

Pradeep Jena; New CS

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Top Mandarin Pradeep Kumar Jena has been appointed as new Chief Secretary of Odisha. Department of General Administration and Public Grievances have brought out a notification in this regard on 26 February. While Shri Jena has been appointed as Chief Secretary, 1991 Batch IAS Anu Garg has been appointed as Development Commissioner. Shrimati Garg is now ACS Water Resources. However in addition to her duties as DC, She has been allowed to retain Department of Water Resources as ACS.

1989 Batch IAS Mr. Jena is now serving as Development Commissioner, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Planning & Convergence, Disaster Management, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) and Managing Director Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA). Mr. Jena, an outstanding IAS Officer has all along been on the forefront of development initiatives of the State Government. Born on 1 January 1964, Mr. Jena started his career as Sub Collector Dharmgarh in Kalahandi District in

1991 and served one of the most backward districts for long as PD DRDA and Collector in Kalahandi. Later he served as Collector Kendrapara and later to take charge of Collector Cuttack. And he efficiently handled Super Cyclone in 1999 as Collector Cuttack and earned laurels from both State and National Level for his dynamism and pro-people approach. As Director Agriculture and Watershed Development, he has been able to create an impact on the farmers and has been able to provide proper direction in this regard. Known for his No-



Nonsense approach, Mr. Jena was the youngest Mandarin to head twin revenue collecting organizations like Commercial Tax Commissionerate and State Transport Authority and has been able to create record of sorts in revenue collection, when the

State was facing financial crisis. Later he joined as Team Leader of UNDP and has been able to aid and advise the State Government in formulating one of the progressive Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy for the State of Odisha.

Mr. Jena later joined as Secretary Energy for long period and handled the crucial infrastructure sector time and again for over 6 long years. His brief stint in Panhayati Raj and one of the longest serving Principal Secretary of the Department of Water Resources has been help

full for the State in scaling up Irrigation Network in a much big way. An ardent devotee of Lord Jagannath, Mr. Jena served as Chief Administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) and has been able to bring in qualitative improvement in Rural Road, PMGSY implementation and transparency in the system. As Special Relief Commissioner (SRC),

Mr. Jena was seen spending sleepless nights during the natural disasters that hit badly Odisha, and has been able to guide the District Collectors in the time of crisis. His sincerity during natural disasters has been recently appreciated by the senior officers of coastal states when they met to attend National Conference on Disaster Management recently. During entire COVID-19 Pandemic, Mr. Jena has worked with Team Spirit and has been instrumental in providing much needed support to the State Administration during the period of crisis.

PM Modi Praises Odisha's Kamala Moharana Over Plastic Reuse

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Mann Ki Baat programme today hailed Kamala Moharana of Odisha's Kendrapara district for her contribution towards plastic reuse. Kamala manages a self-help group whose members have been making baskets and mobile stands from milk pouches and other plastic packing materials. "Friends,



'Waste to Wealth' is also an important dimension of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Kamala Moharana, a sister from Kendrapara district of

Odisha, runs a self-help group. The women of this group make many things like baskets and mobile stands from milk pouches and other

plastic packing materials," the PM said. "This is becoming a good source of income for them along with ensuring cleanliness. If we resolve, we can make a huge contribution towards a clean India. At least we all should take a pledge to replace plastic bags with cloth bags. You will see, how much satisfaction your resolution will give you, and also inspire other people," Modi added.

Suresh Mahapatra Appointed New OERC Chairman

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha government today appointed senior bureaucrat Suresh Chandra Mahapatra as the chairman of Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission (OERC) in Bhubaneswar. The post was lying vacant since January 16, 2022, after Upendra Nath Behera left OERC. "In exercise of the power conferred under Sub-section 5 of



Section 82 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (No. 36 of 2003) the State Government is pleased to appoint Sri Suresh Chandra

Mahapatra, IAS, Chief Secretary & Chief Development Commissioner, Govt. of Odisha as Chairperson, Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission (OERC) with effect from the date he assumes the Office," a circular issued by state Energy Department Additional Chief Secretary Nikunja B

Dhal mentioned. Notably, present Chief Secretary Mahapatra is scheduled to retire from service on February 28. A 1986-batch IAS officer, Mahapatra has been serving as Chief Secretary since December 2020. Though he was scheduled to retire on February 28, 2022, he got two extensions for six months beyond his normal date of superannuation.

IAS Reshuffle In Odisha: Anu Garg Appointed New Development Commissioner

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Government today appointed IAS Officer Anu Garg as the Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary of Planning and Convergence Department. The 1991-batch IAS Officer Anu Garg, who is currently serving as the Additional Chief Secretary of Water Resources Department, is allowed to remain in the charge of the department in addition to her own duties. The office order will be effective from March 1, 2023. In the major bureaucratic reshuffle in the state, senior IAS Officer Pradeep Kumar Jena has been appointed the Chief Secretary of Odisha. Pradeep Jena, the 1989-batch IAS officer, is presently working as the Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary of Planning and Convergence Department with additional charge of Agriculture Production Commissioner and Special Relief Commissioner and MD of OSDMA.

Maldives Gold For Panigrahi

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Ace Hotelier Salil Panigrahi has been conferred 'Maldives President's Tourism Gold Award' for his exemplary contributions to the island nation's tourism sector. Shri Panigrahi is the Managing Director of Atmosphere Hotels & Resorts, Maldives. This recognition marks a moment of pride for Shri Panigrahi and the entire team of Atmosphere Hotels & Resorts. Shri Panigrahi is a proud Indian who is born and raised in Odisha. He has been awarded the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman 2021 by the President of India in the Tourism category. This was given for his contribution to the tourism industry in Maldives and for strengthening the relationship between India and Maldives through his Indian Ocean hospitality brand. The award recognizes his stellar contribution to the tourism sector through the development

of acclaimed resorts in the Maldives which has enhanced India's reputation. Having successful ventures in the Maldives and upcoming resorts in Sri Lanka, now Atmosphere Hotels & Resorts has set its sights on expanding in India, Nepal, and Bhutan. The Island Country, The Maldives is celebrating its Golden Jubilee year to commemorate its Global Tourism presence. Hence to recognize the effort of the tourism stakeholders for their contribution, Shri Panigrahi has been honoured. Atmosphere Hotels & Resorts is a hospitality group with its registered office in Singapore and corporate office in the Maldives. The Hospitality Group manages eight world class island resorts in the Maldives. On the horizon, are three distinct new properties: one in Kolkata in India, an island resort in the Maldives, and a third resort in Sri Lanka, said

an official of the Group. Under the leadership of Souvagya Mohapatra, Managing Director of Atmosphere Hotels & Resorts for India, Nepal, Bhutan & Sri Lanka, the company has already signed a few luxury hotel management agreements for its India operations and has many more in pipeline. On this proud moment Shri Mohapatra while congratulating Shri Panigrahi's effort added "Both Salil and I, being from Odisha, are greatly enthused to promote and develop the tourism industry in Odisha and in our country. We are delighted to note that there is now an enhanced confidence in the hospitality and tourism industry in Odisha, hence, the company and its Board of Directors have decided to set up World Class Resorts at Bhubaneswar, Puri, Konark, Chilika Lake, Koraput, and other scenic destinations through FDI and its worthy investors."

PM To Release 16,800 Crore For 8 Crore Farmers Under PM-KISAN Today

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the 13th instalment of financial benefits worth ₹ 16,800 crore to over eight crore eligible farmers under the flagship PM-KISAN scheme on Monday ahead of Holi and rabi harvesting. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), eligible farmers are provided with a financial benefit of ₹ 6,000 per year in three equal instalments of ₹ 2,000 each every four months. The fund is directly transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries. The scheme was launched in February 2019 but is being



implemented with effect from December 2018. The Prime Minister will release the 13th instalment at an event to be held at Belagavi, Karnataka, an official statement said on Sunday. More than one lakh attendees, comprising PM-KISAN and Jal

Jeevan Mission beneficiaries are expected to take part in the event. The Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and Agriculture Secretary Manoj Ahuja will also be present. The 11th and 12th instalments under the PM-KISAN scheme

were released in May and October 2022. The PM-KISAN scheme has already provided significant benefits to farmers across the country, and this latest instalment will further boost their incomes and contribute to the growth of the agriculture sector, the statement said. Till now, over ₹ 2.25 lakh crore of funds have been disbursed under the scheme to more than 11 crore farmer families, primarily small and marginal farmers. Notably, during the Covid-19 lockdown, ₹ 1.75 lakh crore were distributed in multiple instalments to support these needy farmers.

The Scheme has also benefited over three crore women beneficiaries who have collectively received over ₹ 53,600 crores in funds. This initiative has spurred rural economic growth, eased credit constraints for farmers and boosted agricultural investments. It has also increased farmers' risk-taking capacity, leading to more productive investments. According to the International Food Research Institute (IFRI), the PM-KISAN funds are helping recipients meet their agricultural needs and other expenses like education, medical care and marriage.



he Governor of Sikkim, Shri Lakshman Prasad Acharya calls on the Vice President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar at Upa-Rashtrapati Nivas, in New Delhi

Saffron Smells Blood

Bhubaneswar: Killing of Naba Kisore Das has turned out to be a 'Changing Agent' in Odisha Politics. While Governing Biju Janata Dal (BJD) lost a 'Field Marshal' in Western Odisha, this horrible incident has emboldened Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in smelling blood.

The old ally of the regional BJD has stepped up its agitation and this time, the BJP's steering with Sambalpur Strong Man Jaynarayan Mishra, who is also the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Odisha Legislative Assembly. Though Shri Mishra is not the BJP's State President, he has been leading the party from the front both outside and inside the Odisha Assembly. The Saffron Stalwart has been hitting BJD where it hurts.

Never before, the Governing BJD headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patanik had ever focused on one saffron leader and has now

trained guns towards Shri Mishra. The people of Odisha have also witnessed BJD leaders and activists burning effigies of Shri Mishra while the saffron party reciprocated it by setting fire on Naveen's effigies. The effigy burning incidents have also become a daily ritual in the Odisha politics. This is not all, there is not a senior leader in the BJD who has not called Shri Mishra a regular offender or even criminal after he allegedly pushed a woman police inspector during an agitation in Sambalpur. The women BJD MLAs including the Lady Ministers also met the OLA Speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha demanding removal of Shri Mishra from the post of Leader of Opposition. They also publicly expressed their fear that the women lawmakers do not feel secure in the House while Shri Mishra is present after he allegedly misbehaved with a

woman cop. As Shri Mishra is leading the party from the front he has turned as 'TRP Master' for Television Channels. LOP has also named certain top officials and politicians and directly accused them of their involvement in the Minister's killing. He is yet to provide any concrete evidence thus making a flutter in the state politics. In the meantime Shri Mishra has been booked under different non-bailable offence charges, but the State Police did not arrest him as it will further boost the image of the LOP. The ruling party leadership feels that if at all, the Police arrests Shri Mishra, his image will be boosted among the saffron rank and file and he also gain currency among the people in western region of the state. The police did not arrest him despite former Mumbai Police Commissioner Arup Patnaik publicly saying that he (Mishra) should be behind bars if it was



Maharashtra. However, the government, which is as such facing continuous agitations following Naba Das killing, does not want to further escalate the situation. In fact statements issued by LoP have spurred much heat and it appears unmanageable. Though the Government has earlier resolved many issues and managed leaders of its own party and those in opposition using different methods, Shri Mishra does not fit to the scheme of things.

No pressure or threat works against Saffron Strong Man as he has come out with a commitment to attack the BJD and Government in any means. If one leader becomes fearless, it is really tough to handle him. This is what is happening in the case of Shri Mishra, who meanwhile has got the support of the party in Odisha. However, no one is sure whether the BJP's central leadership also supports Shri Mishra. After breaking its electoral alliance with

the BJP in 2009, Naveen Patnaik's regional party has all along maintained a cordial relationship with the BJP's Central Leadership. Naveen is the only Chief Minister in the country who has a special relationship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A phone call from PM Modi ensured victory of Ashiwini Vaishnaw in the Rajya Sabha elections even as the BJP in Odisha did not have required support. Therefore, Naveen all along maintained cordial relationship with Shri Modi by supporting the central government in all controversial issues like demonetization, Kashmir issue, amendment of MMDR Act, Triple Talaq, J&K issue and many others. Even Naveen's BJD did not strongly oppose the three agricultural acts which was later withdrawn by the central government in the face of protests from farmers across the country. Naveen by his unique style of politics, keeps

National BJP happy as Narendra Modi and Amit Shah know it pretty well that the BJD Chief was more trustworthy than the BJP leaders and Chief Ministers. During its alliance during 2000-2009, BJD has never put the NDA in trouble and never believed in bargaining tactics. Even though Mamata Banerjee, Nitish Kumar, Uddhav Thakre and Akali Dal leaders separated from NDA and turned strong foes, Naveen's BJD remained as a trusted friend of BJP. Keeping Naveen's politics in view, he has never supported Congress or any other third front or the fourth front. He has been going all alone in the state and supports the NDA at the centre by means of well measured political measurements. Naveen's closeness to the central leadership has all along damaged the BJP's prospect in Odisha. The people do not believe in BJP because it often takes help from Naveen at the centre. Therefore, the opposition Congress often

ridicules them as saying that both BJD and BJP are two sides of one coin. However, under the changed circumstances when Shri Mishra is leading the BJP from the front, there seems a possible change of political situation in Odisha. The BJP central leadership may not drop Shri Mishra from the LoP as Governing BJD demands. This is because, Shri Mishra has emerged as a strong leader among the saffron outfit and he gets support from the rank and file for his non-compromising attitude. The BJP rank and file believes that Shri Mishra's fight heads towards a conclusive end and he is performing his role as Opposition Leader. However, some people do not like his manner of functioning. His acts and political attitude may change the relation between the BJD and the BJP in the near future. With his disruptive approach Saffron Brigade is smelling blood!

Couple in Odisha constructs own grave, wishes to be buried together



BERHAMPUR: Believe it or not, a couple from Souri village in Nuagada block of Gajapati district has dug its own grave. Laxman Bhuyan (80) and his wife Jengi (70) used their savings to construct the grave as they are unwilling to depend on their sons. Both their two sons, Param and Pabitra and daughter Malati are settled in other places but

in touch with their parents. However, Laxman and Jengi have never wanted anything from their children. Moreover, Laxman feels nobody will give him and his wife a decent funeral after their deaths and this prompted him to construct the grave. The couple took the not-so-usual decision in August last year. Construction of

the grave was completed within six months at a cost of Rs 1.5 lakh. "We used our savings earned from selling millets, cashewnut grown on our land and milk," said Laxman. The octogenarian said he has faith in his children, relatives and fellow villagers, but the move to construct the grave was inspired by the desire to not be a burden on them.

"We lived together and want to be cremated together. Death is not in our hands," he said. The structure has two cement beds and as many marble plates. Though the couple's decision was frowned upon by the villagers initially, it is now being appreciated. "I request my children, relatives and fellow villagers to bury our bodies in the grave and cover it with the marble plates," said Laxman. His nephews, Rajesh Bhuyan and Titas Raita said the couple's act will be an eye opener for others. While some villagers feel the couple constructed the grave out of its insecurity, others said it is their duty to fulfil Laxman and Jengi's wish.

Work on GMU second campus begins

SAMBALPUR: Construction of the second campus of Gangadhar Meher University (GMU) at Badsinghari near Basantpur on the outskirts of the city has begun recently. In the first phase, the authorities have started construction of a three-storey academic block on the land allotted for the second campus. Deputy registrar UC Pati said,

"The World Bank had provided Rs 9 crore, including Rs 7 crore for civil work and Rs 2 crore for non-civil developmental work. We have started construction of the three-storey building which will house 15 classrooms, office rooms and toilets, with the Rs 7 crore on the land in the first phase." "Construction of other



required buildings for the institution will be carried out with the fund, which will be provided by Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)," he said. RUSA has already sanctioned Rs 27.5 crore for development of infrastructure of the institution in the first phase. The fund is being spent on development of infrastructure at the existing campus of the university in Sambalpur

city. The institution will get a grant of another Rs 27.5 crore in the second phase from the RUSA and the fund will be utilised for construction of other buildings at the second campus. The second campus of the university is being developed over an area of 67 acre at Badsinghari. The boundary wall of the campus has already been constructed at a cost of Rs 2.11 crore. Official

sources said, all the science departments of the university will be shifted to the second campus after its construction is complete. This apart, new departments, to be opened in future, will also function from the second campus. Moreover, administrative buildings, library, guest house will also be developed there.

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Rajkumar Hirani reveals how Shah Rukh Khan was on the sets of 'Dunki', says he surprised him

After the humungous success of 'Pathaan', Shah Rukh Khan fans are eagerly waiting for his upcoming films, 'Dunki' and 'Jawan' now. SRK will be collaborating with Rajkumar Hirani for the first time and the audience is looking forward to this collaboration ever since they announced the film with the most fun video! Hirani said that Shah Rukh keeps everyone happy on the set and so he wishes he had worked with him earlier. The filmmaker expressed in an interview with India Today that, he was surprised when SRK turned up on the set for a 7am shoot. He called the



actor a complete charmer and someone who has a great control over his language. The director also shared that SRK would invite him to party with his team, but he sleeps early. So, Shah Rukh would

joke that by the time they would finish the film, he would convert Hirani into a night person. Earlier, SRK had said in an interview that Raju Hirani's movies are always a mix of comedy and a lot of emotions in the country. So, 'Dunki' is not different. It's a big journey film which goes to different areas of the world and comes back to India. 'Dunki' also stars Taapsee Pannu. Rumours have also been rife that Vicky Kaushal is a part of 'Dunki' but the makers have not yet announced it officially. However, some fans had shared pictures with Vicky from the sets on social media. The film is set to release in December 2023.

Hrithik Roshan's stunt double reveals he learnt martial arts with Sushant Singh Rajput in the same class



Hrithik Roshan's Vikram Vedha stunt double Mansoor Ali Khan became a viral sensation as fans found an uncanny resemblance with late actor Sushant Singh Rajput. The stuntman is rather amused at the response to his picture and in a recent interaction, he revealed that he has in fact trained with SSR over a decade ago. Mansoor revealed to HT that he would train with Sushant in 2009 under the guidance of same martial arts teacher. He said that they would often meet and exchange a hello. Back then Sushant hadn't entered the TV

industry, but people would still recognise and point out the physical similarities between them. Mansoor who was born in Delhi moved to Mumbai in search of job prospects. He said he got into films as his uncle was an action master for 25 years. Mansoor revealed his first Bollywood film was Salman Khan's Wanted. He also did the stunts in Ek Tha Tiger, Agneepath, Kaabil, Bang Bang! Super 30, War, and most recently Vikram Vedha. Mansoor credits his progress in the industry to Hrithik. He said that though Hrithik is a big

superstar, he never made him feel so. Recalling his meeting with the star, Mansoor said he greeted and hugged him and said 'hum saath mein aur kaam karenge'. Days after Mansoor shared his picture with Hrithik on Instagram to wish him on his birthday, netizens suddenly woke up to the fact that he looks a lot like late SSR. Taking to the comments section, a fan wrote, "He looks like Sushant Singh Rajput," while another one said, "The other guy looks like Sushant". Another user added, "Who is that one who exactly looks like Sushant?"

Director Aanand L Rai Expresses Gratitude As Kangana Ranaut-R Madhavan's 'Tanu Weds Manu' Clocks 12 Years

12 years ago as we transitioned into spring, Aanand L Rai & Colour Yellow Productions' most iconic film 'Tanu Weds Manu' starring R Madhavan and Kangana Ranaut witnessed a theatrical release that roared loud with its box office success. Kangana delivered yet another impactful performance and was applauded by the audience. R Madhavan once again won hearts with his stunning performance. The lead duo's on-screen chemistry was loved by the audience. The film received praise from critics & viewers alike. Aanand L Rai & Colour Yellow Productions' Tanu Weds Manu created a buzz like no other making it one of the most



successful films of the year and the most iconic ones in Indian cinema. Speaking about the film, Aanand L Rai says, "The response this beautiful story received is unmatched. The film is still relatable to a wide audience even today & that's what a beautiful

story does. It leaves an impact every time. I can't believe the film has completed twelve years today. Gratitude only for all the love & support." The film has what it took to be a successful entertainer. It was a balance of comedy, romance, and drama

which ran at perfect pace with the storyline written by Himanshu Sharma with interesting twists and turns. His latest venture into the regional cinema with Aatma pamphlet traveled across the globe & was screened at the Berlin Film Festival where a

global audience appreciated the brilliant storyline. Rai is pinning India on the global map with back-to-back creatively strong stories. Some of Aanand L Rai & Colour Yellow Productions' successful films include 'Ranjhanaa', 'Tumbbad', 'Happy Bhag Jayegi', 'Tanu Weds Manu', 'Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan', 'Newton', and 'Manmarziyaan' to name a few. Following the success in the regional cinema is the recently announced second installment of one of the highest grossers of 2022, 'Jhimma'. Taapsee Pannu starrer 'Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba' is also in the making.

Kiara Advani, Sidharth Malhotra, Kriti Sanon and more: Celebs shower birthday wishes for Shahid Kapoor

Shahid Kapoor celebrates his birthday today and the actor who has been getting a lot of accolades for his latest performance in 'Farzi' is being showered with wishes from his fans and industry friends. The actor loves spending his time with his wife and kids and certainly that's how he's spending his



day. Meanwhile, several celebs showered birthday wishes for the actor. Kiara Advani who is a very close friend of Shahid after working with him in 'Kabir Singh', called him 'selfie king' and sent love-filled wishes.

Interestingly, Kiara's husband Sidharth Malhotra wished Shahid even before her. Although, he's friend with him through Kiara. Sidharth Shahid Kriti who's working with Shahid in Dinesh Vijan's next which is rumoured to be a robotic love story also wished the actor.

Kriti Anushka Sharma dropped a stunning picture of Shahid along with a message. She wrote, Happy birthday Shahid! Wishing you love and light always." She had worked with him on 'Badmaash Company'.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu dropped a still of Shahid from 'Farzi' and captioned it, "Still reeling from this performance. #Sunny. Happy birthday."

Shilpa Shetty shared a fun picture from an award function along with a birthday wish, "Happy Birthday Shahid Kapoor. Nothing #Farzi when I see the joy on your face when you perform, Shahid! Wishing you love, happiness, and all the success."

Shilpa Shahid Shahid's brother Ishaan Khatter had the cutest wish for him though. Ishaan wrote, "My elder tree, I may grow taller or even bushier ?? but it's all because of your shade and nurturing. Love you and trouble you always. Happy birthday bade miyan @shahidkapoor" Post the success of 'Farzi', fans are demanding a second season. Shahid will be seen next in a film with Kriti Sanon and also a comedy with Anees Bazmee.

Rumour: Will Ranbir Kapoor's 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar' release a day earlier?

There's quite a lot of buzz surrounding 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar' which is scheduled to release on March 8. The Luv Ranjan directed romcom, starring Ranbir Kapoor and Shraddha Kapoor in the lead, is the story of two happy-go-lucky individuals, who like all youngsters, are as confused in love as they are in life.

Now, according to reports, the makers of the much-anticipated film are pondering over preponing the release a day earlier, on Tuesday, March 7. The second day of this year's Holi is on March 7. However, there are confusions regarding the exact



date. In many places, the Holi holiday will be on March 7 and to take advantage of the festive mood, the makers feel releasing the film on March 7 might see maximum footfalls. However, these are nothing but rumours. There hasn't been any official announcement about it. The final decision will reportedly be taken in a few days. If 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar' eventually releases on March 7, the film will have an extended six-day weekend and this might work well for the box office numbers. Coming back to the movie, the romantic flick showcases the journey of a boy and girl as they both try to outwit each other at the flirting game. They dance, kiss and make merry; trouble however ensues, when things get serious and their respective families try to get them married off to each other. Ranbir Kapoor shuts down claims that Bollywood is going through a 'bad phase'; says 'Pathaan ki collection dekhi hai?' As for the quirky title of the movie, a source had earlier revealed to ETimes that the reason for the delay in announcing and registering the title of the movie was because Luv didn't want to leak the quirky name and lose out on the buzz it would create.

Amendments in respect of Charitable Trust and Institutions



NP Jain

Many changes have been made by the Finance Bill, 2023 in provisions relating to Charitable Trust and Institutions. Some provisions are discussed in this article. 1. Introduction: Income of any fund or institution or trust or any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution referred to in sub-clause (iv) or sub-clause (v) or sub-clause (vi) or sub-clause (via) of section 10(23C) or any trust or institution registered u/s 12AA or 12AB is exempt subject to the fulfilment of the prescribed conditions. The exemption to these trusts or institutions is available under the two regimes-

a) Regime for any fund or institution or trust or any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution referred to in sub-clause (iv) or sub-clause (v) or sub-clause (vi) or sub-clause (via) section 10(23C) (hereinafter referred to as trust or institution under first regime); and

b) Regime for the

trusts registered under section 12AA/12AB (hereinafter referred to as trust or institution under the second regime). Section 12A, inter alia, provides for procedure to make application for the registration of the trust or institution to claim exemption under section 11 and 12. Section 12AB is the new section which has come into effect from 1st April, 2021.

2. Treatment of donation to other Trusts: The income of the trusts and institutions under both regimes is exempt subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions. Some of such conditions are as follows:

a) at least 85% of income of the trust or institution should be applied during the year for the charitable or religious purposes to ensure bare minimum application for charitable or religious purposes.

b) Trusts or institutions are allowed to either apply mandatory 85% of their income either themselves or by making donations to the trusts with similar objectives.

c) If donated to other trusts or institutions, the donation should not be towards corpus to ensure that the donations are applied by the donee trust or institutions.

d) Thus, every trust or institution under both the regimes is allowed to accumulate 15% of its income each year.

Treatment of donation to other Trusts:

As stated in Explanatory Memorandum to the Budget, instances have come to the notice of the Government that certain trusts or institutions are trying to defeat the intention of the legislature by forming multiple trusts and accumulating 15% at each layer. By forming multiple trusts and accumulating 15% at each stage, the effective application towards the charitable or religious activities is reduced significantly to a lesser percentage compared to the mandatory requirement of 85%. Amendment: In order to ensure intended application toward charitable or religious purpose, it has been proposed that only 85% of the eligible donations made by a trust or institution under the first or the second regime to another trust under the first or second regime shall be treated as application only to the extent of 85% of such donation. Accordingly, the following amendments have been proposed: a) insert clause (iii) in Explanation 2 to the third proviso of section 10(23C) to provide that any amount credited or paid out of income of any fund or trust or institution or any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution referred to in sub-clause (iv) or sub-clause (v) or sub-clause (vi) or sub-clause (via) of section 10(23C) or other trust or institution registered under section 12AB, as the case may be, shall be treated as application for charitable or religious purposes only to the extent of eighty-five per cent. of such amount credited or

clause (via) of section 10(23C), other than the amount referred to in the twelfth proviso, to any other fund or trust or institution or any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution referred to in sub-clause (iv) or sub-clause (v) or sub-clause (vi) or sub-clause (via) of clause (23C) of section 10 or trust or institution registered under section 12AB, as the case may be, shall be treated as application for charitable or religious purposes only to the extent of eighty-five per cent. of such amount credited or paid;

b) insert clause (iii) in Explanation 4 to sub-section (1) of section 11 to provide that any amount credited or paid, other than the amount referred to in Explanation 2 to the said sub-section, to any fund or trust or institution or any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution referred to in sub-clause (iv) or sub-clause (v) or sub-clause (vi) or sub-clause (via) of section 10(23C) or other trust or institution registered under section 12AB, as the case may be, shall be treated as application for charitable or religious purposes only to the extent of eighty-five per cent. of such amount credited or

paid.

These amendments will take effect w.e.f. assessment year 2024-25.

3. Combining provisional and regular registration in some cases Taxation and Other Laws (Relaxation and Amendment of Certain Provisions) Act, 2020 amended the provisions related to application for registration by amending the first and second proviso to section 10(23C), clause (ac) of section 12A(1) and first and second proviso to section 80G(5). The amended provisions, inter-alia, provide the following:

a) New trusts or institutions under both regimes as well under section 80G regime need to apply for the provisional registration/ approval at least one month prior to the commencement of the previous year relevant to the assessment year from which the said registration/ approval is sought. Such provisional registration/ approval shall be valid for a period of 3 years.

b) Provisionally registered/ approved trusts or institutions under both regimes and section 80G regime will again need to apply for regular registration/ approval at least six months prior to expiry of period of the provisional registration/ approval or within six months of the commencement of activities, whichever is earlier. Regular registration/ approval shall be valid for a period of 5 years.

c) The trusts and institutions under both regimes and section 80G regime will need to apply at least six months prior to the expiry of regular registration/ approval. It has also been brought to the notice that trusts and institutions under both the regimes are facing the following difficulties:

a) Trusts or institutions formed or incorporated during the previous year are not able to get the exemption for that year in which they are formed or incorporated since they need to apply one month before the previous year for which exemption is sought.

b) Besides trusts or institutions, where activities have already commenced, are required to apply for two registrations (provisional and regular) simultaneously. In order to ensure rationalisation of the provisions, it has been proposed to allow for direct final registration/ approval in such cases. To achieve this, following amendments have been proposed:

a) The trusts and institutions under the first regime shall be allowed to make application for a regular registration/ approval under item (B) of sub-clause (vi) of clause (ac) of section 12A(1).

f) The trusts and institutions under section 80G regime, which have already commenced their activities, shall make application for a regular registration/ approval under item (B) of sub-clause (vi) of clause (ac) of section 12A(1).

g) The trusts and institutions under section 80G regime shall be allowed to make application for the provisional approval only before the commencement of activities under proposed item (A) of sub-clause (vi) of clause (ac) of section 12A(1).

c) Similarly trusts and institutions under the second regime shall be allowed to make application for the provisional registration only before the commencement of activities under proposed item (A) of sub-clause (vi) of clause (ac) of section 12A(1).

d) The trusts and institutions under first regime, which have already commenced their activities, shall make application for a regular approval under sub-clause (B) of clause (iv) of the first proviso to section 10(23C).

e) The trusts and institutions under second regime, which have already commenced their activities, shall make application for a regular registration under item (B) of sub-clause (vi) of clause (ac) of section 12A(1).

f) The trusts and institutions under section 80G regime, which have already commenced their activities, shall make application for a regular registration/ approval under item (B) of sub-clause (vi) of clause (ac) of section 12A(1).

approval under the proposed sub-clause (B) of clause (iv) of the first proviso to section 80G(5).

g) Such application shall be examined by the Principal Commissioner or Commissioner as per the procedure provided under clause (ii) of the second proviso to section 10(23C) for the trusts and institutions under the first regime, under clause (b) of section 12AB(1) for the trusts and institutions under the second regime and under clause (ii) of the second proviso to section 80G(5).

h) Where the Principal Commissioner or Commissioner is satisfied about the objects and genuineness of the activities and compliance of other requirements provided in law, registration or approval in such cases shall be granted for 5 years.

i) The Principal Commissioner or the Commissioner shall pass and order granting or rejecting such applications within 6 months calculated from the end of the month in which such application was received. These amendments will take effect from 1st October, 2023.

(Contd.)

(The author is a tax advocate and National Deputy President of All India Federation of Tax Practitioners.)

Book worms buy books, stop expecting freebies



Vivek Shukla

After less than two weeks of World Hindi Conference that was held in faraway Fiji, the World Book Fair has started in New Delhi. If scholars of Hindi were discussing as to how it can be made the official language of the United Nations and how it can make headway among the non-Hindi speaking people across the world, one can find largest number of Hindi publishers with their books during the book fair. Of course, Delhi's World Book fair is a carnival time for the book worms. They wait for it and throng it to buy the books of their choice and to meet their favourite writers as and when it is held. And for readers, nothing can give them more joy and happiness than buying the signed copies of their favourite authors.

Of course, there is no dearth of Hindi readers for books ranging from Science to Sports and from Management to Motivation. In book fairs of Patna and Lucknow, readers go all out to buy books of their liking. They love to be part of book launch functions as well. When it comes to reading, Biharis are second to none. They can skip their meal to buy a book. Their quest for knowledge is phenomenal. Naturally, Patna is a happy-hunting ground for the writers/publishers. Alas, things are not that heartwarming in New Delhi and NCR. Even though it is considered to be the bed rock of Hindi heartland, yet readers in this part of the country are different. They expect that writers (Hindi or English) would give them free copy of their latest offering. This tribe of readers call the writers and request them to present the book to them. They also send whatsapp messages to harassed

writers. They promise that if they get the free copy, they would write a review of the book. If you ask them where you would write the review, they would reply "On Face book." What an offer, sir ji. Dr. Manish



Kumar Chaudhary, a young and energetic Delhi University Professor of Hindi, laments this very trend with contempt. "It is high time that readers should learn to invest on books and respect their writers. It is absolutely shocking that a freebies loving tribe of readers are increasing thick and fast in Hindi heartland. Neither

publishers and nor writers should encourage them," says Choudhary, who was recently attending the World Hindi Conference. He even presented his research paper there. Acclaimed Mumbai



based author and editor Harish Pathak says that he also avoids presenting his books to anyone. Harish Pathak's much awaited book 'Raj Babbar- Dil Mein Utrata Fasana' on the life and times of Bollywood star, Raj Babbar would also be released during the fair. It is published by the Prelak Publication. The book has essays

on Raj Babbar by several eminent people close to him, including ShahRukh Khan.

And moving away from freebies loving readers, one only expects that Hindi book publishers also



publish book on areas like Architecture, various aspects of building construction and Sculpture. If you love to do any kind of research on architecture or sculpture, you would be in deep water as there are virtually no book is available on these subjects. You have to read English books for your research. It goes

without saying that due to this kind sheer apathy from the publishers, not many readers from Hindi heartland knows that painter Satish Gujral was also an ace architect. He had designed outstanding building like Belgium embassy in national capital. The Belgium Embassy in New Delhi was selected by the international forum of architects as one of the finest buildings built in the 20th century. Yet, Gujral is hardly known as an architect. What a pity. If you are a student of architecture, you would not find any book(s) on great architects like Edward Lutyens, Herbert Baker, Charles Correa, Robert Tor Russel, Achyut Kanvinde and others. I would like to share my own bitter experience in this connection. While working on my book 'Dilli Ka Pehla Pyar-Connaught Place', I had to write on the design part of this breathtaking landmark of the capital. To my

utter shock and disbelief, I could hardly find anything in Hindi on Connaught Place design that was done by Robert Tor Russell. So I had no choice but to read series of essays and article on Robert Tor Russel and his masterpiece- Connaught Place in English. Agrees Dr.Prabhansu Ojha, who teaches in Hansraj College of Delhi University and is advisor of National Book Trust (NBT), "It is a matter of grave concern that we do not find quality books on subjects like Architecture and Sculpture. All the stake-holders of publishing world, whether publishers or writers must rise up to the occasion without any delay and address this anomaly sooner rather than later."

Coinciding with the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsava and the Year of India's G20 Presidency, the New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF) is celebrating its 50 years' journey this

year. "With Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsava as the Theme and FRANCE as the Guest of Honour Country at the Fair, the 9-day long book fair will see a large number of Indian and foreign publishers put up a huge collection of books at the new International Exhibition Centre in the centrally located Pragati Maidan in all its glory," informs Dr. Ojha

One hopes that the World Book Fair would draw readers of all age groups and they would buy lots of books of their choice. "It would be befitting if Indians become mature enough to present books to their friends and relatives on festivals, birth day and marriage functions. After all, books are your true friends," says Dr. Manish Kumar Chaudhary. Consider yourself very lucky, if you are a man of letters. That means that you have the power of knowledge.

The Author is a Delhi based columnist and former Editor



The Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur attends the Project Carbon Shunya, in New Delhi

"Knew This Would Happen": AAP On Manish Sisodia's Arrest

New Delhi: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) said they knew Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia would be arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) today, minutes after he was taken into custody in the Delhi liquor policy case. "The CBI is completely at the behest of the centre. We always knew Manish Sisodia would be arrested," AAP MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj said. "It is sad and predictable how the probe agencies work," he added. The BJP's Manjinder Singh Sirsa denied claims by the AAP that the CBI is being misused by the centre. "He may have done work on education. But that doesn't mean he



should indulge in corruption in liquor policy," Mr Sirsa told NDTV, referring to Mr Sisodia's education and finance portfolios. AAP's Sanjay Singh directly attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the arrest. "Manish Sisodia's arrest

is the height of dictatorship. Modi ji, you have not done a good thing by arresting a good person and the best Education Minister. Even God will not forgive you. One day your dictatorship will definitely end," Mr Singh tweeted.

"I Still Don't Have A House": Rahul Gandhi On Leading Bharat Jodo Yatra

Nava Raipur: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said he has never owned a house and noted that this experience had helped him "change" his Bharat Jodo Yatra and connect with the people.

Addressing the Congress plenary session in Nava Raipur in Chhattisgarh, Gandhi said he wanted everyone who joined the Yatra to feel that they were coming home. He recalled the incident in 1977 when his family was preparing to leave their government accommodation. "There was a strange atmosphere in the house. I went to mummy and asked her what happened. Ma told me that we are leaving our house.

"Till that time I used to think it was our house. So I asked my mother why we are leaving our



house. Then my mom told me for the first time that it was not our house, but the government's and we have to leave it now," the Congress leader said. Rahul Gandhi said he asked his mother Sonia Gandhi where they would go next. "Nahi maloom (don't know) my mother said. I was taken aback. I used to think it was our house. "52 years and I still don't have a house. Our family house is in Allahabad and that is also not ours. I live at 12, Tughaq Lane but that is

not my house," he said. Gandhi then spoke about his Yatra that was launched on September 7 last year in Kanyakumari, traversing 12 states and two Union Territories, and concluded in Kashmir in January-end. "When I moved from Kanyakumari, I asked myself what is my responsibility... I came up with an idea... I told my people this 20-25 ft area around me is going to be my house for the next four months. This house will move with me. 'pracharak's.

Gold Rings To Newborns, Community Lunch: Plans For MK Stalin's Birthday

Chennai: The ruling DMK is making preparations to celebrate the 70th birthday of party president and Chief Minister M K Stalin on March 1 in a grand style and a slew of events has been lined up which include gift of gold rings to new-borns, welfare programmes, public meetings and sporting events.

A public meeting, in which senior political leaders including Congress president Mallikarjuna Kharge are set to take part, would be held here and the party's South district unit is organising it. Jammu Kashmir National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav, Bihar Deputy CM and Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav would participate. Stalin would be



felicitated by the leaders and DMK general secretary Duraimurugan and treasurer T R Baalu are among the party leaders who would be present to honour the party chief at the YMCA ground here. Thousands of party workers are set to take part in the rally here. DMK tweeted, "We take great pleasure in inviting all our distinguished

guests and leaders who will be joining us for the #HBD MK Stalin 70 celebrations of our beloved leader, #DravidaNayagan Hon'ble Chief Minister @mkstalin." Stalin, born on March 1, 1953 would be turning 70 and 'Dravida Nayagan,' (Dravidian hero) is among the choice terms used by party workers and admirers to praise

the DMK president. Gold rings to new-borns, saplings to farmers, blood donation camps, hosting community baby shower events, assistance including providing notebooks to students, community lunch, eye care service by holding eye camps are among the many dozens of State-wide events that are being organised by the DMK.

As regards sports, cricket and kabaddi tournaments and marathon events are also being planned. Debate programmes are also on the cards. Distribution of sweets, hoisting of party flags and party propaganda meetings are being organised. Ministers, district secretaries and office-bearers of party wings are holding consultative meetings to deliberate and finalise celebratory events. District heads have announced that welfare assistance would be given to people in their entire regions. The birthday is set to be celebrated by party workers outside Tamil Nadu as well and it includes Puducherry and Kerala. Actor and Makkal Needhi Maiam chief Kamal Haasan would be inaugurating a photo exhibition of Stalin here on March 1.

Those using Sikh holy book as shield cannot referred to as 'waris' of Punjab: CM Mann

AHMEDABAD: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, on Sunday, said, "Anyone who used the Sikh holy book as a shield at the police station cannot be called a waris (heir) of Punjab." He also claimed that Khalistani supporters were receiving funds from Pakistan and other countries.

The ongoing turmoil in the state is being caused by Khalistani sympathiser Amritpal Singh and his supporters' recent activities, he added. On the challenging law and order situation in Amritsar on February 23, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann stated that he

will not allow peace in Punjab to be disturbed at any cost. He said, "they gathered a crowd under the cover of Shri Guru Granth Sahib. Everyone respects Guru Granth Sahib, and dharna protesting is a democratic right, but using Shri Guru Granth Sahib as a shield is not. If the police did not say anything to you out of respect for Guru Granth Sahib, you claim that you won. it's not right; To prevent this from happening again, I would like religious scholars to advise everyone not to disguise themselves as such Guru Granth



Sahib." Replying to a question about what he thought about pro-Khalistan slogans being raised in state following Singh's incident, he said "Do you believe 1,000 people (who were

seen shouting pro Khalistan slogans) represent all of Punjab? Come to Punjab and see for yourself who is yelling such slogans. Only a handful of persons are behind this and they run their

shops through funding from Pakistan and other foreign countries." "Despite the fact that Rajasthan has a much larger border with Pakistan, why do drones (sent from Pakistan) land in

Punjab rather than Rajasthan? Because their (Khalistani element's) masters are in Pakistan and want to disrupt Punjab. But we will not allow them to succeed," the CM stated.

Mann also termed the February 23 incident as minor and downplayed Singh's alleged threat of more violence in the coming days. "This is khayali pulao (daydreaming). Punjab has seen such black days in the past. The Punjab Police are capable of handling them and we will never allow anyone to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere," he said.

Mann continued, "Several industries, including Tata Steel and companies from other countries, were arriving thanks to Punjab's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government. These industries might not have arrived in Punjab today if the situation had been that awful in Punjab. Even NRIs are returning, and some who had intended to relocate abroad have since changed their minds. After six to seven months, Punjab will once more shine." The AAP leader also criticized the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the Centre over the questioning of Delhi's Deputy

Chief Minister Manish Sisodia by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the Delhi excise police case. "Raj Bhavans in the country are turning into BJP headquarters and governors are acting like BJP's star campaigners. In a democracy, elected persons take decisions, not the selected ones. By arresting Satyendra Jain, these people want to shut down hospitals, and by imprisoning Manish Sisodia these people want to shut down schools but AAP knows how to fight and we are not afraid of the CBI or ED," he said.

Odisha govt sets December 2023 deadline for Malkangiri airport



MALKANGIRI: State Commerce and Transport Minister Tukuni Sahu on Saturday directed officials concerned to complete work on Malkangiri airport by December this year. Sahu along with Commerce and Transport department principal secretary Usha Padhee reviewed work on the airport

along with other ongoing projects here. Sahu and Padhee asked officials of Roads and Buildings department, executing the airport project through a local agency, Taratarini Construction Pvt Ltd, to expedite the work. The officials were directed to complete earth work and construction of road before the onset of

monsoon. The airport is being constructed on over 94.5 hectare land at an estimated cost of Rs 33.03 crore.

Padhee, who is also the secretary of Skill Development department visited the Government ITI and polytechnic college at Goudaguda and interacted with the students. Among others, collector Vishal Singh, ADM Maheswar Chandra Nayak, sub-collector Akshay Kumar Khemudu and R&B department superintendent engineer Nihar Chandra Behera were present.



Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik Inaugurating the new Auditorium at XIM University

2nd Leadership Convention Held at KIIT



Bhubaneswar: The 2nd Leadership Convention on 'World is One' organised by the World Leadership Academy and KIIT DU on Saturday. It was attended by academicians including several IIT faculties, scientists, social scientists and business leaders. The meet discussed issues such as equality and justice, inclusiveness in diversity, culture of resilience and innovation and disruption.

"As I reflect on the important themes of equity and justice, inclusiveness in diversity, culture of resilience, innovations and disruptions, I am reminded of the wisdom of our forefathers. As a proverb goes, 'United we stand, divided we fall. It is crucial that we recognize that our strength lies in our unity and that we work towards creating a society that is just and equitable for all,' said

the Founder of KIIT and KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta in his address. Dr Samanta said the G20 membership also celebrates this theme and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has underlined human-centric globalisation. The KIIT-KISS campus, he said, is also a true reflection of the 'world is one'. The sprawling campuses are a true reflection of the unity in diversity where the elite students, the students from abroad and the less deprived students from tribal areas live in perfect amity and harmony.

KIIT Vice Chancellor Prof Sasmita Samanta said the Leadership Convention seeks to provide a platform for people from different professional backgrounds to come together to discuss different perspectives for the creation of societal values. It also aims to create a platform for people to connect to

different opportunities through education and training. Director of IIT Bhubaneswar Prof Shreepad Karmalkar said that KIIT is one place where education can be experienced in the true sense as it promotes knowledge, skill development, inclusiveness and wealth generation.

A respected academician, Prof Karmalkar shared his thoughts on becoming a good teacher. He said that a good teacher is one who makes students do things and engages attention; encourages students to learn things in different ways; is open to criticism; and is a good communicator who can make the older generation understand research matters in a lucid manner.

Noted Social Entrepreneur and Founder Director of Udyamita Vidyapeeth JP Foundation, Madhya

Pradesh Nandita Pathak likened the KIIT and campus to a holy place like the 'char dham' where knowledge is disseminated for the good of the society and for the emancipation of the poor and the downtrodden. She said Dr Samanta is the epitome of simplicity but nurtures a big vision for the socio-economic uplift of society.

Director CSIR Central Road Research Institute Prof Manoranjan Parida, Indigenous Entrepreneur from Maniabandha, Cuttack Manorama Pal, Prof of Knowledge Discovery and Machine Learning from School of Computing and Mathematics Science University of Leicester, UK Yudong Zhang, Prof School of Computer Engineering KIIT DU Prasant Kumar Pattnaik also spoke. Director School of Social, Financial and Human Science KIIT DU Prof Jayanta Kumar Parida proposed the vote of thanks.

Plan For Futuristic Revenue

Bhubaneswar: Ace Financial Analyst, Rajib Sekhar Sahoo has advised the State Government to go for 'Futuristic Revenue Generation' approach.

While State Government has been able to receive wider appreciation for its 'Prudent Financial Management', it needs to revisit its Revenue Generation Policy, opined Shri Sahoo, known for his financial acumen.

Shri Sahoo said that Odisha is among the handful of State that have posted revenue surplus for several years during this period. The State continuously strives to enhance fiscal



sustainability and improve budget performance by strengthening medium-term fiscal framework and improving budgetary transparency, which is appreciable. However major source of Own Non Tax Revenue is from Mining Sector, which is volatile. With Market fluctuation and imposition of stringent export duty, there was contraction in Mining

Revenue for last few months.

Now it has increased of late, thanks to the decision of Government of India to withdraw iron ore export duty and ease in Market.

Most importantly Mining Sector is not a renewable one so more dependence on this sector for revenue generation is not advisable.

Going for new sectors for generation of revenue and futuristic planning is needed for the State Government, which is pumping more and more resources for Development Programs and People Centric Schemes.

While Odisha Government has been successful in projecting Odisha as India's leading investment destination, more is needed, pointed out Shri Sahoo.

Major Engineering Industries are to be roped in, which will generate robust revenue in the State.

Secondly Service Sector requires more incentives and Odisha is now a resourceful State, so it can use its resources.

Thrust is needed on Hospitality, Tourism, IT ITES sectors, which will generate more revenue and employment, said the Top Financial Brain.



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IndiGo, Go First Forced To Ground Nearly 50 Planes. Here's Why

New Delhi: IndiGo and GoFirst were forced to ground around 50 planes in the country due to the supply chain being affected by Pratt and Whitney (P&W) engines, informed a P&W spokesperson. As per an official statement from P&W, US-based aerospace manufacturer P&W is facing supply chain issues to replace engines for Indian customers. "We're experiencing global supply chain challenges which are limiting the availability of structural castings and other parts. We're progressing on our mitigation strategies with our supply base and expanding MRO

network capacity while continuing hardware and software upgrades to extend engine time on the wing. At the same time, we're coordinating closely with customers on solutions to minimize operational disruption. We expect supply chain pressures to ease later this year, which will support the output of both production and MRO engines," a P&W spokesperson said.

It said that this had affected P&W's supply chain globally without citing the ongoing Russia and Ukraine aggression but the company mentioned in its statement that they



Image tweeted by @IndiGo6E

are under pressure. "The engines also have a dispatch reliability rate on par with mature engines like our V2500 for the A320ceo family. Engine availability is under pressure from a

combination of engine time on the wing, particularly in certain harsh operating environments, and the availability of hardware to upgrade and overhaul engines. Like many in the industry," according to P&W statement. India's low-cost carrier IndiGo currently has the maximum number of aircraft engines that are going to be

replaced in the coming days with around 30 aircraft in their fleet standing and waiting for an engine replacement. "Globally, the aviation industry continues to face significant supply chain disruptions. While it is our immediate priority to deploy adequate capacity to serve our customers, we are actively engaged with our OEM partners to work on mitigation measures that should ensure the continuity of our network and operations," IndiGo said.

"As we work on various cost-efficient countermeasures with our OEM partners, the endeavour is to minimize the economic impact of AOG, resulting from this global disruption," it added. In a recent interview

with ANI DGCA chief Arun Kumar said, "The most difficult task in my tenure was the incidents like a failure of jet engines in the air. In my early days in DGCA, it was very challenging for me as chief of aviation regulator to ask airlines to change the engines as soon as possible."

Although the go-first airline company has not issued any statement on the grounding of some of its fleet due to engine replacement by P&W, the company responded in January this year that, "Pratt & Whitney is still dealing with its supply chain issues and though there is improvement the complete resolution may take time. Pratt & Whitney provided

17 serviceable engines in December and we were able to make 8 aircraft serviceable. Similarly, we are expecting 20 more serviceable engines to be received by February - March 2023," the Go First statement has issued on January 2023.

Go First is very hopeful that the rest of the engines will be replaced by March of this year as per their statement. ANI reported in 2019 when DGCA issued instructions to IndiGo and GoAir to ensure that it does not operate any Neo aircraft with two Pratt and Whitney 1100 series engines that have been used for more than 3,000 hours each. At that time GoAir had 13 such aircraft and IndiGo had 16 such aircraft in 2019.

JioFiber expands footprint to major cities and towns across Odisha, now available at Bargarh and Semiliguda

Bhubaneswar: Continuing its rapid expansion across various key cities and towns in Odisha, JioFiber, the most popular high-speed broadband service in the country, has now commenced its services in key areas of major cities and towns across the state. Further consolidating its leadership in the high-speed broadband segment in the state, JioFiber broadband service has now become available in the towns of Bargarh and Semiliguda. With this, JioFiber service is now available in key localities of 29 cities and towns across Odisha including Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri, Jatni, Angul, Sambalpur, Rourkela, Jharsuguda, Belpahar, Brajaraj Nagar, Sundargarh, Bolangir, Keonjhar, Bhawanipatna, Koraput, Rayagada, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Jajapur Road, Bhadrak, Talcher, Khordha, Berhampur, Balasore, Jeypore,

Rajganapur, Dhenkanal, Semiliguda, Bargarh and fast expanding its services to other major cities and towns in the state. In Bargarh, JioFiber high speed broadband service is now available at Sibananda Nagar, Kharajpur, Tikra, BhatliChhak, Milan Vihar, George High School area and is in the process of fast expanding its services to other parts of the town. Similarly, in Semiliguda town of Koraput district, JioFiber is now available at Sastri Nagar, Indra Nagar, Aravinda Nagar, Satya Nagar, Saraswati Nagar, Kodigaon, Santoshi Maa Nagar, Gopabandhu Nagar, Kailash Nagar, Santi Nagar, Talasahi and nearby areas and expected to roll out fast in other areas of the city over the next few weeks. JioFiber has also fast expanded its service across the exiting cities and towns where JioFiber has already been available, covering new areas and city

outskirts. Fast expanding footprints of JioFiber has helped thousands of students and teachers in pursuing education and benefiting from dependable and seamless high-speed broadband internet. Hundreds of professionals especially from IT and other service sectors could also continue working from home smoothly from their native places in the state. Several small enterprises and educational institutions in these cities have seamlessly switched to the digital mode in tune to the demand of their respective businesses and professions. It is worth mentioning here that JioFiber now offers zero entry cost for new post-paid plan users, wherein users get Internet Box (Gateway Router), Set Top Box and Installation valued at Rs 10,000 at zero cost when they opt for a JioFiber Post-paid connection.

Vi ties-up with SonyLIV to offer exclusive plans bundled with premium content

In line with its continuous endeavour to offer unmatched entertainment to its users, Vi, the leading telecom brand, today announced its partnership with SonyLIV to offer premium content services which will bring the world of binge-worthy content and add-on data benefits together for Vi users. Creating a unique bundle option for the customers, Vi in association with SonyLIV has launched a new Prepaid pack offering subscription of SonyLIV Premium along with extra data benefits to the users.

From sports properties like UEFA Champions League, WWE, Bundesliga, UFC to originals like Scam 1992 - The Harshad Mehta Story, Maharani, Tabbar, Rocket Boys, Gullak Season 3; regional content like Salute, Kaanekkaane, Shantit Kranti and James and international shows The Good Doctor, Fantasy Island and Magpie Murders, SonyLIV has a bouquet of attractive content offerings appealing to audiences across age and interests. The new proposition will enable all Vi prepaid users to enjoy SonyLIV Premium without having to worry about data quota.

For Prepaid Users, Vi has introduced a new add-on recharge of Rs. 82 offering free mobile only subscription of SonyLIV Premium for 28 days along with an added data benefit of 4GB with 14 days validity.

In addition to this, Vi offers a rich content library for its customers under Vi Movies & TV (VMTV) on the Vi app. VMTV app has 450+ live TV channels, live news channels and premium content from other OTT apps.

L&T and VMware join hands to accelerate digital infrastructure adoption across verticals

Mumbai: Smart World & Communication (SWC) business of L&T, a leading Indian multinational engaged in EPC Projects, Hi-Tech Manufacturing and Services and VMware Inc, a leading global provider of multi-cloud services have announced a strategic partnership to accelerate the adoption of digital infrastructure solutions across industries, through incubation of a VMware Centre of Excellence (COE).

The offerings would include an AI and automation-led 'Intelligent, secure SD-WAN on-demand' solution, to help clients improve the experience and efficiencies across their enterprise networks. This partnership will help clients attain digital versatility through multi-cloud solutions, leveraging VMware suite of products. The partnership will focus on innovation in the areas of cloud engineering and disaster recovery, improving the resilience of businesses and enterprises.

L&T SWC will also leverage VMware's cutting-edge Telco Cloud products to create unique value propositions for clients through robust, secure Industry 4.0 solutions across verticals over 5G/IOT/Edge.

"With the advent of 5G, we believe, the market is set to see large scale adoption of Industry 4.0 solutions across manufacturing, healthcare, education and other industries. L&T SWC and VMware join hands to build a robust suite of digital infrastructure solutions, to help businesses become highly agile, versatile and resilient," says Mr. J. D Patil, Whole-time Director and Senior Executive Vice President for L&T's Defence Business & Smart Technologies Business.

Policybazaar findings indicate a higher propensity to purchase insurance in tier-2 & 3 cities after the Covid outbreak

Bhubaneswar: Policybazaar, one of India's largest online insurance marketplaces, conducted an online survey to understand the changing consumer sentiment towards insurance purchase, household finances and investments over the last two years of the pandemic. Policybazaar surveyed 5000 consumers to closely understand the behavioral shift in insurance buying trends. Interestingly, the findings revealed a growing level of propensity to buy insurance, especially in tier-2 and 3 cities of India. At 89%, the highest number of respondents willing to renew their health cover belong to tier-2 cities, as compared to 77% from tier-1. Similar trends

were observed in term insurance, where 59% of respondents who want to increase their coverage belong to tier-3 cities, as compared to 26% from tier-1 cities. The survey results clearly point towards the sense of urgency spurred by the pandemic with respect to insurance awareness across the country.

The pandemic has definitely given the cognitive push when it comes to health insurance purchase. Out of the respondents who had contracted Covid, 25% were hospitalized. We found out that 18% of them ended up spending over Rs 15 lakhs, and 22% were not adequately covered by their existing policy. Also, it is disquieting to see that 13% of those who got Covid did not have health insurance in

place. These figures clearly demonstrate that one should opt for at least Rs 15-20 lakhs coverage for each family member. However, health insurance trends definitely drive positive optimism. As many as 62% of the total respondents had an active policy and didn't just depend on their corporate cover. The figures also vouched for the fact that Covid had acted as a catalyst in health insurance purchase. While 50% of these policies were bought after Covid first wave, 41% were purchased after the Delta wave. Also, 80% of these policies were family floater plans, thereby revealing a higher inclination towards ensuring sufficient coverage for the entire family.

Symphony limited roped-in ace cricketers Harbhajan Singh and Shikhar Dhawan for a unique AI-led campaign

Bhubaneswar: India's most loved air cooler brand Symphony limited has roped in the country's sought-after cricketers Harbhajan Singh and Shikhar Dhawan for a unique AI-led nationwide initiative. The brand has partnered with Rephrase AI to create hyper-personalized video films for over 2,300 retailers across India. This is the first time in the consumer durables industry that a brand has leveraged artificial intelligence and initiated geo-targeting for each retailer. The heartwarming videos will witness India's popular cricketers appreciating dealers for their constant support and efforts for providing

great customer service. Known for being one of the largest homegrown brands, Symphony has always supported small and local businesses and has been a strong advocate of Vocal for Local. Along with the personalized videos, Symphony has also given letter of recognition, a certificate and a couple of goodies as a token of appreciation. The brand has taken this thought a notch higher by paying a tribute to the work of their trade partners. It strikes an emotional chord by going out to the people that matter.

Commenting on the initiative, Mr. Anuj

Arora, Global Chief Marketing Officer, Symphony Limited says, "We are ecstatic to have partnered with reputed cricketers, Harbhajan Singh, and Shikhar Dhawan. They came on board to create AI driven customized videos for our dealership partners who are an integral part of our company. The objective is to create brand love and deepen the bonding with our trade partners. We are consistently brainstorming and innovating to come up with intriguing campaigns. With this initiative, we hope to strengthen our relationships and reach new heights together."

'DigiSaathi' - 24x7 Helpline for information on Digital Payments now enabled on additional channels

Mumbai: DigiSaathi - a 24x7 helpline for information on digital payment products and services is setup by NPCI on behalf of a consortium of payment system operators and participants (banks & non-banks). DigiSaathi will be accessible on WhatsApp for the customers to access all the information they need pertaining to digital payment products and services. DigiSaathi will assist the users with all their queries on digital payments via the chatbot facility on WhatsApp by simply messaging on +918928913333. The facility will soon also be available on other social media channels as well.

Launched recently by Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), DigiSaathi is an automated response system that helps customers in addressing their queries related to multiple products and services under the umbrella including Cards (Debit/Credit/Prepaid), UPI, NEFT, RTGS, IMPS, AePS, NETC, BBPS, USSD, PPI Wallets, ATM, QR (UPI/Bharat), NACH, TReDs, CTS, MTSS, Mobile and Net banking. The Consortium of Payment System Operators and Participants including ecosystem Partners, Banks, Card Networks,

PPIs, Fintechs, Payments Council of India (PCI), and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) came together for implementing this to empower people to adopt digital payments with even more conviction.

DigiSaathi is available in both English and Hindi for customers wherein they can access information about any of the digital payment products and services. It even guides them on how to avail or use any particular product or service. DigiSaathi also helps customers with their transaction-related queries, by guiding them and sharing the contact details of concerned banks/Institutions.

Jacks replaces injured Abell for Bangladesh ODIs



New Delhi: England Cricket Board announced on Saturday (February 25) that Will Jacks will replace the injured Tom Abell for the upcoming three-match ODI series against Bangladesh, scheduled to start on March 1. "Will Jacks has been called into the squad and is due to arrive in Dhaka this evening. Jacks has

been in New Zealand with our Test squad," ECB stated.

"Tom Abell was ruled out before the series after suffering a side injury with the England Lions during their tour of Sri Lanka last week. Jacks replaces Abell," Matt Somerford, England team's media manager told Cricbuzz following the release. Abell is also

part of England's T20I squad.

England ODI squad members began their preparation for the upcoming series with a relaxed practice session at Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium on Saturday. The tourists arrived in Dhaka on February 24.

England, who are touring Bangladesh for the first time since 2016, will play the first two ODIs in Dhaka on March 1 and March 3 while the third game will be played at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram on March 6. Following the ODIs, which are part of the World Cup Super League, England will play three T20Is against Bangladesh. The first game will be played in Chattogram on March 9 while the next two matches are scheduled in Dhaka on March 12 and 14.

Days after taking up single sculls, rower Satnam beats Olympian to clinch nationals gold

CHENNAI: A little over a month ago, Indian Navy rower Satnam Singh started training for 2000m single sculls keeping the 40th Senior National Championship in mind. There were quite a few reasons but the most compelling one was the lack of partners for his pet event — coxless fours wherein he had won a silver medal in the 2019 nationals. In the end, it turned out to be a good move as the 22-year-old from Punjab not only clinched his first gold in the nationals at the Army Rowing Node in Pune but also got the better of his more fancied rival, Olympian Arvind Singh. Interestingly, he was almost five seconds behind Arvind in the Inter-Services trials held a month ago finishing fourth. But Satnam clocked 7 minutes and

11.9 seconds in the nationals to finish on top of the podium. Arvind from Services (7:13.8) and Karamjit from Army (7:15.4) finished second and third respectively. "I could not find partners to compete in coxless fours at the nationals. Then coach Ismail Baig and Rowing Federation of India president Rajlaxmi Singh Deo suggested the switch to single sculls," Satnam told this daily.

He along with Indian Navy coach Abhinav Bhatnagar started preparations at the Upper Lake in Bhopal once the decision was made. Such was Bhatnagar's confidence in his ward, he promised the RFI president a podium finish even before the event started.

"He is very sincere and hardworking. I always

knew he can win a medal no matter how late he got into sculling. After the inter-services trials, the task was to reduce his timing which was around 7 minutes and 21 seconds then. Today, he cut almost 10 seconds from it to walk away with the gold," coach Bhatnagar said.

Satnam used to play handball and even competed in the nationals before taking up rowing. It was Olympian Swaran Singh, who initiated him into the sport given his tall frame. "I also hail from Mansa in Punjab. In 2017, Swaran Singh came to our village, Fatta Maluka and suggested the change. Like him, I always wanted to represent the country in the Olympics and rowing seemed to be the perfect way to do that," Satnam said.

More talent, same exit from Europe for Barcelona

BARCELONA, Spain: Barcelona's risky financial decision last year to trade future revenues for much-needed cash to rebuild its squad is so far paying dividends in Spanish competitions. But it's a different story on the wider European stage — whether in the elite Champions League or the second-tier Europa League — which remains full of pitfalls for the once dominant Catalan club. Barcelona exited the Europa League on Thursday after Manchester United fought back for a 2-1 win and advanced to the round of 16 on a 4-3 aggregate result.

That made it two seasons running that Barcelona hasn't come close to fighting for a Europa League title after failing to even advance from the Champions League group stage. "We are missing that little edge and have to learn to compete better in Europe," Barcelona veteran captain Sergio Busquets said after his team's latest elimination. Busquets, a World Cup and three-time Champions League winner, knows the standard required for success. But the magic that made Barcelona an almost untouchable force in Europe had long faded



even before Lionel Messi left the club two summers ago, with Barcelona accumulating several painful Champions League eliminations topped by its 8-2 debacle to Bayern Munich in 2020.

Barcelona is caught in a prolonged crisis of its own making. With an underperforming team and a debt that stood at 1 billion euros (\$1 billion) at the start of the season, club president Joan Laporta came to the conclusion that the only way to turn the club's fortunes around was to spend money it did not immediately have. So the club sold off stakes of its future television revenues and other assets to be able to make several signings, including Poland striker Robert Lewandowski, Brazil forward Raphinha and France defender Jules Koundé.

All three started against United, but the result was another disappointment. Barcelona coach Xavi said that perhaps his team could have kept control of the game — after going ahead through Lewandowski's first-half penalty — if midfielders Pedri (injured) and Gavi (suspended) had been available. But Xavi still had Busquets and Netherlands midfielder Frenkie de Jong on the field, and it was his decision to give a rare start in midfield to workman Sergi Roberto, instead of providing more punch to his attack with Ansu Fati or Ferran Torres. When the pair of Spain forwards went on late as substitutes, United already had turned the game around with goals by Fred and Antony.

Last April, Barcelona

was stunned in the Europa League by Frankfurt, whose 3-2 victory at Camp Nou sent the German side through to the semifinals on a 4-3 aggregate score. This time, Barcelona is out of European competition in February. The only solace is that they went down to inform United. Barcelona failed to get any win in home-and-away games against Bayern Munich and Inter Milan in their Champions League group, where it finished with seven points from six games.

"We have faced very strong rivals and we have competed, not like last season when we weren't able to," Xavi said after the defeat at Old Trafford. "It just got away from us in the details. We just have to try again next year, learn from our mistakes, be

self-critical, and turn our focus to the league and the cup."

Not all is lost for Barcelona, though. It has a commanding eight-point lead over Real Madrid in the Spanish league and is set to play its fierce rival in the Copa del Rey semifinals next week. First it visits Almeria in the league on Sunday. Laporta has said that reclaiming the league, which it hasn't won since 2019, is the top priority.

But Laporta and his club have more pressing problems. A Spanish state prosecutor is probing Barcelona's payment of millions of euros over several years to a company that belonged to the vice president of the refereeing committee in Spain. Barcelona says the money was for technical reports on referees and youth players, and denies any attempt to influence referees.

Even if the official investigation fails to come up with any wrongdoing, the potential reputational damage to Barcelona, and to the legacy of its most glorious era under Messi, may already be beyond repair for some soccer fans.

Spain: 6 detained for possible match-fix in Copa del Rey

MADRID: Six people have been detained for their alleged involvement in a scheme to possibly fix a Copa del Rey game, Spanish police said on Friday.

The game under investigation was Levante's 8-0 victory at

lower-tier Huracán Melilla on Dec. 2, 2021. The game was in Melilla, one of Spain's two north African exclaves.

Police said the six people detained were all Spaniards. They gave no other information on their

identities.

Authorities took notice of the game after numerous bets were made in Melilla both online and at betting parlors, police said.

Following Thursday's announcement by police that they were investigating the

game, Huracán issued a statement saying it would fully collaborate with authorities and it would take immediate action against any employee, player or club executive implicated in any match-fix.

Levante also said on Thursday in a statement that it had nothing to do with the allegations.

Levante is a second-division club but was in the top league at the time. Huracán is in the fifth tier of Spanish soccer.

Peter Handscomb recalls how Rahane helped him combat spin

INDORE: Australia's middle-order batter Peter Handscomb has recalled how former India vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane helped him combat spin bowling in the sub-continent.

During the IPL in 2016, Handscomb shared the dressing room with Rahane. The two had a chat where the Indian spoke about how to use the feet and wrist to open up the leg side while playing spinners. "He was playing these shots off his back foot through midwicket which I thought were ridiculous," Handscomb told Sydney Morning Herald.

"I was like, wow I need someone to teach me

that. So we spoke about getting his front leg out of the way and being able to manipulate the ball from there. That helps your back foot become a scoring zone, and then if they overpitch, you can hopefully score off the front foot as well. Then all their good balls you just find a way to defend," he said.

After scoring an unbeaten 72 off 142 balls in the first innings, Handscomb, like many of his teammates, got out for a duck while attempting a sweep shot in the second essay of the second Test at Kotla. "India personally outplayed me in that situation. They gave me my scoring gap, but



without the reward, so it was just going to be a single, but tempted me to hit the ball there. And I fell for that and tried to manipulate the ball there when had that been my third ball of the first innings, I would have just tried to

defend, because I was still trying to understand the pitch and what was going on," Handscomb said.

"For me, it's just about being stronger and starting again. I probably walked out there thinking 'I'm still

on 72 not out, I can just pick up where I left off, and you can't think like that."

Handscomb, who has been to India about eight times including when he was an academy scholar, feels tours are important in

getting the hang of the conditions in the sub-continent.

"I'd have sessions where no matter what the bowler was bowling, I had to hit every ball on the leg side, and then the next day and every ball had to go on the off side, and every ball had to be played off the back foot, or every ball off the front foot," he says. "It was learning what I could and couldn't do in subcontinent tours with no repercussions. I get to try all this. It's just so different to back home, where bounce is key for spin. So tours are crucial."

Despite conceding the Border-Gavaskar Trophy after losing the

first two Tests, Handscomb said the Australian camp is positive.

"The feeling around the group is one of trust in each other's games, which is very hard to come by. We'll definitely take the positives out of Delhi. We still had a first innings lead, we'd done well there, we'd started well in the second innings and then it all just happened really fast and we didn't stop it at any stage."

"The challenge is if there's a moment where we have lost two or three quick ones, it's being able to stop the flow for a second and let us all just take a step back, have a breath and then continue on with

the game, and hopefully stem the flow of wickets that way," he said.

As a good player of spin bowling, Handscomb was always in line to be a part of the India tour but the batter wants to be "on every Australian tour from now".

"But I also understand I came into this tour because I was a good player of spin, and there are batters who have done better in English conditions who could come into the fold."

"Those are the discussions we have, we're all open and honest about it. I still want to be a part of it though, and I'll be doing everything I can to stay in," he added.