

## Scholarship amount hiked



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The State Government on Monday enhanced the pre-Matriculation Scholarships for the students belonging to Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Scheduled Caste (SC) communities. The pre-matriculation scholarship for boy students has been increased to 950 from Rs 750. Similarly, the girl boarders will now be entitled to get Rs 1,000 from Rs 800.

Provision of pre-matric scholarships to ST & SC boarders of schools under the ST & SC Development Department and School & Mass Education Department is one of the flagship schemes of the State Government.

The scholarship primarily meant for the mess management in the hostels aims at the educational and holistic development of ST & SC students.

An expenditure amounting to Rs 490 crore would be incurred annually towards pre-matric scholarship. The monthly scholarship for the SC, ST students was last enhanced in the year 2015.

Further, millet (mandia) based food items would be introduced in the hostel's menu to address the nutritional security of the boarders. The scheme would benefit more than five lakh ST & SC boarders.

## India successfully tests Agni-4 missile from Odisha

NEW DELHI(KCN): The defence ministry said the test was successfully carried out at around 7:30 pm. It said the

Missile, Agni-4, was carried out at approximately 1930 hours on June 6 from

added. The ministry said the launch validated all



the Agni-4 intermediate-range ballistic missile from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha, marking a significant boost to the country's military capabilities.

In a brief statement,

successful test of Agni-4 reaffirms India's policy of having a "credible minimum deterrence" capability.

"A successful training launch of an Intermediate-Range Ballistic

APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha," the ministry said.

"The successful test was part of routine user training launches carried out under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command," it

operational parameters as also the reliability of the system.

"The successful test reaffirms India's policy of having a 'credible minimum deterrence' capability," it said.

## UK boosts Ukraine support with high-tech missile system

KYIV: The British government said Monday that the multiple-launch rocket systems it is offering to Ukraine will bring "a significant boost in capability" for the country's efforts to resist Russia's invasion.

"If the international community continues its support, I believe Ukraine can win" its war against Russia, British Defense Secretary Ben Wallace said in a statement.

The statement came after comments Sunday by Russian President Vladimir Putin, who warned the West against sending longer-range rocket systems to Ukraine.

The British government described the M270 weapon system as a "cutting edge" military asset which can strike targets up to 80 kilometers (50 miles) away "with pinpoint accuracy." The United Kingdom pledged last week to send the weapons. It gave no details about delivery dates.

The U.S. last week announced plans to deliver \$700 million of security assistance for Ukraine, including four precision-guided, medium-range rocket systems, as well as helicopters, Javelin anti-tank systems, radars, tactical vehicles and more.

Washington and London hope the deliveries will help Ukraine turn the tide of the war in its eastern Donbas region which Russia appears minded to capture entirely.

They are unlikely to have an immediate im-

pact, however. The Pentagon said last week that it will take at least three weeks to get the U.S. weapons onto the battlefield. Russia-backed separatists have fought the Ukrainian government since 2014 in the Donbas.

The U.S. has stopped short of offering Ukraine longer-range weapons that could fire deep into



Russia and could inflame tensions with Moscow.

Russia's own use of missiles in Ukraine, meanwhile, continued to pummel targets, with the Russian military claiming Monday it had struck a Ukrainian factory that was repairing armor.

Russian warplanes fired long-range missiles to destroy a plant on the edge of the town of Lozova in the northeastern Kharkiv region that

## Naveen Changes Strategy!

Bhubaneswar(KCN): For the first time Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday met some senior BJD legislators, who were dropped from the new Council of Ministers.



During last 22 years Mr.Patnaik has axed 58 Ministers but never invited the dropped ones to Naveen Niwas.

Political Circle is agog over such a development and the political pundits feel BJD Supremo is changing his strategy.

Out of the 20 Ministers in his last Council of Ministers, Naveen has dropped 11 Ministers. The dropped Ministers are— Bikram Keshari Arukha, Padmanabha Behera, Pratap Jena, Aruna Kumar Sahoo, Sudam Marndi, Susanta Singh, Dibya Shankar Mishra, Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi, Premananda Nayak, Raghunandan Das and Padmini Dian.

Senior lawmakers including Sushant Singh, Pratap Jena, Dibya Shanker Mishra, Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi, Sudam Marndi, Padmanabha Behera, Padmini Dian and Raghunandan Das held a meeting with the Chief Minister Patnaik at Naveen Niwas.

The Ex-Ministers were told to look after the organisational activities of the governing party. They were also told to strengthen the party at the grassroots level by reaching out to more people.

Besides, the leaders have been asked to regularly pay visits to blocks and panchayats to strengthen the party's base at grassroots level so that the party's core vote bank will remain intact. Most importantly, the Ministers were advised not to be controversial.

"Cabinet reshuffle is a usual practice that has been followed for many years. The Minister position is being in rotation basis as BJD is a very big and largest party in Odisha. So many leaders are there. Therefore, chances should be given to others," said Raghunandan Das after meeting the CM.

He, however, expressed displeasure as no one from Jagatsinghpur district has been inducted in the new Council of Ministers.

Sudam Marndi said the Chief Minister has asked them to work for the organisation keeping in view the general elections in 2024. Various responsibilities in organisation will be given to the senior lawmakers, he said.

## Mo Bus service on four more routes in Cuttack

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) will roll out 'Mo Bus' services on four new routes in Cuttack by adding 30 more buses to its existing fleet.

The new routes are route No. 80 covering Biju Patnaik Park, Cuttack-Charbatia; route No. 81 covering Barabati Stadium-Salepur; route No. 82 connecting Bhubaneswar Railway Station with SCB Medical College and Hospital; and route No. 83 linking Dhabaleswar-Kandarpur.

"This new fleet of Mo Bus will be on the road to serve the public from June 8," said CRUT

MD Sanjay Kumar Singh. Singh said old buses



have been refurbished and upgraded into Mo Bus standards that is equipped with modern technology and abide by safety norms. CRUT officials said buses on the new routes will serve a larger number of commuters in the capital region.

was repairing armored vehicles, Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said.

Russian aircraft hit 73 areas of concentration of Ukrainian troops and equipment, while the Russian artillery struck 431 military targets, Konashenkov said. His claims couldn't be independently verified.

Putin vowed to strike deeper into the heart of Ukraine if the West sends Kyiv longer-range missile systems.

In a show of force, Russian missiles struck Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, on Sunday. Ukraine's General Staff said Russian forces fired five X-22 cruise missiles from the Caspian Sea toward Kyiv, and one was destroyed by air defenses. Four other missiles hit "infrastructure facilities," but Ukraine said there were no casualties.

Before Sunday's early morning attack, Kyiv hadn't faced any such Russian airstrikes since the April 28 visit of U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Sunday visited command posts and the front-

line positions of Ukrainian troops in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, which make up the Donbas.

Ukraine's struggle on the 103rd day of war was heartfelt for veterans of D-Day who gathered in northern France on Monday.

American D-Day veteran Charles Shay, 97, was at Omaha Beach in Normandy morning to mark the 78th anniversary of June 6, 1944 landings and pay tribute to those who fell that day.

Asked about his feelings regarding the war being waged on the European continent, Shay told The Associated Press it "is a very sad situation."

"In 1944 I landed on these beaches and we thought we'd bring peace to the world. But it's not possible," he added with regret.

A Ukrainian regional governor said Monday that the situation in a key eastern town has worsened for defending troops.

Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai said Monday that fierce fighting was continuing in the city of Sievierodonetsk, which is at the epicenter of the Russian offensive.

He described the combat situation as "quite dynamic," adding that the Ukrainian forces had lost some of the gains they made over the weekend but are holding their positions in the city's industrial zone.

The Russians have CONTINUED ON: P-7

## More Schools on Transformation Mode

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday said that transformed schools are the bridges between the students' dreams and success.

As achieving success is in their hands, they



should take advantage of it, he said inaugurating 490 converted schools in 5 districts on the fourth day of the second phase of the school transformation initiative under the 5T charter. The Chief Minister said that the school transformation initiative has had a positive effect on children's minds. "As the school's modern facilities increase, so does our interest in learning, and our confidence has grown," he said. Mr.Patnaik said the students are now very happy with the new school environment and they are very confident about their future.

The Chief Minister said that the new look of the school today has brought joy and excitement to the children. This has created new hopes and aspirations among them.

"School time is the best time of the year," he said. Taking advantage of this opportunity, the Chief Minister advised the children to move forward.

Mr.Patnaik said each child is unique and full of potential and children have dreams of a better future. Dreams of doing something big in life. The chief minister said the school transformation has added wings to the dream of transforming children and advised the children to move forward with confidence.

If the children's dream comes true, the goal of a new Odisha will be fulfilled and the foundation of a new Odisha will be laid.

Saying that education brings the biggest change in life, the Chief Minister called on the people to make good use of this important time of life and create a new identity for themselves, for their families and for the beloved Odisha.

Explaining the efficacy of the 5T charter he said Technology, Teamwork, Time, Transparency and Teamwork brings transformation.

The technology has enabled their schools to provide smart classrooms, e-libraries, computers, modern laboratories, as well as better drinking water and better sanitation while panchayat representatives, school management committees, teachers, alumni and the administration have all

## Meeting held at Barbil to strgtgenBJP at grass root level

Barbil(KCN): Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday held a meeting with a view to strengthening its organisational base.Dr Murali Manohar Sharma ,the senior leader ,the former BJP MLA of Satyabadi constituency in Puri Rama Ranjan Baliyar Singh ,the former Chairman Barbil Municipality Dillip Mishra along with many BJP members assembled at



Karubaki of Ward No.8 under Barbil Municipality in the district of Keonjhar. One of the senior leader of the party Sunil Das in his press brief said, "The party would prepare a road map to further strengthen the organisation at the grassroot level. They will go to each ward and villages and take up issues against the present government led by Naveen Patnaik.They would focus and highlight all discrepancies in the name of different programme and the party hopes this would help them to dethorn corrupt government from the state said Dillip Mishra. Murali Sharma said all should work as a team to strengthen the coordination and increase the mass base. They should connect every section of the society with the party's ideology.

joined in the transformation work.

Everything from the vision document to the work supervision has been done with everyone's knowledge.

"This transparency is the driving force behind the 5T program," he said.

The Chief Minister thanked the School Management Committee, the Panchayat representatives, the alumni and the teachers for the success of the transformation.

Minister, Nabakishore Das, MLAs Dhruva Charan Sahu, Debi Prasad Mishra and Debesh

## SwitchON Foundation and Calcutta Tram Users Association (CTUA) celebrate World Environment Day

- Cycle Groups, students, volunteers and Sustainable Mobility enthusiasts from across Kolkata gathered with Posters and Banners at the Esplanade Tram Depot to celebrate the Day

- The initiative highlighted the need to live sustainably in harmony with nature by bringing transformative changes through policies and our choices

Kolkata (KCN): arking the occasion of World Environment Day, SwitchON Foundation along with Calcutta Tram Users Association (CTUA) and multiple cycle groups organized an event where hundreds of bicyclists, school students, volunteers and Sustainable Mobility enthusiasts from across Kolkata gathered with Posters and Banners at the Esplanade Tram Depot to celebrate the Day in Kolkata, highlighting the need to live sustainably in harmony with nature by bringing transformative changes – through policies and our choices – towards cleaner, greener lifestyles and mobility ideas.

Over 200 Cyclists across Kolkata were joined by Children from various schools of Kolkata participating in the event performed colorful cultural activities and took a Heritage Tram Ride from Esplanade to Gariahat tram depot joined by eminent personalities like Rajanvir Singh Kapur, IAS, MD, West Bengal Transport Corporation Limited (WBTC); Prof Bhargab Maitra, IIT Kharagpur and representatives of Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Alliance Française du Bengale, Max Muller Bhawan. This year also marks the 150th anniversary of the Kolkata Heritage Trams, once referred to as the lifeline of Kolkata.

Speaking at the event, Rajanvir Singh Kapur, who flagged of the cyclists and tram ride said, "We are transforming the transport system in Kolkata. We have trams which are electric and eco-friendly, very soon we will have electric ferries. Transport forms a huge part of the carbon footprint of a city. Lot of us have Asthma and respiratory issues in the city. I can assure you the government is working in the right direction. Enjoy your cycling, enjoy your trams, this is your city and we are there to support you."

Speaking on the occasion, Vinay Jaju, MD SwitchON Foundation said, "Vehicles are the biggest cause of pollution in Kolkata, this pollution is choking our children and elderly. We need to embrace clean and people-friendly ways to commute like cycle and trams. Air Pollution & Climate change is adversely impacting us all. Time for action is now. We all, people, businesses, and the government need to come together to preserve and protect planet earth."

Transport emissions have been the biggest

Acharya and Kalahandi Zilla Parishad president Pushendra Singhdeo also addressed the gathering.

Students from Kendrapara Ananya, Sania from Cuttack, Shivani from Kalahandi, Prabhasini from Jharsuguda and Parineeta from Bargarh were among those who took part in the discussion.

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Chief Minister's Secretary VK Pandian, Principal Secretary Schools and Mass Education Bishnupada Sethi were present on the occasion.

- Rajanvir Singh Kapur, IAS, MD, WBTC; Prof Bhargab Maitra, IIT Kharagpur and representatives of Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Alliance Française du Bengale, Max Muller Bhawan were present to support the cause
- World Environment Day - Only One Earth-Urgency toward adopting cleaner, greener lifestyles and mobility

source of global warming and one of the biggest sources of air pollution in the city, however the good news is that by altering our behavior, we can choose modes of transport that emit less greenhouse gasses and are clean modes of transport. More so, as Kolkata is perhaps the only city in India besides Mumbai which has been marked globally as a city most



likely to face serious climate-related disaster. Despite this, the approach of the current administration has been not much in favour of promoting cycling and other cleaner modes of transport like Trams which has the potential to make Bengal a Carbon Neutral State by 2030.

CTUA (Calcutta Tram Users Association) which has been advocating for trams and SwitchON Foundation and the cycle group likes 2 Wheels Kolkata Kolkata Cycle Samaj, BYCS, CYCLOLOG and other cycle groups which have been advocating for cycle across Kolkata all came together on this auspicious day.

"Even after concrete evidence of the increasing vulnerability of Kolkata to climate change, we are putting more private cars on the road. It is either abolishing environment-friendly transport systems or increasing carbon emissions in the name of modernisation," said one of the volunteer advocating for clean sustainable mobility in the city.

Speaking during the occasion, CTUA spokesperson Mahadeb Shi said, "What is needed is investment in modernisation of tramways by changing the old coaches, making them fast moving and restoring the original network of tram lines and ensuring consistent."

Tram system is present in around 450 cities in the world, with over 50 new locations adding Trams to their transport system, mostly in China and the US. Trams are beneficial for the environment and wherever they are present, the Trams have become a vital part of the city.

## Robbery gang arrested by joint investigation of Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj police

Barbil(KCN): Police has busted a robbery gang and arrested five of its members along with carbine gun, two loaded magazine and one scooty used during robbery. The identification of arrested gang members have not been disclosed by the police and are from Hatgamharia area of Jharkhand State as per police. The gang was involved in two robbery case held at Thakurani and Bhadrasahi respectively in Keonjhar district. .They have



targeted two transport company and looted cash at the gun point. They too have involved in a murder case of a cattle vendor and looted 20lakhs rupees cash as per Rairangpur police of Mayurbhanj district in Orissa. Barbil police arrested have arrested them and kept for remand in Barbil Robbery case and will be send further to Rairangpur court for cattle vendor murder and loot case .However Barbil police once again proved its credential in solving the Robbery case so early said one local.However the investigation was done jointly by Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj ,informed Sushant Dash IIC,Barbil

## Uniform Allowance For Fire Service

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In a major decision for the Fire Service officials, the State Government has introduced uniform allowance for all groups of employees working in the Directorate of Fire Services.

The Home Department has issued a detailed notification for this purpose on Monday. "After careful consideration, the Government has been pleased to approve the proposal for introduction of Uniform Allowance of employ-



ees of Fire Service Organization of the State in lieu of existing centralized procurement of uniform and other items," read the notification.

As per the notification, Assistant Fire Officer, Station Officer/Fitter Station Officer, Assistant Station Officer Havildar Major and Fireman/Fireman Driver/ Helper Fireman will now get Rs 5700 per annum as uniform allowance.

Similarly, Rs 5800 per annum will be given to the Leading Fireman/ Driver Havildar/Havildar Mechanic while Rs 2000 per annum will be distributed to follower orderly.

The payment of allowances during 2022-23 will be allowed against the exhausted items based on the above rate proposed. The Fire Service Directorate will work out the shortfall items and amount payable there on to the eligible employees during 2022-23.

There was a budget proposal of Rs 2.004 crore for the financial year 2022-23. The Directorate can distribute the allowances during 2022-23 after enactment of a full-fledged budget for implementation of the scheme.

Further those who have received the available items, payments against those items shall be made only after the lifespan of those items expires. Hence, accordingly, the allowances for those employees will be worked out by the Fire Service Directorate, as per the notification.

The proposed allowances will be sanctioned annually in the month of July. The officers and employees who have less than six month of service for superannuation on the first date of July will not be entitled for uniform allowances for that year.

The Fire Service Directorate has been asked to prescribe the detailed dress code for all the officers/employees covered under the uniform allowance to maintain uniformity.

Moreover, the officers/employees will furnish undertaking at the time of sanction of allowances for utilization of the same for the purpose for which it is sanctioned.

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## Veteran Film Director N Chandra to be Awarded 'Lifetime Achievement Award' in the Rajasthan International Film Festival-2022

Jaipur (KCN, Sanjay Sharma Raj): The 8th Rajasthan International Film Festival



edition of the Rajasthan International Film Festival (RIFF) will be organized by RIFF Film

given to such a personality in the film industry who has dedicated his whole life to the cinema.

Chandrashekhar Narvekar (N Chandra) is an Indian producer, writer and director who is known for crisp realism in his early Dark and Loud films. His most successful commercial films are 'Ankush' starring Nana Patekar, 'Pratighaat' starring Sujata Mehta and Nana Patekar, 'Tezaab' starring Anil Kapoor and Madhuri Dixit and 'Narasimha' starring Sunny Deol and Dimple Kapadia. The filmography of N

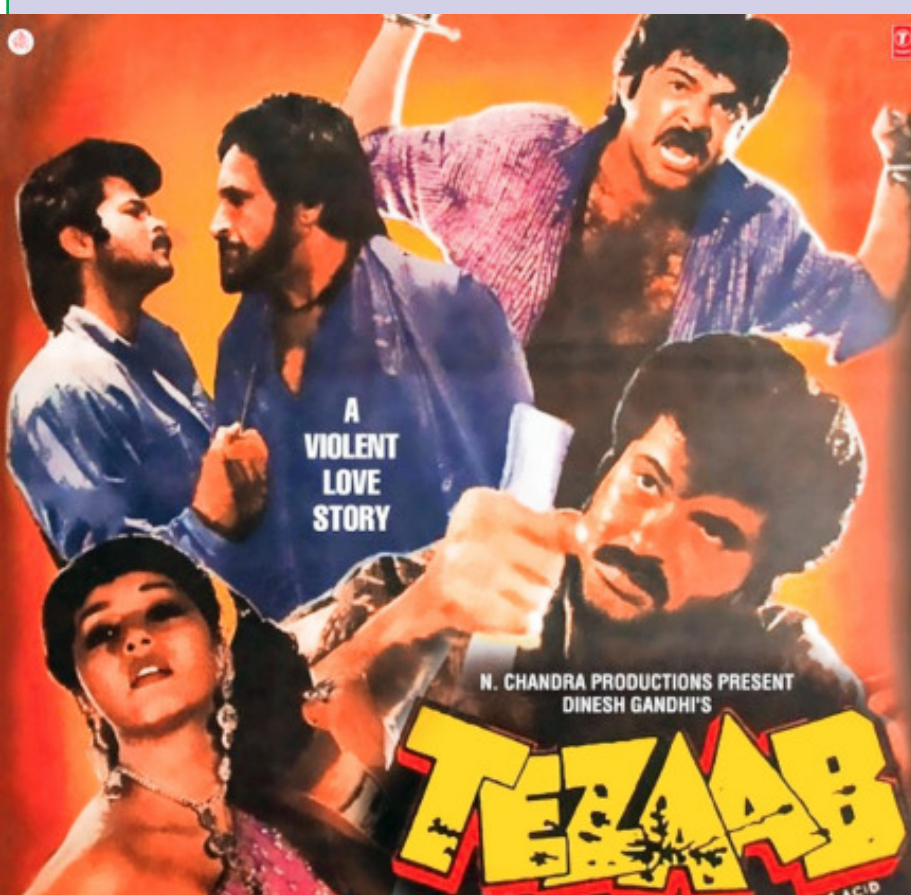
'Xcuse Me', 'Kagaar: Life on the Edge' and 'Ye Mera India' etc.

After his schooling, N Chandra began his career as a film edi-

career, leading to films by Raj Ghosla, BR Chopra and Ravi Tandon. Gradually, N Chandra continued to grow as a film editor

Film Awards 2019 (which were awarded in 2021).

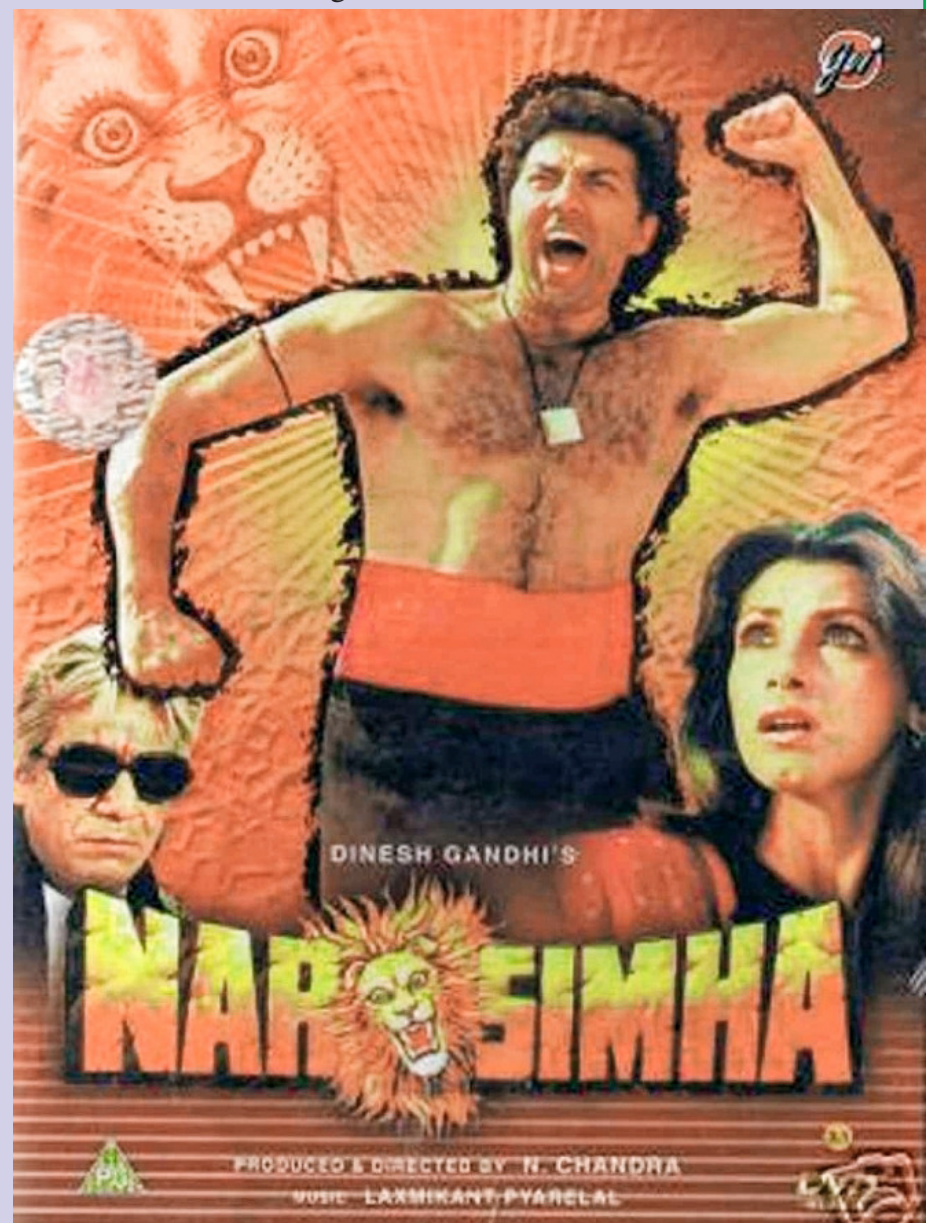
Anshu Harsh, the Managing Trustee of RIFF Film Club said



Club from 25-30th March 2022 and will also celebrate Rajasthan Diwas. Somendra Harsh, Founder & Festival Director of the

Producer and Director Chandrashekhar Narvekar (N Chandra) at the 8th Rajasthan International Film Festival (RIFF). This award is

Chandra also includes films like 'Humlaa', 'Yugandhari', 'Tejaswini', 'Bekaabu', 'Wajood', 'Shikari', 'Style',



tor at the Film Center in Tardeo, Mumbai, where his father also worked. He started his film career as an assistant editor in Sunil Dutt's film 'Reshma Aur Shera' in 1969. He got a break in the film industry as a clapper boy in Gulzar's 'Parichay' (1972). N Chandra worked as an assistant editor with Pran Mehra, Vaman Bhosle and Guru Dutt early in his

and assistant director. N Chandra has been a member of the Governing Council of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune. Along with this, he has also been the Chairman of the jury of Indian Panorama of 2010 and 2011 and was also included in the Indian Film Entry Jury for Oscars in 2006 and 2011. He was also the Chairman of the Jury at the 67th National

that "In this 8th edition of the Rajasthan International Film Festival (RIFF) Short, Documentary, Animation, Feature, Regional, Rajasthani films as well as music albums can be submitted by visiting the website www.riffjaipur.org and also by filmfreeway. The next deadline to submit the film is 31st January 2022."

## Decoupled, dissonance, and deja vu: Madhavan, Surveen Chawla on marriages and more

At the outset, Netflix's latest release, Decoupled, might seem like the antithesis of love and romance because it tracks a broken marriage, and how worse romantic life can get. And yet, the glimmers of love and hope shared by Madhavan's Arya and Surveen's Shruti is the lifeline of this series. "I liked the take on splitting up. It is normal for people to grow apart. Not all splitting or divorces need to be about something dramatic. There is both a real image and a projected image in a marriage/relationship, and when there is a vast difference in what we are and we are projecting, all that remains is our intent to be together," says a sagely Madhavan tapping into his 22 years of marriage. In this conversation with Cinema Express, he is joined by an equally philosophical Surveen Chawla as they discuss marriages, literally and metaphorically.

Excerpts: Marriage of their real and onscreen selves Surveen Chawla (SC): Playing Shruti was so much fun. There were times when it felt like I was talking to my real-life husband, and not Madhavan's Arya. It was not about the manner of speech, but simply about the way both conduct themselves. The relatability factor is that the basic issues faced by this couple are things we might have experienced. Just because there is relatability, it doesn't mean all couples have to end up like Shruti and Arya. Relationships are always a work in progress. Madhavan (M): There were so many instances

that were well-written; I could see such fights erupting between my wife, Saritha, and me. When you are really fond of each other, the intensity of arguments flares up. But the difference between a marriage that works and one that doesn't is that once this argument is done, any residual anger will not seep into the next conversation. The power equation is reset after every disagreement, and this was written beautifully in the series too. This resetting of the power equation between Shruti and Arya is what gives us the hope that this couple might actually work. I thought it was mature, and it was a great insight into the marriages of today.

Marriage between thinking and acting languages SC: Having the same acting and thinking language can make all the difference to our performances. Although we are fluent in other languages, English has been the thinking language for both Madhavan and me. The pauses, the commas, the casualness... everything is effortlessly translated from our minds to our dialogues. When I am thinking in English and delivering lines in another, it runs the risk of becoming dialogue-y. Also, points to Hardik Mehta (director) and Manu Joseph (writer) for allowing me to put down on paper what Surveen was thinking as Shruti. They gave us the liberty and scope for improvisation. M: My son Vedanth gave me a huge nod of approval and not only felt that the show looked trendy but was also candid about how the En-

glish we spoke didn't feel forced. To be honest, I haven't done anything like this before. Our language of communication at home was English, and we wanted it to have the flow in which the language is spoken in our country.

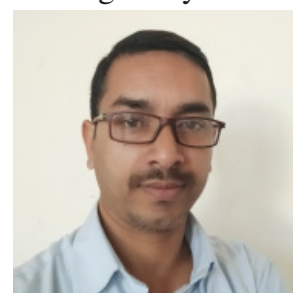
ALSO READ: Decoupled Series Review: Madhavan, Surveen Chawla impress in this take on urban relationships Marriage between the content and audience SC: We are not regional actors anymore. In fact, we are global actors and not just pan-Indian. The pandemic propelled the OTT movement, and it has definitely taken centre stage. The world itself has shrunk, and it is important to have the right team and trust them to make the right decisions. But more than anything else, the end game is really the content we are doing. For now, I honestly don't have a preference about the kind of release as long as I am doing the content I love to do.

M: We have to decide if the content is worthy of the format it chooses to be presented in, and that choice has become paramount for the success of the content. Secondly, with experience, it does become an easy and informed choice. There is no way I could make Breathe into a film. Thirdly, having stepped away from the industry for a long time, I am more in touch with what people really want. Kids are now watching anime because they care more about relationships than the VFX. In this pandemic, people don't want to watch morbidity anymore. So, when I read a script and depending on the place where I am in my life, I see if I am able to relate to it. If yes, and then the team is a solid one, I am completely committed to the film/series. Marriage between reality and social media personas



## RSS and its unburdening of the communal trap

Mohan Bhagwat, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief has always been viewed as a media-savvy person, a perspective that I personally disagree with. The RSS chiefs, according to my understanding and study, meet



the media rarely and when they do, their views capture headlines. This is because not only Mohan Bhagwat, but also his predecessors maintained the norm of not making media-centric remarks for popularity, which I think; the outfit has been strictly following. Bhagwat is known for his highly influential and intellectual deliberations. In the RSS, what I understand is its cadre swallows the ideology without questioning that its hierarchy pedals. There are genuine reasons to put the philosophy that the Sangh propagates to critical examination. The Sangh's pursuit to identify India as one cultural entity with diversity sprouting from across the span of its existence is mutually accepted by many in the country. Probably, nobody contradicts that view but when it calls that diversity, the basic structure, on which the idea of India exists as Hindutva, disagreements pour in from all directions. But its outreach for dialogues with its ideological opponents needs to be seen as a remarkable faculty that the RSS holds. The interpretations that Mohan Bhagwat made on the Gyanvapi row must have, to some extent, doused the temperature that the BJP and some units in the Sangh Parivar have been gearing up with. The BJP must have had a plan to keep the heat building up until the state and national elections are over-a well calibrated move before 2024. But now, the siblings in the 'parivar' under the umbrella of the Sangh need to hold their tongue before they step out with aggressive bad-mouthing on issues that are under dis-

pute. The Muslim community in India should have welcomed the statement of Bhagwat at Nagpur. While addressing the delegates of the third year officers training camp (OTC), the Sangh chief made the opinion of the RSS public, on the disputes that the media and the courts are extensively exploring. He said it was futile and unnecessary to look for shivling in every mosque. This indeed has come as an acceptance by the Sangh on the volatility that such disputes could push this country into, especially, when it realises that radical changes with long standing effect can happen only if it manages to grab power at the centre again. Its political tool the BJP, that the RSS devised to capture the country politically, has been prospering successfully breaking the brittle bones of major parties including that of the Congress. We need to understand the success the Sangh was capable of making through the BJP in India. Everybody at the power centres including the President and the Prime Minister of the country, walk along with the Sangh ideology. The RSS, for that matter, stays behind with a steady silence when controversies erupt, while its organisational arms such as Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), Viswa Hindu Parishad (VHP), Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and many more organisations under its umbrella are planted to speak for its cause. While the RSS presents its views amicably without damaging its stature, it keeps the radical and most inflexible and aggressive Bajrang Dal or VHP in the front row to respond to issues that can rake up outrage in the country for its cause and also to frame counter narratives. This needs to be seen as a diplomatic somersault of the Sangh.

The RSS, in a way, is happy and complacent to have made a larger section of the country

M. R. LALU

accept the Hindutva ideology that it was vocal about. Leaders in the opposition parties were also forced to publicly admit their Hindu identity despite their efforts to woo the minorities. Rahul Gandhi's temple visits and Mamata Banerjee's proclamation on her Hindu identity in public was an ideological victory for the RSS that it kept on hammering since 1925. It was also capable of expanding its presence in the civil society and the state institutions tremendously. Eight years of Modi Raj in India has intensified the ecosystem that the RSS was struggling to build. The ambiance that the Modi rule could generate for the Sangh's growth in India was remarkable. The Sangh could not have achieved the stature and status that it did, had the BJP under the persona of Modi been not in power. The common mistake that every critique of RSS is prone to make is his ignorance on the depth into which the RSS has managed to send its roots. To fathom the space into which it has stretched its reach can be a subject of academic research. Whatever, the RSS has always managed to distance itself from maximum controversial issues, intelligently playing from behind the curtain- a strategy it has been playing out for years. Most of the controversial issues that the RSS is blamed for were not directly fuelled by the outfit. Now, the difficulty is with the BJP. After Bhagwat's views on the Gyanvapi controversy, the party needs to cautiously inch in the direction of moulding the issues that it identified as political game-changers. Issues similar to Gyanvapi have been set to boil in the poll bound states of Karnataka and Gujarat and the RSS chief has probably sprayed water on the prospects that the party has been dreaming for. The BJP leadership is fully aware of the potentiality of the RSS on the ground to toil the party to victory. That was the reason the top

leaders of the party were cautious before they expressed their views on Mohan Bhagwat's statements and also urged its rank and file to refrain from making comments in public. The Sangh had been vocal on its stance on three important spiritual places Ayodhya, Mathura and Kashi. It always maintained its stand on the spiritual importance of these places to the Hindus. Though the Sangh chief was critical about the frequent sweltering of controversies on every worship place under dispute, Bhagwat was firm on the faith that was attached to Gyanvapi by the Hindus. Essentially, his remarks on the fresh controversy on Gyanvapi should be seen as an attempt to nullify the damage, the blot, that it strongly believes certain sections of the media in India and abroad have been trying to cause to its image. Its outreach to the Muslims by incorporating a new wing to the Parivar, the Muslim Rashtriya Manch has been an endeavour to entice the Muslims to recognise the cultural ancestry that the RSS believes both the Hindus and the Muslims share in common. The Sangh first passed a resolution on Kashi in its Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha (ABPS), its highest decision making body, in 1959 and its resolution on Ayodhya came much later in 1987. Kashi was on its cards from the beginning itself, Mathura and Ayodhya were subsequent attachments. Many resolutions on disputed sites were passed in its meetings again and again but the organisation abstained from taking any controversial issue except Ayodhya into the streets. Mohan Bhagwat's call for restraint and adherence to the court ruling is an approach that everybody in India can embrace with a sigh of relief.

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### In the 'eye' of the storm

## Young crusaders take baby steps towards a greener world

Fifteen-year-old Soumyadeep Bhuniya doesn't remember anything of the fateful day in 2009 when supercyclone Aila pummeled their village in Patharpratima block of South



24-Parganas, West Bengal. He was only a toddler at the time. But he has heard horrifying stories from his parents, neighbours and relatives. People and cattle were washed away and never found. Some had to cling to high, quivering branches of submerged trees for hours before help arrived. Mud houses were razed to the ground. Trees were uprooted and acres and acres of farmland destroyed by swirling saline water. His family and their neighbours and people from neighboring villages spent long days and nights at hastily set-up dingy shelters, waiting for the 'storm' to pass, in every which way. More than a decade on, teenager Soumyadeep is well aware that he lives in an environmentally fragile zone. Year after year, cyclones and tropical storms have ravaged this region, leaving behind a trail of death, destruction of property and infrastructure, damage to the environment and eco-system and endless misery. School buildings have been damaged, time and again, hampering primary and secondary education of children. Healthcare centres have had to be shut down for days together, disrupting routine services for children and the community at large. Over time, lives and livelihood have been rebuilt, only to be decimated again by another ferocious storm the following year or the next.

A recent UNICEF report on The Children's Climate Risk Index brings to the fore the calamitous future that Soumyadeep and his generation stare at. According to the report, 400 million children (nearly 1 in 6 children globally) are currently highly exposed to cyclones. This is likely to get worse as high-in-

tensity cyclones increase in frequency, rainfall intensity grows, and cyclone patterns shift. Around 330 million children (1 in 7 children globally) are highly exposed to riverine flooding. This is likely to worsen as glaciers melt, and precipitation increases due to higher water-content in the atmosphere as a result of higher average temperatures. Increasingly catastrophic droughts, fires and storms are forecast to become even worse as our planet continues to warm. Important food and water systems will fail and entire cities are expected to succumb to destructive floods. Grim facts, figures and statistics, indeed! But do they really mean anything to the people on the ground in Patharpratima, who shudder every time they see the skies darken and rivers swelling up?

What children learn today, community will profess tomorrow. CRY believes it is essential to groom young students and make them flag-bearers of a sustained campaign on climate change and the need to conserve and protect the environment. With on-ground support from a partner organization, Kaajla Janakalyan Samiti, work has started in full swing in remote hamlets in Patharpratima.

As part of the project, 300 children from villages in Patharpratima and Gopalnagar are taking supplementary lessons at centres run by volunteers of Kaajla Janakalyan Samiti. Soumyadeep is one of them. He is learning more about concepts such as environment conservation, climate change, rainwater harvesting, tree plantation and 3R (Reduce-Reuse-Recycle), along with various sources of energy.

Acutely conscious of the fragile eco-system around him, the young boy has taken up the crusade to spread awareness about the little things that we all can do and learn to conserve our environment. People in the community

Ritwik Mukherjee

need to know more about why the cyclones happen, and steps that can be taken in daily lives to mitigate the sufferings in the aftermath.

With active support from Kaajla volunteers, Soumyadeep now leads a Green Scout team that visits door to door in the community and convinces people to plant trees and nurture them. The more the greenery, the less the amount of carbon-di-oxide in the air - the best and the easiest remedy to reverse the adverse effects of climate change.

The 15-year-old has managed to stop the use of plastic in his home and he and his team asks the neighbours to do the same. Plastic waste can choke the rivers and propel erosion at the edges, the young crusader tells people. This is especially relevant for the topography he lives in - rivers and riverines crisscrossing each other and small villages being shielded from the impending fury of swirling waters by mud or cement embankments. The young team is also vocal about practicing personal hygiene and sanitation, especially after a natural calamity.

Fruits of labour Even as villagers wait in trepidation for news of an impending cyclone hurtling towards them from the ocean, silent winds of change are blowing in the region. Sample this.

Once upon a time, the ground in front of Raghunathpur Saraswati Free Primary School in Uttar Gopalnagar village used to be a green haven, full of old trees and fresh saplings, planted and taken care of by villagers. But successive storm surges and the consequential trail of destruction left the land completely barren, bereft of any greenery.

Last year, the villagers, led by the gram panchayat pradhan, put forward the idea of setting up a fruit garden on the ground to Kaajla volunteers. As part of the project, 300 fruit trees were planted on the piece of land

by the women's self-help groups, who water them regularly. Kaajla volunteers supervise and monitor the overall work. It is being hoped that in the years to come, the produce from the jamrul, guava and other trees will not only boost healthy eating among villagers, but also sprout economic activity through sale in local markets.

One for the Earth Patharpratima and Gopalnagar blocks are located in a unique geographical location - the mangrove belt. Successive cyclones including Amphan (2020) and Yaas (2021) wreaked havoc on Sagardwip, Patharpratima, Kakdwip, Namkhana and Gosaba. Agricultural land has been inundated and destroyed, mangroves uprooted and river embankments damaged completely.

An initiative has now been taken to plant mangrove trees on the river banks to prevent erosion, with help from the gram panchayats, forest department and villagers. The Banashree Mangrove Protection Committee has 17 women from Uttar Gopalnagar village as members. They have planted about 10,000 mangroves along the river and fenced them, to keep fishing nets and other equipment from causing harm.

Project coordinator and supervisor Vivekananda Sahu is hopeful that things are moving in the right direction. "We need to conserve the environment and are trying to teach the young generation simple ways to do that. What the children are learning today, their parents will learn from them tomorrow. And soon enough, the awareness will spread in the community," Sahu said. Plans are on the anvil to paint boundary walls of public spaces to create awareness about the importance of conserving the environment. Online campaigns through video clips will be carried out and short films on environmental issues screened to boost understanding and awareness among students and the community.

Author is a Kolkata based Freelance journalist.

## Caste-based count will be foolproof, beneficial for all sections of society: Nitish

PATNA: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday asserted that the caste-based count to be conducted by the state government will be foolproof and beneficial for all sections of the society. He was speaking to reporters after his

one is missed. The exercise will be beneficial for all sections of society," he said. Observing that all political parties are united over the issue, Kumar said the exercise will enable the state government to work for the development of all sections of

exercise and 'Bhoodan land' will be included in it. "After the completion of the exercise, we will have records of all sorts of lands," he said. There have been allegations that the state government does not have records of do-

make any direct comment on former chief minister Jitan Ram Manjhi's claim that he was feeling suffocated within the ruling NDA in the state. "What can I say? I don't think so," Kumar said. While addressing party workers on



public interaction programme 'Janta ke darbaar mein mukhyamantri' (chief minister in people's court). "I am saying this with full confidence that the caste-based count by the state government will be foolproof. Once completed, it will be a model for other states interested in conducting similar exercises. We will do a proper headcount so that no

the society. "The state cabinet has cleared it and the department concerned will soon notify it," he said. Responding to allegations of missing revenue records of acres of 'Bhoodan land' in the state, Kumar dismissed the charges and said the department concerned is looking into the matter. He said the state government has already initiated a special land survey

nated lands that were distributed among the landless people during the 1951 Bhoodan movement launched by Acharya Vinoba Bhave. Bhave had walked across the country asking people to consider him as one of their sons and donate one-seventh of their land to him, which he later distributed among the landless people. Kumar refused to

Sunday, Manjhi, whose Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) has four MLAs in the 243-strong assembly, said that being in the NDA as a junior partner of the BJP and the JD(U) was causing him "ghutan" (suffocation), as he regretted having stepped down in 2015, less than a year after being sworn into the highest seat of power in the state.

## Government in talks with Centre for agriculture assistance under RDSS

BHUBANESWAR: With the supply of uninterrupted and quality power to the consumers still a challenge and segregation of feeder lines for dedicated power supply to agriculture and fishery sectors remaining unrealised, the State government is negotiating with the Centre for financial assistance under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme for strengthening transmission and distribution infrastructure in rural areas. The State is not eligible to get assistance under the Central

scheme launched in June 2021 as it has privatised the power distribution business. "Since the scheme focuses on funding for feeder segregation for agriculture, fisheries and other sectors and has a major thrust on improving electricity supply to the farmers especially in the daytime through solarization of agricultural feeders, the Energy department is preparing a detailed project report for submission to the Power Ministry," highly placed sources in the department said.

## National Food Laboratory set up to test food products imported from Nepal

NEW DELHI(KCN): The central government has set up a National Food Laboratory under the Indo-Nepal bilateral agreement, which will make it easier and

The National Food Laboratory of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), a statutory body under the union health ministry, was inaugurated by Union

agreement to reduce the time to test imported food samples brought into Raxaul from Nepal. Now the exporters from Nepal would find it easier to export

August this year. They will test and analyse all the imported samples under the product categories of cereal and cereal products, fat and oil, spices and condi-



quicker to test food products being brought into the country from Nepal. Earlier, all the imported samples with legal sanctity were sent to National Food Laboratory, Kolkata, for testing.

Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya on Sunday in Bihar's Raxaul, situated at the Indo-Nepal border. Officials said the laboratory had been established under the Indo-Nepal bilateral

more and more food products into India, the minister said. The laboratory is likely to get the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accreditation by July-

ments, fruits and vegetable products and packaged drinking. The minister also said that India is willing to provide any assistance needed to get NABL accreditation to the Kathmandu food lab.

# Ports on Green Mode; Thakur

Paradip: Union Minister of State, Port, Shipping and Waterways, Shantanu Thakur has said that all the 12 major ports including



Paradip Port is aiming at Green and Sustainable port operations. While he has appreciated efforts of Paradip Port Authority in chalking out massive pro-



grams for protection of environment and generating awareness among the people in and around the port city.

Speaking on World Environment Day Meet organized by Nature Care Initiative (NCI), a leading NGO engaged in environment protection and generation of awareness, Mr.Thakur said that all the major ports including Paradip Port Authority are moving for creating awareness and taking appropriate measures for the protection of our environment.

Mr.Thakur has said that increasing renewable energy usage in the port is one of the major actions being taken up by port authorities, from use of diesel to LNG. Similarly use of Solar Energy in port operations has become pertinent.

Maritime India Vision 2030 envisages that the ports should be safe, sustainable and adopt to green sector, which Paradip Port is striving. While Paradip Port has been making endeavor to increase renewable energy in its usages, it has tried to improve air quality in the port areas.

In fact Union Minister before attending the meeting inaugurated a Truck Parking Yard & Bulb Road for congestion free traffic movement built in 32,795 sqm of land with an approximate Rs. 11 Crore investment. This will go a long way in curbing the dust and fossil



fuel related pollution.

Mr.Thakur said Paradip Port is organizing for massive plantation program, which he inaugurated before addressing the NCI Meeting. Sujeet Kumar, Member of Parliament (MP) appreciated efforts of Paradip Port for organizing massive plantation and supporting environment awareness programs such as NCI's meet on World Environment day.

Dr.Kumar urged Paradip Port Authority Chairman P L Haranadh to ensure at least 90 Percent trees survive as after plantation due to poor care majority of the trees do not survive. Paradip Port Authority Chairman P L Haranadh said all families in Paradip will be handed over cotton bags so that they will never use single use plastic bags.

Reeling out his Action Plan for environment protection, he said every year One Lakh trees and in five years five lakh trees will be planted in the Port City.

He said optimizing water use and spreading 'Green Cover' is the one of the major agenda of PPA. Similarly PPA is improving solid waste management and recycling of dredging material.

Mr.Haranadh, harped on 'Panchabhut', the five elements of nature-earth, water, fire, air and space and he said our ancient culture teaches us the protection strategy of environment.

PPA Chairman, a religious mandarin, seems to have taken cue from ancient Indian culture

and implementing the environment protection programs on this line, say environmentalists present in the NCI Meeting.

Padma Mohanty, DIG Forests Government of

NCI Chief Executive Srikant Sekhar Sahoo welcomed the guests, while NCI Vice President Bhagirathi Behera thanked the gathering. Speakers in NCI Meeting appreciated efforts



India addressed the gathering and advised for lifestyle changes so that with small efforts, one can bring lot of change in mind set, which will go a long way in protecting the environment. She harped on making lifestyle choices to improve our planet, which is facing tough time.

Madhusudan Dash, Additional Secretary Forest, Environment and Climate Change of Government of Odisha lauded programs like engaging Self Help Group (SHG) for protection of forest and control of forest fire in the State. Mr.Dash said COVID has taught us to love and care for nature, which was missing and led to Pandemic.

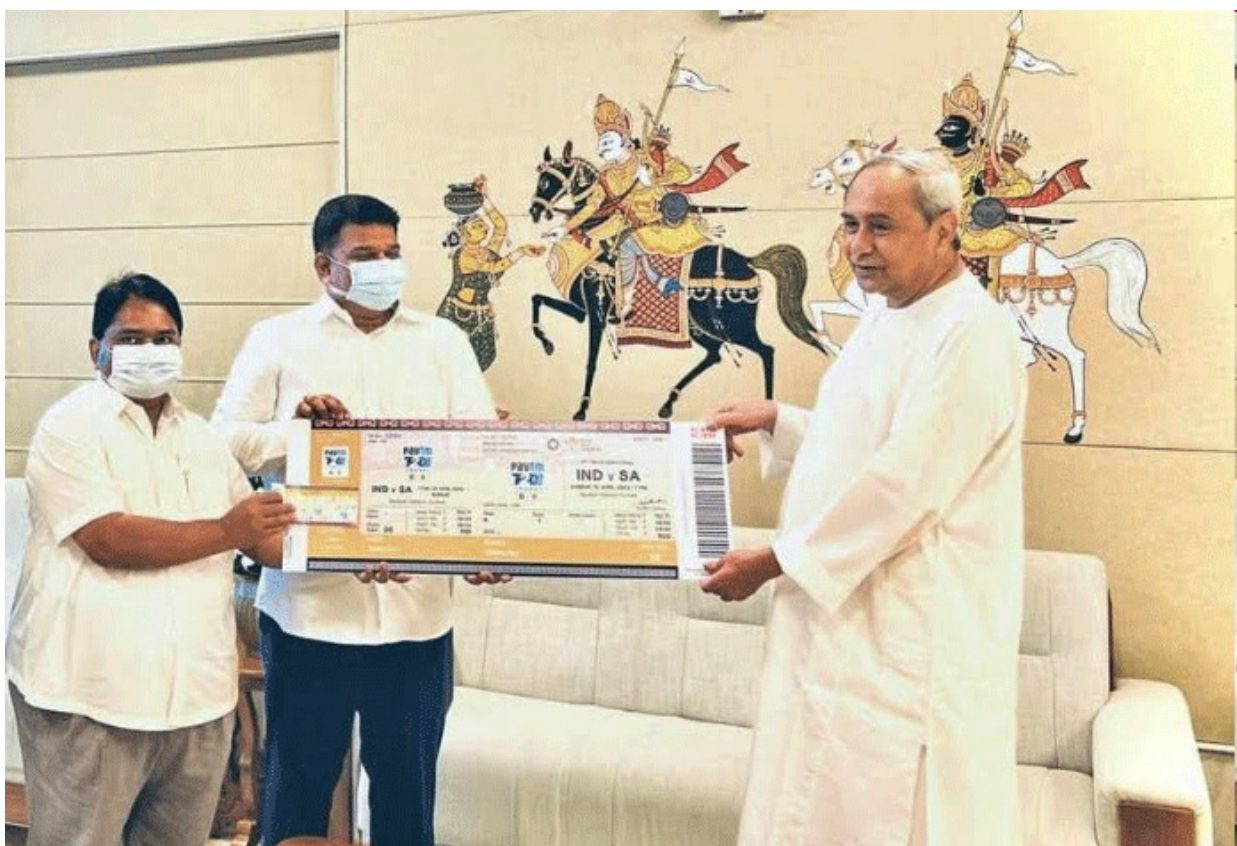
Shree Jagannath Culture Researcher, Pandit Matru Prasad Mishra harped on Sanatan Dharma and Environment protection.

of Sakti Prasad Nayak, an ardent environmentalist for taking up the issue of unnatural death of elephants due to railway accidents and electrocution.

Mr.Nayak, who took up matter in Supreme Court, resulted in large scale reforms brought in for protection of pachyderms in the country.

Mr.Nayak has been proactive in environmental protection issues in the State and has been spearheading the movement single handedly, which is slowly turning into a massive scale. NCI, a National Level Environmental NGO has the blessings of Mr.Nayak, who is recognized for his sincere efforts to generate awareness on environment protection and climate change efforts.

# CM Buys T20 Ticket



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday purchased the first ticket of the upcoming T 20 international match between India and South Africa at

Barabati Stadium in Cuttack on June 12. President Odisha Cricket Association Pankaj Lochan Mohanty gave ticket to Chief Minister at Naveen Niwas. OCA President

Mr.Mohanty briefed the CM about the elaborate arrangements made for the smooth sale of tickets. Secretary to CM VK Pandian was present on the occasion.

Secretary Odisha Cricket Association (OCA) Sanjay Behera was also present. Zonal Head of HDFC Bank Deepak Singh and Vice President Animesh Biswal were also present.

## Srijit Mukherji releases KK's last recorded song

### from the film 'SHERDIL: THE PILIBHIT SAGA'

**DHOOP PAANI BAHNE DE, the melodic song and possibly the last film song sung by the late legendary and versatile singer KK has lyrics from the Gulzar Saab & composed by Shantanu Moitra**

Mumbai: T-Series and Reliance Entertainment along with Match Cut Productions launch the first song DHOOP PAANI BAHNE DE from their film, 'Sherdil: The Pilibhit Saga'. This

in Sherdil. Not only did I get to write for such a beautiful film, I got to meet KK after ages. KK had first sung a song of mine in Maachis, "chhor aye hum woh galiya...". When he came to sing the song for Sherdil, it filled my heart with joy but it's a shame that this had to go down as one of his last songs. It's like he came to say goodbye. The song in Sherdil is on en-



vironment. The way it's been used in the film, it's a call to save your jungles, rivers, animals and birds. After lending his voice to such an important message, he should have stayed a little longer. Pity it wasn't in our hands. I will pray for and remember him. Wherever Sherdil goes, his memory will accompany us." Shantanu Moitra adds, "KK sang this song like it was his own. He told me this song has given Gulzar sahib back to him after two decades. He was also excited that he would sing this song in live concerts because it talks about conservation and the youth needs to listen to this."

Honoured to bring to you this song, Director, Srijit Mukherji says, "We have grown up on Gulzarsaab's poetry. We have grown up befriending KK's voice in every matter of the heart. So it is a double dream come true for me."

Inspired by true events, Srijit Mukherji, has brought forth an insightful story about the adverse effects of urbanization, man-animal conflict and poverty leading to a bizarre practice in a village that resides on the edge of a forest.

'Sherdil: The Pilibhit Saga' is presented by Gulshan Kumar, T-Series Film and Reliance Entertainment, produced by Bhushan Kumar and Reliance Entertainment and production by Match Cut Productions Private Limited. The film stars Pankaj Tripathi, Neeraj Kabi, and Sayani Gupta and is directed by Srijit Mukherji.

The family entertainer is all set to captivate the audience from 24th June in Cinemas.

lovely song was sung by late vocalist KK and is possibly the last film song sung by him. It is written by Shantanu Moitra, with lyrics by Gulzar Saab.

Krishnakumar Kunnath, popularly known as KK, was one of the most talented playback singers of our time. During his brilliant 26 years of work, he was also universally liked and had an aura of positive energy all around him. Having a song sung by him amid the other songs in the film is an honour.

DHOOP PAANI BAHNE DE is a wonderful song with significant and affecting lyrics that makes a plea for Mother Nature to be saved. It's a song that will have you humming for the rest of the day.

Being the last song recorded together, Gulzar Saab expresses, "Srijit has done me a favour

# Indiana woman tracks alleged boyfriend using an Air Tag, runs him over

A twenty-six-year-old woman, Gaylyn Morris, in Indianapolis was charged with murder after she ran over a man with her car, according to media reports. She was arrested on June 3 after reportedly tracking and following the man, who she alleged was her boyfriend, to a local watering hole, Tilly's Pub, using Apple AirTag and GPS.

Reportedly, Gaylyn Morris followed Andre Smith, 26, into Tilly's, where he was meeting another woman. She had tracked the man using an Apple AirTag, a tracking device designed to help people find personal objects. IndyStar reported that Morris told patrons at the bar she was Smith's girlfriend and that he was cheating on her.

Morris then swung an empty wine bottle at the woman, which was intercepted by Smith. When the establishment asked

him and then pulled forward and hit him for the third time," according to an affidavit reported by the IndyStar. The report

around 12:30 pm, had found a man partially trapped beneath a black Chevrolet Impala. Police say Smith



the trio to leave, Smith and Morris stepped outside, and that was when the attack happened, as per a witness. Morris struck Smith with her car thrice. She allegedly "pulled forward and clipped the victim, and he went down, at which time ... [Morris] then backed over

also said that Morris had allegedly gotten out of the car in an attempt to go after the other woman, who was still at Tilly's waiting for a food order but was thwarted by the arrival of the cops. Wish TV reported that the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, at

died on the spot due to the impact of multiple collisions, as reported in the media. Morris has been given a preliminary charge of murder. The Marion County Prosecutor's Office will determine the final charges, the Indy Star reported.

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## Finance Ministry releases third instalment of revenue deficit grant of Rs 7,183 crore to 14 states



NEW DELHI: The finance ministry on Monday released the third monthly instalment of revenue deficit grant of Rs 7,183 crore to 14 states.

The Fifteenth Finance Commission has recommended a total Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant of Rs 86,201 crore to 14 states for the financial year 2022-23.

This is to be released in 12 equated monthly instalments.

The states receiving this grant are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala,

Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

"The Department of Expenditure has on Monday released the 3rd monthly instalment of Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) Grant of Rs.7,183.42 crore to 14 States," the ministry said in a statement.

With the release of the third instalment for the month of June 2022, the total amount of revenue deficit grants released to the states in 2022-23 stands at Rs 21,550.25 crore.

## Smallcase or MF: What's for retail investors?

NEW DELHI: Mutual funds have been popular instrument among investors who want to earn better returns than the traditional investment products such as fixed deposits or Post Office savings schemes.

However, many retail investors cannot resist the temptation of investing directly in stock markets. But retail investors, typically, lack stock-picking expertise that large institutional or high-net-worth individuals have. Yet they take a plunge in direct equity investment, and in many cases end up burning their fingers.

While several brokerage and investment firms have Portfolio Management Services (PMS) which offer direct stock investment services, thresholds of PMS are so high that very few retail investors can afford it. So, these investment firms have come up with theme-based direct stock portfolios/baskets for retail investors. Smallcase Technologies, a company, has brought in stock baskets for investors based on different themes and ideas so that they can choose themes from a wide range of offerings.

And these stock baskets are now offering retail investors an alternative route to directly invest in stocks instead of investing through mutual funds. But can Smallcase-like solutions replace mutual funds? Should retail investors shift their investment from mutual funds to baskets of stocks offered through the Smallcase platform?

Smallcase: A low down Smallcases are

baskets of stocks or exchange traded funds (ETFs) that are professionally managed by SEBI-registered investment managers and advisors. Each Smallcase is based on a specific idea that could be a theme, strategy or objective. Some of the most popular Smallcases include asset allocation-based smallcases all-weather Investing, equity and gold, while the factor-based strategies include smart beta, dividend based, models (momentum, value), etc. While both

tor has full visibility and transparency into the composition as well as how the individual constituents are also changing. Also, in the case of rebalancing/changes in composition, there are tax implications in the case of smallcase, which don't occur with mutual funds. Vasanth Kamath, founder and CEO of Smallcase, says: "The Smallcases ecosystem, which we are building, is an open platform layer for multiple capital market participants (brokerages, distribution

level diversification and professional management also reduces the risks that come with single-stock investing. In Smallcase, there are 400+ portfolios managed by registered professionals. Investors can use their existing trading and demat accounts with 15-plus partnered brokers to login to the Smallcase app. A user can then subscribe to a Smallcase, place an order to buy the whole portfolio with one-click, see the transaction happen in real-time, and monitor performance on the app or web. Users will receive notifications on their Smallcase app, which tells them



Smallcases and mutual funds provide a portfolio-based exposure to equity, the constructs and mechanics differ a lot. In Smallcases, the investor owns the constituent stocks in their own demat accounts, while mutual funds are pooled structures, where an investor gets units of the scheme they chose. In Smallcases, the investor has full visibility and transparency into the composition as well as how the individual constituents are changing, the advantage mutual fund investors don't have. For instance, in the case of mutual funds, the investor can track one change daily in the NAV whereas with Smallcases, the inves-

apps, investment managers to create, offer and enable a new class of products called Smallcases." Kamath says mutual funds are more diversified and broader whereas Smallcases are more focused and related to the specific idea they reflect, which result in a larger catalogue of Smallcase ideas and strategies that could be created with a smaller portfolio composition. According to him, ready-made portfolios of stocks/ETFs reflecting various ideas in the form of smallcases become a simpler and more transparent option for new investors to choose from based on what they understand. Portfolio-

when a change to the portfolio is due based on the manager's regular monitoring and review. Users can wholly or partially exit the Smallcase at any time. Investment professionals say it is not an either-or choice between mutual funds and smallcases. Both have different types of advantages. They say investors should invest according to their risk-taking capacity and understanding of products. According to them, the advantage of mutual funds is that they are actively managed by experienced and knowledgeable professionals, therefore, new investors should keep invested in these funds. However, those who have capacity to bear the risk can invest directly or go for theme-based portfolios according to their understanding.

## Global tourist arrivals tripled in first quarter: UN

MADRID: International tourist arrivals tripled in the first quarter compared with the same period in 2021, with Europe leading the rebound as Covid restrictions were eased, the UN's tourism agency said Monday.

In the first three months of 2022, there were 117 million global tourist arrivals, up from 41 million in the same period a year earlier, with the figures showing an increase of 182 percent, the Madrid-based UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) said.

Although the figure remained 61 percent lower than the first quarter of 2019, a year before the pandemic, it showed tourism was continuing to recover "at a strong pace" as "restrictions ease and confidence returns", it said.

"Of the extra 76 million international ar-

rivals for the first three months, about 47 million were recorded in March, showing that the recovery is gathering



pace." The increase was particularly notable in Europe, which welcomed almost four times as many arrivals as in 2021, an increase of 280 percent. ALSO READ | Improve tourist spots in Yelagiri, urge travellers

Strong growth was also seen in the Americas, where arrivals more than doubled (up 117 percent) and in the Middle East, up 132

percent. "The gradual recovery is expected to continue throughout 2022, as more destinations ease or lift



travel restrictions and pent-up demand is unleashed," the agency said, pointing to "a significant increase in flight reservations". By June 2, 45 destinations (two thirds of which were in Europe) no longer had Covid-related restrictions in place, while in Asia, an increasing number of destinations had begun easing restrictions. However, the UNWTO retained a

prudent outlook for the coming months, given the risks linked to the "challenging economic environment" and Russia's



invasion of Ukraine. "The Russian offensive on Ukraine seems to have had a limited direct impact on overall results so far," it said. But it was having "major economic repercussions globally" by exacerbating fuel and energy costs "which results in higher transport and accommodation costs for the tourism sector" that could weigh on the sector's recovery, it warned.

## Retirement corpus planning: Wealth creation blunders I see - part II

One of the biggest blunders that people make is ignoring inflation. Imagine you were (are) living in the USA. From 1980 till 2021 you had inflation of 2% per annum. Now inflation is not just above 2%, it is at 8%! There is a whole generation of Americans who have not experienced inflation.

Luckily for us, we have always had inflation in India. However, many Indians who have experienced inflation also ignore - or underestimate inflation.

Of course when you are young it is difficult to imagine inflation in your '80s. I met a 82 year old who was earning Rs 5000 a year when he was 23 years of age. He now spends Rs 50,000 a month on himself and his wife. Just imagine would he have believed that 'he would spend 10x his annual income on a monthly basis after 50 years'. Other way of looking at inflation is "it is negative compounding". Remember this while planning for your retirement". Another big blunder is taking advice from talking heads - sales heads, fund managers, almost anybody willing to talk. They come and talk some nonsense like

"Flexicap is the best fund to invest" or quote some old stuff like "the amount you have in debt assets is the same as your numerical age" - so a 25 year old should have 25% in debt and an 80 year old should have 80% in debt.

These are generalisations and should be used only with the understanding of complex topics like Asset Allocation. When you follow the herd you have to remember that there could be a cliff- and you could fall along with the herd!

Trying to time the market - when a person retires, he wants to look busy. Women don't fall into this trap as much as the men do!

One way men keep themselves busy is trying to trade and timing the market. Trading is an expensive way to find out who you are.

Trading and timing the market can be dangerous for a newly retired person. Recently I saw a person wipe out his networth at the age of 64 years! It cannot get worse than that! Trading as well as market timing look attractive -but it is addicting, nerve-racking, and worse, it is crippling. "Investing" in assets that people do not un-

derstand - Cryptocurrency, Gold, even Rental real estate. The problem with Real estate is that for older people to manage it - finding new tenants, maintenance, attending meetings of the society. It is not as easy as it looks.

To think that on retirement you will have a lot of time and will be able to manage a complex portfolio is not just wrong. It is completely wrong. Real estate has another disadvantage -

### UK boosts Ukraine support with high-tech missile system

Continued from page-1

continued intensive bombardment of Sievierodonetsk and nearby Lysychansk, Haidai said.

Russian forces have been focusing in the capture of Sievierodonetsk and Lysychansk.

West of those cities, in the towns of Sloviansk and Bakhmut, cars and military vehicles have been speeding into town from the direction of the front line. Dozens of military doctors and paramedic ambulances worked Sunday to evacuate civilians and Ukrainian servicemen, many of whom had been hurt by artillery shelling.

Western military intelligence reports say Ukrainian counterattacks in Sievierodonetsk are probably halting the operational momentum Russian forces previously gained by concentrating their combat units and firepower in the area.

On Monday, Serbia confirmed that a planned visit by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to the Balkan country won't take place after reports that Bulgaria, North Macedonia and Montenegro refused to allow his plane to fly over its airspace to reach Serbia.

## Sindhu, Sen in firm focus as Indians eye good show in Indonesia Super Series

JAKARTA: Lakshya Sen and HS Prannoy, the heroes of India's historic Thomas Cup triumph, have been drawn to clash in the pre-quarterfinals of the Indonesia Open where Saina Nehwal

may run into nemesis Carolina Marin in the second round of the Super Series 500 event, starting Tuesday. The Indian shuttlers will look to hit top gear in the build up to the Com-

monwealth Games, starting July 28. The men's shuttlers touched a new high with their Thomas Cup exploits where India defeated 14-time champions Indonesia to win their

first ever title. World number nine Lakshya, seeded seventh, will take on Denmark's Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus in a tricky opening round clash. The top-ranked In-

dian has a 0-2 head-to-head record against Kristian. Sen last faced him in the Denmark Open in 2020 when he lost his pre-quarterfinal to the home favourite. The 20-year-old would be keen to better his record against Kristian.

In absence of Thomas Cup hero Kidambi Srikanth, the main draw has four Indians with the other two being Parupalli Kashyap and Sameer Verma.

Prannoy will also run into a Danish man in Rasmus Gemke, the same opponent the Indian defeated in the must-win third singles in the Thomas Cup semifinals. Drawn in the top-half, 37th seed Kashyap will face Tzu Wei Wang and if he overcomes the first round hurdle then he

is expected to lock horns with world No.1 and Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen. Saina Nehwal and Sindhu will lead the Indian challenge in the women's singles main draw. After making a semi-final exit in the Thailand Open, double Olympic medallist Sindhu will look to go all the way. She will begin with a clash against Line Christophersen of Denmark. Saina, who missed the Uber Cup after missing the trials, will open her campaign against find themselves in the top-half and open their campagin



## Sri Lankan court lifts ban on detained Aeroflot flight from leaving Colombo

COLOMBO: A Sri Lankan court on Monday suspended an order preventing a

Official said that the flight is now free to depart Colombo. On June 2, the court

tion was purely of a commercial nature which should be dealt between the said two

Celestial Aviation Trading Limited, one of the largest plane-leasing firms, is seek-



detained Aeroflot flight from leaving Colombo, paving the way for the Russian flag carrier's aircraft to depart for Moscow. The Colombo Commercial High Court considered a motion filed by the Sri Lankan Attorney General and suspended the previous order which had led to the detention of the Aeroflot aircraft, the News First website reported. The motion was considered in the presence of Colombo Commercial High Court Judge Harsha Setunga.

issued the order while fixing the case for June 16. The Airbus A330-343 aircraft, scheduled to depart from the Colombo airport to Moscow on June 2 with 191 passengers and 13 crew members, was not allowed as the owner of the aircraft -- Celestial Aviation of Ireland -- had filed a case against Aeroflot, pending arbitration on the lease of the aircraft in London. Although the government here maintained that the dispute between the Aeroflot and Celestial Avia-

parties and no involvement of the state, the angry Russian government summoned the Sri Lankan Ambassador in Moscow for explanation. The flight owning company had pleaded in court that Aeroflot was told not to fly the aircraft after the lease agreement came to be terminated in March. However, Aeroflot continued to fly it between Moscow and Colombo. Russia cancelled Aeroflot flights to Sri Lanka and ordered the Russian tourists to return home.

ing to confiscate the jet after Russia failed to return its property. The European Union in February imposed a wide-array of economic sanctions on Russia, including banning the leasing of EU airplanes, after it invaded Ukraine. The bloc's sanctions demanded Russia return any aircraft leased from EU firms by the end of March. Leasing companies have confiscated 78 planes operated by Russian airlines since the sanctions were imposed.

## Former Brazil great Ronaldo begins to pay his promise for Valladolid's promotion





MADRID: Former Brazil great Ronaldo began a long bicycle trip from Valladolid to Santiago de Compostela on Sunday to keep a promise he made in case of his club's promotion in the Spanish league. Ronaldo and his partner were expected to travel several dozen kilometres (miles) a day along the tradi-

tional pilgrimage route that leads to a famous shrine in northwestern Spain. Ronaldo began the trip at Valladolid's stadium, some 450 kilometres (280 miles) away from Santiago de Compostela. "It will be beautiful," he told Spanish media. "I know that I will suffer physically,

but it will be an unforgettable experience." Las promesas se cumplen!@Ronaldo inicia el Camino de Santiago pic.twitter.com/JF4oekNgFV Ronaldo said he vowed to make the trip after Valladolid was relegated last season.

He and his partner will be accompanied by other people who will help them during the journey. Ronaldo, a two-time World Cup winner and a former Real Madrid and Barcelona striker, bought a 51% stake in the club in 2018 when Valladolid was still in the first division.

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