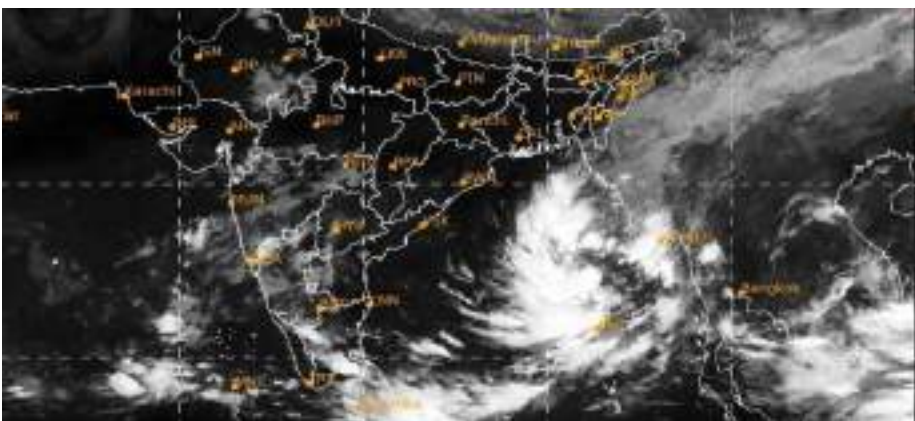


Odisha, WB coasts brace for cyclone as low pressure strengthens into depression

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The well-marked low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal intensified into a depression Tuesday morning as it rolled towards the eastern coast with the likelihood of turning into a severe cyclonic storm, the IMD said.

In its bulletin, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that the well-marked low-pressure area over the east-central Bay of Bengal moved west-northwards, concentrated into a depression and lay centred at 730 km southeast of Paradip in Odisha around 5.30am. “It is very likely to move west-northwestwards and intensify into a cyclonic storm by October 23, 2024, over east-central Bay of Bengal,” the bulletin said. Thereafter, the weather system will continue



moving northwestwards and is very likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm, which will cross north Odisha and West Bengal coasts between Puri and Sagar Island on the night of October 24 and morning of October 25 with a wind speed of 100-110 kmph gusting 120 kmph, it added.

The system is likely to affect the coast of both Odisha and West Bengal with heavy rain and high-speed wind, the bulletin said.

Advising fishermen not

to venture into the sea from October 23 to 25, the IMD warned that wind speed is likely to reach 60 kilometres per hour (kmph) along and off Odisha-West Bengal coasts and gradually increase thereafter. The Odisha government sought 10 more additional teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). "The existing NDRF teams are already on the move to the possible affected districts," Revenue and Disaster Management Minister

Suresh Pujari said. This apart, 17 Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) teams will be deployed in 10 districts which are likely to be affected by cyclone Dana. Additional Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Padmanav Behera said. Three other ODRAF teams will be kept on standby. Advising fishermen not to venture into the sea from October 23 to 25, the IMD warned that wind speed is likely to reach 60 kilometres per hour.

(kmph) along and off Odisha-West Bengal coasts and gradually increase after that. IMD DG Mrutunjay Mohapatra told a local news channel that the entire eastern coast from Puri and West Bengal coast is likely to be impacted in the impending cyclone. North Odisha districts are also likely to be more affected than other areas, IMD DG said. Mohapatra said the exact place of landfall of the cyclone would be known later. The Odisha government has cancelled the leaves of all staff from October 23 to 25 in view of the cyclone forecast. Special Relief Commissioner DK Singh asked the School and Mass Education department to close schools in 14 likely affected districts from October 23 to 25 as a precautionary measure.

Bhubaneswar(KCN):

As the well-marked low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal intensified into a depression on Tuesday and moved towards the eastern coast with the likelihood of turning into a severe cyclonic storm, the Odisha government has kept ready around 800 cyclone shelters for people who will be evacuated from vulnerable areas, a minister said.

Odisha Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari Tuesday said officials have so far visited 250 cyclone relief centres where the people will be housed after evacuation. Food, water, medicine, electricity and other essentials are kept in readiness for the people to be evacuated due to the impending cyclone, he added.

Apart from 800 cyclone shelters, the minister said an additional 500 temporary shelters have been made ready including schools and colleges. The officials at the ground level have been instructed to make arrangements for women in cyclone shelters where women police will be deployed, he said.

Pujari said Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has stressed on 100 per cent evacuation of people from vulnerable areas to ensure "zero casualty" in the impending cyclone. The minister said the government has also prepared a list of pregnant women who are expected to deliver in a fortnight. All those women are being shifted to the nearby hospital in



order to avoid any difficulty during the calamity.

Replying to a question, the minister said that some people are reluctant to vacate their houses for the reasons of theft. The police have been directed to intensify patrolling in villages where the people will be evacuated to cyclone shelters, he said.

Asked about the situation if the cyclone changes its track as forecast by the IMD, the minister said the state government has also studied that aspect.

In the past it has been noticed that cyclones change its anticipated track. Therefore, keeping in view the possibilities, the state government has already identified certain places and made equal arrangements in vulnerable places. A red alert has been issued for nine districts and orange warning for heavy rain in some districts. Therefore, there should be no fear in this regard," the minister said.

The state government has already ordered closure of schools in Ganjam, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, Bhadrak, Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Angul, Khurda, Nayagarh and Cuttack districts for three days from Wednesday, as a precautionary measure against the cyclone, an official said.

The Odisha government

has also cancelled the leave of all staff from October 23 to 25. In a letter to all the departments, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) DK Singh has asked them to remain prepared to tackle the challenges of the impending calamity. Pujari said that personnel of ODRAF and Fire service have been dispatched to the possible vulnerable areas. He said the Centre has agreed to send 11 more teams of NDRF keeping in view the intensity of the impending calamity. The minister said districts have been earmarked as red, orange and yellow zones keeping in view the possible impact of the cyclone.

Stating that October 24 and 25 are two crucial days for the state, Pujari said a red alert of heavy to very heavy rain and wind has been issued for Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Bhadrak, Kendrapada, Jagatsingpur, Jajpur and Cuttack October 24 and Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Bhadrak, Keonjhar October 25.

As per the state's advisory, tourists in Puri have already started leaving the pilgrim town Tuesday morning. This apart, the Puri district administration was discouraging tourists from visiting the town from Tuesday.

Defence minister of Singapore calls on the president

New Delhi, (KCN): The Defence Minister of Singapore, Dr Ng Eng Hen called on the President of India, Smt

history of bilateral cooperation, which has been further boosted by the recent visit of Prime Minister Modi to

elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The President congratulated Singapore for successfully co-hosting the maiden ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise, and conveyed best wishes to the armed forces of both sides for the upcoming series of joint exercises.

The President also noted the need for closer collaboration between defence R&D teams of both countries, to benefit from the latest expertise and technological advancements in the defence domain.



Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (October 22, 2024). Welcoming Dr Hen to Rashtrapati Bhavan, the President said that India and Singapore have a rich

Singapore and the conclusion of the 2nd round of India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable meeting. She was happy to note that the relationship has been

Two tigers from Tadoba identified for relocation to Odisha's Similipal

Chandrapur/Baripada(KCN): Authorities have identified two tigers from the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra and started the process to capture the two felines for relocation to the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district, an official said Tuesday. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has given the nod to the proposal for translocation of two felines from the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve to the STR in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district, TATR field director Jitendra Ramgaokar said.

A high-level meeting of authorities of both the tiger reserves was recently held to prepare an action plan for the relocation of the big cats. The STR had put forth the demand for two tigers before the Union Ministry of Environment and Forest, NTCA and other agencies.

"Following the demand, the STR authorities got the necessary permission for the relocation of tigers from TATR," Ramgaokar said.

Two tigers from the Tadoba reserve have been identified, he said.

Migratory birds start arriving at Odisha's Chilika Lake before onset of winter

Berhampur(KCN): Even though winter is yet to set in, migratory birds have started to arrive at Odisha's Chilika Lake, an official said Tuesday. The migratory birds have already started to arrive in the lake from the first week of the current month, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Chilika Wildlife Division, Amlan Nayak said Tuesday. Their arrival was continuing daily, he added.

Migratory birds of different species like northern pintail, Eurasian wigeon, gadwall, black-tailed gadwall, northern shoveller, greater flamingo, common sandpiper, common coot, mongolian plover, common snipe, black-winged stilt, etc, have already swooped down in the lake, Nayak said. The DFO said the arrival



of migratory birds to the lake is as usual, even though the day temperature in and around the blue lagoon was hovering at 32 to 35 degree Celsius at present. The onset of winter and some other causes in their native places might have forced the birds to fly to Chilika, he added. Several birds are also

seen to fly in the sky near Chilika without settling on the lake. They might land once the water level recedes in the lake, Nayak said, adding, "We expected their number might be in large by the end of the current month."

The winged guests mostly from beyond the Himalayas in Northern Eurasia, the Caspian

region, Siberia, Kazakh, Lake Baikal and remote areas of Russia and neighbouring countries visit the Chilika Lake every winter and start their homeward journey before the onset of summer in the second week of March. In the last winter, a total of 11,37,759 birds of 187 species visited Chilika and the majority of them

settled in the Nalabana sanctuary area inside the lake.

To prevent bird poaching in the lake during the period, the wildlife division has set up 21 temporary camps in the lake. They have also hired around a dozen boats for patrolling in the lake. Besides, they have decided to make surveillance through drones like the previous year.

The camps have already started functioning from October 1 and will continue till the end of March. With the setting up of the camps, patrolling was also intensified in the lake. The drive to create awareness among the people to prevent bird poaching was also launched in the vulnerable areas, said the forest official.

Bhubaneswar(KCN):

Odisha was conferred with the 5th National Water Award as the state secured first rank in the best state category among all states and UTs for its exemplary work in the field of water conservation and management.

On behalf of the state, Development Commissioner Anu Garg received this award from President Droupadi Murmu in a programme held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi Tuesday.

According to a press statement issued by the ministry, the state, the first winner in the state category, has made exemplary strides in water conservation by creating about 53,000 water conservation and rainwater harvesting structures, 10,800 reuse and recharge structures. The state has completed 68,700 watershed development and 21,000



wastewater treatment plants and renovated 11,000 traditional water bodies. To encourage states and people to adopt the best water usage practices, the 1st National Water Award was launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti in 2018, while the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th National Water Awards were given for the years 2019, 2020 and 2022. The awards were not given in the year 2021 due to the Covid pandemic. For the year 2023, the 5th

National Water Awards was launched on October 13, 2023, on the Rashtriya Puraskar Portal of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and a total of 686 applications were received. The applications were scrutinised and evaluated by a jury committee. Based on the ground truthing reports, a total of 38 winners, including joint winners, covering nine different categories have been selected for the 5th NWA, 2023.

‘Jayanta Mahapatra inspires North-East Poets’ – Mamang Dai

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): The 1st Jayanta Mahapatra Memorial Lecture was organized by the Ketaki Foundation Trust (KFT) in the evening at 6.00 pm on 22nd October, 2024, at Geeta Govinda Sadan, Bhubaneswar, in presence of many dignitaries, writers, lovers of literature, and media persons. At the outset Rachita Swain invited the guests to the dais and introduced them to the audience. Noted poet and Trustee, KFT, Rabindra K Swain presided over the meeting and highlighted the contribution of Jayanta Mahapatra to

the field of Indian English poetry and his association with KFT over a period of two decades. He also announced that Jayanta Mahapatra Memorial Lecture is going to be an annual event of KFT. Speaker, Padma Shri and Sahitya Akademi Awardee, Mamang Dai, renowned poet, novelist and journalist from Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh delivered the speech on the enduring legacy of Jayanta Mahapatra and on varied aspects of poetry and life in general. She touched upon her association with Jayanta Mahapatra and



the his impact on her life. She commended the effort of Ketaki Foundation Trust in organising Jayanta Mahapatra Memorial Lecture, saying “This is a celebration of his life, and there is much to

celebrate and much that is worth remembering. She expected that Jayantada’s life and legacy would continue to be celebrated for years to come and inspire many

a poets and poetry lovers.” She also stressed on the strong ties that Mahapatra had with the poets of North-East. She said, “I know Jayantada was very much a part of the Northeast.

Jayantada was at first the poet in an English textbook where college kids were reading his The Captive Air of Chandipur-on-Sea, but soon became captive to Jayantada’s warm heart and his self-effacing modesty.” Devdas Chhotray, a distinguished figure in the literary world, graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. He reminisced his association with Jayanta Mahapatra. He also spoke on the life and works of late Jayantada which influenced the younger generation of Odia

poets. Shedding light on his association with the legendary poet, he spoke about Jayanta Mahapatra’s dedication to poetry. Well-known poets, Manu Dash, Kedar Mishra, Basudev Sunani, Pratiksha Jena and Probal Majumdar, who have made their mark with their respective body of poetry, read out the selected poems of Jayanta Mahapatra in Odia and English in their distinct style. The event was broadcast live on Facebook. Ketaki Foundation Trust is dedicated to publishing preserving

and promoting art, culture, and literature of Odisha. The Trust endeavours to support and promote outstanding works through publications and other initiatives, making a significant contribution to society. To further its aims and objectives, the trust has successfully executed several projects across diverse fields. KFT is also actively participating in philanthropic activities like raising awareness and training students with disability, art therapy for Elders and sponsoring education of needy tribal students.

Metro Railway Runs NGEF Rake Between Mahanayak Uttam Kumar & Maidan Station



Kolkata, (KCN): As a part of the celebration of 40 years of journey, the Metro Railway today ran a National Government Electrical Factory (NGEF) rake in between Mahanayak Uttam Kumar & Maidan station. The General Manager, Metro Railway, Shri P Uday Kumar Reddy along with eminent danseuse of the city Smt Mamata Shankar, the renowned

film Director, Shri Goutam Ghose and percussionist Shri Ratul Shankar were present on the occasion. They all flagged the rake off, besides undertaking a joyful ride by the same rake. Besides, the employees of the Metro Railway also undertook a journey by the same rake. The rake was beautifully decorated with flowers & colourful balloons.

The week-long celebration started on October 18 and is going to continue till October 24, 2024. The celebration included heritage walk, walkathon, exhibition and cultural performances. Special films have also been made where daily commuters to celebrities shared their views about ‘Our Own Metro’. In the exhibition, rare photographs, Old Tickets, Smart Cards and

Philately items are on display. The General Manager on the first day of the celebration, i.e., on October 18, 2024 released a commemorative Smart Card of Metro Railway. The card will be available at the counters very soon. Shri Reddy that day also released three short films to make the occasion memorable. In one film celebrities like Rituparna Sengupta, Goutam Ghosh, Harsh Neotia, Jhulan Goswami and others have shared their thoughts about Metro Railway and how it has transformed Kolkata’s transport system. In another film historical nuances and the gradual expansion of Metro has been highlighted. Daily commuters and the first Motorman Shri Tapan Nath have shared their thoughts about this unique Metro system in the third film.

Month-long Fit India Freedom Run 5.0 to Culminate with Unity Run for Commemorating Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Kolkata, (KCN): The fifth edition of the month-long ‘Fit India Freedom Run’ is being organised this year as ‘Fit India Freedom Run 5.0’ with the theme-Swachhta and Swastha from October 2 to October 31, 2024. The Secretary, Department of Sports, Smt Sujata

Chaturvedi has requested cooperation from all ministries and departments in this regard and has also urged to issue necessary instructions to encourage mass participation from all the Government employees, their family members and local

communities in the month-long campaign and has also urged to invite iconic personalities and social media influencers to participate in the campaign and take the Fit India pledge. On October 31, 2024 the month-long campaign of Fit India Freedom Run

5.0 will culminate with a Unity Run commemorating the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The Secretary has also urged for adequate publicity of the event through social media, electronic and print media throughout the campaign.

Ministry of Education extends registration window for Yuva Sangam Phase V till October 25, 2024

Bhubaneswar (KCN) : Ministry of Education has extended the registrations window for Yuva Sangam Phase V till October 25, 2024 to accommodate all intending applicants who are interested to experience this unique opportunity. This gives more youth, including students and professionals, an opportunity to avail this rare chance to be a representative of their state/union territory. With the earlier deadline for registration approaching, the dedicated registration portal saw a massive spike in visitors. The successful cultural exchange programme initiated under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat facilitates engagement and collaboration among



youth in the age group of 18 to 30 years across the diverse landscape of India. The program now in its fifth phase has facilitated cross-cultural learnings and interaction for 4,795 youth across India through 114 tours. Young professionals (employed/self-employed) and students including NSS/NYKS volunteers, as well as off-campus youth (those enrolled for online courses, in skilling institutions etc) are encouraged to apply for

this life-changing experience through multi-dimensional exposure in five broad areas – the 5 Ps viz; Paryatan (Tourism), Parampara (Traditions), Pragati (Development), Parasparsampark (People-to-people connect), and Prodyogiki (Technology). The exchange programme supported by several other central ministries and departments, takes participants on an immersive tour to paired

states to experience local history, culture, traditions and gain a deep understanding of the country’s diversity. Earlier phases of the all-India cultural exchange program have been a massive success. “The response to Phase-V of Yuva Sangam has been truly encouraging. The window for registration which was earlier slated to close on October 21, 2024 has now been extended till October 25, 2024. This extension in deadline has been necessitated by the surge in response in the last few days and to facilitate registration for intending participant. We request everyone to make use of this extension and participate in this unique program.” said a senior officer of the Ministry of Education.



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Director Vasan Bala says Jigra box office was his responsibility: Alia trusted me



Jigra director Vasan Bala opened up on the box office failure of Jigra once again. In an interview, he said the box office performance of the film was "his responsibility". Jigra director Vasan Bala opened up on the box office performance of his film, Jigra, which ended up being the lowest opener of actor Alia Bhatt's career. In his latest interview, the director gave others a free pass by taking full responsibility for his film's reception at the ticket window.

Bala was speaking to Fever FM when he said Alia trusted him with making a film that could work at the box office, and he should have delivered that performance. The director appreciated the 31-year-old and said she made a choice by starring in his film and the rest was his responsibility. "She is the first choice for everyone. She could have been on any other film set, but Jigra, during that time. So she has to make that choice. And she has trusted me with that choice. So it is my

responsibility to deliver box office, because we are in the business of filmmaking also," he shared. Bala added that he now wants to assess where things have gone wrong. He went on to say that it's a director's responsibility to justify an actor's time. He continued, "So that is why I need to analyse. Kuch toh hua hai na (Something has happened, right)? Something has happened where people have stayed away, something that they have not bought, something that

they didn't feel the need to come to the theatre. If at all any other actor decides to give their time, his or hers, then you know, make it worth it."

Jigra, which was released during the Dussehra weekend, opened at around Rs 4.55 crore nett in India. While it performed decently during the first weekend, the collections witnessed a drastic drop from its first Monday. After its 10-day run, it only collected Rs 27.30 crore nett at the box office.

The film, which was a prison-break action drama, also marked actor Vedang Raina's big Bollywood debut. Meanwhile, Vasan Bala deactivated his Twitter account after receiving hate for Jigra's performance. In an interview earlier, he mentioned that he didn't consider box office as a film's success parameter.

Jennifer Lawrence to welcome second baby with Cooke Maroney



Oscar winner Jennifer Lawrence and her husband, art gallery director Cooke Maroney are set to welcome their second child.

According to People magazine, Lawrence, 34, was spotted showing off her baby bump in an oversized button-up and baggy trousers while she stepped out for lunch with Maroney, 40. The couple, who tied the knot in October 2019, are already parents to two-year-old son Cy. Lawrence, known for films such as Silver Linings Playbook, American Hustle, The Hunger Games and the X-Men franchises, once jokingly compared her son to a "voodoo doll" in a 2022 Vogue cover story. "I mean the euphoria of Cy is just— Jesus, it's impossible. I always tell him, 'I love you so much'," she added.

Janhvi Kapoor hospitalised following food poisoning

Actress Janhvi Kapoor, who was recently seen in the sports drama 'Mr. & Mrs. Mahi', has been hospitalised. The actress has been feeling unwell for the last few days. As per a media report, the actress had cancelled all her appointments for Wednesday in order to rest and recuperate.

However, when her health deteriorated Thursday, her family rushed her to the hospital. The media reports have stated that it's a case of severe food poisoning. As Mumbai battling torrential rains, the city has witnessed a spike in infections and ill-health. The actress will be in the hospital for 1-2 days till her condition improves under the observation of doctors. On the work front, the actress has 2 films in the pipeline. She will be seen essaying the role of the Deputy High Commissioner of the embassy in 'Ulajh'. The film, directed by Sudhanshu Saria, also stars Gulshan Devaiah, Roshan Mathew, Rajesh Tailang and Adil Hussain in the lead roles. It follows the story of a young IFS officer with a legacy of patriots in her family, entangled in a dangerous personal conspiracy far away from her home

She also has 'Devara: Part 1', which marks her Telugu debut. The film also features the 'RRR' star NTR Jr. and actor Saif Ali Khan. It is directed by Koratala Siva, and is set to debut in cinemas September 27.

Actor Bijay Anand on criticism received by 'Adipurush': 'Don't see if you don't like'

'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan' actor Bijay Anand, who also played a crisp role as Brahma in 'Adipurush', spoke to IndiaToday.in about the criticism the film received. He said that people should not criticise art. The actor praised Om Raut's vision for the film. Anand, who has

pain, money and time." He continued, "If Rs 600 crore was spent and Om Raut, as the director; it's his canvas, paint and choice of colours to make it this way. Don't see it if you don't like it. Who are we to criticise art?" He further said, "When you start criticising art,

daily soaps all your life)." The actor further said, "But to criticise it [art] and scare other directors or the same director into being creative again; don't create a formula which is successful and force others to follow the same formula for the fear of rejection. And Om Raut didn't have the

has their own version of Ram-Sita and Lakshman. It's an epic, and it doesn't matter how many people make it or who makes it. If they make it well, it's always going to do well, and it is always going to be interesting to watch it. For no other reason, except that this is your version of Ravana."



also worked in Ravi Chopra's 'Ramayana' and 'Siya Ke Ram', spoke to us about Nitesh Tiwari making his version of 'Ramayana' with Ranbir Kapoor.

Bijay Anand played Brahma in Om Raut's 'Adipurush'. Speaking to IndiaToday.in, the actor spoke about the film receiving flak online. Talking about it, he said, "I am an art lover. The concept of a painting is that if there is an empty canvas in front of a painter, it is their choice as an artist as to what they want to paint on it. It's their choice, canvas,

you start degenerating as a society. If you say this is good art or bad art; art cannot be good or bad. It is the artist's interpretation. You don't like it? Don't call it good or bad." Making his point, Anand shared, "I'm not taking anybody's side here. I'm just being the devil's advocate and saying that today, if we start sitting, judging and hammering people, then what society does is that they scare other artists into being creative. Then go back to 'saas-bahu', wahi dekhte raho zindagi bhar (keep watching

fear of rejection, which is why I love him and find him commendable." We also told Bijay Anand about a version of Ramayana that is currently in the making, directed by Nitesh Tiwari, starring Ranbir Kapoor. When asked to share his take on it, Anand said, "Mythology, even if it is trolled 100 times by 100 different people, it will still be interesting because it's what binds India together. It's India's story." He also said, "I have travelled to Bali, Vietnam, to all the Asian countries and everybody

"The first Ravana we saw was the one made by Ramanand Sagar, where he had a big moustache and a big fat belly. We accepted that. And then we saw another Ravana in someone in Ravi Chopra's show. Then we saw another Ravana in 'Adipurush'. So it's okay. It's always interesting to see what someone else's version is. So let Mr Kumar [Nitish Kumar] make it. I would love to see what he's doing," he added. Bijay Anand's latest screen outing is Akshay Kumar and Tiger Shroff's 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan'.

Bhumi Pednekar keeps this year's birthday celebrations 'very simple'

Mumbai: Actress Bhumi Pednekar, who turned 35 Thursday, celebrated her birthday on the sets of 'Daldal', saying that she loves celebrating it but this year she kept it very simple.

"I brought in my birthday on set. I cut my cake at 12 with friends and family and everybody from my set, from my Daldal set and it was incredible because that's my happy place and it just felt like the right start to my new year," Bhumi told IANS. "Otherwise I'm just gonna spend the day at home with my mother, with my family and just people that love me," the actress added.

Asked if she is big on birthday parties or if she likes time with her family on her big day, Bhumi said: "So this year my birthday is going to be different because usually I'm very very big on birthday parties."

"I love going all out, I love celebrating my birthday but this year I've kept it very easy, simple, just like me with my closest friends and people that I really really love. Gonna eat one massive, large, phenomenal meal and just keeping it easy."

Talking about her upcoming web series 'Daldal', Bhumi will play the challenging role of a cop. Written by Priya Saggi, Sreekanth Agneewaran, Rohan D'Souza and Hussain Haidry, the series will bring to life Vish Dhamija's fictional detective, DCP Rita Ferreira.

Based on Dhamija's second novel, 'Bhendi Bazaar', 'Daldal' follows Ferreira as she sets out to catch a serial killer, even as she grapples with her past traumas and present demons.



Why Noel Could Bring Tata Sons' IPO

Vivek Shukla



Noel Tata, like his predecessor Ratan Tata, enjoys a clean and respectable image. Now that he has become chairman of the Tata Trusts, it is expected that he will lead the Tata Group to even greater heights in his new role. Meanwhile, The Parsi community, for centuries, has played a vital role in India's economic development through their foresight, hard work, and innovation. They have carved a unique identity for themselves in India's industrial history. Noel Tata hopes to continue this legacy. Immediately following Noel Tata's appointment as chairman of the Trusts, the nation's corporate world and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have placed their hopes on him to pave the way for an Initial Public Offering (IPO) of Tata Sons, the holding company of the Tata Group. Most of Tata

Sons' shares are held by the Tata Trusts. The RBI expects large Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) to go public, which essentially means they should have an IPO in the market. Under RBI regulations, all non-banking financial companies are required to be listed on the stock market. The deadline for this was set for September 2025, and a list of around 15 companies was released. Several of these companies have already been listed. Tata Sons, however, is among those that have not yet been listed. Tata Sons has sought relief from the RBI in this matter. Some argue that Venugopal Srinivasan, a member of both the RBI and Tata Sons boards, represents a conflict of interest. Srinivasan was appointed to the Reserve Bank's central board for a four-year term on June 14, 2022. He also served as chairman of TVS Motors and is highly respected in India's corporate world. The RBI had similar expectations that Tata Sons would also bring an IPO. This, however, did

not happen. There is now a renewed hope for this to happen, as Noel Tata is known for adhering to regulations. This IPO should have happened during Ratan Tata's time, as RBI regulations apply to Tata Sons as well. Noel Tata has an opportunity to showcase his capabilities. He can kickstart his new journey by bringing the Tata Sons IPO. It is surprising that Tata Sons has not yet been able to bring an IPO. However, it should have done so according to the Reserve Bank's regulations. Lets also know about the

Tata Sons. Tata Sons Private Limited is the principal holding company of the Tata group. 66% of the equity share capital of Tata Sons is held by philanthropic trusts, which support education, health, livelihood generation, and art and culture. Each Tata company or enterprise operates independently under the guidance and supervision of its own Board of Directors. The website of Tatat groups says "The Tata philosophy of management has always

been, and is today more than ever, that corporate enterprises must be managed not merely in the interests of their owners, but equally in those of their employees, of the consumers of their products, of the local community and finally of the country as a whole." JRD Tata, 1973 As a responsible corporate citizen, Tata Sons follows the laws of the land in letter and spirit. Tata Sons also goes beyond mere compliance to highlight certain behaviours and norms to Tata group

operating companies. Meanwhile, following the demise of Ratan Tata, many are becoming aware of the unique and significant contribution of the Parsi community to the Indian industrial landscape. However, it is still important to highlight the contributions of Parsi entrepreneurs like the Tatas, Godrej, Wadias, and Mistrys, who have provided opportunities for growth for half the world. Sudha Murthy, chairperson of the Infosys Foundation, recalls being an engineer at Tata Motors in 1974

and staying in touch with JRD Tata, chairman of the Tata Group. Just imagine how few women engineers were working in private companies in India half a century ago. There is another notable point: the absence of news about property disputes within Parsi industrial houses. This is considered a crucial reason for their success, differentiating them from other communities. Beyond Profit-Making Parsis, for centuries, have played a significant role in India's economic development with their farsightedness, hard work, and innovation. They have carved a unique identity for themselves in India's industrial history. Their businesses have never focused solely on maximizing profits. They believe in earning profits and then utilizing a significant portion of those profits for the betterment of society. Let's start with the Tata Group. The Tata Group, India's largest business conglomerate, was founded by Jamsetji Tata in 1868. From its humble beginnings in textiles,

hotels, and ironworks, it has established a presence in diverse sectors like IT and automobiles. The Tata Group's contributions extend beyond industries to education, healthcare, research, and development. Founded in 1897, almost two decades after the Tata Group. The Godrej Group is a leading name in various sectors like consumer goods, furniture, and real estate, using cutting-edge technology. Godrej has consistently provided opportunities for a significant portion of the world to reach the top. Before the Tatas and Godrej, the Wadia Group was founded in 1736. Its history is intertwined with modern India. This group began with textiles, later expanding into aviation, beverages, banking, real estate, and other areas. We can confidently say that Noel Tata will continue to contribute to the nation-building process.

The Author is a Delhi based columnist and former Editor

THE AVIATION SECTOR'S TURBULENCE

Varun Kesavan



The aviation industry in India is now experiencing significant issues in terms of hoax calls. Furthermore, a surge in fake calls is posing a variety of challenges for major airlines. According to the many events recorded so far, this threat has seriously impacted many aircrafts. For a growing country like India, the aviation industry serves as ammunition for economic expansion and progress. According to the IBEF analysis, the aviation sector, namely domestic airlines, accounts for around 69 percent of overall airline traffic in South Asia. The Indian aviation sector has largely recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic shock, as

seen by an air traffic movement of 327.28 million in FY23, compared to 188.89 million in FY22. According to the International Air Transport Association, the IBEF research predicts that India will surpass China and the United States as the world's third-largest air passenger market in the next 10 years, by 2030. Furthermore, growing demand has increased the number of aircraft operating in the industry. Experts estimate that the total number of aircraft will reach 1,100 by 2027. However, the issue of fake calls has negatively impacted the confidence of airline operators in operating their regular flights. Furthermore, the current festival season has led to an increase in air traffic. Furthermore, customers rely solely on large airlines to meet their loved ones and save valuable time, rather than



cheaper carriers. However, the difficulty of fraudulent calls prompts travellers to cancel their trips. Furthermore, according to an Economic Times study, the number of reservations for popular places has increased by 60 percent. Hoax occurrences make air travel unpleasant for passengers. Hoax incidents significantly impact airlines, leading to substantial financial and operational losses. Aside from the time lost for commuters, these kinds of tragic accidents have a significant influence on the psychological and emotional health of the passengers. India is

a developing nation, and tourism is a major GDP contributor. The IBEF predicts that the Indian travel industry will grow from an estimated US\$ 75 billion in FY2020 to US\$ 125 billion by FY27. Improved airport infrastructure and increased passport access are driving the expected trebling of the Indian airline travel industry by FY27. The industry currently holds a valuation of over US\$ 20 billion. The Indian hotel industry, comprising domestic, inbound, and outbound, was assessed at ~US\$ 32 billion in FY20 and is predicted to reach ~US\$ 52 billion by FY27, driven by rising travel demand and

travel agents' attempts to expand the sector. The industry predict that foreign visitor visits will exceed 30.5 billion by 2028, generating more than US\$ 59 billion in revenue. However, the sector project that domestic visitors will drive development after the epidemic. International hotel chains are extending their presence in the country, accounting for about 47% of India's tourism and hospitality industry by 2020 and 50% by 2022. However, unforeseen situations such as hoax calls have a negative effect not just on the aviation industry but also on the travel, tourist, and

hospitality sectors. Furthermore, these occurrences have degraded India's image in the worldwide market. The only method to combat scam calls is to use artificial intelligence and generative AI. In the current context, we can observe that telecom companies such as Airtel have implemented artificial intelligence applications to identify spam calls for their customers. Similarly, the application of AI and generative AI benefits the aviation sector on a bigger scale. Furthermore, airports need to equip themselves with technological tools like face recognition

systems (FRS) to improve their current operations. To develop a solid solution to the current challenge, the aviation and telecom sectors must work together. Furthermore, the present government must take strict measures against anyone who engages in such actions. With regard to hoax calls, telecom firms must plan for unlawful connections by conducting systematic and frequent audits of all contacts with their professional background. Furthermore, the government must change its current policy so that only a restricted number of SIM cards are required for each person to own. Additionally, the government must thoroughly review the people's backgrounds before distributing Sim cards. Making these types of rigorous rules would help tackle the issue of hoax calls. In a 1.4 billion population economy

like India, hoax calls may be insignificant, but their economic consequences are significant. Therefore, the effective deployment of sophisticated AI and generative solutions is one strategy for combating and resolving these issues. However, our current procedures are ineffective in combating the problem of hoax calls. The scam calls also impact commuters who fly under the UDAN program (a plan that allows ordinary individuals to travel with airlines at a reduced rate). Therefore, implementing good AI, particularly generative AI, is one possible method to combat these challenges.

Research Scholar, VIT Business School, Vellore Institute of Technology, VIT University, Vellore Campus, Vellore, Tamil Nadu. E-Mail Id – varunkesavan@yahoo.com

One-Month TOT Programme on Psychological Counselling for Junior Commissioned Officers of Eastern Command, Indian Army, Concludes Successfully

Kolkata, (KCN):The School of Behavioural Sciences and Forensic Investigations (SBSFI) at Rashtriya Raksha University successfully concluded a month Training of Trainers (TOT) Programme on Psychological Counselling for Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) of the Eastern Command, Indian Army, held from September 19 to October 22, 2024. This specialised training aimed to equip JCOs with essential counselling skills and mental health awareness to support the personnel under their command. The programme was attended by 15 participants, who gained valuable insights into mental health awareness, psychological gatekeeping, and counselling strategies specifically designed for the armed forces. The training was meticulously designed by SBSFI to address the growing need for psychological support and mental health resilience within the armed forces. The TOT Programme was designed with the goal of enhancing mental health awareness among JCOs to help them maintain operational effectiveness and personal resilience, developing counselling and gatekeeping skills, empowering JCOs to offer initial support to those in distress, enabling participants to identify and manage mental health issues such as stress, anxiety, depression, and trauma



among themselves and their colleagues, promoting a supportive environment in units where mental health

concerns can be openly discussed without stigma, and fostering overall well-being by encouraging proactive measures to

prioritize mental health. The theoretical and practical sessions were led by the expert faculty and staff of SBSFI,

covering a comprehensive range of topics, including the basics of counselling, active listening, conflict

resolution, mindfulness, coping strategies for burnout, and therapeutic models for substance abuse and mental health. The programme concluded with a valedictory ceremony held on October 22, 2024, graced by the presence of Prof. (Dr.) Bimal N. Patel, Vice Chancellor, and Dr. Mahesh Tripathi, Director I/c, SBSFI. During the ceremony, the Vice Chancellor congratulated the participants and highlighted the importance of integrating mental health awareness into military training and leadership. This training programme reflects Rashtriya Raksha University's ongoing commitment to providing high-quality education and creating

opportunities for global dialogue and learning for uniformed personnel. The university is dedicated to advancing the discipline of psychology, particularly in the context of the armed forces, and looks forward to hosting future programmes that further strengthen the mental resilience of uniformed resources. Rashtriya Raksha University is a pioneering institution dedicated to national security and public safety education. Through cutting-edge research, academic programmes, and hands-on training, the university prepares professionals in various fields, including law enforcement, defence, and public safety.

Shatabdi Nrityayan Organized Bijaya Sammilani and Digital Photography Exhibition .

Kolkata, (Arindam Bhattacharya)- Bijaya Sammilani , a small Cultural get together was organized by Shatabdi Nrityayan. The Sammilani started with a 'Digital Photography Exhibition' which was led by Sri Arindam Bhattacharjee. This Exhibition presented mesmerizing clicks of different stages of Durga Pujo starting from idol making to Bijaya Dashami as well as different Indian Folk Dance Performances captured by him. As such

the attendees not only got the essence of Durga pujo but also the knowledge of beautiful folk dances of eastern and central India like Paika dance, Chhau, Bihu dance etc. The exhibition came out with flying colours along with good remarks from the audiences. This was followed by a cultural program of Dance & Music. Smt. Saroni Mukherjee, one of the guardians of the Institute captivated the audience through her sweet melodious voice. She

sang different compositions of Kabi Guru Rabindranath Tagore. There were dance performances by the senior students, Pallavi Das, Tanmoy Samaddar, Debasmita Kar, Jiniya Deb and Sampriti Paul. This beautiful event was inaugurated by Smt. Mamata Mallik, National Yoga Champion, Arindam Bhattacharjee, Odissi Exponent Shatabdi Mallik, the senior students and guardians of Shatabdi Nrityayan.

Cyclone ‘Dana’: Vegetable price soars in Odisha markets as consumers resort to panic buying



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The price of vegetables including potato and onion has increased in Odisha markets as consumers resorted to panic buying amid IMD's prediction of Cyclone 'Dana' hitting the Odisha coast, traders said Tuesday. At Chhatra Bazaar in Cuttack, the price of potato has increased from Rs 30 to Rs 50 per kg Tuesday. The price of onion has also increased to Rs 60 per kg from Rs 40 in the market, which is one of the largest vegetable markets in Odisha. Tomato is being sold for Rs 80 to 100 in the local markets in Bhubaneswar, traders said. The price of other vegetables like bins, brinjal, ladyfinger and cauliflower has also increased by Rs 10 to 20 per kilogramme. There was a huge rush in the vegetable markets as consumers wanted to

store sufficient amounts of vegetables especially potatoes and onions in view of the cyclone, which is expected to hit Odisha coast by October 25. "We don't know how the market will be after the cyclone hits the state. If the supply chain is disrupted, it may lead to further increase in the price. So, I bought a sufficient amount of potato and onion for my family," said Nibedita Behera, a housewife from Cuttack. Local vendors have attributed the price hike to the scarcity of potato-laden trucks and the anticipation of further disruptions if the cyclone makes landfall. "We bought potatoes with a hiked price from the wholesale market... There is a shortfall in the supply compared to the demand, so the price has gone up," a trader from Chhatra Bazaar said. Meanwhile, Odisha Food Supplies and Consumer

Welfare minister Krushna Chandra Patra warned that strong action will be taken against traders, who will indulge in black marketing and illegal hoarding of essential consumable items. "I have directed our departmental officials to conduct raids on markets to check illegal hoarding of vegetables," Patra said. Patra said he has called a meeting with traders this afternoon to appeal to them to cooperate with the government during this period. The minister also appealed to the people not to resort to panic buying as the state has a sufficient amount of vegetables and food items. While holding a cyclone preparedness meeting Monday, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi instructed concerned officials to check black marketing of the essential goods.

PM Modi reaches Russia, to meet leaders on sidelines of BRICS Summit in Kazan

Kazan(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday reached the Russian city of Kazan to participate in the 16th BRICS Summit, at the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin. The summit, themed 'Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security', will provide an important platform for world leaders to discuss key global issues. "India values the close cooperation within BRICS which has emerged as an important platform for dialogue and discussion on issues concerning the global developmental agenda, reformed multilateralism, climate change, economic cooperation, building resilient supply chains, promoting cultural and people to people connect, among others. The expansion of BRICS with the addition of new members last year has added to its inclusivity and agenda for the global good," PM Modi said in



his departure statement Tuesday morning. "Building upon the Annual Summit held in July 2024 in Moscow, my visit to Kazan will further reinforce the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between India and Russia. I look forward to meeting other leaders from BRICS as well," he added. Besides participating in the summit, which will offer a valuable opportunity to assess the progress of initiatives launched by BRICS and to identify potential areas

for future collaboration, the Prime Minister is also expected to hold bilateral meetings with his counterparts from BRICS member countries and invited leaders. In the meetings in narrow and expanded formats, the BRICS leaders are expected to exchange views on current issues on the global and regional agenda, and discuss the three main areas of cooperation outlined by the Russian chairmanship – politics and security, economics and finance,

and cultural and humanitarian contacts. Particular attention will be paid to the issues of possible expansion of BRICS through the planned establishment of a new category of partner states for the unification. During the summit, reports from the chairman of the New Development Bank, the Business Council, the Interbank Cooperation Mechanism, and the Women's Business Alliance will also be heard.

The results of the discussion will be summarised in the Kazan Summit Declaration. Wednesday, a meeting will be held in the 'outreach/BRICS plus' format with the participation of representatives from almost 40 countries. Among them are leaders of the CIS countries, delegations from many countries in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America, as well as heads of executive bodies of a number of international organisations. According to the Kremlin, it is planned to discuss current international problems with an emphasis on the aggravated situation in the Middle East and the interaction of the BRICS countries and the Global South in the interests of sustainable development. Russian President Vladimir Putin will hold bilateral meetings with almost all leaders participating in the summit.

Doctors give documents to Bengal CM on how govt ignored complaints against Sandip Ghosh

Kolkata(KCN): The representatives of West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front (WBJDF) during their meeting with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee handed over several crucial documents on how the state government had previously ignored complaints on the financial irregularities in RG Kar Medical College and Hospital during the tenure of Sandip Ghosh as the principal. The doctors had met the Chief Minister Monday afternoon and during the meeting had handed over the documents. A representative of WBJDF, the umbrella body of junior doctors, spearheading the movement against the ghastly rape and murder of a female colleague at the RG Kar in August, said their delegation has handed over the state government a 137-page document on this count. "The documents not only



show the instances of fund misappropriation with Sandip Ghosh as the principal but also how the state health department ignored complaints by whistleblowers," said the WBJDF representative. He added that the documents of details of instances of fund misappropriations like the purchase of machinery at more than double the prevailing market price then,

misappropriation in the tendering process, allotting spaces to unlicensed entities to run businesses within the hospital premises against hefty commissions and utilizing hospital funds for purchasing personal items. "The state health secretary cannot deny his responsibilities in the matter, especially, when such instances of misappropriations were brought to the notice of

the same department several times. That is why we had been insisting on the replacement of the state health secretary since the beginning," the WBJDF representative said. Two central agencies namely the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) are currently conducting parallel

probes into the financial irregularities case. While CBI's probe is court-directed and court-monitored, ED has made a suo motu entry after filing an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR). There are also complaints against Sandip Ghosh about the smuggling of bio-medical wastes and selling of body organs of unidentified bodies at the RG Kar morgue.

People sceptical about raids as black stone loot continues in Odisha's Jajpur

Jajpur(KCN): A recent joint raid on the illegal black stone quarries in Dharmasala tehsil of Jajpur district has evoked mixed reactions.

The personnel of Minor Minerals, police and Forest departments jointly raided the illegal black stone quarries, Saturday. The raids unravelled rampant loot of costly black stone from Quarry No 2/3 on the Dankari foothills and from many quarries in Barada and Malagoda mouzas under the tehsil.

Buoyed by this disclosure, the Minor Minerals department was learnt to be preparing to take

action against the illegal and unscrupulous traders.

The Minor Minerals department has even warned to close down the illegal black stone quarries in operation if the leaseholders do not appoint a mine manager by October 31 as per the order of the Director General of Mines Safety (DGMS). Meanwhile, the Minor Minerals department has sought the help of district police to take necessary action.

While officials are happy about the raids taking place in the illegal black stone quarries, residents are sceptical on the



outcome of the raid. The former, however, hopes that the raids will rattle the illegal miners and be able to curb illegal mining. It is suspected that the illegal miners might have looted black stones to the tune of `5

crore during last two months. However, the residents affected by air and water pollution due to illegal mining have little hope on these raids. They alleged that the raids are just eyewash and the wrongdoing will

start again just a few days after the raids. This is because the police personnel and tehsil officials who are from the Revenue department are allegedly hand in gloves with the illegal miners. The police and

tehsil officials allegedly receive monthly cuts from these miners and stay mum on the rampant loot and smuggling of black stone and other minerals. This results in loss of precious revenue for the state government while the illegal miners get richer by plundering the hills and destroying the local environment. Locals alleged that the district administration has assured them that illegal mining will be stopped several times but has failed to curb it due to a lack of proper coordination between the Minor Minerals, Forest and police

departments.

The Dharmasala MLA Himanshu Sekhar Sahu has been writing in regular intervals to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and the mining officials requesting to step up patrolling in the black stone quarries and take steps as per law. The Minor Minerals department had urged the Jenapur police to initiate criminal proceedings against the illegal black stone smugglers. However, the Jenapur police urged the Minor Minerals department to identify the illegal black stone quarries and submit a list. In this tug

of war, people and observers are anxious to know when the satellite mapping will be done to identify illegal quarries, and when they will be served with penalty notice.

When contacted, Deputy Director Jayprakash Nayak of Minor Minerals department in Jajpur said there is dire need of police assistance to curb the loot of black stones from the quarries for which he has held discussions with the Jajpur Superintendent of Police. The problem will be resolved after the appointment of a mines manager in the quarries. However, the quarries will be shut if the miners do not appoint managers by October 31.

Odisha: In a first, Bonda girl Bini Muduli cracks OCS exam



Malkangiri(kcn): Bini Muduli, a girl hailing from the Bonda community from Bonda ghat under Mudulipada police limits and Khairput block in Malkangiri district became the first woman of the tribal community to crack the Odisha Civil Services (OCS) examination.

The results were announced by the Odisha Public Service Commission, Saturday.

Bini Muduli, daughter of Raghu Muduli who works as a cook in a primary school at Khemaguru village under Khairput block in this district. Bini, a resident of Khemaguda near Govindapalli in the district and an Ayurvedic assistant by profession, secured 596th rank in the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category after appearing the OCS examination in 2022-23.

Hailing from the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG), Bini received primary education at her native village. Later, she completed her Plus II education from the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) in Malkangiri and went on to graduate from Bikram Dev College in Jeypore. She said that she prepared for the civil services examination by

watching the videos from social media platform YouTube and relied on self-study by taking help of study materials available online. When contacted, Muduli said that she will work for women empowerment and Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities in the coming days. She also aimed to ensure the proper implementation of pro-tribal schemes for the Bonda community's development. She credited the success to her parents, teachers and friends, and urged all parents in the district to send their wards to the school. "My parents are my primary source of inspiration. I also owe my success to my teachers and friends who supported me throughout," she said. Her achievement was welcomed with widespread celebration with villagers and local authorities felicitating her with a shawl and flower bouquet.

Keonjhar: Obscene video of PEO, woman in panchayat office triggers outrage



Joda(KCN): A video of the intimate moments of a panchayat executive officer (PEO) and a woman in the office of a gram panchayat under Joda block in Keonjhar district has sent shockwaves in the district after it went viral on social media platforms, sources said Monday.

Chatters went abuzz after the video went viral


in the government WhatsApp group. In the video, the PEO is seen engaging in sexual act with the woman inside the panchayat office. However, it is not known when the obscene video was shot. Sources, however said it has gone viral from the month of September.

Reliable sources said that the woman seen in the video is reportedly

working in supply works under Public Distribution System (PDS). It is alleged that the officials posted in the block are aware of the development but have chose to remain tightlipped on the matter.

This has raised question marks as the local sarpanch and the members of women selfhelp groups have

demanding a probe and stringent action against the culprits as they prepare to gherao the block office over the development. When contacted, Joda block gram panchayat officer Kanhu Chran Majhi said he has no information regarding the development and only the Public Distribution department could comment on the issue.



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Bajaj Allianz Life launches world’s first music video ‘Superstar After Retirement’, created by retired senior citizens

Pune: Bajaj Allianz Life, one of India’s leading private life insurers, launched a world’s music video “Superstar After Retirement”, created by retired seniors showcasing their creativity and fulfilling their life goals. Retirees including ex-bankers, ex-entrepreneurs, ex-educator, ex-engineers and other professionals, are seen unleashing their hidden talents like singing or dancing, and attempting to live their second innings with utmost zeal and passion. For most individuals, their dreams and desires take a backseat as they strive to ensure financial security and stability for their families.

Commenting on the

initiative, Mr. Chandramohan Mehra, Chief Marketing Officer, Bajaj Allianz Life, said “Aligned to the brand purpose of enabling LifeGoals, we launched Superstar After Retirement initiative to encourage retired senior citizens to rediscover their talents and explore a world full of possibilities and freedom. Financial security provided through a regular stream of income, post-retirement, allows individuals to pursue their earlier unfulfilled passions.”

Bajaj Allianz Life had launched a pan-India talent hunt, to showcase their talent and fulfil their dreams of becoming a superstar. From a total of

over 5400 entries, 11 superstars from different walks of life were handpicked to be part of the music video. All of these participants, at some point of their lives, had aspired to be dancers, musicians, singers, cinematographers, lyricists, art director and stylists, aside from being retired senior citizens. The music video was created entirely by these 11 senior citizens, after going through multiple enriching workshops with expert mentors from Bollywood. The team’s collective efforts for 37 days and 450+ hrs has resulted in this one-of-a-kind music video.

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.

H&M revels in sunset colours and embellished details for The Festive Collection



Bhubaneswar: H&M India invites you to the season of celebrations with a special collection personified by all things sparkle and shine. Featuring party-ready ensembles, the collection spotlights designs showcasing strong shoulders, cropped tops and draped details among the statement suiting, party dresses and matching sets. Rhinestones, sequins and high-shine fabrics bring sophistication and vibrancy

to every piece, while a strong colour palette of hot pink, orange, red, sand, gold and black adds to the celebratory mood. For The Festive Collection, H&M wanted to create a special collection that draws upon beauty and merriment of the season. Draping along the waistline, shoulder lines and across the body accentuate the female form, while long trousers and skirts contrast with alluring cropped tops.

Tonal looks are vital, but the play of different fabrics and embellishment make it playful and modern. “The Festive Collection comes at such a special time of year and we’re thrilled with the collection. We were really inspired by the importance of light – candles, lanterns and fireworks – and worked that into a vivid sunset colour palette, but also brought in a lot of sequins, rhinestones and satin.

Survey reveals that 7% of Daughters Receive Equal Inheritance through a will– Sunfeast Mom's Magic inspires mothers across the country to change this with its initiative ‘Will of Change’

Bhubaneswar (KCN): In India, although daughters, like sons, have equal rights to inherit family property; in reality it is far from the truth. Research done by Sunfeast Mom’s Magic shows that only 7% daughters receive equal inheritance through a will. The long-standing belief that “betiyan parayadhan hoti hain” (daughters are ultimately someone else’s responsibility) is still very much prevalent in Indian families.

Ali Harris Shere, Chief Operating Officer, Biscuits & Cakes Cluster, Foods Division, ITC Limited emphasized the importance of the campaign, saying, “A large number of Mothers in India themselves having faced unfair treatment in matters of inheritance by their parents, are the ones who can truly spark a change now in their own families for their daughters. Through the ‘Will of Change’ campaign, we hope to inspire mothers to ensure equal inheritance rights for daughters and become a Mom of Change.” With time, mothers in India have found their

voice to take a stand & have a strong point of view on various issues concerning them. ITC Sunfeast Mom’s Magic, a brand known to take up causes that affect mothers, has been inspiring them through its past campaigns. The brand’s latest initiative ‘Will of Change’ puts a spotlight on the deeply ingrained societal bias that sees daughters being overlooked in inheritance matters, advocating for a shift towards equality. The campaign calls on mothers, as the pillars of change, to lead this crucial movement and empowering them to become the

#MomOfChange. As a brand, Sunfeast Mom’s Magic believes that a mom is the warmest superpower & can fight the biases in the world that come in the way of her children. With the ‘Will of Change’ initiative, the brand takes up one of the most ingrained biases in society & inspires moms to take charge of this change.

At the heart of the campaign is a deeply emotional and thought-provoking film starring Shefali Shah and Manish Chaudhari. The film

India Mobile Congress 2024 concludes to a grand success with over 1.75 lac participants attending Asia’s Largest Digital Technology Forum

Bhubaneswar (KCN) : The 8th Edition of India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2024, the largest telecom, media and technology forum in Asia, jointly organized by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), concluded by achieving the largest participation ever with over 1.75 lac participants attending the 4-day forum. The event was inaugurated by Hon’ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who called for global standards in ethical AI and data privacy and highlighted India’s tremendous opportunity to advance 6G technology for the world during his inaugural speech. Over the four days of IMC 2024, the forum welcomed key dignitaries like Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Minister for Communications and Development of Northeastern Region; Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry; Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, MoS for Rural Development and Communications; Dr. L. Murugan, MoS for Information & Broadcasting; Dr. Neeraj Mittal, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications; Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman, TRAI; Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary General of the ITU; Akash Ambani, Chairman of the Reliance JIO-INFOCOMM Ltd.; Sunil Bharti Mittal, Founder and Chairman of Bharti Airtel; Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman of Aditya Birla Group and many others.

Speaking on the success of India Mobile Congress, 2024, Mr. Ramakrishna P., CEO of India Mobile Congress said, “IMC 2024 more than lived up to its focus on ‘Future is Now’, with ideas exchanged on several disruptive innovations and engaging discussions on a host of future technologies. It’s been a great experience seeing IMC grow multitudes over the years and IMC 2024 brought together global leaders, innovators and industry experts to showcase and collaborate on the next-gen technologies. The event showcased disruptive ideas in key areas, including 5G, 6G, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), quantum computing, cyber security and electronics manufacturing, among other themes. We are happy to note the highest-ever attendance of over 1.75 lac at IMC 2024 and would like to thank our partners, exhibitors, delegates from around the world and the Department of Telecommunications for their consistent guidance and support.”

Commissions India’s Largest Fleet of Electric Lithium-Ion Forklifts

New Delhi: Vedanta Aluminium, India’s largest producer of aluminium, has commissioned India’s largest electric fleet of 27 forklifts, powered by lithium-ion batteries. Done in partnership with GEAR (Gemini Equipment and Rentals Private Limited) India, this sets the ball rolling

on Vedanta Aluminium’s plans to decarbonize its industrial vehicle fleet. All 27 forklifts arrived last month and are being operationalised at the company’s aluminium smelter at Jharsuguda, in Odisha, which is the world’s largest single-location aluminium smelter, ex-China.



poignantly highlights how inheritance decisions often ignore daughters, despite their contributions to the family. The story unfolds in a modern family setting, where Mr.

Shekhar Verma is finalizing his will with a lawyer. While his daughter Shreya, helps him gather the documents, it becomes clear that only his son

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

Arjun is being named the heir to their family assets. The mother, played by Shefali Shah, subtly but powerfully challenges this decision, reminding her husband that while their daughter is always addressed as “beta” (son) in their daily lives, she becomes “beti” (daughter) when it comes to inheritance. Her words leave a profound impact on her husband, encouraging him to rethink the bias ingrained in his decision. For more information and to be a part of the change, visit WillofChange.com and pledge your support today.

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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.

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 outlet. The PM Kisan Scheme, a central sector scheme with 100% funding from the Government of India, became operational on December 1, 2018. Under this scheme, income support of ₹ 6000 per year, divided into

three installments, is directly transferred to the bank accounts of landholding farmer families, consisting of the husband, wife, and minor children. Speaking on this, Sanjeev Kumar, Co-Founder & CEO, Spice Money, said, “At Spice Money, we have been striving to solve the problem of access to banking & financial services in rural India. As the 11th installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi is rolled out, our 1 million Adhikaris operating across 18,500 pin codes, will be an enabler in ensuring easy access and withdrawal of this subsidy to the rightful 10 crore beneficiaries of this scheme. Farmers and farmer

families will no longer have to travel large distances to bank branches or just let the money lie idle in their accounts in times of need. Our Adhikaris, trusted banking partners in their communities, will be there at the villages to help farmers withdraw their money, with the help of AePS, thereby providing much-needed safe and secure access to the subsidy amount.” Spice Money has been spearheading the efforts towards bridging the financial services gap in rural India by providing banking and financial services to the remotest corners of the country, across 700 districts and 5,000 blocks, thereby revolutionising the way Bharat banks.

by intelligent terminals and provide Vedanta Aluminium insights on a real-time basis with respect to forklift speed, access to operate, collision avoidance, optimization analysis for operational efficiency and equipment maintenance, among others.

