

Lucknow Super Giants sign Rishabh Pant for a record INR 27 crores

NEWDELHI:Rishabh Pant shattered the record for the most expensive player signed at an IPL auction after being bought by the Lucknow Super Giants for INR 27 crores. Pant surpassed the INR 26.75 crores that Punjab Kings shelled out to sign Shreyas Iyer earlier in the first marquee set of the IPL 2025 mega auction.

LSG entered the bidding for Pant straight off the bat and stayed the course to thwart attempts from Royal Challengers Bengaluru as well as the Sunrisers Hyderabad. Eventually, the bidding for him stopped at INR 20.75 crores, at which point the Delhi Capitals indicated their interest to use the Right To Match (RTM) option. LSG then decided to hike up the

price to INR 27 crores as per the new regulations, which proved to be beyond Delhi's valuation of their former captain. Before Pant's big payday, the 'M1' marquee set of the auction also saw IPL 2024-winning captain Iyer becoming the first Indian player to breach the INR 20 crore-mark in the auction. Iyer's signing was sought by both of the teams he's captained previously, DC and KKR, before PBKS flexed their hefty auction purse to wrest him for INR 26.75 crores.

A third Indian player broke the INR 20-crore mark, but it was not the one widely tipped in pre-auction predictions. Venkatesh Iyer, who hit half-centuries in Qualifier 1 and Final in KKR's title win this year, was bought back by the defending

champions for a whopping INR 23.75 crores following an intense bidding war with RCB. Keeper-bats found good value in the mega auction with former Orange Cap-winner Jos Buttler the subject of an INR 15.75 crores bid from Gujarat Titans. Interestingly, KL Rahul, another captain from the 2024 season up for grabs, didn't come close to matching the valuations for Iyer, Pant or Venkatesh Iyer, with Delhi Capitals signing him for INR 14 crores, down from the INR 17 crores Rahul earned at LSG. That the best of specialist spinners were already retained, teams were fishing in a rather shallow pool of options. Yuzvendra Chahal, the league's leading wicket-taker, was a beneficiary



of a big INR 18 crores from PBKS. Ravichandran Ashwin, on the other hand, was signed by CSK for INR 9.75 crores, reuniting with a player they'd won titles with back in 2010 and 2011. Marcus Stoinis has been

snapped up by Punjab Kings for INR 11 crore after a heated bidding war with Chennai Super Kings and Lucknow Super Giants. LSG had the RTM option but chose against it. Glenn Maxwell's bond with PBKS continues as the Australian returns to

the franchise for INR 4.20 crore. The most unexpected bidding war of the day as RCB and KKR are going out all guns blazing for Venkatesh Iyer who has been bought by the champions for INR 23.75 crore. What's with

the Iyers and this auction?

The biggest fairytale story of the auctions as Ravichandran Ashwin returns to CSK for INR 9.75 crore. The premier spinner is back where it all started for him after nine long years. Another big surprise as David Warner has gone unsold. Wow! Meanwhile, CSK has taken up Rahul Tripathi for INR 3.40 crore, which makes it a top order of Ruturaj, Conway and Tripathi. Meanwhile, SRH have pocketed Harshal Patel for INR 8 crore to add to their attack of Mohammed Shami and Pat Cummins. By the way, CSK continue to get their boys back as Rachin Ravindra is in at INR 4 crore. A surprising update as

Devdutt Padikkal has gone unsold for now. Let's see if he finds takers in the latter stages. Meanwhile, LSG has picked up Aiden Markram for the base price of INR 2 crore. CSK are trying to get back Devon Conway but PBKS are standing in the way. Which way will the left-hander go? North or South? South it is as Conway returns back to CSK for INR 6.25 crore. It will be Harry Brook who will be the first name under the hammer for the new set. CSK has bid for the young English batter with PBKS joining in as well. After almost backing out, Chennai are back in the bidding race. Delhi makes a late entry in the bid to heat things up. And guess what, DC has picked up Brook for INR 6.25 crore, that's a neat buy.

BJD rally demands withdrawal of Waqf (Amendment) Bill

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) held a rally in Bhubaneswar Sunday demanding the withdrawal of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill. The rally organised by the BJD Minority cell was held near the Raj Bhavan in Bhubaneswar where protestors raised slogans demanding the withdrawal of the bill as they claimed it would affect harmony among the community. The government has listed 16 bills, including the Waqf Amendment Bill, for consideration in the Winter Session of Parliament beginning Monday. The protestors also submitted a memorandum to the President of India

through the District Collector of Khurda where they made certain suggestions and expressed concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the Waqf Act, 1995. “We urge that this proposed bill be withdrawn and that comprehensive consultations be held with stakeholders to address their concerns before any amendments are introduced in Parliament. We, as concerned citizens, are committed to the welfare of our nation, trust in your esteemed office to uphold justice and fairness in this matter”, the memorandum said. In the memorandum, the BJD Minority cell said that the proposed

changes in the Waqf Bill have “far-reaching implications” on the autonomy, protection, and governance of Waqf properties, considered as sacred and integral to the religious and social welfare of the Muslim community.

BJD Minority Cell president and MP Munna Khan said that his party MPs will strongly oppose the Waq (Amendment) bill in the Parliament.

However, Odisha BJP president Manmohan Samal said that the central government would not do any injustice to any community. “The Centre will do justice to all and there is no reason to be worried,” Samal said while rejecting Munna Khan’s allegation that the Waqf land will be taken away by the central government.

Eastern states were earlier considered backwards, I view them as country's growth engine: PM Modi at 'Odisha Parba'



New Delhi(KCN): Addressing a gathering at the ‘Odisha Parba’ event in New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday said that his government considers India’s eastern region as the country’s growth engine, while the area was considered backwards earlier. Prime Minister Modi said investments of Rs 45,000 crore have been approved within 100 days of the formation of a new government in Odisha. “Odisha has always been a land of seers and scholars. The way the scholars here took our religious texts to every household and

connected the public with those, it has played a crucial role in the cultural prosperity of India,” PM Modi said.

“There was a time when India’s eastern region and the states there were called backward. However, I consider India’s eastern region as the country’s growth engine. That is why we have prioritised the development of India’s eastern region,” he said.

“The budget that we now allocate to Odisha is three times higher than what it was 10 years ago. We are working rapidly in every sector for Odisha’s development and the budget has been increased



by 30 per cent this year,” Modi added. The Prime Minister informed that the Centre is committed to promoting ease of doing business in Odisha and said investments of Rs 45,000 crore have been approved within 100 days of the formation of

Puri) are open now. Besides, the Ratna Bhandar of the temple is also open,” he added. “Odisha Parba” is a flagship event conducted by the Odia Samaj, a Delhi-based trust engaged in providing valuable support towards the preservation and promotion of Odia heritage. This year, “Odisha Parba” was organised from November 22 to November 24 to showcase the rich heritage of Odisha, displaying colourful cultural forms and exhibiting the vibrant social, cultural and political ethos of the state.

All-party meet: Govt appeals to all parties to ensure smooth functioning of Parliament

New Delhi: Amid demands from the opposition to discuss bribery charges against the Adani group, the government Sunday said the business advisory committees of both Houses will decide on matters to be discussed in the Winter session and appealed to parties to ensure smooth functioning of Parliament. Ruling party leaders met floor leaders of political parties ahead of the start of the Winter session Monday. After the meeting, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju told reporters that the government appealed to all parties to ensure smooth running of Parliament. Responding to a question on opposition's demand for taking up the Adani issue, he said the respective Business Advisory Committees of the Houses will decide on matters to be discussed in



Parliament with consent from Lok Sabha speaker and Rajya Sabha chairperson. At the meeting, Congress members raised the issue of bribery charges against the Adani group as well as the situation in Manipur. Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi said the party wants discussion on Adani as well as ethnic strife in Manipur. He said while the chief minister of Jharkhand was arrested, the government still has confidence in the chief minister of Manipur despite bouts of ethnic violence. The opposition party also sought a discussion on the issue of rising pollution in north India and train

accidents. Congress leader Pramod Tiwari said his party wanted the issue of Adani to be taken up in Parliament as the first thing when it meets Monday. It is a grave issue involving the country's economic and security interests as over Rs 2,300 crore were allegedly paid by the company to politicians and bureaucrats to get favourable deal for its solar energy projects, the Rajya Sabha MP said. Billionaire Gautam Adani has been charged by US prosecutors for allegedly being part of a scheme to pay USD 265 million (about Rs 2,200 crore) bribe to Indian officials in exchange of favourable

terms for solar power contracts. The group has denied the charges. The Congress, he said, also wanted a discussion on issues like severe air pollution in north India, the Manipur situation, which has gone “out of control”, and train accidents. The meeting was convened by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju. BJP president J P Nadda, Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh and Gaurav Gogoi besides T Siva, Harsimrat Kaur Badal and Anupriya Patel attended the meet. The Winter Session of Parliament, beginning Monday, is scheduled to last till December 20.

The government has listed 16 bills, including the Waqf Amendment Bill, for consideration in the session. The bills pending in the Lok Sabha include the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, which has been listed for consideration and passage after the joint committee of the two Houses submits its report to the Lok Sabha. The panel is mandated to submit its report on the last day of the first week of the Winter session. Opposition members on the panel are demanding an extension in the timeline to submit its report. They have alleged that committee chair Jagdambika Pal, a BJP MP, is bulldozing the committee meetings and has sought the intervention of Speaker Om Birla. Rijiju said there is a provision to extend the tenure of the joint committee but as of now, there have been no discussions. He underlined that that the business advisory committee of the Lok Sabha is the platform to

discuss the issue of extension of time for the panel. The presentation, discussion and voting on the First Batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2024-25 has also been listed.

The other bill listed by the government for introduction, consideration and passage is the Punjab Courts (Amendment) Bill to enhance the pecuniary (defined as the monetary value of a case) appellate jurisdiction of Delhi district courts from the existing Rs 3 lakh to Rs 20 lakh.

It also includes the Merchant Shipping Bill that seeks to ensure compliance with India's obligation under maritime treaties to which New Delhi is a party. Besides, the Coastal Shipping Bill and the Indian Ports Bill have also been listed for introduction and eventual passage.

Odisha effects reshuffle in bureaucracy

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Odisha government has effected a reshuffle in the bureaucracy, changing portfolios of at least 11 senior officers. According to a notification issued by the general administration department Saturday evening, Special Secretary, Planning and Convergence, Chitra Arumugam has been transferred and posted as Principal Secretary, Labour and ESI. She will also hold the additional charge of Principal Secretary, Science and Technology.

Project Director Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan, Yamini Sarangi, has been appointed as Commissioner, Commercial Taxes and GST. She will continue to hold additional charge of Special Secretary Finance, the notification stated.

Additional Secretary, Finance, Smita Rout, will replace her as Project Director of Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan. Additional Secretary, Water Resources, Sudhansu Mohan Samal has been posted as MD of Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC). Director, Scheduled Tribes (ST), Indramani Tripathy, will replace Vijay Amruta Kulange as Labour Commissioner, while holding additional charge as Additional Secretary, ST&SC Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare Department, it said. A 2012-batch IAS officer, Trilochan Majhi was appointed as Additional Secretary to Home Department. He was earlier serving as Additional Secretary to Revenue and Disaster Management Department.

The notification added that Additional Secretary to Finance Department Satyabrata Rout has been appointed as Additional Secretary to Works Department.

Times Higher Education inaugural Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2025 released: KIIT ranked 4th best in India

Bhubaneswar, Nov 24(KCN): KIIT-DU has achieved an impressive 4th position in the country in the inaugural Times Higher Education (THE) Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2025, highlighting universities excelling in interdisciplinary scientific research. The University's global ranking stood at 92. India has a strong representation in the rankings released

recently, with 65 universities featuring in it, including seven in the top 100. Notably, Anna University leads among Indian institutions and has secured the 41st position globally. This recognition underscores KIIT University's commitment to fostering interdisciplinary research and innovation. Among Indian institutions, KIIT stands as one of the top performers, contributing



significantly to the nation's presence in the global interdisciplinary science landscape. Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS lauded the historic achievement and said: "KIIT's position among the interdisciplinary scientific research universities reflects its enormous contribution towards research and development in the field over the decades". KIIT's quality researchers and staff

have made this possible through their quality research, innovation, and publications. He congratulated the faculty fraternity of KIIT-DU, staff members and the students for the unique achievement. KIIT University, established in Odisha, has spread its influence all over the world in the field of research and development, intellectuals said.

Subhadra Yojana: Odisha govt disburses Rs 5000 to over 20 lakh women



Sundargarh, (KCN): The Odisha government today launched the third phase of first installment under the Subhadra Yojana, with Rs 5000 being transferred to the bank accounts of over 20 lakh women beneficiaries. The event was inaugurated by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at a special programme in Sundargarh district, with Union Minister Jai Prakash Narayan, Odisha Deputy Chief Minister Pravatiraj,

Panchayatiraj & Drinking Water Minister Rabi Narayan Naik also present. The Subhadra Yojana, a flagship initiative by the Odisha Government, aims to empower women by providing them with financial support. As part of the scheme, women are being credited Rs 5000 directly into their bank accounts. This third phase is a continuation of the government's efforts to support women's welfare, with more than 20 lakh beneficiaries selected for the payment.

Deputy Chief Minister Pravatiraj Parida revealed that Anganwadi workers, as well as 22% of previously rejected applicants, will now be included as beneficiaries under the third phase of the scheme. This inclusion is expected to expand the program's reach and provide much-needed financial relief to a larger segment of women in the state. To date, over 60 lakh women have received financial assistance under the Subhadra

Yojana. In the first two phases of the first installment, a total of 25 lakh women received their payments on September 17, while another 39 lakh benefited from the second phase on October 9. With the goal of covering 1 crore beneficiaries by December, the Odisha Government is working towards further expanding the reach of this significant initiative, aimed at improving the socio-economic status of women in the state.

BJP to analyse flaws post Jharkhand poll defeat: Odisha BJP leader Prithviraj Harichandan

Bhubaneswar, November 24(KCN): Expressing disappointment over the BJP's poor performance in the Jharkhand Assembly elections, Odisha Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan acknowledged shortcomings in the party's strategy. He assured the BJP would critically examine its defeat and take corrective measures. "We accept the people's mandate. I believe there will be some flaws. The party will analyze it and identify where we went wrong despite the misrule in Jharkhand. We will rectify our path accordingly," Harichandan stated. Despite the BJP's loss in Jharkhand, Harichandan highlighted the party's commendable performance in Maharashtra, attributing it to good governance. "In Maharashtra, the performance was good. The people have lost faith in Congress and its allies, and the results reflect



that," he added. In Jharkhand, the INDIA bloc, led by Hemant Soren's Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), secured a decisive victory, winning 56 out of 81 seats. The JMM itself won 34 seats, with Congress bagging 16, and other allies contributing six seats. In contrast, the BJP-led NDA managed just 24

seats, with the BJP securing 21 and its allies winning three. Meanwhile, the BJP-led alliance retained a stronghold in Maharashtra, winning 132 seats. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena secured 57, while Ajit Pawar's faction of the NCP claimed 41 seats. The Maha Vikas Aghadi

(MVA) alliance faced setbacks, comprising Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena (UBT), Congress, and Sharad Pawar's NCP faction. The contrasting results in Jharkhand and Maharashtra underline the need for introspection within the BJP, Harichandan suggested, as the party prepares for upcoming challenges.

Sujit Panda will receive the 17th Timepass Booker Puraskar

- **Bestseller Puraskars in three categories**
- **Bahibandhu samman to Bikash Satpathy**

Baleswar, (KCN): This year, Sujit Kumar Panda will receive the 17th 'Timepass Booker Puraskar' for his short story manuscript, 'Jhanta Lahare Suryasta'. This prize, which is granted annually to a below 45-year-old Odia fiction writer, will be presented during a literary festival, and the winning manuscript will be turned into a book.

Additionally, this year's nominees for the "Timepass Bestseller Puraskar," which is awarded to the book chosen by readers as their favorite, Chirashree Indrasingh's "Nabhisutra" in the short-story category, Saroj Mohapatra's "Marfatre Mun" in the poetry category, and Anil Kumar



ସୁଜିତ କୁମାର ପଣ୍ଡା



ବିକାଶ ଶତପଥୀ



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ଚିରାଶ୍ରୀ ଇନ୍ଦ୍ରସିଂହ



ସାରୋଜ ମହାପାତ୍ର

Parhi's "Adimula" in the fiction category. Bikash Satpathy is the recipient of this year's "Timepass Bahibandhu Samman," as he works selflessly to promote Odia books and library. Timepass has arranged the fifth edition of the

'Utsahitya' event on December 21 & 22 to felicitate all of the honorees. This all-day program features numerous well-known and up-and-coming writers from Odisha. Saroj Bal, the director of the publication, stated in

a press-release that events will include discussions, a poetry catwalk, musical cocktails, film screenings, writer gossip, poetry and picture duets, book launches, interviews, and Q&A sessions on a range of literary topics.

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Dhanush, Nayanthara's awkward encounter at a wedding goes viral

Amid brewing controversy, stars Nayanthara and Dhanush bumped into each other at a wedding, where they chose to ignore each other. The video has now gone viral. The two bumped into each other November 21. According to reports, a security firm posted a video of Nayanthara, who was attending the wedding dressed in a pink saree, was accompanied by her husband Vignesh. The actor was seen sitting in the front row at the wedding and chatting with other guests.

Soon the camera panned towards Dhanush, who was sitting in the front row too, on the other end of the aisle. The clip went viral on social media platforms. Nayanthara and Dhanush have been embroiled in a controversy over her Netflix documentary titled "Nayanthara: Beyond The Fairytale", which dropped on November 18. The actress had penned an open letter in which she revealed that Dhanush sent her a legal notice demanding Rs. 10 crore for alleged copyright infringement as the documentary features



BTS footage from his production "Naanum Rowdy Dhaan". She wrote the letter November 16, when the actress called out Dhanush after he sent a legal notice to her seeking compensation

over the use of certain clips in the documentary without authorisation. She wrote, "A well-established actor like you, with the support and blessings of your father and your brother, an ace director, needs to read

and understand this. Cinema as we all know is a fight for survival for people like me, a self made woman with no links in the industry and someone who had to struggle my way to the position I hold today. I'd

owe this to my work ethic that is no secret to all who know me but more importantly, to the goodwill of the audience and my film fraternity". She shared that the release of her Netflix documentary has been much awaited by many of her fans and that after two long years of battling it out with the actor for an NOC (No Objection Certificate) and waiting for his approval for the documentary release, the team finally decided to give up, re-edit and settle for the current version since he declined to permit the usage of 'Naanum Rowdy Dhaan' songs or visual cuts.

Sonam Kapoor shares a glimpse of her 'breakfast of champions'

Hindi film actress and fashionista Sonam Kapoor Saturday shared a peek into what her "breakfast of champions" looks like. Sonam took to her Instagram stories, where she shared a picture of her hand filled with pills. A pill box can be seen placed next to her. She did not reveal what the pills are for but going by the doctor's bio on the photo-sharing website, it suggests that she is taking pills for detox for "gut and skin". The doctor's bio reads as "LA Naturopathic Doc/CEO... Gut, skin, hormones."

Last month, Sonam expressed her affinity for roles that originate from literary works, highlighting her passion for stories that transition from page to screen. Sonam, who is the brand ambassador for Word to Screen at MAMI Mumbai Film Festival (Mumbai Academy of Moving Image) in partnership with Soho House Mumbai. "As an actor, I have always believed that a film is only as good as its script. It is imperative to encourage writers and publishers through an ecosystem like Word to Screen where they can ideate and collaborate with filmmakers who can bring their vision to screen in the most authentic and

dynamic manner," she had said. The actress had added: "As an avid reader, I am often drawn to roles that have been adapted from books. Such characters also bring a depth that is important to their evolution from paper to screen." On September 2, the actress revealed that she is set to start shooting her first project post-pregnancy early next year and said that she loves living so many interesting characters through her profession. Sonam confirmed: "I'm super excited to face the camera again post my pregnancy. I love being an actor and I love living so many interesting characters through my profession. Human beings fascinate me and I love playing varied roles. I'm looking forward to my next." The actress' next will be a streaming project on a global platform. Details related to the project are still under wraps.



India's Best Dancer Returns With Season 4: 'Jab Dil Kare Dancer Kar!'

Dancing stirs diverse emotions, offering a dynamic way to express feelings. Sony Entertainment Television urges viewers to experience this emotional spectrum with the upcoming season of its homegrown dance reality show, 'India's Best Dancer - Season 4.' Heightening the glamour quotient of the show will be Bollywood's dancing diva, Karisma Kapoor who takes on the role as a judge. And, joining her in this journey will be Terence Lewis, and Geeta Kapur, as they reprise their role as judges this season. Produced by Frames Production Company Promising a captivating journey of extraordinary talent and electrifying dance moves the fourth season of the much-cherished dance reality show urges viewers, 'Jab Dil Kare Dance Kar!'

In all of 90 seconds on the clock during the auditions, the contestants must showcase three power moves to impress the judges, also known as E.N.T specialists to go ahead in the show. Evaluated based on the criteria of 'Entertainment,' 'Newness,' and 'Technique' this season's new judge Karisma Kapoor will look at the 'Entertainment' factor, Geeta Kapur will keep a keen eye on the 'Newness' element and Terence Lewis will focus on the 'Technique' of the overall performance. Introducing a new game changer this season, the contestants will be given a compelling task called 'Mauka Ya Chauka' where the contestants who get the best buzzer from the judges will face this challenge. Opting for 'Mauka' ensures direct entry into the Top 12, bypassing the Mega Auditions, while choosing 'Chauka' involves a dance-off against a former contestant of the show who is now a part of the jury panel. Then comes the Mega Auditions where the selected contestants battle it out in pairs of trios to move into the next round. And last comes the Grand Premiere where the judges will announce the Top 12 contestants as the 'Best Barah' who will be introduced to their respective mentors in their journey ahead. As Season 4 kicks off,



Judges share their excitement, promising a spectacular season filled with extraordinary talent and captivating performances. Karisma Kapoor said, 'As a judge this season, I am thrilled to witness the evolution of dance styles and the boundless creativity of our contestants. This platform not only celebrates talent but also fosters a spirit of innovation and perseverance among participants. I am eager to embark on this

journey alongside Terence and Geeta, where we aim to inspire, empower, and elevate each dancer's performance to new heights.' Celebrating talent, diversity, and sheer entertainment, India's Best Dancer Season 4 promises a dynamic fusion of dance, expression, and emotion. Terence Lewis said, 'As we embark on another exhilarating journey with India's Best Dancer Season 4, I am thrilled

to return to the judges' panel. This show is a beacon for dance enthusiasts nationwide, offering a platform for raw talent to shine. It's truly gratifying to witness the evolution of dance forms and witness fresh, innovative performances that redefine creativity.' Hosted by Jay Bhanushali and ex-contestant Aniket Chauhan, India's Best Dancer Season 4 starts 13th July. Sharing her excitement for this season, Geeta Kapur said, 'Being part

of India's Best Dancer Season 4 fills me with immense joy and anticipation. Each season brings forth a new wave of talent that redefines the boundaries of dance. I am eager to witness the passion and dedication of our contestants as they showcase their unique styles and stories on stage. This platform continues to inspire and uplift, celebrating dance in its myriad forms.' India's Best Dancer Season 4 airs every Saturday and Sunday at 8 pm only on Sony Entertainment Television.

Useful Points for Retraction in Search cases-Part 4



Adv. Narayan Jain & CA Dilip Loyalka

(Contd from 18 Nov. 2024)

A confessional statement admitting extra income during search, may be retracted. However, one should be cautious on following points to make the retraction successful. 4. Relevant Points in case a Statement is to be RETRACTED 4.1 The Retraction must be made without delay: Kantilal C. Shah v ACIT [2011] 133 ITD 57 (Ahd) held that retraction of statement made u/s 132(4) will not be permissible if it has been made after a lapse of considerable time and not done immediately. In this case, after a lapse of around 9 months through an Affidavit. The said retraction was submitted before the AO with a covering letter after 50 days. According to department's pleadings the said delay thus demonstrated that the assessee was not confident about filing of the retraction. There must be some convincing and effective

evidence in the hands of the assessee through which he could demonstrate that the said statement was factually incorrect. Further there should also be some strong evidence to demonstrate that the earlier statement recorded was under coercion. In the present case, the retraction is general in nature and lacking any supportive evidence. Rather assessee took several months to retract the initial statement, which by itself created a serious doubt. 4.2 A belated retraction would fall in the category of afterthought: In Council of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India v Mukesh R. Shah [2004] 134 Taxman 265 (Guj) the Court held that it goes without saying that a retraction made after a considerable length of time, would not have the same efficacy in law as a retraction made at the earliest point of time from the day of admission. A belated

retraction would fall in the category of afterthought instead of being retraction. 4.3 Evidences to corroborate reasons for retraction: Sudharshan P. Amin v. Asst. CIT [2013] 35 taxmann.com 370 (Gujarat): In search, assessee had disclosed a sum as undeclared income. However, during assessment proceedings, assessee retracted from his statement. Assessee's CA who was present at time of confessional statements did not suggest any undue pressure or allurement by department. It was held that retraction made by assessee could not be accepted and addition should be made to his income as undeclared investment. When retracting a statement made on oath under section 132(4), it should always be supported by effective evidence which shows that the statement which was earlier recorded was incorrect on facts or was taken under inter alia coercion and intimidation. Merely mentioning that the statement was recorded using undue influence, threat or coercion, or that there was a mistake of facts or law, may not be enough. What has to be seen is how clearly the same is spelt out and what evidence, has been furnished to demonstrate the same. 4.4 Intimation of retraction to higher authorities: In Principal

CIT v Roshan Lai Sancheti [2019] 306 CTR (Raj) 140, the Court held that "Statement recorded under sec. 132(4) and later confirmed in statement recorded under sec. 131, cannot be discarded simply by observing that the assessee has retracted the same because such retraction ought to have been generally made within reasonable time or by filing complaint to superior authorities or otherwise brought to notice of the higher officials by filing duly sworn affidavit or statement supported by convincing evidence. Duration of time when such retraction is made assumes significance and in the present case retraction has been made by the assessee after 237 days. 4.5 Statements made involuntarily i.e. obtained under coercion, threat, duress, undue influence etc.: In Deepchand & Co v ACIT [1995] 51 TTJ (Bom.) 421, the ITAT, Mumbai held that there is no supporting evidence to confirm the additions except the statements of two partners recorded at the time of search. It would not be out of context to mention that the statements recorded by the search for 2 days cannot be considered to be free, fearless and voluntary. There is a considerable substance

in the assessee's contention that the statements were recorded under pressure and force. The Tribunal had held that retraction should be allowed if it is based on proper principles and evidence. In the ordinary course no assessee would say that he had much concealed unaccounted money as mentioned in the statements herein. Putting in the mouth of the assessee that so much amount was unaccounted and concealed would itself indicate that the admission was forcible and not voluntary. 4.6 Retraction after obtaining copy of Statement on ground of mistaken belief either of fact or law: a) In Jyotichand Bhaichand Saraf & Sons (P.) Ltd. v Deputy Commissioner of Income-tax, Circle 11(1) (ITAT Pune) [2012] 139 ITD 10 (Pune), during search action, statement of the Director of assessee was recorded on 6th November 2001. The assessee was given copies of the statement recorded under section 132(4) on 20th May 2002. On receipt of copy of the statement, assessee realized that there was a mistake in the declaration of income. The assessee submitted a letter clarifying the mistake on 21st June 2002 to the

Assessing Officer and retracted the statement made under mistake of fact. The assessment was accordingly made but was set aside by the CIT under sec. 263 stating that the same was prejudicial to the interest of the revenue and was made by A.O. without application of mind. On appeal, ITAT held that the department has not brought on record any corroborative evidence so as to establish undisclosed income having been invested in agricultural land. Statement of the assessee cannot be sole basis without any cogent and corroborative evidence. The mistake in the statement is immediately clarified on the receipt of the statement by the appellant. Moreover, no material/evidence was found during the course of search action indicating on-money payment or any undisclosed investment in land. The statement was given under mistaken belief of law that the suppressed sale is unaccounted/undisclosed income instead of correct legal position that the gross profit arising from unaccounted sale is the undisclosed income. Statement of Director indicate that he was not mentally composed at relevant point of time. b) Amritsar ITAT Bench in Asstt. CIT v Janak Raj

Chciuhan [2006] 102 TTJ 316 (Asr.), observed that admission made at the time of search is an important piece of evidence, but the same is not conclusive. It is open to the assessee to show that it is incorrect and same was made under mistaken belief of law and fact. 4.7 Principles of Natural Justice to be applied: ITAT, Jodhpur Bench in Maheshwari Industries v Asstt. CIT [2005] 148 Taxman 74 (Jodh) (Mag.) held that additions should be considered on merits rather than merely on the basis of the fact that the amount was surrendered. It is settled legal position that unless the provision of statute warrant or there is a necessary implication on reading of section that the principles of natural justice are excluded, the provision of section should be construed in manner incorporating principles of natural justice and quasi-judicial bodies should generally read in the provision relevant section a requirement of giving a reasonable opportunity of being heard before an order is made which will have adverse civil consequences for parties effected. 4.8. Mode and Manner of Retraction: Retraction of a statement later on, which was made during the search operation is

not an easy way to escape the tax implications and requires corroborative evidence and documents to support the retraction and show the circumstances as to why the person is retracting his statement made earlier. The person has to go through minute scrutiny by the tax authorities and the Courts later on, if the need be. A retraction should be made on an affidavit along with supporting evidences. Additional affidavit of the witnesses present during search may also be filed. In case of a mistake of fact or law, it must clearly lay down as to what mistake took place in making the statement, reason for the same and the actual correct position. Evidences in support of the correct facts must also be attached.

Any retraction should be done at the earliest without any delay. A retraction made immediately may strengthen the case of the assessee whereas a belated retraction will in most cases would be seen as an afterthought.

(Concluded)

Adv. Narayan Jain & CA Dilip Loyalka are authors of the book "How to handle Income Tax Problems".

Cultural medium of media and cinema

Vijay Garg



Every medium of expression has its own characteristic features. In literature, the author creates invisible images, whereas cinema is a completely visual medium. Therefore, the transformation of literature into cinema is simply the transformation of the invisible into visible things. That too, not in a static visual image like art or sculpture, but in completely alive and directly visible events of life. Obviously this transformation demands additional sensitivity and profound mastery of one's medium. Does it, and to such an extent of creativity, that it seems as if the director of the film has created it as his own original work.

When a person reads literature as a reader, he automatically gets associated with that creative process. The author creates the character presented to him through words in his own way, in his imagination. The events that the author presents before him, he gives shape to in his own imagination and sees them happening. In this way, a process of creation, which is initiated by the writer, and even if it is in personal form, it becomes complete by coming true in the imagination of the reader. When the same person watches a film, he is unable to connect with its creative process. Because his characters are presented before him in their full form and make-up. The entire incident is created and shown before his eyes like a real life, moving and talking. Of course it is based on the imagination of the film director. But the audience has no stake in creating them, just looking at

it and liking or disliking it. It happens. If the images in the cinema match or better the images he might have created in his imagination after reading the book, then he is able to like it otherwise not. But apart from this, a large audience is those who have not read it in literature. He directly narrates that story on screen. Its acceptance directly depends on how successfully the director has been able to convey the plot, sentiments and emotions of that literature in the film. If due to external pressures he has made unnecessary compromises, then obviously the film does not leave the desired impact. The advantage of literature is that the writer can delve deeper into the emotions of the characters page by page, as happens in the prose of Nirmal Verma. Whereas cinema has to capture the expressions visible on the faces of its characters to reveal their emotions. He can

only catch the external image. Can't get inside his mind. But it has moving visual images, sound, lighting effects, and now even the latest technology, which makes visuals more meaningful than words. Can present in a powerful manner. Generally, the camera has the ability to present a scene or emotion in a more realistic form in just a moment, for which the writer has to go into detail. There is no time limit for the reader of literature. He can go on reading the same book for many days, or even read it several times. In a way, that work becomes a part of his sensibilities. Whereas cinema has a limit of presenting the same work in just two and a half hours. To do this he needs a lot of resources. Ru and fractions also have to be removed from it. At the same time, the challenge is that while making all these changes, the original content, original feeling and

original sensibility of the literary work should not be tampered with. If this is not done with the necessary sensitivity, the film would neither leave the desired impact nor do justice to the literary work. Despite many such difficulties and limitations, literature is transformed into films. Occurs extensively in English. There is a tradition of making classics based on classic works. Films get made, and that too with the same grandeur, understanding and quality that is expected from adaptations. They reach the same heights of presentation and art as the literary work itself. A large number of films receiving Oscar awards are adapted from literary works. Then where is the hindrance in Hindi? Conversion does take place, but its proportion is very

less. Surely some good films have been made on Sharat Chandra, Rabindranath Tagore, Premchand or Amrita Pritam etc. But films are better. There is no need for plots, and there is a wealth of such plots available in Hindi literature, which remain untouched by films. In the era of parallel films, there was certainly a hope that an era of serious artistic films dealing with social problems would begin, and they would be based on the corresponding literary works. Some such excellent films have also come. But that phase could not go far. The prevailing perception in Hindi of considering films merely as a means of entertainment acts as a hindrance in the filming of serious literary works. to the movies. Considering it to be a business, investing hundreds of crores of rupees in it, the commercial obligations of earning commensurate

profits, and all the unfair agreements that are made due to them, are not able to motivate them to film literary works. While doing this, they also significantly underestimate the interest of the audience. Whereas it is not so. Whenever an out-of-the-box film based on a great story comes, the audience welcomes it. This gives hope that the fertilizer will be laid for more filming of literary works in the future. Not getting ready. However, successful films have definitely been made on religious literature. In fact, serials based on Ramayana and Mahabharata have set records of success. But literature represents its era and is a reflection of its time. He echoes the collapse of values, erosion of human relationships and devaluation of culture in contemporary society. He exposes a frightening time. Then cinema is also a reflection of its time.

Leave aside the part about 'means of entertainment' (which is necessary and on the level of which it is desirable to pay attention), yet communication of deeper social reality is required from its other serious aspect. So that all such concerns of literature are more and more included in that powerful medium and it can live up to those expectations among its immense audience. There is a need for a more close relationship with literature. It is necessary to think deeply about how the committed and dedicated filmmakers who dare to take the risk and produce such films adapted from literature, can earn maximum profits. And other types of films should be given patronage, so that those films can connect with a larger audience.

Retired Principal Educational Columnist Street Kaur Chand MHR Malout Punjab



Shri, Ashwin Kumar Baluja (Director), Ms. Shilpa Dhawan (Producer) and other cast and crews from the movie 'Mahavatar Narsimha' attended the Red Carpet at 55th IFFI, in Goa

After Stunning Win In Minority Stronghold, Assam BJP Eyes 5 Such Seats



Guwahati(KCN): After the by-election win in longtime Congress stronghold Samaguri, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is eyeing for victories in five more minority-dominated seats in the next assembly election. "Our focus is always on minority votes, but with appeasement to none and justice for all, which reflects Sabha Saath, Sabka Vikas. So we will continue to go to the minority areas seeking votes, but with a clear notion that we are not here to appease. We are here to provide you justice," Mr Sarma said.

"We won Karimganj in the Lok Sabha polls and in my assessment, it was the best result and most critical because in the context of Assam, nobody expected that the BJP will win the MP seat in Karimganj where 65 per cent people is religious minority," he said. "The same thing has repeated in Samaguri and in the next assembly elections, we are going to repeat this in at least five constituencies. I have my pathway already defined and I know where to go and which constituency to go. We can't go everywhere

in Assam as the situation is not right at the moment," Mr Sarma said. So far as Assam is concerned, Mr Sarma said the BJP has maintained its winning streak. The by-elections result is a big boost ahead of the assembly election in 2026. The BJP won three seats, while allies Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) won one each. The most remarkable victory came in Samaguri, a Congress stronghold since 2001, where BJP's Dipu Ranjan Sarma unseated veteran Congress leader Rakibul Hussain's influence. Mr Sarma defeated Congress candidate Tanzil Hussain by a staggering margin of 24,423 votes, garnering 81,160 votes compared to Mr Hussain's 56,737. This historic win signalled the BJP's growing foothold in regions long dominated by its rivals.

Kolkata (KCN) : Dissenting judgments were vociferously advocated as a means of facilitating a culture of debate today by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court. At an event or organised in Kolkata by The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Justice Dipankar Dutta highlighted why these comprise an important element of the judicial system. "We don't write dissenting judgments to point out flaws and loopholes in the opinion of the majority," Justice Dutta said. "What the dissenting judge is doing is giving an absolutely new alternative view of the entire matter". The event commemorated Justice Radha Binod Pal, an iconic figure in international jurisprudence, best known for his courageous dissenting opinion at the



Tokyo Trials, where he upheld the principles of fairness, impartiality, and legality. Justice Dutta said differences are bound to occur and it all depends on how one interprets the law and applies the law to given facts and circumstances. "The second important aspect of a dissenting judgment is to stimulate debate and discussion. Dissenting judgements encourage critical

analysis and reflection of the issues at hand," he said. To explain the point, he referred to statistics for this year at the Supreme Court, where there are nine-judge, seven-judge and five-judge benches. Of nine five-judge bench, three have had dissenting opinions, he said. Same happened with two of three seven-judge bench and all three of three nine-judge bench decisions.

"This means of 15 decisions delivered by constitutional benches during the year, eight, that is more than half, had dissenting opinions, facilitating a constant culture of debate and learning from our colleagues on the bench," he said. Dissenting judgments also provide guidance for future cases by "planting seeds for potential reversal or modification," he said.

"There have been cases in the past, where the minority opinion has in course of time been accepted as the correct opinion," Justice Dutta added. Justice Pamidighantam Sri Narasimha, who also spoke at the event, highlighted how the new Indian state distanced itself from the dissenting opinion of Justice Radha Binod Pal. The legal luminary was not India's representative, he said, highlighting the need to reinvent legal definitions inherited from the colonial past. "My view is that the importance of Justice Pal's opinions is not really in the dissent. I think it is in the character of the person, it is in his courage... holding for what he thought to be truthful... If you have a larger interest, like the interest of a nation, or even higher - the interest of the truth," he added.

GPS Misleads Car To Damaged Bridge, It Falls Into River Killing 3 In UP



New Delhi, (KCN): For most of those who travel by road, using GPS (Global Positioning System) technology to reach their destinations safely is an obvious choice. However, for three - including two brothers - in Uttar Pradesh, it led them to a tragic end. The car, being navigated using GPS, climbed onto a damaged bridge and plunged into the river flowing 50 feet below in Faridpur when it was travelling from Bareilly to Dataganj in the Badaun district this morning. The damaged Wagon R

was taken out of the Ramganga river when the villagers spotted it. All three in it - including two brothers - were dead by then. The villagers informed the police about the accident. "Earlier this year, floods had caused the front portion of the bridge to collapse into the river, but this change had not been updated in the GPS. As a result, the driver was misled and did not realize the bridge was unsafe," Circle Officer of the area Ashutosh Shivam said. The family members who reached the post-

mortem house said that the victims were relying on Google Maps. They also blamed the departmental officials because the bridge was left incomplete and there was no barricading around the area to caution the incoming vehicles. The family blamed the negligence of the administration for the accident. They have also requested the district magistrate to take action against those responsible so that such incidents do not happen in future. "In addition, the absence of safety barriers or warning signs on the under-construction bridge compounded the danger, leading to the fatal accident," Ashutosh Shivam said. Two passengers have been identified as Vivek Kumar and Amit of Farukhabad. The police are trying to identify the third victim.

New Delhi(KCN): The Congress continued its losing spree on Saturday posting its worst-ever show in Maharashtra and ending up as a distant junior partner to the ruling JMM in Jharkhand, with further diminishing role in the opposition bloc as other allies perform better. While the INDIA bloc's victory in Jharkhand was some consolation, losing a big state like Maharashtra after the upset in Haryana is likely to weaken the grand old party's broad bargaining power in this era of coalition politics. The poor show of Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in Maharashtra extinguished hopes of getting Rajya Sabha seats from the state in future. On the other hand, the NDA with its stupendous victory is set to get a majority in the Upper House in the next cycle of biennial elections. Despite being the dominant party of the opposition MVA in Maharashtra, the Congress failed to pull the

weight of the opposition bloc and stood decimated in the face of an NDA tsunami. The Congress which contested the highest number of assembly seats among MVA allies, 101 out of 288, was winning or leading in only 16 seats with one of the lowest strike rates of 16 per cent. The worst strike rate in Maharashtra elections was of Sharad Pawar's NCP (SP) at 11.6 per cent (with lead/win in 10 seats out of 86 fought), Shiv Sena (UBT) managing 22 per cent (lead/ win in 21 seats as against 95 contested). On the other hand, the strike rate of the BJP was the highest with 88.6 per cent (lead/win in 132 seats out of 149 it contested). The BJP got a vote share of 26.78 per cent and was followed by Shiv Sena with 12.38 per cent and NCP with 9.01 per cent. Among the MVA, the Congress had the highest vote share of 12.42 per cent, followed by NCP-SP with 11.28 and Shiv Sena (UBT) with 9.96 per cent.



Interestingly, other parties got more vote share of 13.82 per cent than each of the MVA partners. Among some of the prominent Congress leaders who lost in Maharashtra were former CM Prithviraj Chavan, senior leader and eight-term MLA Balasaheb Thorat, ex-CM Vilasrao Deshmukh's son Dhiraj Deshmukh in Latur rural, Yashomati Thakur, Ramesh Bagwe and Ganpatrao Patil. Among MVA allies, those who lost include Harshvardhan Patil and Sharad Pawar's grand nephews Rohit Pawar and Yugendra Pawar, all from NCP-SP. Besides, Amit Thackeray, son of MNS leader Raj Thackeray, also lost in his political debut.

Maharashtra has given several tall leaders to the Congress including Y B Chavan, Murli Deora, Sharad Pawar, Vasant Sathe, Sushilkumar Shinde and Shivraj Patil. In Jharkhand, it was Chief Minister Hemant Soren-led JMM that saw the ruling coalition through as his party gained a four percentage vote share over the last elections while the share of the rest of the parties either fell or remained stagnant. The BJP in Jharkhand got 33.18 per cent vote share while JMM got 23.44 per cent and the Congress 15.56 per cent. The AJSUP (NDA ally) lost around 5 per cent vote share compared to 2019 and the JMM gained that 5 per cent, while Congress

gained 2 per cent. The JMM won 34 seats while the Congress won 16 seats, with RJD winning 4 seats and CPI-ML in 2 seats. The BJP won 21 seats. The Saturday outcomes revealed that the Congress continued to falter on the slippery electoral landscape, struggling to win or improve in states where it is ruling and failing to uplift alliances where it is the senior partner. In Haryana, where the Congress and BJP were in direct contest, the party could not convert the anti-incumbency of BJP's two terms into a win. Now in Maharashtra, it was unable to retain its Lok Sabha gains or help its allies pull through after the MVA had won 30 out of 48 Lok Sabha seats in general elections. Earlier in Jammu and Kashmir also, the National Conference had powered the INDIA coalition to victory while the Congress ended up a distant junior ally in the poll results.

Chorus grows for tourism tag to Panchubarahi Temple

Kendrapara(KCN): The demand for declaring the 500-year-old Maa Panchubarahi Temple at Rehabilitation Colony in Bagapatia under Rajnagar block in Kendrapara district as a tourist spot has gathered steam as locals believe that the Mother Goddess is a living deity and is the saviour for people during natural disasters. Rarely anywhere in the state are women appointed as trustees of a temple. Similarly, it is uncommon to find women priestesses performing rituals in temples. However, at this famous Shakti Pitha, only women from Dalit communities are engaged as priestesses, while men are forbidden from touching the deities. The tradition has

been followed for nearly 500 years which is not to be found anywhere. The five deities in this temple, built from black stone, are served by women priestesses without any formal government support. Locally cultivated grains, fruits, and, in some cases, financial contributions from devotees are accepted as offerings at this shrine. Rashmita Sahoo, a local, said that the Mother Goddess is perceived as a living deity. "During natural disasters, or in times of happiness and sorrow, she is believed to fulfill the wishes of devotees," she said. At some point, a male priest was given the responsibility of performing the rituals, but after he was



besotted by the beauty of the sculpture, the priestly duties were returned to women. Currently, the four Dalit women entrusted with priestly responsibilities are Sujata Dalei, Banalata Dalei, Rani Dalei and Sabitri Dalei. Only married women are

allowed to serve as priestesses, said Rashmita. Nigamananda Rout, another local, said the Dalit women priestesses are highly respected in the village, with a tradition of villagers bowing at their feet. However, men are not

permitted to enter the temple or touch the Panchubarahi deity. Priestess Sabita Dalei shared that her mother-in-law, Sita Dalei, was a priest at the temple, and after her demise, she took on the mantle. No male devotees are allowed to participate

in the rituals held Tuesdays, and they must view the deity from the temple's walls through a narrow passage. Sabita Dalei feels content that no devotee has ever shown disrespect to her as a Dalit woman priestess.

Dr Sarbeswar Sen, a researcher, stated that the temple is unique in the state as Dalit women serve as priestesses here. "Only a few places in the country have female priestesses. Recently, Krishna Veni, S Ramya, and N Ranjitha were appointed as priestesses in the Sri Vaishnava Temple in Tamil Nadu. Additionally, temples like the Attukal Temple and Chakkulathukavu Temple in Kerala, Maa Bhagabati Temple in Tamil Nadu, and Mata Temple in Bihar also prohibit the entry of men. Local resident Sudarshan Rout explains that the temple of the Mother Goddess was originally located

near Barahipur in the Satabhaya Panchayat. "However, due to coastal erosion, the deity had to be relocated. In 2020, the Mother Goddess was temporarily moved to Bagapatia, about 12 km from the original site where men were allowed to touch and transport the deity during the relocation," he said. Now, with the establishment of a new temple at Bagapatia, 571 families have been provided land and homes by the state government. Efforts are underway to recognise this temple as a religious tourism destination, with local political leaders and administration continuing their work on development plans.

Majhi buys Kandhamal turmeric at Delhi trade fair



Daringbadi(KCN): Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi purchased Kandhamal turmeric at the ongoing India International Trade Fair (IITF) at Pragati Maidan, Delhi. During his visit to the fair, Majhi toured various stalls from Odisha and specifically

visited the Mission Shakti stall from Daringbadi in Kandhamal district and bought 500 grams of organically grown Kandhamal turmeric, which has a Geographical Indication (GI) to its name. Chief Minister Majhi appreciated the

product's quality and mentioned his familiarity with Daringbadi, having spent considerable time in the region. While interacting with Jharana Sahu at the Mission Shakti stall, he expressed his happiness about Kandhamal turmeric being marketed

in Delhi. Later, the Chief Minister also visited a stall from Khurda, representing the Shree Anna Yojana which promotes millet cultivation through organic methods. From this stall, he purchased millet products worth approximately Rs 1,000.

Shoddy construction of Joda flyover out in open



Joda(KCN): Questions have emerged regarding the durability of Odisha's longest flyover recently constructed in Joda of Keonjhar district with funding from the District Mineral Foundation (DMF). Since its inauguration, the structure has required frequent repairs, with large potholes appearing with exposed rebar in many patches. Initially, cracks appeared, revealing iron rods protruding from the concrete. Despite intermittent repairs, significant sections of the road have been closed owing to ongoing railing restoration work disrupting traffic. Poor road conditions have worsened congestion, particularly affecting the plying of cargo-laden

trucks during peak hours. The flyover, built at a cost of Rs 250 crore from the DMF funds, was inaugurated March 10, 2024, by the then-chief minister of the state. Its construction was overseen by Odisha Bridge Construction Corporation Limited (OBCC), which subcontracted the project to Gujarat-based Chevrox Company. At the time of inauguration, the consultancy agency claimed the flyover would have a lifespan of 100 years. However, within less than a year serious structural issues including cracks have cast doubt on its durability. Persistent road damage and ongoing repairs have exposed corroded iron rods in various locations,

sparking further concern. Local residents and truck drivers expressed frustration as recent maintenance work caused traffic snarls from Banspani to Jurudi. Truck drivers such as B Gupta, Digvijay Singh, and Digpal Yadav voiced fears over using the flyover, citing safety concerns. They reported that barricades placed to block damaged sections increase the risk of accidents, while the lack of speed control measures has led to overspeeding by smaller vehicles. Purushottam Das, former vice-chairman of Joda Municipality, criticised the flyover's subpar construction, emphasising the potential threat to public safety. "The 3-km-long flyover, meant to

enhance safety, is now a danger to residents due to poor-quality work," he said. OBCC engineer Dhaneswar Majhi attributed the issues to heavy vehicular traffic, which he said had damaged the protective road-wearing coat. Majhi assured that repair work was underway to address the problems. Local authorities and residents are urging swift action to ensure the flyover's safety and reliability for public use. Senior BJP leader and youth coordinator Chandra Gupta Prasad said that the hasty inauguration of the flyover and the misuse of DMF funds have led to the deteriorated state of the flyover. He has called for an investigation into the matter.



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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 the 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”.

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.

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.”

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.

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.

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 Gamini Singla (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 Infomercials

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 Infomercials 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.

