the Deutsche Post DHL Group aimed to increase their CO2 efficiency by 10% by the year 2012 and 30% by the year 2020. Against the 30% target, Blue Dart achieved a 34% CO2 efficiency in 2021. Pablo Ciano, EVP Corporate Development, DPDHL Group says, “As a Group, we have

developed a Sustainability Roadmap that supports the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. We are constantly working towards introducing innovative green logistics solutions that improve our carbon footprint. I am delighted to share that representing the DHL eCommerce Solutions Division in India, Blue Dart has been delivering high on its sustainability initiatives.

India to see largest increase in energy demand worldwide over the next 20 years, says Infomerics

New Delhi, India faces the twin dilemma of co-existence of shortage and abundance in several parts of its energy system. While the provision of electricity has increased significantly over the years, weak institutions and utility governance hamper the power sector’s financial performance with issues of accountability, operational efficiency, customer service, and transmission to state-level transmission institutions. The sector takes a huge and grossly unacceptable hit due to extensive losses, leakages and pilferages, and the cost recovery

from tariffs. These are some major findings of a report titled Power Sector in India: New Emerging Opportunities and Challenges released by Infomerics Valuation and Rating Pvt Ltd., the well-known SEBI-registered and RBI-accredited financial services credit rating company. The report explores the opportunities and challenges ahead for India as it seeks to ensure reliable, affordable and sustainable energy for a growing population. During FY20 and FY19, the growth of electricity generation was lower than in the previous financial years because

of the impact of COVID-19. The report quotes the International Energy Agency (IEA) stating that during FY21 recovery in electricity demand from the COVID-19 pandemic was faster and stronger in India than in EU countries. India is the third-largest producer and the third-largest consumer of electricity in the world. With the increasing population, electricity demand is rising at a fast clip and India has improved its power generation capacity over the years. India has added more than 500 billion units until FY22 from FY10.

