

Fine is a Unique effort which promotes science, technology and Innovation and Encourages the citizens to undertake Entrepreneurship: President Murmu

New Delhi: The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu presented the 11th Biennial National Grassroots Innovation and Outstanding Traditional Knowledge Awards of NIF at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre (RBCC) today (April 10, 2023). She also inaugurated Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE) –2023 at the Sports Ground near RBCC. Speaking at the Award function, the President said that citizens at the grassroots have the potential to come up with Science and Technology based innovative solutions and serve the country to the best of their abilities. National



Innovation Foundation (NIF) plays a significant role in encouraging and supporting such innovators. She noted that NIF has pooled a database of over 325000 technological ideas, innovations and traditional knowledge practices from over 625 districts of the country. She was also happy to note that NIF has already recognised 1093

grassroots innovators and school students at the national level in its various Award Functions. The President said that today we are celebrating not just the achievements of innovators but the spirit of creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship. We can see small innovations happening every other day around

us. We just have to understand and encourage the creativity and innovation which is already present everywhere. The President said that one important aspect of supporting and enhancing creativity is to encourage children and youth to ask questions. Curiosity and spirit of enquiry are essential for finding out

solutions to challenging problems. Our children should grow up to become solution providers. The President said that another important thing is that our citizens should have the zeal to serve the country. He or she should try to understand the problems and issues arising in the country and should feel

responsible to contribute towards solving them may be at a small scale. She urged innovators, entrepreneurs, traditional knowledge holders and industry representatives to come together to find eco-friendly and sustainable solutions and encourage innovations in this direction. The President said that FINE is a unique effort which promotes science, technology and innovation and encourages the citizens to undertake entrepreneurship and make their mark in India and abroad. She said that the spirit of entrepreneurship and the zeal to find solutions to challenging problems should be encouraged and rewarded.

Mercury Soars In Odisha; Baripada Records 40 Degree C

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Mercury begun to rise at various places in Odisha towards end of the Spring season with Baripada being recorded as the hottest place with a maximum temperature of 40 degree Celsius today.

For the first time in Spring this year, the day temperature touched 40 degree Celsius in the state. According to Regional Meteorological Centre of IMD, the maximum temperature was 39 degree C in Jharsuguda and Sambalpur and 39 degree C in Bhubaneswar and Chandbali in the afternoon.

Similarly, other places including Hirakud, Balasore, Keonjhar, Puri, Paradip and Gopalpur registered 37.6 degree C, 36.4 degree C, 36.2 degree C, 33.6 degree C, 33 degree C and 31.6 degree C respectively by 2.30 pm.

By 8.30 am, the state capital Bhubaneswar had recorded 31 degree C today.

The Bhubaneswar MeT predicted high temperature rise by 2 to 3 degree C during next 2-3 days at several places in Odisha under influence of dry and hot air coming from north-west direction.

Congress Announces Candidate For Jharsuguda Bypoll In Odisha

Bhubaneswar(KCN): All India Congress Committee (AICC) announced the candidate for the ensuing bypoll to Jharsuguda Assembly Constituency in Odisha.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge nominated Tarun Pandey as the candidate of party for the upcoming bypoll in Odisha.

Tarun Pandey is son of three-time former Jharsuguda MLA Biren Pandey, who passed away last month.

Tarun is a fresh face in the bypoll. For the first time, he will contest in an election.

However, the young leader is confident of sweeping the bypoll on the basis of his abundant political experience as he was involved in election process since 2000. Worth mentioning, Jharsuguda bypoll is scheduled on May 10. The counting of votes will take place on May 13. The process for filling the nomination papers will begin from April 13 till 20.

The bypoll was necessitated after the murder of Jharsuguda MLA Naba Kishore Das, who was State Health & Family Welfare Minister, on January 29. While Odisha's ruling BJD has fielded slain minister's daughter Dipali Das as its candidate for the bypoll, opposition BJP is yet to announce its candidate formally for the bypoll. However, the rumours are doing the rounds that the party may field Tankadhar Tripathy as its nominee for the upcoming bypoll.



State Gets More Mangrove

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha has performed much better in increasing coverage of mangrove and there is an increase of 8 Square Kilometers of Mangrove Forest in the State, which is highest in the country. ACS Forest & Environment, Satyabrata Sahu took stock of forest coverage recently, in which it came to fore that Forest Cover in the state is Third Highest in the country. State Government in its 2023-24 Budget has made provision of Rs.2184 Crore for

Forestry Sector. Mangroves are the first line of defense for coastal communities. They stabilize shorelines by slowing erosion and provide natural barriers protecting coastal communities from increased storm surge, flooding, and hurricanes. Union Government is implementing Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project in Coastal stretches Odisha. In fact the Center is implementing this program in three states. And those states are Odisha, Gujarat and West



Bengal, with protection of coastal objective of resources which conservation and included plantation

of mangroves as one of the major activities. The promotional measures are being implemented through a Central Sector Scheme under National Coastal Mission Program on 'Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs'. Under this Program, Annual Management Action Plan (MAP) for conservation and management of mangroves are formulated and implemented in all the coastal States and Union Territories.

Under Centrally sponsored scheme for conservation & management of mangroves, Centre extends assistance to Coastal State for implementation of action plans including survey and demarcation, alternation and supplementary livelihood, protection measures and education and awareness activities. The Government has taken steps to protect, sustain, conserve and augment forests in the state through promotional as well as regulatory measures.

Odisha Skill Conclave-2023 Is The First Of Its Kind Event In India: Minister Gharai

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Skill Conclave-2023, the first of its kind event in India, will be organised from April 20 to April 22 at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. The government of Odisha, under the visionary guidance of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, has taken various transformational initiatives for setting up a progressive ecosystem to facilitate industry sector growth through policy reforms, infrastructure development and skilling etc. Under the dynamic leadership of the CM, 'Skilled-in-Odisha'

has been recognised as a global brand in the TVET eco-system. This aspirational vision of the State and relentless efforts of all stakeholders have enabled a 'Skilled-in-Odisha' trainee to win the first-ever Gold Medal from India at the World Skills Competition, 2019, said SDTE Minister Preetiranjana Gharai. Addressing the Press at Geeta Gobinda Sadan today, Gharai said that it is the first of its kind event in India to be organised in Odisha. In order to further promote the 'Skilled-in-Odisha' brand and to make youths of the State skilled and



employable not only in the country but also abroad, the government is organising Odisha Skill Conclave 2023 with the theme 'Skilling for the New World'. Through this conclave, the government is to strive to engage with the delegates

comprising industry, academia, training partners, sector skills councils, different international organisations, country-specific representatives and skill ambassadors from the State. It is an apt platform to deliberate, build consensus, and develop

a road map for future courses of action to develop Odisha as a skilled workforce hub for the New World. The Conclave shall provide a unique opportunity to display Odisha's achievements in skilling, a conducive ambiance and the vast existing and emerging

opportunities across sectors. The inaugural day on 20th April shall see a plenary session discussion on relevant topics, for example, building a coherent skill ecosystem in India and commendation of skilled manpower etc. Discussions will be there on 21st April on important topics like making India the skill capital of the World and empowering women through skills. A special session and exhibit on drone technology as well as discussion on role of Sector Skill Councils will be conducted on April 22. The event will witness the participation of renowned international

and national dignitaries, intellectuals, and industry representatives active in skilling in the plenary discussions. It will also witness a congregation of more than 2,000 students, over 1,000 delegates from industry, academia and government sectors, SDTE Principal Secretary Usha Padhi said. The event will be host for 100 plus exhibits from it is, polytechnics, engineering colleges and universities as well as from prominent industries and other Departments of government. The Conclave will also see the signing of some

significant MoUs with industry partners regarding skilling in the state. Notably, a new and unique 'Pathapranta Utsav' has been planned to be held on Janpath here to create awareness on the event. Cultural events have also been planned for April 20 and April 21 evening to display the rich heritage of Odisha and its advancement in skilling and to entertain visitors. A curtain-raiser was organised on April 6 in New Delhi for promoting the Conclave. Another curtain-raiser has been planned on April 11 in Bhubaneswar for creating a buzz in the State.

State Eyes 10K CR From Excise

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Encouraged with the high growth in collection of Excise Revenue in the past two years, the State Government is eyeing for Rs 10,000 crore Excise and VAT Collection from liquor during the financial year 2023-24. Principal Secretary Excise, Sushil K Lohani reviewed Excise and VAT collection in Excise Sector and it came to fore that the State had collected Rs.4053.51 crore from Excise and with VAT of Rs.1346.71 Crore

liquor during the financial year 2020-21, which has been increased to Rs.5528.40 Crore Excise and Rs.2100 Crore totaling Rs. 7628.40 crore in 2021-22, thereby registering a growth of 41.26 percent. Similarly, the State has collected Rs.6182.36 Crore from Excise and VAT from liquor making a record amount of Rs 8767.36 crore of Excise Revenue during the last financial year 2022-23 and registered a growth of 14.93 percent against the

collection of previous financial year of 2021-22. While Rs 4053.51 Crore Excise Revenue was collected during the financial year 2020-2, it has increased to Rs 5528.40 crore in 2021-22, thereby registering a growth of 36.39 percent. The excise revenue collection again increased by 11.83 percent to Rs 6182 crore in 2022-23. Moreover, the State collected Rs 1346.71 crore VAT on excise items during 2020-21, which witnessed a



The State had collected Rs 2100 crore and Rs 2585 crore VAT from liquor

during 2021-22 and 2022-23, respectively. To achieve the ambitious Excise Revenue target set for 2023-24, the State Government has come up with a comprehensive Excise Policy for the current fiscal. As per the Policy, the license for new IMFL OFF shop in the State will not be issued. But the OFF shops can carry out modernization of their outlets during the year. As the Department of Excise has increased the application fee for

new/renewal of 'OFF shops' from Rs 1.1 lakh to Rs 1.2 lakh, the cost of IMFL will go up for the consumers. Besides, the minimum guaranteed quantity (MGQ) and retailer fee have also been increased in the new excise policy. Similarly, the annual composite label registration fee for FL OFF shops, FL ON shops for sale of all brands has been fixed at Rs 50,000. The Government has decided to not to accept any new application for 'ON'

shop license for rural areas in 2023-24. Similarly, there will be no increase in the number of FL-OFF, premium FL-OFF & CL shops for the year 2023-24. The license of existing FL-OFF & CL (ENA based) EP holders would be renewed for a period of one-year ie. up to the end of March, 2024. However, in urban areas, a new 'ON' shop license can be granted for only star hotels and other hotels having such a minimum number of rooms to be decided by the Department of Excise.

61st Council meeting of WODC



Bhubaneswar: The meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Sri Asit Tripathy, Hon'ble Chairman, WODC. Sri Tripathy welcomed all the members. Sri Tripathy apprised the Council regarding enhancement of GIA from Rs.200 Cr to Rs.325 Cr by the Govt in the 2023 -24 State Budget and expressed his gratitude to Hon'ble CM for the same. It was appreciated by all the members regarding the steps taken by WODC for completion of incomplete Community Centers and Kalyan Mandaps for which Rs1.25 cr has been year marked.

Chairman of WODC emphasised on various measures taken for overall transformation and transparency regarding the implementation of Council funded projects, utilisation of projects for public use, construction of big felt need visible projects like Auditoriums, Livelihood projects including tourism related activities, which are sustainable with local ownership. He also called upon all the members to work in a team spirit. CEO Dr. Ajit Kumar Mishra outlined the agenda for discussion. In the Council meeting, 566 numbers

of projects recommended by Hon'ble MPs/MLAs/ others amounting to Rs.54.81 cr till 31st March 2023 was approved. Proposals received for completion of 1147 numbers of WODC funded Community Centers/ Kalyan Mandaps to the tune of Rs.64.24 cr, engagement of 4 more Technical Personnel to different districts, functioning of Social Media cell were vividly deliberated and were approved in the Council. Hon'ble MLA, Deogarh Sri Subash Chandra Panigrahi, MLA, Lanjigarh Sri

Pradip Kumar Dishari, MLA, Bargarh Sri Debesh Acharya, MLA, Khariar Sri Adhiraj Mohan Panigrahi raised various issues related to implementation of WODC projects. They also expressed their gratitude to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha for enhancement of allocation. Adviser & all 9 Expert Members also put forth the issues of their respective districts. RDC of Northern Division Dr. Suresh Chandra Dalai, RDC of Southern Division Sri T. Ao were also present in the meeting.

Storytelling program held

Cuttack Sadar (KCN): Storytelling program held by Hirakud Vany Prani Mandal at Debrigarh. In this program .Nation level Mountain climber and NYK member Mr. Ashribad Mahapatra(Anup) joined as chief speaker and delivered his valuable experience about climbing the mountain,using of equipment and we will make forecasts of name



& fame of our state in nation level etc to the students mass & young

volunteers. The meeting was presided by DFO Anshpragya Das

and successfully resulted in active cooperation of all staff respectively.

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Rashmika Mandanna Shares Glimpse From The Sets Of Her New Film 'Rainbow'

Actor Rashmika Mandanna, on Sunday, took to her social media account and shared a glimpse from the sets of her next film 'Rainbow'. Taking to Instagram, the 'Sita Ramam' actor shared a picture and wrote, "Hi from sets of." followed by a rainbow emoticon. In the picture, Rashmika revealed her half face and could be seen in an open hair look.

She recently announced her next tamil-telugu film 'Rainbow' which is being helmed by Shantharuban. Rashmika looked excited about the movie as taking to her Instagram she posted a heartwarming message



with pictures from the set to disclose details about the project. The actress wrote "Rainbow.. it's a

beautiful gift from nature that you can just sit back and watch but you can't touch.. This story is something so



amazing that I can't put it in words but can only bring alive for all of you onscreen.. and for it, I need your love and

blessings.. this is not possible without you.. and I hope I make you happy with this one..." Samantha reacted to the

announcement by commenting 'All The Best.'

Dev Mohan who has worked with Samantha in 'Shaakuntalam' is going to play the male lead in the movie. The music score will be provided by Justin Prabhakaran. Written and directed by Shantharuban 'Rainbow' is an emotional journey that Rashmika wishes to bring alive on screen. Meanwhile, Rashmika was recently seen in the thriller film 'Mission Majnu' opposite actor Sidharth Malhotra which premiered on the OTT platform Netflix. She will be next seen in the upcoming pan India film 'Pushpa 2' opposite actor Allu Arjun.

Rani Mukerji's 'Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway' Leaves New Mom Alia Bhatt In Tears



Alia Bhatt is the latest one to join the bandwagon to cheer for Rani Mukerji's latest release 'Mrs. Chatterjee v/s Norway'. Alia watched the movie on Saturday night and took to Instagram on Sunday to share her musings about the movie. Alia wrote in her story, "Saturday night was spent in tears with my mom and sister as we watched our favourite- the brilliant Rani

Mukerji. 'Mrs. Chatterjee v/s Norway' is such an important story to tell. For me, especially as a new mother, it hit so much harder and so much closer to home." Praising Rani Mukerji for her soul-stirring performance, Alia wrote, "Rani Ma'am- there's no one like you! You had me transfixed and I was transported right by your side from Norway to India!

Congratulations to the full team for this incredible film." Alia also reserved praise for Jim Sarbh, who played a pivotal role in the movie. In the post-script she added, "I am convinced there's nothing my fav @jimsarbhforreal can't do- an absolute chameleon. Before Alia, Shah Rukh Khan, Gauri Khan, Rekha and many more notable names from the

industry lauded Rani's performance in the movie. Directed by Ashima Chibber, 'Mrs. Chatterjee VS Norway' is based on a real life story of an immigrant mother who fights against all odds to win back the custody of her children.

Neena Gupta, Jim Sarbh and Bengali actor Anirban Bhattacharya played pivotal roles in the movie. Expressing her happiness about the film's success, Rani told ANI, "It always feels great to see stories of our Indian women being heard globally. I have always tried my best to take the stories of our Indian women to a global platform. I am an Indian woman and I know our powers...so I always ensure that our stories are heard with my work."

Jammu Film Festival Opens, Features Movies From 11 Countries

The third edition of the Jammu Film Festival, sponsored by the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department, began with a grand opening at Abhinav Theatre here on Saturday. The festival featured parallel screenings of 25 feature films, short films and documentaries from countries including Iran, India, France



and the US.

The opening section of the festival showcased short films and a documentary from countries such as Iran, India, France and the US. These included Nahid, Kav Kav, Fatih the Conqueror, Sandhanam and Liturgy of Anti-Tank Obstacles.

The Chief Guest for the occasion was Director Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai.

Vivekanand Rai praised the festival for promoting tourism in Jammu and Kashmir and providing a platform for filmmakers to showcase their talent.

The festival features screenings of 50 feature films, short films and documentaries from 11 countries and will run until April 9.

In addition to the screenings, the festival will also host side events such as panel discussions, a red-carpet event, a culture showcase and a painting exhibition.

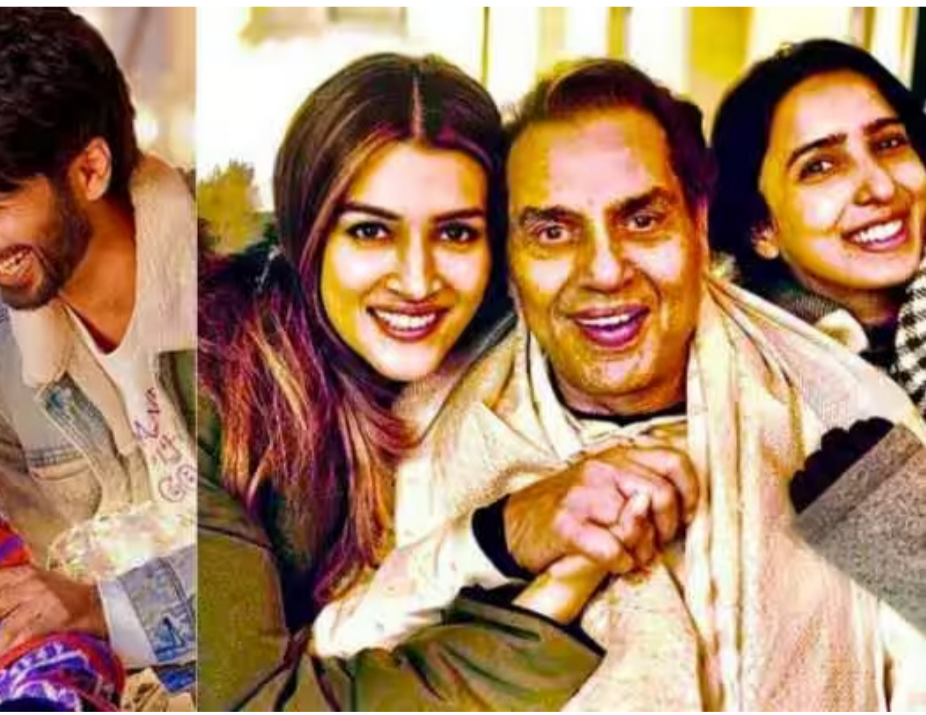
Dharmendra Poses With Co-Stars Shahid Kapoor, Kriti Sanon; Wishes 'Good Luck' To The Team

Legendary actor Dharmendra, on Sunday, posted happy pictures with actors Shahid Kapoor and Kriti Sanon as the trio wrapped up the shooting of their upcoming untitled film. Taking to Instagram, Dharmendra shared a picture with Shahid which he captioned, "Friends, A good fun to work with Shahid and other co-stars."

In the picture, the 'Sholay' actor could be seen smiling along with Shahid. Dharmendra donned a colourful sweater and a matching scarf and completed his look with a French cap and black shades. The 'Kabir Singh' actor on the other hand donned a denim jacket over a white T-shirt. Soon after the 'Apne' actor shared the picture, fans flooded the



comment section with red hearts and fire emoticons. The 'Jersey' actor commented, "Sir you are evergreen was such an honour to share the frame with you. Love you." In another post, Dharmendra shared a



picture with actor Kriti Sanon which he captioned, "Maddock Films Extremely happy to know the date of release Good Luck to the whole unit of MADDOCK FILMS." In the picture, he could be seen holding Kriti's

hand. The 'Lukka Chuppi' actor commented on the post and wrote, "You are the best sir." The makers recently unveiled the first look of the actors and undoubtedly Kriti and Shahid looked super hot together. In the

Joshi and Aradhana Sah, the yet-to-be-titled film will hit cinemas this October. Dinesh Vijan, Jyoti Deshpande and Laxman Utekar have produced it.

Meanwhile, Shahid will also be seen in director Ali Abbas Zafar's upcoming action film 'Bloody Daddy'. The official release date of the film is still awaited. Kriti, on the other hand, also has 'Ganapath' with actor Tiger Shroff in his kitty. Kriti has also teamed up with Tabu and Kareena Kapoor Khan for 'The Crew'. Diljit Dosanjh is also a part of the film. Dharmendra, on the other hand, will be seen in Karan Johar's next directorial 'Rocky aur Rani Ki Prem' alongside Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt.

WHEN THE NUMBER OF BILLIONAIRES IN THE WORLD HAS DECLINED CONSECUTIVELY TWO YEARS, SAME HAS INCREASED IN INDIA.



According to 37th Billionaires' lists 2023 of Forbes Magazine, April 5, 2023, India has more billionaires than ever before but they've had billions clipped off their wealth in the last year, Forbes the bible of wealth measurement, said that the total number of billionaires on this year's list fell to 2,640 in 2023 (down from 2,668 in 2022; 2755 in 2021), marking the second-straight year of decline.

Collectively, they're worth from a record \$13.1 trillion on the 2021 list. \$12.7 trillion in 2022, and further to \$12.2 trillion in 2023 –as turbulent times have hit both public and private markets. However, It was a good year for 150 fresh faces who made the billionaires list for the first time in 2023. The 25 richest people in the world are worth a collective \$2.1 trillion, according to Forbes' World's Billionaires list, –down a combined \$200 billion from \$2.3 trillion in 2022.

The total billionaire wealth has dropped, too—down by

\$500 billion, to One person dropped out of the billionaires' club by choice: Yvon Chouinard, who founded outdoor clothing and gear maker Patagonia in 1973—and donated it to a trust and a non-profit fighting environmental crises in September 2022, thus removing himself from the wealth rankings he had long criticized.

No one had a better year than Bernard Arnault, who is No. 1 on the World's Billionaires list for the first time. Record sales and profits have driven shares of his luxury goods Leviathan LVMH—which owns brands such as Louis Vuitton, Christian Dior and Tiffany—to new heights. Arnault, who is worth an estimated \$211 billion, added \$53 billion to his fortune over the past year on the back of an 18 percent jump in LVMH stock, giving him a bigger gain than any other billionaire on the planet. This is the first time a French citizen has led the World's Billionaires ranking, which began in 1987.

Elon Musk, who held the top spot last year, has slipped to No. 2. Shares of his electric carmaker Tesla fell by nearly 50% following the April 2022 announcement of his \$44 billion

takeover of Twitter, partly due to investor fears about Musk adding yet another CEO job to his workload and concerns about the \$23 billion of Tesla stock he sold to help finance the deal. Even with his private spaceflight firm SpaceX soaring to new valuation heights, Musk is still worth \$39 billion less than a year ago.

Musk's loss in wealth is second only to that of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, who's the world's third-richest person, worth \$114 billion. He's \$57 billion poorer than in 2022 thanks to a 38% decline in the e-commerce giant's stock. Larry Ellison (net worth: \$107 billion), cofounder of software giant Oracle, takes the No. 4. spot. Investing legend Warren Buffett (\$106 billion) comes in at No. 5 worldwide.

When the number of billionaires in the world has declined consecutively two years, same has increased in India. The number of billionaires has increased 102 in 2020 to 142 in 2021 and further to 166 in 2022 and finally 169 in 2023 list. This makes India a wealth superpower in third position. We have more billionaires than every other country apart from China

Dr Santosh Kumar Mohapatra which has 495 billionaires and the US which has 735.

However, while the number of billionaires rose, their combined wealth faced a reality check, dropping 10 percent to \$675 billion, down from \$750 billion on the 2022 list. This is mainly due to decline of net worth of Gautam Adani due to stock bloodbath triggered by Hindenburg Research report.

Adani, who briefly became the world's second richest person last September and was the world's third richest person for most of January, slipped to number 24 globally. India's biggest loser, of course, is industrialist Gautam Adani who was worth \$90 billion in the 2022 Rich List. He then rose to a peak of \$145 billion but his fortune is now down to \$47.2 billion in the wake of the blistering Hindenburg Research report.

He has strongly denied the US hedge fund's allegations that his namesake corporate empire engaged in "brazen" accounting fraud and share price manipulation. Gautam's brother Vinod Adani, who's reckoned to be worth \$9.8 billion, also makes it to 184th position in the global

rich list. He's not included in the India list as he's a citizen of Cyprus.

India and Asia's richest man is Mukesh Ambani, a familiar figure on the wealth charts. Ambani is now worth a hefty \$83.4 billion but even that is down by eight per cent from \$90.7 billion in last year's Rich List. Ambani is now the ninth-richest person in the world. The total wealth of India's billionaires, though, has fallen 10 per cent from an astronomical \$750 billion to \$675 billion and that's largely because of Adani's crashing fortunes.

Adani is still India's second-richest man by a long stretch and he's followed by tech giant Shiv Nadar who is worth \$25.6 billion, which is down 11 per cent from a year ago. In fourth position is vaccine king Cyrus Poonawalla who's worth \$22.6 billion - though he's also down by 7 per cent from his peak when the Covid-19 pandemic was still boosting demand for his products.

Steel baron Lakshmi Mittal, who's UK-based but still holds an Indian passport and so qualifies to be on the richest Indians' list, comes in at fifth position, worth \$17.7 billion. Mittal used to

be the UK's wealthiest man but his sprawling steel empire has produced mixed results in recent years. His once highly profitable Ukraine plant is near the frontline in the Russia-Ukraine war. Other familiar names in India's Top Ten Richest include pharmaceutical billionaire Dilip Shangvi (\$15.6 billion), retail star Ramakrishna Damani (15.3 billion), industrialist Kumar Birla (\$14.2 billion) and banker Uday Kotak (\$12.9 billion). Shangvi is the only one of them who's wealth is unchanged. All the others have moved downward, even if only by not huge amounts.

At a lower level in the billionaire charts there's one-time banker Falguni Nayar who retains the title as India's richest self-made woman at \$2.6 billion even though the shares of her online beauty and fashion company Nykaa have tumbled steeply. She was worth \$4.5 billion in last year's list.

Other new women who've made it to the list because of personal tragedies include Rekha Jhunjhunwala (\$5.1 billion) who has taken the place of her late husband, the stock

market wizard Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, and Rohiqa Cyrus Mistry (\$7 billion), whose husband Cyrus Mistry, died in a car crash. The Pallonji Mistry group had to face two deaths last year - those of the group's 93-year-old patriarch Pallonji Mistry and his son also passed away a few months later.

Other newcomers to the list include Bangalore-based Nikhil Kamath and his brother Nithin, who cofounded discount brokerage Zerodha. Nikhil's wealth is pegged at \$1.1 billion while his older sibling Nithin is worth \$2.7 billion.

A growing number of billionaires is a sign of 'failure'. It is no secret that economic inequality has risen exponentially in the last few decades, both in India and globally. According to World Inequality Report 2022, India is one of the most unequal countries in the world in terms of both income and wealth inequality. According to Oxfam's report titled "Survival of The Richest", the large disparity in wealth distribution in India, saying that more than 40% of the wealth created in the country from 2012 to 2021 had gone to just 1 percent of the population while only

3 percent had trickled down to the bottom 50 percent.

Meanwhile, the country's poor and middle class were taxed more than the rich, Oxfam said. Approximately 64% of the total goods and services tax (GST) in the country came from the bottom 50% of the population, while only 4 percent came from the top 10 percent, the report said.

"India is unfortunately on a fast track to becoming a country only for the rich," Oxfam India CEO Amitabh Behar said. "The country's marginalised - Dalits, Adivasis, Muslims, women and informal sector workers are continuing to suffer in a system which ensures the survival of the richest."

The rich, currently, benefited from reduced corporate taxes, tax exemptions and other incentives, the report added. To correct this disparity, the charity had asked to implement progressive tax measures such as wealth tax.

The author is an Odisha-based eminent columnist/ economist and social thinker. He can be reached through e-mail at skmohapatra67@gmail.com

Is our Leader working for National Interest?



Now Question Aries in every body's mind that our leaders really working for National Interest? Let us analyse our functioning of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. The Lok Sabha functioned for 45 hours--- 34.28% of its total duration, and the Rajyasabha for 31 hours---24% of its total duration, is not a terribly bad news for India's representative of democracy in which Parliament occupies the apex position of the institutional pyramid. This shows how this institution was forced in to wasting precious time that should have been utilised for ultimate public good

beyond political agenda of people working in the two august Houses.

Both the ruling parties and the opposition camp will blame each other for this loss of time and opportunity to discuss and debate issues of genuine national interests. But such a blaming will only be a political exchange that would mean actually nothing on the ground. Yet when the entire scenario is viewed dispassionately and in a non-partisan manner, we do arrive at an invariable conclusion that is the opposition camp that has forced such a waste of time in both the Houses. The ruling party is not fully Mr clean. It was obvious that the Opposition was fully geared up to block proceedings of the two Houses by raising issues which the Government was fully willing to deliberate upon. All that the Government

Uma Shankar Prasad

insisted was that every discussion should be and would be held according to parliamentary procedures.

Yet, the opposition, particularly Congress party kept demanding formation of a joint Parliamentary Committee(JPC) to probe into the Adani issue. The basic rule is that a JPC is formed only when the issue is discussed in the floor of the House first in an attempt to find a solution. The JPC could be formed only when that option had been exhausted. Meanwhile, the Opposition Members of Parliament (MPs) also continued heaping all sorts of allegations on Prime Minister Mr.NarendraModi about his so-called close association with industry tycoon Mr.GautamAdani. The ruling BJP also put forth the factual data of how Mr Adani was favoured by

earlier Congress Government at the centre and current Congress Government in Rajsthan and Chhhattisgarh. The Opposition was in no mood to listen to reason, and insisted upon blocking precious time of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

It must be stated sadly that the Opposition acted against the larger national interest, in the sense it came across to the common people as a joint entity whose priority was not other subjects of national interest. The Ruling party also avoiding the discussion demanded by the Opposition rather they are giving the past example of the relation of congress party with Adani. Forgetting the past the present subject should be discussed. The Ruling Party is saying that the Opposition seemed interested only in maligning the

Prime Minister's image not just within India but also abroad.

In sharp contrast, the Prime Minister kept himself busy 24x7 in pursuing schemes and projects directly related to national interest—mostly in the interest of common people in different domains. In a way, the sharp contrast between the functioning's of the ruling BJP and the Opposition favoured the Prime Minister and his Government in popular esteem. Is it possible in the part of opposition? The ruling party says that the Opposition loosing their image, combined pranks that conveyed only senselessness and lack of connect with reality and people. It was certainly a massive waste of time of the country's highest democratic institution. So both Ruling and Opposition should consider it wisely.

Columnist, Khurda 63706 75562

Letter To Editor

Dear Sir

Science communication and science journalism has started taking strong roots in India-over the past three decades. However, it is unfortunate that we still don't have any quality A text book on science communication and science journalism either in English or any other Indian languages. One may ask that at what level this textbook be generated primary, secondary or tertiary? It is no doubt a good suggestion; but it is also important to discuss the target readers and the appropriate level of our education system.

Undergraduate level text book in Indian languages and English covering needs for students of all disciplines across Science and Technology, Humanities and Social Sciences. Should have a multi-disciplinary focus with inclusive objectives to increase participation in science. Also humbly suggest to include Agriculture, Medical as well as Engineering disciplines within this curriculum as to make it as multidisciplinary as possible. Further the coverage by broadening the base will increase the enrichment of the book quality and it will be one of its kind in India as no such text books are currently available. It could also easily become a text book in Journalism courses taught across the nation. But in spite of requesting through letters, emails and social media no response has ever been made by Vigyan Prasar on this.

Fortunately if one has ever requested any of the top Vigyan Prasad official they will warmly appreciate you about the idea; and promise to take it to the highest concerned authorities. But the promise drops out of their pockets as soon as they land in Delhi. It is a great shame that an initiative like simply designing a text book has been faltering 75 years post independence! I had always hoped that central organizations, like the Vigyan Prasar will do something about it.

I have been tired of writing and requesting them for along time; but prayers of ordinary citizens don't reach the high offices that's the crude irony of India. I have therefore decided to take the request to the PMO portal of our Honourable PM Sri Narendra Modi (PM Speaks); for justice and initiative; else I don't see any hope for some realistic and positive action or support for the students of Science Communication and Science Journalism in the future.

**Saikat Kumar Basu
378 Prince Anwar Shah Road
Kolkata 700045 West Bengal India
Mobile: 8697491914
WhatsApp: +1 403 894 4254**

Sir, Welcome move by Consumer affairs

The department of consumer affairs will tighten the rules and regulations for people (influencers) who influence people's thinking in the health and beauty sector with their advice and ideas. Health care and beauty products are a rapidly expanding business segment that directly affects people's health. Before giving health and beauty advice, influencers must disclose their credentials. The audience should be able to see these qualifications. This rule is a welcoming. If you are advising someone on whether a certain food is good or bad, or which medicine is good or bad, you should be qualified to do so. Otherwise, it will be a case of deceiving the public.

Vijaykumar H K Raichur, Karnataka



PM meets with spiritual leaders from the Christian community on special occasion of Easter at Delhi

"Backstabbers Can't Carry Balasaheb's Legacy": Kapil Sibal Slams E Shinde

New Delhi: Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Monday took a swipe at Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde after his Ayodhya visit, saying "conspirators, opportunists and backstabbers" cannot carry forward the legacy of Balasaheb Thackeray. Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde on Sunday made his maiden visit to Ayodhya after becoming the chief minister in June last year. He was accompanied to the temple town in Uttar Pradesh by thousands of Shiv Sainiks. In a tweet, Mr Sibal said, "Shinde in Ayodhya: Lord Ram chose: Sacrifice, the path of truth, rectitude. Balasaheb also imbibed those attributes. "Conspirators, opportunists, backstabbers cannot



carry forward the legacy of Balasaheb," the former Union minister said, attacking Mr Shinde. The Maharashtra chief minister on Sunday said the ideology of his party and that of the BJP is the same, and they will unfurl the saffron flag all over the state next year. "Our party's role is clear. The Shiv Sena has an alliance with the BJP. Our ideology, which is Hindutva, is the same. We will go to our state with new energy from

Ayodhya and serve the people. In 2024, the Shiv Sena and the BJP's 'bhagva' (saffron flag) will be unfurled in the entire state," he said while addressing a press conference in Ayodhya. The Lok Sabha election as well as the Maharashtra Assembly polls are due next year. Mr Shinde's coup against Uddhav Thackeray split the Shiv Sena last year and toppled the Maha Vikas Aghadi government led by Uddhav Thackeray.

Conspiracy to Break communal Harmony in Jharkhand

Ranchi(KCN) :BJP/RSS in Jharkhand under a well-planned conspiracy. The people of S/Bajrang Dal are conspiring to throw Jharkhand into the fire of violence by causing religious violence in Jharkhand and efforts are being made to spoil mutual harmony by ending Sahiya culture. The above mentioned things were said today by the Central Convenor of Jharkhand Bachao Morcha cum former MLA candidate Vijay Shankar Nayak. He also said that the incidents during the Ramnavmi

festival in Jamshedpur and stone pelting on the people involved in the immersion procession of Ramnavmi at Haldipokhar in Potka block of East Singhbhum district prove that BJP R.S. The people of S and Bajrang Dal are doing the politics of polarization of votes by creating Hindu-Muslim riots in a well-planned manner. As the elections are nearing, in all the districts, these people will spread the religious war hysteria and do the politics of hatred and spoil the religious harmony.



Mr. Nayak further said that during the festival of Sarhul in Ranchi, in Lower Karamtoli, Chete village of Nagdi block, Thakurgaon and

Hazaribagh, anti-social elements nurtured by these organizations burnt the Sarna flag and created harmony between tribal and non-tribal people. To play the card of outsider insider by doing the work of spoiling. Not only did this work, the same cherished people by tying a piece of meat in polythene in the bamboo of Hanuman flag, near Shastri Nagar, Kadma, Jamshedpur, block number-3 Chowk, created an atmosphere of tension in the area and ignited the fire of hatred. It is clear from this that in the state of Jharkhand, BJP/RSS/Bajrang Dal has done the work of playing

with the faith of the people with a well-planned conspiracy to defame the Hemant government of the state. Mr. Nayak said that under a well-planned conspiracy in the state, work is being done to instigate tribal and non-tribal people and make them fight with each other. During the Sarhul festival, the work of deliberately hurting the faith of the tribals has been done. The Sarna flag is a symbol of the religion, culture, tradition and solidarity of the tribals. Similarly, the faith of the people of Hindu religion is attached to the festival of Ram Navami. He said that BJP/RSS/Bajrang Dal should not work for polarization in the state by doing politics of hatred, otherwise it will have to face serious consequences. Appealed to the Jharkhandi community not to fall prey to the politics of hatred by BJP RSS Bajrang Dal and maintain religious harmony so that the old Sahiya culture of Jharkhand could not be broken

Bihar Ram Navami Violence Was Planned On Social Media, WhatsApp: Cops

Biharsharif/New Delhi: The violence in Bihar during Ram Navami was well-planned and the mastermind was the Bajrang Dal convener of the Nalanda district, the police said. Kundan Kumar and the other accused planned and executed the communal clashes through social media and a WhatsApp group which had 456 members. He was the admin of the WhatsApp group which was formed just ahead of the Ram Navami, said Jitendra Singh Gawar, Additional Director General of Police, Bihar. He said the Bajrang Dal leader surrendered after the administration began to attach his properties. The other admin of the group, Kishan Kumar, has also surrendered. "In the WhatsApp group, a conspiracy was plotted to spread violence and fake and misleading posts targetting one community were shared," Mr Gawar said. Initial investigations reveal the group was also



being used to instigate people to spread fake videos against the members of the other community on social media. Police said a case was registered against 15 people in connection with Nalanda's communal clashes and five of them have been arrested, while two others - including Kundan Kumar - have surrendered. "A search is on to catch the missing accused," they said. Some mobile phones have been recovered from the possession of the arrested men through which they uploaded the alleged contents. On March 31, violence

rocked Biharsharif during a Ram Navami procession, resulting in the death of a young man, while several others were injured. Clashes between two groups were reported in Bihar's Rohtas district as well. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had earlier alleged that communal tensions in the state were triggered by some people indulging in "gadbad" (mischief). "Communal tensions during Ram Navami festivities at Sasaram and Bihar Sharif are disturbing. Such incidents happened for the first time in the area. It's not natural," Mr Kumar said.

On Rahul Gandhi's "Rs 20,000 Crore" Charge, Adani Group's Counter

New Delhi: Billionaire Gautam Adani's group on Monday listed out details of the \$2.87 billion stake sales in group firms since 2019 and how \$2.55 billion of this was ploughed back into business, as it looked to counter Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's claim of ? 20,000 crore coming in to the conglomerate through 'shell companies'. While investors such as Abu Dhabi-based global strategic investment company, International Holding Company PJSC (IHC) invested \$2.593 billion in group firms such as Adani Enterprise Ltd and Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL), promoters sold stake in Adani Total Gas Ltd and AGEL to raise \$2.783 billion. "These funds were reinvested by promoter entities to support the growth of new business and in portfolio companies such as Adani Enterprises Ltd, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd, Adani Transmission Ltd and Adani Power Ltd," the group said. The statement was issued rebutting reports in an international publication, which apparently was the basis of Mr Gandhi's statement late last month questioning how "Rs 20,000 crore suddenly arrived in Adani's shell

companies." "We understand the competitive race to tear down Adani can be alluring. But we are fully compliant with securities laws and are not obscuring promoter ownership and financing," it said. Adani group said promoters in January 2021 raised \$2 billion through the sale of 20 per cent stake in renewable energy firm, AGEL to French giant TotalEnergies. Prior to that, they had sold a 37.4 per cent stake in city gas arm, Adani Total Gas Ltd to the same French firm for \$783 million. Adani group said the funds came from sale of stake in Adani Total Gas. Also, they weren't obscure entities because they are promoter-held. TotalEnergies bought overseas investment vehicles of the promoters to make some of those investments. And the funds so received overseas were ploughed back into group entities, which is now being termed by some as investment by 'shell companies'. "These funds were reinvested by promoter entities to support the growth of new business," the statement said. "The promoter entities have had substantial holdings in Adani companies, which have increased over time. It is

through the timely use of funds received through the sale of equity that these entities have been able to increase their investments." All the transactions were publicly disclosed in stock exchange filings, it said. Also, "the Adani family deployed its returns from the secondary sale to make additional purchases of AGEL equity and to provide support to AGEL via a shareholder loan and other securities - all also in the public domain," it said. The rapid, debt-fuelled growth of Adani group was in January called in to questioning by a US short-seller Hindenburg Research which alleged that accounting fraud and use of a labyrinthine network of mostly Mauritius-based shell companies to route funds into India to manipulate share prices of the group's seven listed companies or make their balance sheets look healthier. While Adani group had denied all, which strenuously denied Hindenburg's allegations, opposition parties and their leaders including Mr Gandhi have been quick to seize on the allegations to target Prime Minister Narendra Modi and demand inquiries into Mr Adani's foreign connections.

Tension Grips Jamshedpur As Two Groups Clash After Ram Navami

Jamshedpur: Alleged desecration of a religious flag led to brick-batting between two groups and arson at Shastrinagar in Jamshedpur, prompting the authorities to impose Prohibitory Orders under Section 144 of CrPC in the locality on Sunday evening, an official said. Two shops and an auto-rickshaw were set ablaze by the warring groups and the police fired tear gas shells to disperse the mob, he said. An adequate police force has been deployed in Shastrinagar under Kadma police station in Jharkhand to maintain law and order. "Prohibitory Orders under Section 144 of CrPC were clamped in the area," said Sub-Divisional Officer (Dhalbhum), Piyush



Sinha. East Singhbhum district Deputy Commissioner Vijaya Jadhav said some anti-social elements are trying to disturb peace and sought cooperation from the citizens to foil their plot. "We have been keeping strict vigil on the situation and deployed

adequate police force, a Quick Response Team, a Magistrate, Rapid Action Force personnel and other anti-riot resources to maintain law and order," she said in a statement. Tension has been brewing in the area since Saturday night when members of a local

organisation found that a piece of meat was tagged to a Ram Navami flag, police said. Several such organisations protested and demanded that the police arrest the culprits within 24 hours. A mob also set on fire an autorickshaw, forcing the police to fire tear gas

shells. DIG (Kolhan) Ajay Linda said that the shops and the auto-rickshaw were set ablaze by locals. The deputy commissioner said stringent action will be initiated against those who indulged in anti-social activities to disturb communal harmony. She also urged the people not to pay heed to canards or share inflammatory posts on social media. Apart from the DC, Senior Superintendent of Police Prabhat Kumar, Superintendent of Police (City) K Vijay Shankar and Sub-Divisional Officer (Dhalbhum) Piyush are camping in the area.

Tiger reserves do good, but Odisha slips in tiger occupancy

BHUBANESWAR: The Status of Tigers Report comes with bitter-sweet news for Odisha. Its two tiger reserves (TRs) have fared well for their management practices. That is the good news. However, the downside of the story is tiger occupancy in the state has declined. This time, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has announced only landscape-wise estimates of tigers. The state and TR-wise numbers of the big cats announcement may come a month later. In 2018 estimation, the state's tiger count stood at 28, unchanged since 2014. As per the report, Similipal tiger reserve (TR), spread over 2,750 square km area, with a management effectiveness evaluation (MEE) score of 90.15 per cent



has been placed as one of the 12 excellent TRs of India in the fifth cycle of MEE-TR in 2022. In 2018, it was categorised good with a 72.66 pc score.

Similarly, Satkosia improved its position from good (67.97 pc) in the fourth cycle to very good (75 pc) in the current cycle of MEE-TR. Substantial improvements showed that there has been enhanced management efficiency in the TRs including Similipal over the years in terms of complying with the prescriptions proposed in the tiger conservation plans, the report

suggested. It stated that 29 TRs improved their category ratings, while the ratings of three in Assam, Bihar and Chhattisgarh went down. "Bor Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra, BRT Hills Tiger Reserve in Karnataka and Similipal Tiger Reserve in Odisha have shown significant improvements in the MEE rating," the report read. On the other hand, the report stated that tiger occupancy declined in Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Telangana in the

Central and Eastern Ghat landscape.

It revealed that tiger population has locally extirpated from Satkosia and some protected areas in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Wildlife habitats, protected areas and corridors in the Central and Eastern Ghat region, face threats of habitat encroachment, illegal hunting, human-wildlife conflict apart from mining and expanding linear infrastructure. It suggested that the region has several mines and mitigation measures like lower mining impact techniques and rehabilitation of sites should be carried out on priority. "The genetically unique and small population of tigers in Similipal is also of high conservation priority in the landscape," the

report underlined. Prey augmentation, habitat restoration and protection can help in recovery of tiger population in these states which have potential, the report stated. Odisha's principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife) SK Popli said there has been an overall increase of 128 big cats in the Central Indian and Eastern Ghats landscape - from 1,033 in 2018 to 1,161. "As the number has increased, we expect the tiger occupancy will also increase. It will be premature to tell anything till the state-wise report is received," he said. As far as Satkosia is concerned, he said, the state is hopeful of tiger occurrence in the habitat in near future because of the recent conservation measures in the protected area.

Heritage school turns burrow for serpents in Odisha

CUTTACK: Unwanted vegetation, a couple of ponds filled with weeds and slithering animals are some of the issues students of Ravenshaw Girls High School have to face on a daily basis. Established in 1873, the school located in the heart of Cuttack is one of the oldest in the city. Interestingly, the surroundings of institution that underwent a transformation resembles a forest inhabited by poisonous snakes. For the 160 inmates of the school's hostel, the snakes pose a major hazard. While there is no respite from mosquitoes, with the slithery creatures taking shelter in the dilapidated buildings within the campus, the students live in fear. Sources said, a week back, a poisonous



snake had bitten a woman who worked in the hostel. The lady had to undergo treatment at the hospital for 4-5 days. This apart, the school campus has two ponds that have not been cleaned for ages. The water bodies raise a stink even as their surroundings remain littered with garbage. Headmaster-in-charge, Jayanti Rath while denying any staff of the school was bitten by poisonous snake, admitted to the presence of the creatures on the campus. "I have written to CMC commissioner to initiate necessary

steps for cleaning of ponds, bushes, creepers and repair of defunct light posts on the school premises. While the defunct light posts were repaired on Tuesday, cleaning of the ponds, bushes, creepers is being waited," she said. CMC commissioner Nikhil Pawan Kalyan said the process to clean the ponds will start from Thursday. "I had visited the school and taken stock of the situation. Though the old dilapidated British-era building has been declared unsafe, we are planning to repair and preserve it as a heritage structure," he said.

Overloading of cargo affects movement of vessel at Paradip port

PARADIP: A vessel failed to move on to the new iron ore berth at the Paradip port on Sunday reportedly due to the loading of cargo beyond its said capacity. Sources said MV Ripley Pride was berthed on the new berth of Paradip port since Wednesday for transporting a cargo of JSW TPML's iron pellets.



While the capacity of the said vessel is 1.20 metric tonne, it was reportedly loaded with around 1.54 lakh metric tonne of cargo. When the vessel was being readied to set sail to its destination, it did not move to leave the crew members panicked. Later it was revealed that heavier cargo on top of lighter ones led to the problem. Besides, it was

also suspected that the concerned agencies might not have conducted a draft survey on the vessel's capacity correctly. Meanwhile, other vessels waiting in the anchorage area were not able to move to the berth due to a lack of space. Also, there was no space for storage of excess cargo because of which

unloading of the said cargo got delayed. On the other hand, what added to the delay was that the cargo had to be unloaded manually since there was no facility to unload the same with help of machines. Contacted, a senior official of the PPA on condition of anonymity confessed that the issue took place due to an

incorrect draft survey conducted on the capacity of the vessel because of which it got overloaded. "Steps have been taken to unload the excess cargo manually and it might take some time. Nearly three vessels are waiting at the anchorage area to enter the berth for transportation of cargo," he added.

From Maoist hotbed to film location, Swabhiman Anchal scripts a hit story


MALKANGIRI: In a spectacular turnaround, Swabhiman Anchal in Malkangiri district, which was a Maoist hotbed and cut-off from the mainstream only a decade back, is all set to become the location for shooting of the pan-India Telugu blockbuster Pushpa's sequel. 'Pushpa-II: The Rule' will be shot at the hanging bridge and Hantalguda ghat, the under-construction bridge at the spillway in Chitrakonda and Saptadhara bridge on NH-326 between Malkangiri and Jeypore. A team of Mythri Movie Makers Pvt Ltd comprising fightmasters Peter Haines and Dragon Prakash, art director Ramakrishna, assistant producer Subramanyam, co-director Prasad Mariseti and cameraman Debraj selected the locations after scouting Swabhiman Anchal for a



couple of days. The team was in the area on Friday and Saturday to do the ground work before shooting of the sequences commences. Production manager P Venketeswar Rao had sought permission from Malkangiri collector Vishal Singh and SP Nitesh Wadhvani to shoot the film at the selected locations from the first week of May. The team will use drone cameras for the shooting, stated a letter sent by Rao to the collector and SP. Singh told TNIE, the sites in Swabhiman Anchal were selected by Pushpa-II team and the permission for shooting sequences of the movie has already been granted by him and the SP. The areas where the movie will be shot were once a


dreaded stronghold of Maoists. Cut-off from the mainland due to lack of communication, primarily a bridge over the Gurupriya river and connectivity, the area provided perfect cover for the extremists, who carried out several dastardly attacks on security personnel and the administration. The Balmela boat attack, one of the deadliest took place on June 29, 2008, when Maoists ambushed a boat on the Balmela reservoir carrying 60 Greyhound commandos, five police officers and a boat operator. The boat sunk, killing 38 people, while 27 survived. The region, however, got to national headlines in February

2011 when R Vineel Krishna, the then Malkangiri collector was abducted by the Maoists while he was returning after a community interaction programme in the area. He was subsequently released. The state government then shifted focus to the development activities in the area and started constructing the Gurupriya bridge, which was inaugurated in 2018. Enhancement of security including deployment of CAPFs coupled with various developmental and welfare activities by the government has brought peace to the area which is known for its scenic beauty and natural bounty. Pushpa: The Rise had taken the nation by storm with earnings of over Rs 400 crore. With Telugu superstar Allu Arjun in the lead, it broke several records and was dubbed in Hindi, Tamil and Kannada.



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Reliance Jewels unveils the majestic Thanjavur collection inspired by the heritage city of Thanjavur, for Akshaya Tritiya 2023

Bhubaneswar: Reliance Jewels, one of the most trusted jewellery brands of India, has launched an exquisite jewellery collection, Thanjavur, to mark the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya. The collection draws inspiration from the artistic traditions of Thanjavur temples, the royal darbar halls of its palaces, the adorable Bommai dolls, and the majestic Poompuhar ships. It was launched at a special event in Shangi-La, Bangalore, which was attended by customers,

media, and leading members of the fashion fraternity. Thanjavur offers an array of exquisite jewellery pieces that suit every occasion, from weddings to festive events. It includes stunning necklace sets, chokers, layered necklaces, bangles, bracelets, earrings, rings, waistbelts, maang tikkas, and ear chains; each crafted to exude elegance and sophistication. With its inspiration rooted in the glorious heritage of Thanjavur, the collection is a perfect

blend of traditional art and contemporary designs, making it the perfect choice for the modern, fashion-conscious woman. A runway show illustrating the extensive range of gold and diamond jewellery pieces offered by Thanjavur was held at the launch event. The highlight of the event was Bollywood actress Jahnvi Kapoor walking the ramp wearing the showstopper piece – a diamond-studded necklace and earring collection inspired by temple mix designs,



crafted in rose gold. The intricate workmanship and attention to detail in the design perfectly captured the essence of Thanjavur heritage. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sunil Nayak, CEO of Reliance Jewels, said, "We are proud to present our Thanjavur collection this Akshaya Tritiya across India. It captures the essence of the rich heritage of Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu. Our thematic jewellery collections are an ode to the diverse culture of our country, and we are happy to continue our legacy with the launch of

season 7.0. Our customers have always appreciated our thematic collections, and we are confident that they will love this one too." Expressing her delight at the event, MsJahnvi Kapoor said, "It was an absolute pleasure to be a part of the Thanjavur Collection launch by Reliance Jewels. The jewellery pieces are stunning and truly capture the essence of the Thanjavur's rich heritage. Tamil Nadu and its rich culture will always have a special place in my heart as it's a part of my family roots and I am truly fascinated and extremely

happy to be wearing this magnificent necklace set which was crafted with great attention to detail and exceptional workmanship, bringing out the glorious heritage of Thanjavur in multiple folds. It was a privilege to be associated with such a fantastic event that celebrates the diversity and beauty of Indian art and craftsmanship." The Thanjavur collection is available at all Reliance Jewels outlets across India. Reliance Jewels is offering up to 25% off on gold jewellery making and diamond jewellery invoices from 1-24 April 2023.

Vodafone Idea Foundation to Set up Robotic Labs in Schools

Bhubaneswar: Digital Skills are at the centre of the fourth industrial revolution and a prerequisite for future employment opportunities for today's children. With the objective of playing a role in building a future ready talent force from the school level onwards, Vodafone Idea Foundation, the CSR arm of Vi, and Ericsson India have partnered to set up state-of-the-art Robotic Labs in ten schools across the country to provide new-age learning experiences to children from

underserved communities, preparing them to participate in future technological studies. Digital Labs, an innovative education programme, is designed to hand-hold school going children aged 11-14 years, through their first experience with the world of programming and new technologies. By creating an open atmosphere for learning, Digital Labs aim to instill courage in these students to embrace technology and imbibe a problem-solving approach. The partnership is

aimed at improving the students' education and employment prospects across Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) by providing an exciting learning experience and develop skills such as teamwork, problem-solving skills, critical thinking. Through this partnership, ten Digital Labs will be set up at Vodafone Idea Foundation schools in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Commenting on this initiative, P Balaji, Chief Regulatory and Corporate Affairs Officer - Vodafone Idea Limited, and Director - Vodafone Idea Foundation said, "Digital skills are a necessity for the holistic growth of the youth in the digital era. Exposing school going children to coding and robotics helps spark creativity, stimulates critical thinking, imbues a collaborative mindset and opens up a world of opportunities. Using our technology based tools, we have been working with

underprivileged children through various programmes aimed at giving them an opportunity to learn, grow and compete. Taking our 'Technology for Good' mission forward, we are happy to partner with Ericsson, to expose the young minds with higher-level skills and development, as well as encourage underserved groups to pursue advanced ICT education and enter science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields."

Samsung Launches High-Performance Premium Jet™ Cordless Stick Vacuum Cleaners in India

Bhubaneswar: Samsung, India's largest and most trusted consumer electronics brand, has launched its premium, highly powerful and intuitive Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaner line-up, delivering the ultimate end-to-end hygienic home cleaning solution to consumers in India. The line-up of vacuum cleaners will be available on Samsung's official online store, Samsung Shop starting May 04, 2022 and soon on Flipkart. The launch marks Samsung's foray in the vacuum cleaner segment in India with a range that can generate up to 200W of industry-leading suction power. The range comes with a Jet Cyclone system that features nine cyclones with 27 air inlets to securely trap fine dust particles that are sucked into the vacuum cleaner without compromising on suction power. Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners release clean air out with a Multi-layered Filtration System, which

traps 99.999% of fine dust particles and allergens. This is certified by the British Allergy Foundation & SLG Pruf & Zertifizierungs. Running on a robust Digital Inverter Motor that optimizes airflow with its ultrasonic welded airfoil blades for high energy efficiency, Samsung vacuum cleaners – Jet 70, Jet 75 and Jet 90 – come with the promise to provide high-speed and enhanced cleaning for consumers. "With increased focus on safety, health and hygiene in the post-pandemic era, consumers are looking for agile and efficient home cleaning solutions. Our all new Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners are here to provide unmatched convenience to our consumers with best-in-class features for a hassle-free cleaning experience. Equipped with cutting-edge technology such as a Multi-layered Filtration System, the vacuum cleaners trap 99.999% of fine dust and allergens and provide powerful

and hygienic cleaning. Despite Samsung Jet's remarkably powerful suction capabilities, its body has been designed to be lightweight, allowing our consumers to enjoy the Jet's easy-to-use features more comfortably," said Mohandeep Singh, Senior Vice President, Consumer Electronics Business, Samsung India. The all-new range of Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners will be available in three models – Jet 70, Jet 75 and Jet 90 – with prices ranging from INR 36,990 to INR 52,990. The models will be available on Samsung's official online store Samsung Shop starting May 04, 2022 and soon on Flipkart. For a limited period between May 04 and May 09, 2022, consumers buying Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners can avail no cost EMIs of up to 12 months, starting INR 2,799. Consumers will get one-year warranty on Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners.

Gifting ideas for Mother's Day

With Mother's day just around the corner, we must appreciate the role she plays in our lives. While mothers deserve our love round-the-clock, it's all about going all-out on Mother's day. From grand-mothers to new moms, these super women play myriad roles in our lives. And they deserve much appreciation and a lot of CARE! However, the plethora of choices tend to daunt a person while picking out the perfect gift for your mother. But worry not! If you are on the lookout for a gift that would be the perfect token of love - Here's a gifting guide for mother's day that will tick all your check boxes for the 8th of May 1. Clensta's Super Women Combo Pack for your Super Woman: The super women that our moms are, they hop from one task to another

and make it look effortless and breezy without caring about the toll it takes on their mind, body and skin. This Mother's Day pamper your super-mom with Clensta's Super Women Combo Pack which comprises of a Face Moisturizer, a Sunscreen, a Face Serum and an Under-eye Cream. Laced with the goodness of magical Red Aloe Vera, this essential combo will help your mother in replenishing her natural glow and having the perfect skin of. The higher concentrations of beneficial phytochemicals in Red Aloe Vera provide it a 22-times more powerful anti-inflammatory effect. High concentrations of salicylic acid and polysaccharides help relax tight muscles and provide a soothing effect.

Blue Dart reports record performance with positive Q4 and Year-End

Mumbai: Blue Dart Express Limited, South Asia's premier express air and integrated transportation & Distribution Company, declared its Audited financial results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2022 at the Board Meeting held in Mumbai.

The company posted ₹ 1,354 million profit after tax (previous year ₹ 891 million profit) for the quarter ended March 31, 2022, and ₹ 3,764 million profit after tax (previous year ₹ 963 million profit) for the year ended March 31, 2022. Revenue from operations for the quarter ended March 31, 2022 stood at ₹ 11,659 million and 44,090 million for the year ended March 31, 2022.

Funskool rolls out exclusive new range of toys for children this summer

Chennai: India's leading toy manufacturer, Funskool India Ltd is back with launching yet another blockbuster range of toys for children this summer. The wide range of new products are from a diverse range of categories such as board games, puzzles, Infants & pre-school, dough etc. This range will not only encourage the development of multiple skills: cognitive, physical,

social, and emotional but also help parents to fully engage their children. The product offerings include a 3 in 1 Deluxe Play Gyman and Mini Vehicles combo packs for Toddlers, traditional board games such as Goats and Tigers (better known as Aadu Puli Attam in Tamil), Mancala, 9 in 1 Super Games apart from other products in Handy Crafts, Fun Dough and Puzzles for young children.

Commenting on the launch of the new products for summer 2022, Mr. R. Jeswant, CEO, of Funskool India said, "Funskool has always strived to introduce the best inspiring and engaging toys with a focus on edutainment. Being indigenously developed and manufactured, the new range of toys and games align with the nation's goal of Atma Nirbhar Bharat."

India Poker Championship and India Online Poker Championship

Mumbai: Spartan Poker announced the dates for its leading poker championships. The India Poker Championship (IPC) is heading to Casino Vegas by Big Daddy, Nepal, and will be held from 17th - 22nd May 2022. The 13th edition of the Indian Online Poker Championship (IOPC) will be held from 2nd - 19th June 2022. Indian poker enthusiasts will get to experience the best of both felts this summer with a whopping combined Prize-Pool of 36.5 Crore GTD.

'22 MegaStacks edition is also designed in a best-in-class live tournament structure with heavy buy-ins & deep stacks for a high-quality gaming experience. The India Online Poker Championship, which follows immediately post IPC, would be the biggest ever online poker series in India with a massive prize pool of 33 Crore GTD! The 18-day-long virtual series will provide an online experience unlike any other gaming event in India.

India Online Poker Championship that will be hosted on the Spartan Poker platform, along with other streaming partners like AIO Games, Blitzpoker, PokerHigh, and PokerDaddy. We know how incredible the level of play in these competitions can be! We aim to offer an even better experience for players & fans, and even more opportunities for skilled players to raise their games and win huge prizes."

Speaking on the launch, Mr. Amin Rozani, CEO of Spartan Poker Group said, "We are excited to host the India Poker Championship live this year and follow it up with our very successful

with our very successful

At Spartan Poker, we provide a seamless and a fair gaming experience to the Indian poker community, and we are driven to build Poker as a professional sport in India, along with all its inherent thrill, while also showcasing the country's untapped poker talent. Added Mr. Rozani.

Sudarshan Venuelevated as Managing Director of TVS Motor Company

Chennai: TVS Motor Company, a reputed manufacturer of two-wheelers and three-wheelers globally, announced at its board meeting today the elevation of Sudarshan Venues as Managing Director of the Company, effective today. Sudarshan has been charting the future of one of India's leading two-wheeler manufacturer and has made it the most awarded two-wheeler company. He has played a pivotal role in the company's growth in India and key

international markets, including Asia, Africa, and more recently in Europe. Prof Sir Ralf Dieter Speth, Chairman, TVS Motor Company said, "Sudarshan has got a clear vision and brings with him both a tremendous passion for advanced technologies and sustainable growth, deep-seated in values. He thinks future-oriented, staying ahead of the emerging trends. Personal, smart mobility, including electrification, are two of his big areas of focus. He has also spearheaded the international growth of

TVS Motor. He has the ability to lead high performing teams internationally with empathy. He takes care of people and society. I am sure that with his leadership, the company will grow stronger and further pivot to the future." Mr. Venu Srinivasan, Chairman Emeritus, TVS Motor Company said, "Sudarshan's extraordinary efforts have witnessed key decisions to develop aspirational products and grow fast in India and overseas.

WhatsApp rolls out emoji reactions, bigger groups

San Francisco: With an aim to make the messaging platform more user friendly, Meta-owned WhatsApp has announced that it is rolling out new features, including emoji reactions, bigger files and groups. The company said that it is slowly rolling out the ability to add up to 512 people to a group, which, till now, allowed to add only up to 256. "We are excited to share that emoji reactions are now available on the latest version of the app. Reactions are fun, fast, and they reduce overload in groups too. We will continue improving them by adding an even broader range of expressions in the future," the company said in a blogpost.

Tom Lammonby, Craig Overton secure draw for Somerset

London: Josh Bohannon's 108 off 187 for Lancashire held Surrey to a draw in Manchester. Having set a target of 444, Surrey needed to take 10 wickets on the final day but ended up with only three as Bohannon's hundred on his birthday combined with Steven Croft's 56 to deny the reigning county champions.

Litton looking at IPL as a 'learning process'

Dhaka: Bangladesh opener Litton Das is not losing his sleep over securing a place in the Kolkata Knight Riders Playing XI. Instead, he considers playing in the Indian Premier League a "learning process".

KKR brought Litton Das for INR 50 Lakhs but his place in the Playing XI is not confirmed considering the fact that the franchise has several foreign openers like Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Jason Roy to partner with their local opener Narayan Jagadeesan. On top of that, they also have the option of bringing in Sunil Narine at the top of the order.

Litton, the in-form right handed batsman who is expected to arrive back in Bangladesh before the start of their tour of Ireland scheduled in the first week of May, left for Kolkata on Sunday evening to join the KKR camp.

"I don't know if I'm going to play there (for KKR) and there's no guarantee of performance there, it's just a learning process,"

party but the Somerset duo denied them a victory. Somerset picked nine points from the drawn affair whereas Warwickshire took away 11.

Ben Compton's 114 not out powered Kent to a seven-wicket win over Northamptonshire in Canterbury. Compton added 167* for the fourth wicket with Jack Leaning (67*) as Kent recovered from 60/3 to track down 227.

The first Division 2 game to see an outright result on Day 4 was between Sussex and Durham, with the latter being skittled for 189, setting Sussex 232 to win. Tom Haines helped Sussex to a quick start to the chase with a 69-ball 64, aided by a 43-ball 35 by captain

Cheteshwar Pujara to eliminate the chance of falling short of time. Furthermore after a middle-order collapse and a slight scare, Oliver Carter's 83-ball 33 escorted Sussex home safely by 2 wickets.

A hundred by Gloucestershire skipper Graeme van Burren couldn't reverse an inevitable dull draw against Glamorgan, even though the innings was laced with ten boundaries, helping compile a massive 569-7.

Tom Price, with a 57-ball 55, was better with the scoring rate, and helped extend the lead past 300. However, allowing themselves only 37 overs to defend 330, they picked up only 3 wickets and the match ended in a



draw. After a clean-up job by Jack Leach and Josh Tongue, it was an unbeaten hundred from Jake Libby that laid the platform for a clinical chase,

Worcestershire a clinical win against Derbyshire by 8 wickets. At Headingley, Leeds, the encounter between Yorkshire and Leicestershire was poised beautifully with

Yorkshire setting the Leics 389 to win. Rishi Patel's 125 at the top of the order set the tone for a successful chase before Peter Handscomb (68*) batted sensibly with Chris Wright (40* off 32) to

take the Leics home by 3 wickets, with 7 balls remaining in the day's play.

Shane Snater (2 for 34) picked two wickets in two balls to help Essex beat Middlesex at Lord's. Chasing 308, Middlesex's Ryan Higgins and Luke Hollman added 87 for the eighth wicket. Snater broke the stand with the wicket of Higgins and then added Toby Roland-Jones with his next delivery as Middlesex went down by 97 runs.

Sussex beat Durham by 2 wickets at the County ground in Hove, but it was a close call as a threatening four-wicket spell (4-70) from Matt Kuhnemann triggered a middle-order collapse, and what looked like a stroll in the park for

Sussex turned out to be a close call. Unfortunately he couldn't land the knockout punch, and pull off a heist.

At the County ground in Derby, a quick clean-up job by Josh Tongue (3-98) and Jack Leach (3-86), helped clean up the Derbyshire batting to allow them enough time to chase down a sub-200 total, adding a W to their tally in Division 2 of the County Championship.

Off-spinner Dom Bess took a commendable 5-wicket haul, but at the cost of 158 runs, which was certainly an excellent effort, but failed to prevent Yorkshire from sliding to a 3-wicket defeat against Leicestershire, as the Leics pulled off a thrilling chase of 389 on the final day.

Premier League 2023: Liverpool Throw Title Race Wide Open After Thrilling Arsenal Draw

New Delhi: Leading 2-0 at Anfield after just 28 minutes, Arsenal's traveling fans were in dreamland. By the end, the Premier League leaders were left clinging on for a point as Liverpool blew the title race wide open.

While it was the home crowd celebrating the loudest as the final whistle blew on a thrilling 2-2 draw, Manchester City feels like the biggest winner.

This could prove a pivotal weekend in determining who will be crowned champions, with the gap at the top down to six points and second-place City still having a game in hand on Arsenal.

With the leading pair also still to play at City's Etihad Stadium at the end of the month, both teams can determine their own fate. On the face of it, a point at Anfield is a solid-enough result at one of the most daunting stadiums in football. But this felt like an opportunity missed after Arsenal had cruised into a



commanding position through goals from Gabriel Martinelli and Gabriel Jesus and looked on course for an eighth straight win in the league.

That was until Granit Xhaka's confrontation with Trent Alexander-Arnold late in the first half, which led to bookings for both players and also roused the home crowd. Mohamed Salah scored almost immediately after that flashpoint and in the second half it was the Liverpool of old as the Merseyside club dominated the game. Salah missed a penalty

in the 54th minute and Arsenal goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale produced a string of saves around substitute Roberto Firmino's equalizer in the 87th. "When you concede at the end it's always two points dropped because you have it and you're suffering in certain moments," Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said afterward. "The feeling is 'Ah we should have done it.' City's 4-1 win against Southampton on Saturday was the defending champions' eighth win in succession, extending

their unbeaten run to 12 games. That is title-winning form and an ominous statement of intent to Arsenal, which has gone 19 years since last lifting the league championship.

The London club's nerve will be put to the test when it travels to City on April 26 in what could effectively be a playoff for the title. "Every single day is a test," Arteta said. "The test now is how good are we going to be on Monday, and how well will we prepare and play the way we want to play to beat West Ham (next

Sunday)."

For the best part of an hour, it was vintage Liverpool as Jurgen Klopp's team produced a reminder of why it has been one of European soccer's dominant teams in recent years. Having already beaten City, Manchester United and Napoli at home this season, the Merseysiders brought Arsenal down to earth.

The problem for Klopp, whose team looks certain to miss out on Champions League qualification this season, is that Liverpool just cannot seem to do it on a consistent basis. For example, Liverpool is still to win a game since routing United 7-0 last month.

"We lack consistency and confidence, these are the two things," Klopp said. "We don't have enough positive moments. We have these ups-and-downs in games and that is something we didn't have ever before in six or seven years. This situation we are going through, it is not cool and not something we wanted."

When the second six happened, we knew we could actually win this: Venkatesh Iyer

New Delhi: As Alzarri Joseph ended Venkatesh Iyer's fine knock in the 14th over and Rashid Khan picked an exceptional hat-trick with three googlies in the 16th, KKR chase looked to have derailed. The left-handed Iyer had kept them going but the flurry of wickets meant Gujarat Titans were primed to make it three wins in three games. All eyes were on Rinku Singh, their last batting hope, but victory from that point must have been a far-fetched idea even for the KKR dugout.

What followed, however, was one of

the most incredible run-chases in the history of the tournament and the format as Rinku smashed five successive sixes off Yash Dayal in the final over to send his KKR teammates into a tizzy. Iyer admitted rather honestly that he didn't think there was a chance KKR would walk away with two points when the equation was 48 off 18 balls. Rinku turned the mood around quickly, and by the time he hit the second of the five sixes, the KKR dugout was filled with belief.

"I'll be honest with

you, I thought we couldn't win it," Iyer said in the post-match press conference. "Everyone ruled us out. To score 40-odd of three overs with not a lot of batting left. Of course Rinku was there but I didn't believe that it could happen. We knew that Yash (Dayal) is going to bowl the last over and he's an amazing bowler but it was not his night.

"When the second six happened, we can actually win this game. God always gives these moments to people with a golden heart. Rinku is someone that



everyone likes and I am really happy that God has given him this very moment," Iyer said. Rinku himself didn't think he could pull off

five sixes. Right after he'd done the unthinkable he revealed that his plan was to 'react to every ball'.

"To be honest I was

not thinking much. Just reacting to every ball. I never thought I would hit five sixes. I just kept hitting. I had the belief. And we won the match,"

Rinku said at the post-match presentation.

What the feisty left-hander pulled off was nothing short of exceptional and the celebrations that followed were clear evidence of the magnitude of the victory, even at such an early stage in the season. Iyer reckoned it is a win that is going to be cherished by the team for a long time to come.

"This match is going to be remembered for the 'Lord Rinku' show. Obviously everyone ruled us out before the last two overs but obviously to come back

from there and win is something that won't happen everyday. We're going to cherish this game for a very long time," Iyer said.

Rinku's final-over frenzy comes just three days after Shardul Thakur's jaw-dropping effort against RCB which has now catapulted KKR to second spot in the table with two wins and a healthy Net Run Rate. They now have a four-day break to revel in their performances and regroup before facing Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Eden Gardens on Friday (April 14).