

transformative endeavours aimed at skill development and employment generation. Govt of Odisha aims at shaping the future of the aviation workforce in India and contributing to the socio-economic development of Odisha. GMRRA invites aspiring candidates to embark on this transformative journey towards a brighter future in the aviation sector.

Among others, Special Secretary to Commerce & Transport Department Manoj Mishra, Smt Debadutta Suranjita Jena, Additional Secretary C & T Department, Gangadhar Sahoo, OSD-cum-Additional Secretary, Skill Development & Technical Education Department, Ms Parul Kulshreshtha Singh, Chief – GMR Aero Academy) and senior officers were present during the event.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar imparts CPR Training specifically for NSS Women Volunteers from 10 Aspirational Districts

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): To expedite the noble decision of the Union Health Ministry to impart lifesaving CPR (Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation) for common people, AIIMS Bhubaneswar has organised three-day workshop to provide CPR training to women NSS volunteers. The workshop organised by AIIMS Bhubaneswar in collaboration with the Department of Higher Education, Govt. of Odisha, has been designed specifically for NSS (National Service Scheme) women volunteers from 10 aspirational districts of the state. AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director Dr.

Ashutosh Biswas along with noted social activist Padmashree Tulasi Munda inaugurated the workshop today. AIIMS Bhubaneswar is dedicated to serve the marginalized and vulnerable populations. Ensuring that women and girls not only receive formal education but also build up their knowledge about their health and bodies is critical to empowering them in healthcare settings so that they can make informed choices and advocate for themselves. Keeping this in mind, this 3-day workshop has been uniquely designed to impart the knowledge and skills required to attain better health in



- More than Two Hundred women volunteers participate
- Three-day workshop on Health Equity and Wellness to witness training on various health aspects
- AIIMS Bhubaneswar has provided CPR training to more than 10K persons

day-to-day life, said Executive Director Dr. Biswas. This workshop

will cover the basics of CPR (Cardio-pulmonary

Resuscitation), adolescent health, menstrual hygiene,

nutritional requirements of women, and common non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension, which are due to modern-day lifestyle, added Dr. Biswas. This workshop will not only boost the confidence of these NSS women volunteers in handling common health problems in their families and communities, it also will give them an insight into the basics of a healthy lifestyle, said Tulasi Munda. More than 200 NSS Women volunteers and 19 programme officers from 10 aspirational districts like Koraput, Kalahandi, Mayurbhanj, Rayagada, Malkangiri, Balangir, Subarnapur, Nabarangpur have participated in the

programme. The workshop started today will continue till 8th February. Notably, AIIMS Bhubaneswar NSS Bureau has provided CPR training to more than 10,000 persons. The national institute has been providing this life saving skill to students and common people in different parts of the state and has a target to provide CPR training to 1 lakh people. Among others Sarita Patel, Regional Director, NSS, Bhubaneswar, Dr. P R Mohapatra, DEAN, Dr. Dillip Kumar Parida, Medical Superintendent, AIIMS Bhubaneswar, Manoranjan Nayak, Special Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ramesh

Chandra Behera, SNO cum Deputy Secretary, GoO, Dr. Prabhas Ranjan Tripathy, Dr. Prajna Paramita Giri, Dr. Priyamadhab Behera, NSS Programme Coordinator AIIMS Bhubaneswar were present on the occasion. It may be noted here that, one in four deaths in India is due to cardiovascular diseases. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in India. In the recent past the country has witnessed many deaths due to sudden cardiac arrest outside hospital. In these circumstances, CPR plays a pivotal role to save the lives of the victim till immediate medical care is available.

Exploration and Insights into Matlah River's Diversity and Ecosystem Health: CIFRI's Contribution



Kolkata (KCN): In a recent survey conducted under the NMCG Project (Phase III), under the supervision of Director I C A R - C I F R I Dr. B. K. Das, the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI) collaborated to unveil the aquatic wonders of the Matlah River, a tributary of the Ganges. The survey covered four main sites: Canning (Kathalberia), Sonakhali, Goran Bose, and Jharkhali. Fishermen proudly shared that the river houses a stunning array of 47 fish species. The Gobiidae family stole the spotlight at 13%, with Sciaenidae

and others following closely. Notable species like white sardine, threadfin sea catfish, The barramundi, and paradise threadfin added charm to the river's aquatic life. Fishing in Matlah River is a diverse activity, employing gill nets, traps, bag nets, and hook-and-line methods. Local fishers in Canning utilize crab traps as part of their diverse fishing practices, contributing to the rich aquatic life found in the Matlah River. Peak fishing times are from March to September, especially using bag nets. The exploration showed the significance of these methods in

sustaining the local fisheries. Despite surrounding industrialization, the survey found no heavy or minor industries near the sampling points. The river's habitat, explored during the winter season, showcased a dynamic ecosystem. The clay-dominated substrate provided an ideal home for diverse aquatic life. Mangrove vegetation along the riverbanks and local aquaculture farms, known as "bhery," added to the richness of the area. The Matlah River maintained a neutral to alkaline nature creating a thriving environment. Essential dissolved

oxygen levels, exceeding 5mg/L across all sites, supported aquatic life. Salinity levels varied, with Jharkhali exhibiting the highest and Canning the lowest. The influx of marine water influenced hardness values. The Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute played a crucial role in this exploration, providing valuable insights into the fish diversity, fishing practices, and the river's overall health. Their expertise added depth to the understanding of Matlah River's intricate ecosystem. This exploration unveiled the intricate dance of nature in the Matlah River, inviting everyone to appreciate and preserve the delicate balance of life beneath the waters. CIFRI's continued contributions ensure that these aquatic wonders are understood and protected for generations to come.

STATE LEVEL FOLK LITERATURE CONFERENCE



Jajpur (KCN): The Mahavinayak Natural Parijat Folk Literature Conference on behalf of KAI VALYA SAHITYA SANSAD has been held at Mahavinayak Ashtashambhu Temple, Chandikol, Jajpur. The founder, Dr. SANGRAM K E S H A R I S A M A N T A R A Y, presided over the meeting. The state-level poetry reciting and discussion were held in two stages. Shree Jagannatha's bhjan and devotional music were sung by vocalists. Saint Ramakant Baba of Olashuni Peetha inaugurated the meeting by lighting the lamp. Metaphors of nature and spiritual concepts enliven the literature. The Chief Guest Dr. Basant Kishore

Sahu, Sahitya Academy award winning on children's literature, gave a detailed look at the social relevance of folk literature in the first session. The Chief Guest of the second session, Vikari Raut, former CBI judge opined that spiritual feelings bring literature alive. Jyotishacharya Dr. Sasmita Mishra as the Chief speaker joined in and beautifully explained the spirituality and nature in folk literature through examples. In the second session, Kalipad Panda, a former member of Sahitya Academy, explained in his own style that events and accidents reflected in people's lives help to create the best literature. As honorable speakers, Satyabrata Puhana, Saraswati Barik, the Poet

Bipin Bihari Barik, Dr. Phillip Senapati, Mr. Vijay Das, (Senior Playwright and Senior Columnist), Mr. Bhakta Charan Sahu, (Senior Journalist and Children's Literary, Cuttack), Mr. Biswajit Suryasulhi, President Sarvodaya Mandal (Cuttack) Dr. Deepayan Patnaik, Joint secretary Peace Committee, (Cuttack), and Deputy Director Ajay Kumar Panda highlighted various aspects related to nature in folk literature. Literary and social workers contributed in planting trees and cleaning the temple premises. Students sang patriotic songs and performed classical dances. Nine senior journalists were honored with

Mahavinayak Samman. Dr. Sasmita Mishra's book Lilamaya Sri Jagannath was launched. Dr. Saraswati Patra and Golap Sahu sang Jagannath's devotional music. More than 300 literary and social workers were awarded state-level Mahavinayak Saraswat honor, Mahavinayak Seva honor. Poet Supriya Mohanty and poet Tapswini Shanti composed the poem. Poet Shubharata Mahapatra conducted the stage. Poet Ashutosh Deviprasad Raut, Poet Himmashu Bhushan Jena, Poet Jan Ranjan Pradhan, Poet Prithiram Sethi, Namita Mohanty, Virendra Kumar Jena, Arun Agarwal, Poet Bhagwati Khatua, Poet Monalisa Singh, Poet Utkalini Raut, Poet Sasmita Patnaik, Poet Sasmita Patnaik Itishree Pati stayed till the end and cooperated. The Poet Nalini Kant Padhi delivered the vote of thanks.



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Raaju Bonagaani's Two Much-Anticipated Movies Under Jayaram Devasamudra's Productions Are Ready To Hit Cinemas

Film enthusiasts and fans alike are eagerly awaiting the release of two upcoming movies, 'Rave Party' and 'Engagement,' as both films wrap up their post-production phase in January 2024. The duo promises an engaging cinematic experience, exploring distinct themes under the adept direction of Raaju Bonagaani and produced by Jayaram Devasamudra. Smooth Transition from Shooting to Post-Production From the creative mind of Raaju Bonagaani, these films succeeded through the arduous process behind the scenes, showing a smooth transition since the shooting of the film.

Efforts of a dedicated team playing helped identify these works, providing a high-quality viewing experience for the audience.

About the movie 'Rave Party' 'Rave Party' is set to explore the social and psychological aspects of the growing rave party culture. Given the increasing popularity of such events, the film aims to highlight the complexities of these encounters in urban settings. The 'rave party' in particular will shed light on the often controversial elements associated with this subculture, such as substance abuse. Exploring the Depths of Rave Culture



The film is poised to answer tough questions about what goes on with planning and a fun party. From the iconic nature of these events to the motivations behind the attendees, 'Rave Party' promises to explore an inspiring subculture that

continues to capture the attention of many minds. Inavars Cinema Factory and Suram Movies join the league in bringing this cinematic exploration to the audience. About 'Engagement' While 'Rave Party' explores the dynamics of

contemporary social scenes, 'Engagement' takes audiences on a different journey. The film, also directed by Raaju Bonagaani and produced by Jayaram Devasamudra, promises to unravel the complexities of

relationships with unexpected twists and turns.

Anticipation Peaks as Release Date Nears

As the post-production phase comes to a close, both 'Rave Party' and 'Engagement' are set to hit screens, giving audiences a taste of cinematic experiences Raaju Bonagaani's directorial vision combined with Jairamdev Samudra's production skills see promising results.

Movie enthusiasts can now frantically count down the days until these highly anticipated films grace theaters, providing a delightful escape for immersion and information if it's wonderful in the world of 'rave parties'.

'Doubtwa' Out Now: Makers Unveil The First Song From Kiran Rao's Laapataa Ladies



The trailer of Jio Studios and Aamir Khan Productions' 'Laapataa Ladies' directed by Kiran Rao has given a glimpse of its humoristic world that dwells in the rollercoaster ride of the lost brides. This has indeed elevated the excitement to see what the director Kiran Rao has to bring to the table this time. Amid the rising exhilaration for the film, the makers are here with the first song 'Doubtwa' leaving the audience gripping their eyes on the bride.

The first song 'Doubtwa' from Laapataa Ladies gives a broader narrative of its laughter-studded story. The song is sung by

Sukhwinder Singh, and the music has been composed by Ram Sampath while Divyanidhi Sharma penned the lyrics. Amid the hunt for the bride, what comes ahead is the jolly mess. The brides are sharp, and full of doubt. Their intentions are yet not clear but they are truly here to create a big mess. The cops are behind the brides as they are the real matter of doubt. With its immensely interesting tunes, the song gives a perfect essence of the rural India that is the significant backdrop of the film. As the song is out, it's indeed guaranteed a

rollercoaster ride of entertainment on the cards. Presented by Jio Studios, 'Laapataa Ladies' is directed by Kiran Rao and produced by Aamir Khan and Jyoti Deshpande. The film is releasing on March 1st, 2024, and has been made under the banner of Aamir Khan Productions and Kindling Productions, with the script based on an award-winning story by Biplab Goswami. The screenplay and dialogue are written by Sneha Desai, while the additional dialogues have been jotted down by Divyanidhi Sharma.

Vicky Kaushal Finally Opens Up On Sam Bahadur's Clash With Ranbir Kapoor's Animal, Says 'Audience Will Decide'

The biggest clash of the year between Ranbir Kapoor's Animal and Vicky Kaushal's Sam Bahadur is here! Both the films are set to hit the theatres on December 1st and fans are eagerly waiting for them.

Animal, Directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga is a film comprising a stellar star cast including Rashmika Mandanna, Anil Kapoor and Bobby Deol among others. Sam Bahadur on the other hand, stars Sanya Malhotra and Fatima Sana Shaikh in the Meghna Gulzar's film. Animal is one of the most talked about films of the year, thanks to its gripping storyline and intense music. However, it is set to clash with Vicky Kaushal's Sam Bahadur at the box office.

In a conversation with



News portal The Indian Express, Vicky expressed his thoughts on the clash. He said, "When two opening batsmen come to the crease, playing for the same team, you won't say that the two batsmen are clashing with each other; they are playing for a single team, so we are playing for Hindi

cinema." When asked about which film will score this big hit, Vicky said, "The audience will decide." Meanwhile, the advance bookings for Animal opened on Saturday, November 25 and according to Sacnilk, the film sold a total of 2,09,986 tickets across 6,036 shows, earning an impressive revenue of Rs 6.42 crore.

Orry Calls Isha Malviya A 'Bunny Rabbit With Villainous Twist'

In a surprising turn of events, popular social media sensation Orry shared his unfiltered thoughts on Bigg Boss 17 contestant Isha Malviya. Known for her sweet demeanor, Isha has often been hailed as the "bunny rabbit" of the Bigg Boss house, but according to Orry, there's more to her than meets the eye. Orry, renowned for his witty commentary and humorous take on reality show contestants, labeled Isha as a bunny rabbit. "She's like this bunny rabbit, and you want to pull her cheeks!" Orry exclaimed. However, he quickly added a twist to his characterization, stating, "But you soon realize she's the villain. She's just like the character she played in the Udariyaan serial, Jasmine." This comparison to her on-screen persona in



Udariyaan, where Isha played the character Jasmine, known for her cunning and manipulative traits, raises eyebrows and adds a layer of complexity to Isha's personality in the Bigg Boss house. Isha Malviya's journey in the Bigg Boss house has not been without controversy. Previously labeled as manipulative, she has faced criticism for playing with the emotions of co-contestant Abhishek Kumar, despite having a boyfriend, Samarth Jurel, inside the Bigg Boss house. Fans have expressed disappointment,

questioning the authenticity of Isha's actions and relationships within the confines of the reality show. Orry's candid remarks have stirred conversations among social media users, prompting discussions about the authenticity of personalities within the Bigg Boss house. As viewers eagerly await the unfolding drama, Orry's insights have added a new dimension to the narrative surrounding Isha Malviya, turning the spotlight on the complexities of her character beyond her sweet exterior.



created yet another action spectacle with the film.

Director Siddharth Anand's direction was at full display in Fighter. Bringing the aerial action and that too with such perfection is just way beyond what anyone has ever imagined. The audience loves the film and has been showering immense love ever since its release. The film has indeed added yet another spectacle to Hritik's filmography. While the superstar has already delivered two biggest action blockbusters with director Siddharth Anand with Bang Bang and WAR, the director-actor duo has yet again redefined action on the big screen. On the other hand, after Pathaan, Siddharth Anand and Deepika Padukone came together in Fighter and created a wonder on the big screen again.

Directed by Siddharth Anand and presented by Viacom 18 Studios in association with Marflix Pictures, 'Fighter' epitomizes cinematic brilliance. This film seamlessly intertwines heart-thumping action and patriotic fervor, promising an unparalleled cinematic experience. Fighter is now running in the theaters.

BHARAT RATNA FOR ADVANI - MODI'S GURU DAKSHINA TO THE PARTY PATRIARCH

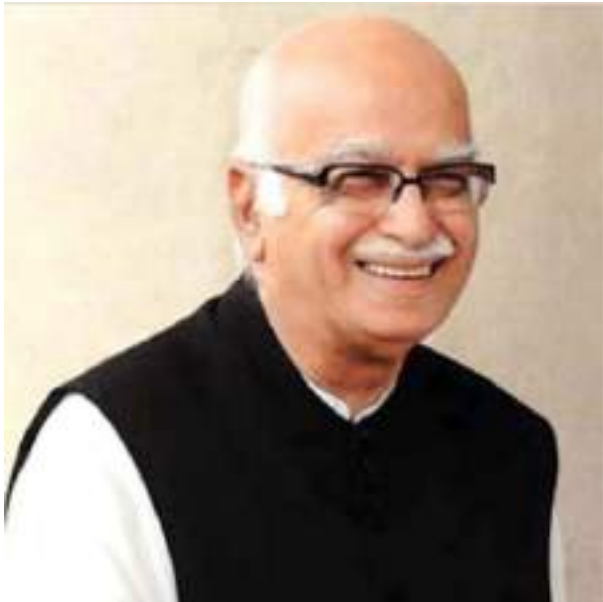


Bharat Ratna for L.K. Advani comes at a time when his party gathers its complete might to garner maximum seats and make a record hat trick comeback. The Bharat Ratna announcement was made by the Prime Minister himself to a roaring audience in Orissa while he was dedicating various development projects. The crowd, mostly stimulated by the declaration, sprang into an electrifying exhilaration. Decades of dedicated service by the strongman in Indian politics, the BJP patriarch, to his country was ultimately recognized. Again, the timing of the government's decision has a queer value in it. Soon after the Ram Temple consecration and the general election at the doorstep is the juncture that Modi's political acumen chose to make this profound announcement. There is no mistake in viewing that the highest civilian honor being conferred to L.K.Advani is a guru dakshina from his close confidant junior Modi.

For various reasons it has to be assumed that, Modi must have been waiting for the suitable moment to show his veneration to his guru in a big way, who, according to the Prime Minister's words paved the way for his growth as a prominent political figure. Modi's rise as a beginner in the Indian political context was cemented with the relentless support of L.K. Advani. The veteran chose to stand by the then Gujarat Chief Minister, who was accused of facilitating a coldblooded riot that exploded soon after the Godhra train carnage and bubbles of discontent began to fume from within the BJP. Narendra Modi was reminded what Raj Dharma was by Atal Bihari Vajpayee in his poetic vocabulary. But Advani's firm stance in favour of Modi helped him continue in Gujarat with vigor and the rest is history. The Ram Janmabhoomi Movement by the BJP was the basic plank that catapulted the party's fortunes at national level. Advani could perceive his party's aspirations fructifying by the Yatra that he undertook from Somnath in Gujarat to Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh giving a stirring sense of Hindutva all the way through. That was

the beginning of the saffron rise on India's political horizon. Modi had accompanied the party veteran throughout the journey and Advani had experienced the depth of the Modi persona, his acumen to organize events and his farsightedness on the prospects of Hindutva based nationalism. The young leader from the RSS bandwagon remained intuitively focused organizing the yatra mostly as its backroom boy. Advani's rath yatra could easily shoot up his party's electoral tally from 2 to 84 seats in the Lok Sabha. He was instrumental in grooming a class of next generation leaders like Narendra Modi, Sushama Swaraj, Pramod Mahajan and Arun Jaitley in his party. And this could be exclusively seen as his organizational expertise gained as a pracharak in the RSS and the management lessons he was trained in. Karyakarta Nirman or grooming a worker is the term the RSS and his party call it. Vajpayee's strict gestures to sack Modi after the Godhra riots was easily contained by Advani and that was the personal alignment both the leaders developed from the beginning itself. Advani was the Home

Minister when Gujarat sprung into flames. His government was accused of being passive and silent on the Modi administration in Gujarat. Advani visited



the riot torn Gujarat in three days of the flare-up. His strong denial of the deliberate narratives that his political opponents flung calling the carnage a state orchestrated mayhem had helped Narendra Modi retain his chair. Modi's subsequent victories in the state elections have effectively accentuated the standpoint of Advani and the former got enough breathing space to prove his blamelessness to the world that pelted stones at him unfeelingly. The year 2014 witnessed Advani's gentle disapproval of him being

sidelined and Modi being imported to Delhi as the face for Prime Minister by his party and the RSS. Modi's benign gesticulation by pulling the veteran into the BJP's

Margadarshak Mandal was a well articulated pantomime but the opposition called it scandalous and cruel. Though L.K Advani's political shrewdness pushed his party through the dark days of Ayodhya movement and the subsequent destruction of the Babri mosque, when time came for the party to choose between him and Vajpayee, the latter's statesmanlike softness and poetic oratory won him the preference. Advani remained a shadow man sailing the party ship through troubled waters while Vajpayee was projected as its captain. But

between Vajpayee and Advani there hasn't been even the slightest of disagreement on issues that in other parties, for instance, would have been exploding beyond measure while breaking them top to bottom. This culture of being united from the highest ranks of the party cadre to the grassroots gains the BJP a special recognition and separates it from other parties. Modi's entry to the national arena as the party strongman never disrupted this framework. Probably he could manage to glue the party and its functionaries into one political ideology, 'nation first and party next'. L.K. Advani's autobiography 'My Country My Life' is a sincere testimony of his political journey and he genuinely narrates his trepidation of being called a 'traitor' among the Sangh Parivar. Advani's visit to Mohammed Ali Jinnah's mausoleum in Karachi and his subsequent references to the man who forced the country's dissection turned the political climate in India truly volatile. He was denounced for taking an 'ideological deviation' while betraying his party's Hindutva stand. Another instance of volatility that he as a party strongman and the

Home Minister in the Vajpayee government faced was the Kargil war. Pakistan's menacing cross border assault at Kargil pushed India into an all-out war and the Islamic neighborhood's warmongering had completely toppled his government's peace initiative that Prime Minister Vajpayee began by taking bus diplomacy to Lahore. Little did the journey to Lahore on 20 February 1999 fructify as both the countries vigorously began to bombard on each other and India won the war giving Pakistan a crushing defeat. Before the crisis began to penetrate further, India could show Pakistan its place and the BJP government's audacity was lauded. Interestingly, politics in India began to move the Modi way. The government's announcement on Bharat Ratna to Advani came soon after the same was conferred to the socialist leader and former Bihar Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur. He remained a messiah of the backward communities. Diplomatically pulling Nitish Kumar to his side, Modi could systematically nip parallel narratives demanding a

nationwide caste survey in the bud. This move by the Prime Minister is expected to consolidate votes from the backward communities in states where their strong presence defines the momentum. Modi's conferring Bharat Ratna to Advani would preferably help him sustain his image as the Hindutva poster boy, an additional flavor to intensify his support base soon after the Ayodhya inauguration. The timeline of these events would evidently hold you appreciative of the Modi blitzkrieg making its final move before the election exhilarations begin. The pran prathishta and Bharat Ratna were significantly translating the long cherished dreams of Prime Minister Modi to actuality. The Bharat Ratna to the party patriarch is sure to escalate the level of jubilation in his party and the election results 2024 might add to its sweetness further.

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Bhoomiputra Biju Babu & Dakota



Bijayananda Patnaik is commonly known as Biju Patnaik. He was a heroic personality and he achieved his name and fame through hard work alone. Apart from being a politician, he was an aeronautical engineer, navigator, industrialist, an ace pilot, popular freedom fighter and above all a renowned and outstanding personality. His looked up to Napoleon and thus he followed in his footprints. Biju Patnaik was proficient in inspiring and gaining the confidence of his people.

Ravenshaw University, where Netaji Subash Chandra Bose once studied. From his college days, he was a talented sportsman and headed the football, hockey, athletics and cricket team of the University. He was the sports champion for continuously three years. The great son of Odisha may be the legendary Biju Patnaik of the stormy petrel of Indian politics or the "Bhoomiputra" of Indonesia. He has left his stamp on Paradeep Port, NALCO, MIG Factory, Sainik School, OTM of Choudwar, Iron Works of Barbil and Rourkela Steel Plant, Talcher Thermal Power Project and Balimela Hydro Power Project. These have made him memorable in bringing progress of Odisha on the tracks. Biju Babu's life of protracted struggle will always remain a beacon light as long as this Odia race lives. His was a struggle to awake them from their torpor. The final struggle against British rule in India was launched on 9th August 1942 and many young men and women of our country, in almost every region emerged into standard bearer of Quit India struggle launched by Mahatma Gandhi with a command to every adult Indian to

'Do or Die' for the country's liberation. Among thousands of youth who came forward to take up the challenge, Mr. Biju Patnaik, Chief Pilot of the Dalmia Jain Airways (nationalised after 1947) was one of the most fearless (dare-e'-devil) who mobilised his fellow pilots and inspired them to help the 'Underground Directorate' consisting of Jaya Prakash Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohia, Achut Patabardhan, Aruna Asaf Ali etc. The problem of communicating their secret plans to their comrades of underground units at Calcutta, Madras, Bombay and New Delhi was facilitated by Mr. Biju Patnaik. For instance, when Sri Rajgopalchariji wanted to meet and dissuade others from carrying out the plans of underground resistance Biju Babu flew Rajaji from Madras to New Delhi to meet Jaya Prakash Narayan in January 1942-43. The British bureaucracy was infuriated over Biju Patnaik and appointed whole army of informers for the specific task of unmasking this dangerous 'airmen' and later he was arrested.

Alekh Chandra Samal, OFS-I (S.B.)

But the admiration for men Biju Patnaik : A Man of Patriotic Adventure. A fresh

force of the Dutch Military. This hazardous move was made amazingly look like something romantic. In

across Indian skies will be shot down in retaliation." He also dashed off a message to Prime Minister Pt.

profoundly acknowledged their debt to Biju Babu decorating him with highest civilian honour



opportunity came for him after his release from jail to throw himself again into another rare feat of revolutionary adventure. In 1948, an Asian conference was being held in Delhi in support of the freedom struggle of Indonesia. On the advice of the Prime Minister Pt. Nehru he took upon himself a daring assignment of contacting the Indonesian leaders and air-lifting them to Delhi. Java was then under the siege of the army, navy and air

his Dakota Plane accompanied by his young wife Gyan Patnaik which was made to appear like going to make an excursive flight to the old city of Batavia (now called Jakarta). As he landed in Singapore, came a Dutch message threatening that his aircraft would be shot down if it entered the Indonesian airspace. Biju Babu roared from his hotel room : "Resurgent India does not recognise Dutch colonial Sovereignty over the Indonesian people. If my aircraft is shot down, every Dutch plane flying

Nehru : "Take necessary steps should my aircraft be shot down". As the world watch him with admiration, the 32 year old ace pilot eluded the Dutch, landed in Jakarta and successfully flew back to Delhi carrying in his plane the rescued leaders of Indonesian freedom struggle Dr. Mohammad Hatta and Mr. Sjahrir. The very presence of these two Indonesian leaders in the Delhi Conference proved fruitful for the freedom of their country in recognition of which the Indonesian govt.

'Bhumi Putra' in return for the bravery the Indian leader had displayed at his hours of crisis. He became the focal point of all activities relating to India support to the Indonesian freedom struggle. He was a dare-e'-devil freedom fighter, with patriotic adventure par excellence. His mind was as broad as sky and as high as the Himalayas. The call of the unlimited sky made his mind romantic. He was endowed with exceptional talent and courage. Jawaharlal Nehru was moved by his "energy and certainability" and drew

him to politics and after about more than five decades in politics, through good and bad times, he retained his spirit of adventure. During 1962 Indo-China war Pt. Nehru appointed him as Special war Advisor. He was also a front runner with all requisite qualification for the post of Defence Minister after the war. The people of Odisha recognise Biju Patnaik as their most eminent political leader but particularly the younger generation have something more to know about him. He belongs to that dare-e'-devil genera of old patriots who in their younger days shirked no challenge to respond to many patriotic calls of adventure for the cause of their country. For those young men and women of Odisha and other parts of the country as well, who aspire to experience the thrill of the adventure of life, not merely for any empty excitement but in fulfilment of a higher cause-Biju Patnaik's life will instill inspiration and is a becoming example for them. The great soul is no more. But his memories remind us of an icon who had an unending struggle to raise his people from the morass of deprivation.

Ex. D.F.O., Palai,
Balichandrapur,
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Unveiling Sundarbans Mysteries with CIFRI's Scientific Expedition

Kolkata, (KCN): In a riveting scientific endeavor, the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI) embarked on a one-day exploration to the Sundarbans, the world's largest and fastest-growing delta, for Metatranscriptomic analysis. Under the supervision of Dr. B.K. Das, the Director of ICAR-CIFRI, this initiative aimed to unravel the genetic secrets of the Sundarbans—a UNESCO World Heritage site renowned for its rich biodiversity. CIFRI embarked on a mission to collect samples, crucial for Metatranscriptomic analysis.

The Sundarbans, draped in dense mangrove forests, provided the backdrop for this extraordinary adventure. The scientific mission focused on identifying beneficial microbes and plastic-degrading microbes, laying the groundwork for potential novel biotechnological applications. The samples collected serve



as a genetic reservoir crucial for understanding and preserving the delicate balance of the Sundarbans' ecosystem. The journey commenced at Bannie Camp, a serene riverside oasis where the whispers of the river intertwined with the rustle of mangrove leaves. This locale became the starting point for collecting samples, setting the stage for

unraveling the genetic mysteries hidden within the heart of the Sundarbans. Venturing deeper into the Sundarbans, Kalas Camp emerged as a meeting point for wildlife and scientific inquiry. Exotic birds serenaded the scientists as they meticulously gathered samples, capturing the vibrant essence of biodiversity in this unique

ecosystem. Dobanki Camp, with its beauty entwined with tidal rhythms, played host to scientific revelations. The ebb and flow of tides mirrored the curiosity of the researchers, weaving a narrative of ecological intricacies and the genetic dance of life in the Sundarbans. Jharkhali, nestled within the Sundarbans, unfolded as a tapestry of flora and fauna. Immersed in the magic of mangroves, scientists delved into Metatranscriptomic nuances, capturing the heartbeat of this unique ecosystem.

The CIFRI team including renowned Sr. scientist Dr. Dhruva Jyoti Sarkar, technical officer Asim Kumar Jana, and dedicated scholars Subhasree Subhasmita Rout, Smruti Priyambara Pradhan, and Monisha Molla under the CABIN project showcased unwavering commitment and enthusiasm in unraveling

the genetic wonders of the Sundarbans. This journey stands as a testament to CIFRI's dedication to advancing genetic research and contributing to the conservation of our natural heritage. Water, soil, plankton, and more were carefully gathered to identify the presence of beneficial microbes and plastic-degrading microbes within the Sundarbans.

This Metatranscriptomic exploration into the heart of the Sundarbans is a collaborative effort under the visionary leadership of Dr. B.K. Das, symbolizing CIFRI's commitment to scientific exploration and environmental stewardship. The scientists chose these areas strategically, considering its proximity to the sea, creating a unique junction where sea and river bacteria converge. The team also engaged with local fishers to gain insights into anthropogenic stress on these areas, enriching their understanding of the intricate ecosystem.

Sustainable Wetland Fisheries Management in Bihar – A Success of ICAR-CIFRI



Kolkata, (KCN): The sustenance of fishermen in Bihar is heavily reliant on wetland fisheries, yet the low fish production in these areas can be attributed to habitat destruction, climate change, inadequate adoption of technologies, insufficient infrastructure, and a shortage of skilled fishers. Hence, to address this issue, ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research

Institute, Barrackpore initiated five projects, focussing on the fisheries development of wetlands of East Champaran district, namely Kararia, Sirsa, Majharia, Rulhi, and Kothia. The project is funded by the National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad.

The primary goal of ICAR-CIFRI was to foster wetland fisheries development by implementing fisheries management models and

providing support to fishermen through input distribution and improved infrastructure such as nursery ponds, cage, and pen culture. Additionally, awareness programs and interactive sessions were organized to empower fishermen with training sessions conducted at ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore and East Champaran, Bihar. Moreover, CIFRI HDPE pens were installed in Majharia,

Kararia, Sirsa, and Kothia maun to promote the in-situ quality fingerlings raising, increasing the availability of fingerlings for stocking. CIFRI GI Cages were installed in Sirsa, Rulhi, Majharia, and Kothia maun to enhance fish production through cage culture. To safeguard against fish loss during floods in these wetlands, long iron nets were installed. The

fishermen adopted this practice of Culture-Based Fishing (CBF) to augment fish production. Consequently these initiatives brought a significant increase in the no. of fishing days such as Kararia witnessing an increase from 40 to 160 days, Sirsa from 30 to 60 days, Majharia from 20 to 50 days, Rulhi from 35 to 60 days and Kothia from 35 to 100 days. Fish production in Sirsa, Majharia, Rulhi, and Kararia were increased by 66%, 69%, 57%, and 38%, respectively, substantially improving the livelihoods of fishermen in these five wetlands. Hence the project can be a model for enhancing fish production in other states specially Eastern and North Eastern states of India.

210th Foundation Day of Indian Museum celebrated with opening of exhibition of Hinduism 's Sacred Triad 'Brahma', 'Vishnu' 'Maheswara'

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Indian Museum, Kolkata celebrated its 210th Foundation Day on 2nd & 3rd February 2024 in Kolkata at its heritage premises.

An Exhibition on Hinduism's Sacred Triad exploring the realms of "Brahma", "Vishnu", "Maheswara" was inaugurated by Governor of West Bengal Dr. C V Ananda Bose on 3rd February 2024 in presence of Diplomats based in the city, Director General of NCSM & Director of Indian Museum, members of civil society, historians, art & culture aficionados, top bureaucrats, young students & children and officials & staffs of Indian Museum. On 2nd February, Nathaniel Wallich Memorial

Lecture on theme "Small is Beautiful: Museums of the New Age" was delivered by Dr. Venu V. IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala and a sarod recital was presented by noted sarod player Shri Bhaskar Sen.

The Exhibition is an exposition of Divine Threads of: "Shaswat Samannoy" (Unveiling the Mystique Symphony), "Purush-Prakriti" (Exploring the interplay of Spirit and Nature), "Maheswara" (The Cosmic Rhythm), "Brahma" (Weavers of the Tapestry of Creation), "Vishnu" (Orchestrating the Cosmic Preservation), "Dwasavataara" (Divine Incarnations and Cosmic Harmony), "Mahadev" (Balancing the Edge of



Annihilation). More than twenty two sculptures and other works of Art symbolising Brahma, Vishnu, Maheswara, Purush-

Prakriti, Mahadev of different historical periods are on display. Dr. C V Ananda Bose in his address

highlighted broader philosophical aspects of Brahma, Vishnu, Maheswara and its importance in human development including

Niranjan Bishi, MP, Rajya Sabha demands for the establishment of a Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) in Patnagarh and various districts of Odisha



New Delhi/ Bhubaneswar (KCN):

During the Zero Hour in Rajya Sabha, Shri Niranjan Bishi, MP, addressed the urgent need for the establishment of Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) in Patnagarh, Titilagarh, and another district of Odisha. Shri Bishi fervently emphasized the dire educational requirements of the underprivileged area and the need for a KV to support the educational aspirations of children, especially those from various Central Government employee families. Shri Bishi highlighted that despite the diligent efforts of the District Administration, which has arranged 10 acres of land and temporary accommodation at Patnagarh for KV, there has been no further action by the Government of India towards the establishment of the Kendriya Vidyalaya. Additionally, Shri Bishi highlighted that there are pending proposals for new KVs under the

jurisdiction of the KVS Bhubaneswar Region, namely Tilagarh- No. 1 Bolangir, Patnagarh- No. 2 Bolangir, Talcher- No. 1 Angul, Athamalik- No. 1 Angul, ITBP Khurda- Khurda Road, Kuchinda- No. 1 Sambalpur, Kamakshyanagar- Dhenkanal, Jeypore- Koraput, and Shri Bishi emphasized the urgent need to expedite these processes swiftly to ensure the timely establishment of Kendriya Vidyalayas. Moreover, Shri Bishi said that particularly Patnagarh, Titilagarh, and other districts of Odisha, an underprivileged area, have a critical need for educational support, particularly through the establishment of Kendriya Vidyalayas, which would significantly benefit children from Central Government employees' families, including Railway employees, Postal employees, Bank and Insurance employees, Bharatiya Khadya Nigam, BSNL

employees, and various other employees working under both Central and Odisha State Governments. Shri Bishi urgently called upon the intervention of the concerned authorities to expedite the pending processes, urging the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan authorities to ensure the swift establishment of Kendriya Vidyalayas at Patnagarh, Titilagarh, and in other districts of Odisha in time for the upcoming academic session. Shri Bishi emphasized that this initiative aligns with the commitment to providing quality education in underdeveloped regions, catering to the educational needs of students from both the Government of India and the State Government employees. In his closing remarks, BJD MP Shri Niranjan Bishi expressed his gratitude to the Hon'ble Vice Chairman Rajya Sabha for the opportunity to raise this critical issue.

Centre Says No To Mobile Towers In Critical Tiger Habitats

New Delhi (KCN): The Centre has disallowed the installation of mobile towers in core and critical tiger habitats in the country, according to new guidelines by the Environment Ministry. In an order issued in January, the ministry highlighted that the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SCNBWL) has been receiving a large number of proposals for erection of

mobile towers and laying of optical fiber cables in national parks, sanctuaries, and tiger reserves and corridors. It said while providing connectivity to the people residing within or near wildlife-rich areas should be taken on priority, "the protection and conservation of wildlife habitats should not get affected" by such installations. The ministry also expressed

concern that the mobile connectivity could be misused by offenders of forest and wildlife laws. "The core/critical tiger habitat, notified under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, should be avoided for installation of the tower," read the order issued to the chief wildlife wardens of all states and Union territories and the ministry of communications.

recognition and playing important role in influencing socio-cultural evolution in different regions of the planet Earth. Dr. C V Ananda Bose as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Indian Museum is initiating several innovative measures to promote public visit, public interactions, as well as to spread awareness about rich cultural heritage and tradition as well as philosophies of Bharat amongst various sections of the society. Director of Indian Museum Dr. Arijit D. Choudhary in his welcome address spoke on rich collection of Indian Museum, critical & significant role played by

staffs of various departments of the museum in organising this Exhibition as well as other exhibitions those are being organised by Indian Museum from time to time. Dr. A D Choudhury indicated the exhibition will further understanding on Hindu philosophy. Dr. A.D. Choudhury thanked all stakeholders of the Indian Museum including all staffs. While delivering vote of thanks, Dr. Sayan Bhattacharya Curator (Education) of Indian Museum mentioned the Exhibition will help to connect young generations specially students to rich cultural heritage & philosophy of Bharat. The Exhibition will be on display till 3rd March 2024.

Self-taught portrait artist of Keonjhar defies odds

Keonjhar(KCN): In many interior villages of the state, numerous hidden talents often go unnoticed due to a lack of adequate promotion and recognition. Among these talented individuals is Laxmi Narayan Maharana, a young man in Keonjhar district who specialises in drawing portraits. Painter Maharana, born in Baunsuli village under Patna block, has carved out a distinctive identity with his efforts. Despite lacking formal training in painting or guidance from any Guru, he has nurtured his interest in painting since childhood, eventually making a

living by the age of 20. As the only son of Sanjay Maharana and Babita Maharana, Laxmi Narayan embarked on his painting journey when he was in Class III at his village school. His father is a farmer and mother is a housewife, while his sister Rainisharani Maharana has been at home after completing Plus II. Without a teacher, Maharana learned from nature and initiated his painting endeavours. Presently, he can draw portraits of any person, showcasing a unique talent for replicating a person's likeness just by observing them or their photo. Laxmi Narayan

shared, "Initially, I used to draw on paper with a pencil. By Class IX, I began sculpting and painting. Subsequently, I ventured into watercolor paintings on different walls to earn a livelihood." After completing his studies at Dadhibaman Higher Secondary School in 2021, Laxmi Narayan faced financial constraints that hindered his further education. He turned to utilising his artistic skills and talent, painting on various walls to meet the demands. "I presented a painting on the theme of Covid-19 to the then Collector of Keonjhar. He assured



him assistance for higher education, but so far, I have not received any," he added. "I also created portraits of brides and grooms outside their houses during weddings, earning praise and personal satisfaction. I participated in drawing

competitions in Class IX and X, securing the first position at the block level," he added. Due to financial constraints, he struggles to advance his art. "If encouraged, he could have achieved a lot for himself and others, a retired

government official Alekh Chandra Patra said. Laxmi Narayan has depicted various famous personalities such as movie actors, actresses, singers, politicians, and more in his art." While the money he earns from art isn't sufficient for his family, Laxmi Narayan awaits an opportunity to showcase his talent on a larger scale and live the rest of his life with dignity. However, despite the government's search for and encouragement to artists and talents, many, like Laxmi Narayan, are still struggling to survive with

art. As a child, he used to make clay idols of Lord Hanuman. "I am able to draw pictures today with his blessings. I have been able to earn a living by creating my own brand called Narayan Arts," he says, reminiscing about his childhood. Unfortunately, there is no art school in the district for the training and promotion of local artists. He expressed his desire for his paintings to be exhibited, believing it would garner more recognition and opportunities for future exhibitions. Laxmi Narayan has painted portraits of India's

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, former Collector Ashish Thakare, former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik, cricketers Mahendra Singh Dhoni & Virat Kohli, singer Lata Mangeskar, Actor Mihir Das and Allu Arjun among others. In the future, he aspires to become a good photographer and showcase his talent in different places. Therefore, providing incentives from the administration could foster the growth of many painters, ensuring the protection of art.

40K Jobs In PCPIR



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR) set up at Paradip has attracted investments worth Rs 73,518 crore resulting in employment of about 40,000 people. This was informed by Union Minister of State Petroleum & Natural Gas, Rameswar Teli in Rajya Sabha today. In a written reply to a question of BJD MP Sasmit Patra, the Union Minister said the Government has notified the PCPIR Policy, 2007 to attract investment in Petroleum, Chemicals & Petrochemicals and for generation of employment in specifically delineated investment regions for this purpose.

A PCPIR is a combination of production units, public utilities, logistics, environmental protection mechanisms, residential areas and administrative services. Each PCPIR would have a refinery/petrochemical feedstock company as an anchor tenant, he said. The anchor tenant for the development of PCPIR in Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur districts of Odisha is Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) which owns and operates Paradip refinery of 15 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) capacity. In order to promote plastic based industries, IOCL has partnered with Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) as

supporting equity partner in "Paradeep Plastic Park Limited" wherein one 680 Kiloton per Annum (KTA) Polypropylene (PP) plant and one 357 KTA Mono Ethylene Glycol (MEG) plant have already been commissioned, Shri Teli said. As per information compiled by the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, so far Investments worth Rs. 73,518 crore have been made in Odisha PCPIR resulting in employment of about 40,000 people, he added. The planned Paradip petrochemical complex would be one of India's four proposed PCPIRs. Spread over 284 sq km of land spread over Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara districts, the

Paradip PCPIR will be anchored by IOC's Paradip refinery and petrochemical units that, together, would supply the chemical complex all necessary feedstock, including monoethylene glycol, petcoke-based synthetic ethanol, and paraxylene-purified terephthalic acid (PX-PTA), according to reports. In its latest 2021-22 annual report to investors, IOC said it expects to commission the PX-PTA plant at Paradip by January 2024. Once completed, the new PX-PTA plant will have a PX production capacity of 800,000 tpy, which will be used as feedstock for an adjacent 1.2-million tpy PTA plant to be built as part of the project (OGJ Online, Sept. 18, 2020).

Four flight trials of 'ABHYAS' conducted successfully at Odisha's Chandipur by DRDO




Balasore(KCN): Four flight trials of high-speed expendable aerial target 'ABHYAS' were successfully carried out by the DRDO from the Integrated Test Range at Odisha's Chandipur between January 30 and February 2, official sources said. The trials were conducted with four different mission objectives in a revised robust configuration using a single booster designed by Advanced Systems Laboratory, Hyderabad to provide reduced launch

acceleration, they said. The objectives such as the safe release of the booster, launcher clearance and attaining the required end of launch velocity were achieved. During the flight trials, various parameters such as required endurance, speed, manoeuvrability, altitude and range were successfully validated. Designed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation's Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE),

ABHYAS offers a realistic threat scenario for the practice of weapon systems, the sources said. It is designed for autonomous flying with the help of an auto pilot indigenously made by the ADE. It has radar cross-section, visual and infrared augmentation system required for weapon practice. ABHYAS has a laptop-based ground control system with which the aircraft can be integrated and pre-flight checks, data recording during the

flight, replay after the flight and post-flight analysis can be carried out. It requires minimum logistics and is cost-effective compared to imported equivalents, they said. The systems tested recently were realised through production agencies Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Defence. With identified production agencies, ABHYAS is ready for production. The system has export potential and can be offered to friendly countries, they added. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has congratulated the DRDO, the armed forces and the defence industry for the successful flight trial of ABHYAS. DRDO chairman Samir V Kamat appreciated the efforts of the teams associated in the design, development and testing of the system.



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Odisha Government Announces Ground Breaking Subsidy Scheme at Global Stainless-Steel Expo

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha Government has unveiled an ambitious Special Subsidy Scheme to boost the stainless-steel Industry within the state. This momentous announcement was made during the inauguration of the Global Stainless-Steel Expo 2023 (GSSE 2023) in Mumbai, further solidifying Odisha's commitment to becoming the 'Stainless Steel destination' for the world. The GSSE 2023 event, was inaugurated by esteemed dignitaries including Shri. Hemant Sharma, Principal Secretary, Industries, Government of Odisha; Mr. Abhyuday Jindal, Managing Director, Jindal Stainless Ltd.; Dr. Aruna

Sharma, GSSE Steering Committee Member and Former Secretary, Ministry of Steel; and Ms. Anitha Raghunath, Director, Virgo Communications and Exhibitions. In his inaugural address, Managing Director, Jindal Stainless, Mr Abhyuday Jindal said, "It won't be an exaggeration to say that stainless steel is omnipresent, and even for a big event like the G20, stainless steel adorned the roads. Be it the art installations in Lutyens Delhi or the security barriers, stainless steel made its presence felt. It was a historic moment to witness stainless steel reach the moon when the Chandrayaan-3 made a



soft landing on the lunar surface recently." He also touched upon the industrial park in-the-making in Odisha by his company, and said it is the first-ever stainless steel Industrial park in India with the vision to strengthen the industry.

A special report on stainless steel titled 'India's Amritkal' by SteelMint was unveiled at the event. According to the report, the stainless-steel industry struggled to regain equilibrium due to

the lingering impact of weakened global and domestic demand. This demand contraction reverberated throughout global melt-shop production, with the first quarter of CY23

witnessing a 5% year-on-year decline to 13.66 million tonnes (mnt). China led this dip with 8.27 mnt. The report also underlined that the Indian Stainless-Steel industry quickly recovered by FY23, reaching about 3.5 mnt. Looking forward, SteelMint's forecasts are intriguing, estimating demand to rise to 4.5 mnt by FY25.

Shri Hemant Sharma, Principal Secretary, Industries, Government of Odisha (Orissa), is making significant contributions to the stainless-steel sector and the minerals sector.

Being the largest producer of iron ore and bauxite in India is indeed a noteworthy achievement.

Odisha's status as the largest producer of iron ore and bauxite showcases its rich mineral resources. This positions the state as a critical player in the raw materials supply chain for various industries, including steel and aluminium.

He announced Jindal Stainless steel Plant is a massive 1.2 MTPA stainless steel plant and proposed plant expansion to 3.2 MTPA by Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL) in Odisha is a game-changer. This

investment represents a substantial commitment to the stainless-steel sector in the state and will likely contribute to its growth and prominence in the industry.

"The demand for stainless steel in India is expected to grow at an average of 9 to 10 per cent per annum over the next few financial years, doubling the growth rate of 4.5 per cent in the last five financial years," said Ms. Anitha Raghunath, Director of Virgo Communications and Exhibitions, the organizer of the GSSE Expo.

RELIANCE BRANDS LIMITED INKS A JV WITH PLASTIC LEGNO

SPA

Mumbai: RELIANCE BRANDS LIMITED (RBL) and Plastic Legno SPA have signed a joint venture arrangement through which RBL will acquire a 40% stake in Plastic Legno SPA's toy manufacturing business in India. This investment by RBL serves a dual purpose, bringing in vertical integration for RBL's toy business and helping diversify the supply chain with a long-term strategic interest in building toy manufacturing in India.

Plastic Legno SPA is owned by the Sunino group that boasts of more than 25 years of toy production experience in Europe. The group started its India business in 2009 out of a need to develop a strong production hub that would cater to global markets, but more importantly to the fast evolving and growing

Indian market.

"Keeping with our honourable Prime Minister's vision of Atmanirbhar India, this collaboration with Plastic Legno's deep experience in world-class toy manufacturing coupled with our strong footing in the global toy retail industry would open new doors and unparalleled opportunities for toys manufactured in India. It is imperative for RBL to build design to shelf capability for a strategic advantage over the competition and to be an accelerator in building a robust toy manufacturing ecosystem in India not only for domestic consumption but also for global markets," said the spokesperson of Reliance Brands Limited.

RBL has a strong play in the Toy industry with its portfolio of Hamleys, the British toy retailer and homegrown toy brand – Rowan, making RBL one of the leading toy

distributors. Hamleys currently has a global footprint across 15 countries with 213 doors and is India's largest chain of toy stores.

"We are very privileged to have RBL as a partner in this Joint Venture. We are confident that Plastic Legno's experience in Toys production and Hamley's commercial outreach, will complement one another to enable the JV Company to achieve greater heights and successes. We have important development plans to implement, always in the spirit of creating a cultural background in this specific sector in India. We are ready for the challenges of the future, but when there is a group like RBL alongside, we are sure that together we can do a great development," said Paolo Sunino, Co-owner, Sunino Group.

Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India registers 3, 53,188 unit sales

Gurugram: Noting a positive upward movement during the month, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India today announced its sales numbers for May 2022.

The company's total sales for the month stood at 3,53,188 with 3,20,844 domestic sales and 32,344 exports compared to the subdued market performance for same period last year amidst multiple lockdowns owing to impact from second wave of pandemic.

Commenting on the sales performance in May'22, Mr. Atsushi Ogata, Managing Director, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India said, "The market is gaining back strength as disturbances in terms of supply side are subsiding coupled with rise in physical presence at office and educational institutions. The sales figures this month remain incomparable from May'21 as frequent lockdowns in wake of second wave marred the performance during this period last year. Growth in domestic as well as international trade continues to complement each other as we approach an early monsoon."

TVS Motor Company registers sales of 302,982 units

Hosur: TVS Motor Company sales was at 302,982 units in May 2022. The year-on-year growth is not comparable due to the low base of sales in May 2021 because of the localised lockdown imposed by the Government of India during that period.

Two-Wheeler Total two-wheelers sales grew from 154,416 units in May 2021 to 287,058 units in May 2022. Domestic two-wheeler sales grew from 52,084 units in May 2021 to 191,482 units in May 2022.

Motorcycle sales grew from 125,188 units in May 2021 to 148,560 units in May 2022. Scooter sales of the Company grew from 19,627 units in May 2021 to 100,665 units in May 2022.

The shortage in the supply of semiconductors has impacted the production and sales of

premium two-wheelers. We are working aggressively with alternate sources and taking every effort to improve supplies at the earliest. Some improvement has been seen this month. We are optimistic that volumes will revive to normal levels once the semiconductor supplies improve.

The Company's total exports registered sales of 110,245 units in May 2022 as against 114,674 units in May 2021. Two-wheeler exports recorded sales of 95,576 units in May 2022 as against 102,332 units in May 2021.

Three-wheeler of the Company grew by 28% from 12,473 units in May 2021 to 15,924 units in May 2022.

The domestic two-wheeler sales include TVS iQube Electric sales of 2,637 units in May 2022.

Spice Money to enable farmers to withdraw PM-KISAN subsidy through its 1 million Adhikari Network

New Delhi: The Government of India has disbursed PM KISAN subsidy, directly to the farmers' bank accounts benefiting over 10 crore farmers and families who have received a grant of Rs 2,000 each. Spice Money, India's leading rural fintech with 1 million strong Adhikari network covering 18,500 plus pincodes, is assisting the farmers and farmer families residing in the heartlands of the country, to withdraw this subsidy through AePS at their doorstep Adhikari

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.

CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR SUB-WAY NEAR NIDHIPANDA BRIDGE STARTED



BHUBANESWAR, (KCN): Railway Minister Kept his promise and was sanctioned fund of rupees 14.7 Crores in September 2023. The construction work for Sub-way near Nidhipanda Railway Bridge started today. Sri Ashwini Vaishnav, Hon'ble Minister for Railways during his visit to Balasore on 21st June, 2023 had met the villagers who had a long pending demand for construction of a subway near Nidhipanda Bridge (Br. No. 259).

The Railway Minister discussed the issue with local villagers and assured them to resolve the matter. The 'Designing team' of Railway has immediately prepared the design for Subway which was approved by the competent authority. A fund of Rs. 14.7 crores has been sanctioned in September 2023 by the

Railway Board for construction of Subway near Nidhipanda Bridge of Balasore.

Nidhipanda bridge is an important bridge in Haldipada-Balasore section of Kharagpur – Bhadrak section. One of the spans of this bridge is being used by local people for commuting of both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The area gets water logged during monsoon and the crossing under the bridge becomes unapproachable cutting connectivity to villages. In light of these issues, after Hon'ble Minister for Railways instructions, a survey was immediately conducted for provision of alternate, safe arrangement for vehicular traffic as well as pedestrians. A scheme was prepared whereby a subway of size 5m (W) X 5m (H) has been proposed at the

approach of the bridge at Kharagpur end. This subway will be used for passing of all kinds of vehicles including heavy vehicles.

In view of the above, the construction work has been started which will fulfill the demand of local people. Additionally, keeping in mind that the area is prone to waterlogging during monsoon, a second subway is proposed having dimensions of 4m(W)X 2.7m(H) which is about 1.6m above the bed level of the bridge and will act as an all-weather road even in times of heavy water discharges. With the intervention and close monitoring of Hon'ble Minister for Railways, the project and fund of Rs 14.7 crores was sanctioned in September 2023 and work is now started with close monitoring.

Aditya Birla Group formally launches TMRW – a Digital First 'House of Brands' venture in the Fashion & Lifestyle space

Mumbai: Aditya Birla Group today announced the formal launch of its new 'House of Brands' entity – TMRW. This move is in line with the group's strategy to launch and back new-age digital ventures. TMRW, an Aditya Birla Group venture, will create India's largest portfolio of disruptor brands in the fashion & lifestyle space and enable the next phase of direct to consumer (D2C) growth in India, which is poised to be a \$100bn market by 2025. Over the next 3 years, TMRW will acquire as well as incubate 30+ innovative, customer-obsessed brands. The venture will also enable multiple founders to operate within a synergistic 'house of brands' platform that share a common vision and shared capabilities. Aditya Birla Group has appointed ex Facebook & Bain executive, Prashanth Aluru, as the CEO & Co-Founder to lead the build out of this new venture. Prashanth will set-up a nimble and

agile founding team with the right skill sets and capabilities. Prashanth comes with extensive experience in Digital & Technology across strategy, growth and investing. He also brings to the fore rich entrepreneurial experience in helping build and scale new age ventures in Digital & E-Commerce.

Ashish Dikshit, MD of ABFRL said, "The formal launch of our D2C business, TMRW, is a key milestone for the company. This venture has the potential to become a significant growth engine by tapping into the new wave of entrepreneurial energy in India. Our aspiration is to build a portfolio of 30+ brands in the next 3 years. With the launch of this venture, we intend to double down on our ongoing program of strategically attracting new pools of capital that are seeking investment in high-growth businesses. We are confident that this

foray will successfully meet the aspirations of digitally native consumers and also create long-term value for investors and other stakeholders." Prashanth Aluru, CEO and Co-Founder, TMRW said, "I am excited to embark on this journey to build TMRW - a long-term enduring platform that will be home to the leading disruptor brands that provide the new age digitally savvy consumer what she is looking for across Fashion & Lifestyle. With the backing of the Aditya Birla Group and the right profile of long-term investors we will bring in, we are confident of powering the growth of several brands that shape the next phase of digital commerce growth till 2030 and beyond. With a new age Digital first DNA, at TMRW, we will jointly create an ecosystem of the most-loved disruptor brands partnering closely with highly competent founders."

is one of the things we forget looking at their squad, three of them closing on 100 games and 184 (for James Anderson). Their spinners are young. It has been tough. We would like to be 2-0, but considering the cricket being played on both sides 1-1 is a fair position to be in after two games."

When asked for his opinion on England's Bazball and India's counter for it, Dravid said: "Just a little bit better than the last game? Look, I think they're playing very well. Whether you call it Basketball or whatever you call it. I mean, I know it's just a term. I'm not sure how happy they are about it, but they are playing really good cricket."

through Obed McCoy (another West Indies international). He is fine. CSA (Cricket South Africa) and his team, Paarl Royals, could share more details if there are any," a top CWI official told Cricbuzz.

Despite attempts to obtain information, queries directed to the Paarl Royals management did not yield a response.

Rahul in that specialist role for these Tests despite him having taken on that responsibility in South Africa. While Bharat has proved to be mostly a steady presence behind the wickets, his contributions in front have left to be desired. He has scored 41, 28 and 17 and 6 with the last of those scores characterised by a loose shot when India were looking to build a substantial lead. Dravid admitted Bharat could improve on his batting output but added that players had their own speed of development after graduating to Test cricket. "Young players need time to develop and they're growing at their own pace," Dravid said. "Of course, as a coach, you really want players who come in to be able to grab the opportunities they get and be able to perform.