

Jharsuguda records season's highest temp of 45.6 degrees C

Bhubaneswar,(KCN): Several places in Odisha are currently experiencing unbearable heat and humid conditions. Jharsuguda on Friday recorded the season's highest temperature of 45.6 degrees Celsius. Apart from Jharsuguda, Sambalpur also recorded a maximum temperature of 45.2 degrees Celsius. As per the India Meteorological Department (IMD), several places in Odisha also recorded maximum temperature of over 44 degrees Celsius including Sonepur



(44.8), Hirakud (44.7), Boudh (44.6) and Bolangir, which recorded a maximum temperature of 44

degrees today. The twin cities of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar recorded maximum temperature of 40.4 and 38.2 degrees Celsius, respectively. Meanwhile, the IMD has predicted no major change in the maximum temperature (Day temperature) at many places over the districts of Odisha during the next 4-5 days. As per the forecast, the maximum temperature is very likely to be above normal by 3-5 degrees Celsius at a few places over the districts of Odisha. However, isolated thunderstorm activities are likely to provide some respite from such sultry conditions in the coming days.

Odisha Minister Rohit Pujari Removed From Naveen's Cabinet; Atanu Gets Additional Charge

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Less than a month after Cabinet reshuffle in Odisha, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik removed Higher Education Minister Rohit Pujari from the Council of Ministers. In this regard, CM Patnaik recommended Governor Prof. Ganeshi Lal to exclude Rohit Pujari from the state cabinet. The action was taken following annual review report on the minister's performance in his department which was said to be not satisfactory.



In place of Pujari, CM Patnaik appointed Food Supplies, Consumer Welfare Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak to hold the additional charge of the Higher Education Department. Recently, Pujari was dragged into a controversy over his remark on senior leaders above 60 years of age. He had stated that those leaders, who are above 60 years, should not be made MLA as they will not be able to give proper time to the constituency and people.

Pujari had assumed office as the Minister of Higher Education in Odisha in June last year. Earlier, he had also served as the deputy chief whip in the Odisha Assembly from 2014 to 2022. On May 22 this year, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had inducted three ministers into his cabinet removing two ministers. Ahead of the reshuffle, Pujari was not asked to resign as the minister. The exact reason behind the removal is yet to be revealed by the ruling BJD.

Balasure Train Tragedy: Odisha CM Directs To Transform Bahanaga School Under 5T

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Bahanaga High School in Odisha's Balasure district, where the bodies of the train accident victims were kept, will undergo transformation under the 5T initiative of the State Government, announced Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today. The high school along with the primary school located on its premises will be completely demolished. The educational institution will be reconstructed as a model school under the 5T. After being directed by the Chief Minister, Chief Secretary Pradeep Jena, ST Secretary VK Pandian, and other concerned officials held meeting with the Balasure Collector, members of the school managing committee, panchayat representatives, teachers and students via videoconferencing to seek their opinion in this regard.

The demolition work of building of the school started this morning. The process was being carried out in the presence of school managing committee members and Works Department authorities. The 65-year-old educational institution is located a few hundred metres away from the Bahanaga Bazar Station. On the fateful day, the bodies were kept at the school building temporarily after being recovered from the accident site. Some classrooms and a hall of the school were used to place the bodies. The students of the school became reluctant to attend classes after summer vacation as the building had turned into a mortuary-like place, few days ago. Though Fire Services

personnel had cleaned and sanitized the blood-stained rooms, parents of the students were not willing to allow their children to go to the school. The locals alleged that the rooms still had bloodstains at some places. Before commencement of classes after conclusion of the ongoing summer vacation, awareness programmes will be conducted for the students to eradicate their fear regarding the building. The classes will start after a puja at the school, said a member of the managing committee. The train accident involving Coromandel Express, SMVP-Howrah Superfast Express and a goods train at Bahanaga on June 2 has claimed at least 288 lives.

Honorary Doctorate for Achyuta Samanta

Bhubaneswar,(KCN): Eminent educationist, social worker and Founder, KIIT & KISS, Prof. Achyuta Samanta has been conferred with honorary doctorate degree by Bharath Institute of Higher Education and Research (Deemed-to-be-University), Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The university awarded him the Degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) during its 39th convocation ceremony, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of education and social service. Unfortunately, Prof. Samanta was unable to personally receive this honor due to unforeseen commitments. This honorary doctorate marks the 52nd such distinction for Prof. Samanta. He expressed his gratitude to the authorities of Bharath Institute of Higher Education and Research (Deemed-to-be-University) for the recognition, stating, "I am delighted to receive this honorary doctorate, and I am truly humbled and grateful to the board for selecting me. It will motivate me to do even more." The convocation ceremony was graced by Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for External Affairs; Dr. Kiran Hazarika, Pro Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU; Prof. Mohamed Rela, Chancellor, BIHER; and Dr. K. Vijaya Bhaskar Raju, Vice-Chancellor.



Research On Cancer Drug



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Researchers are working to develop new drugs and diagnostic techniques to fight cancer and infectious diseases at Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) Deemed to be University here, counted among the top universities in the country, at its DBT BUILDER National Laboratory. "The research work has started for which Rs. 4.54 crore had been sanctioned by the Department of Biotechnology," Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda, Vice-Chancellor of SOA, said on Friday. The focus, he said, was on interdisciplinary research in life sciences and three Principal Investigators and 14 Co-Investigators had been engaged in the investigation. The Vice-Chancellor was speaking at the inaugural program of a three-day International Conference

on Advances in Power, Signal and Information Technology (APSIT-2023) at the Institute of Technical Education and Research (ITER), SOA's faculty of engineering and technology. Prof. Nanda also referred to the three innovative pharmaceutical formulations developed by university researchers to treat various chronic medical conditions for which SOA had recently signed technology licensing agreement with the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) of the Ministry of Science and Technology. Pointing out that interdisciplinary research was the need of the hour, he said the earlier practice of developing expertise in one core area was no longer valid. Prof. Nanda also said that SOA had figured among the top 15 universities in the National

Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings which were announced on Monday. The three-day conference has been organised by the ITER's Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (EEE). Prasanta Kumar Pattanaik, General Manager (Electrical) of Odisha Power Transmission Ltd (OPTCL) and Prof. Susanta Ray, Associate Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, also addressed the inaugural session. Prof. Sangram Keshari Routray, Convenor of APSIT-2023, said that as many as 931 research papers had been received for the conference of which 143 had been chosen for deliberation. Dr. Anuja Nanda welcomed the delegates while Prof. Debadatta Amaresh Gadnayak proposed the vote of thanks.

Sri Sri University, Cuttack expands its global footprints through the THE Impact Rankings 2023 for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the third consecutive year

Cuttack,(KCN): Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2023 for United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings are global performance parameters that assesses Universities based on their contributions towards achieving the SDGs. THE Impact Ranking is the only ranking that ranks Universities globally for the UN SDGs. Out of the total 30,000+ Universities in the world, 1591 participated in the THE Impact Rankings in the year 2022 whose results have been announced last week in Saudi Arabia. Sri Sri University, participated in all the 17 SDGs. The University has expanded its global footprints by upscaling in SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) by being



ranked in the band of 101-200 globally and second (joint) in India. Similarly, we have been ranked between 201-300 globally and second in India for SDG 13 (Climate Action); 201-300 globally and second in India (joint) for SDG 15 (Life on Land); and 301-400 globally and fifth (joint) in India for SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production). In the

overall rankings, we have attained an enviable 6th position in India. Sri Sri University is committed to create a better world for the future and so our motto of 'Learn Lead Serve' is rather apt. Founded by the world renowned spiritual leader and humanitarian, Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar ji, the University practices 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (one

world one family), the spirit of its parent organization, The Art of Living. In this spirit, the University accommodates students and faculty from all states of India and 7 countries of the world. It is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna. Sri Sri University has also gainfully impacted the 19 adjacent villages by engaging them through a number of service

projects for women, children and youth. These include blood donation camps, clothes donations, yoga and hygiene camps, vocational skill training to youth and women, building homes for the homeless, health camps, awareness about menstrual health for adolescent girls, food grain distribution during COVID, hiring and procuring goods and services from locals to supplement their income and others. The Vice Chancellor, Prof. B.R. Sharma, spoke of the latest achievement of the University, 'Our commitment to service is supreme. We lead by example. Our education system believes in creating excellent human beings for the future. This steadfastness has found its reflection in rankings in THE Impact Rankings for the third.

IAS Reshuffle In Odisha: Bishnupada Out, Aravind In As Higher Education Secretary

Bhubaneswar: After the removal of Higher Education Minister Rohit Pujari from Odisha Cabinet, the state government has shifted departmental secretary Bishnupada Sethi in a minor reshuffle in IAS cadre. Sethi, a 1995-batch IAS officer, has been appointed as Officer on Special Duty in the department of General Administration and Public Grievance. Sethi was earlier holding the additional charge of Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Ltd chairman. Finance department Principal Secretary Vishal Kumar Dev, a



1996-batch IAS officer, has been asked to hold the additional charge of chairman, Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Ltd, said a notification issued by the General Administration department today. Aravind Agrawal, a 2007-batch IAS officer, has been appointed as the Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Higher Education department, added the notification. Agrawal will also hold

the additional charge of director, Rural Development. Agrawal was earlier working as the director of Social Welfare, Women and Child Development department with additional charge managing director, Mahila Vikash Samabaya Nigama. Pujari was removed from the state Cabinet over his poor performance as the Higher Education Minister of Odisha, sources said.

5T Care For B'Ga HS

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The State Government on Friday announced to demolish and reconstruct Bahanaga High School along with primary and elementary school located in its premises as a model school. The Bahanga High School was used as a makeshift mortuary to preserve corpses of people who lost lives in June 2 deadly train accident involving Coromandel Express. As per the instructions of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena, 5T Secretary of Chief Minister, VK Pandian, and School & Mass Education Secretary S. Aswathy interacted with Balasore Collector, School



Management Committee members, Panchayat representatives, teachers, students, and the alumni association members through video conferencing this morning. After holding discussion with them, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has directed the authorities to make it a model school with its renovation under the 5T Initiative. It is worth noting that the coffins of the people who died in the terrible train accident near Bahanaga Bazar railway station on June 2 were temporarily kept at Bahanga High School. Later, the

bodies were taken elsewhere and the school was cleaned, but there was fear among students, teachers, and the public. Therefore, various quarters demanded the demolition of the school and its reconstruction. Considering children's mental health, a decision was taken in the meeting to demolish the Bahanaga Bazar High School and the primary and elementary schools in its vicinity, said Pandian. Two students of the school - Priyanka Behera of Class VIII and Suman Sahu of Class VI exchanged their views with the 5T Secretary and gave proposals regarding

the development of the school. Considering the views and needs of the children, it was decided to develop facilities like concrete roofs, classrooms, playgrounds, walls, etc. in the school. In this regard, the Chief Minister's office directed the District Collector to prepare a detailed plan and submit a report within 15 days. The school was hastily turned into a temporary morgue, following the deadly train accident that claimed the lives of 288 people and injured over 1,000. Expressing pleasure over the decision of the Government, the teachers, students and their parents thanked the CM for his prompt action to address the issue.

Vedanta Aluminium's heat stroke awareness sessions in Jharsuguda touch over 6500 people

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, conducted a comprehensive Heat Stroke Awareness Program across several regions in Jharsuguda district, Odisha in the wake of the ongoing heat wave. The initiative, which aimed to sensitize community members on the severity of heat strokes and educate them about the precautions necessary to protect themselves, covered several key locations within the town, including Badheimunda Chowk, Private Bus Stand, Railway Station, Sarbahal Chowk, BTM Chowk, in addition to more than 28 villages. Through a combination of live sessions, distribution of informative leaflets, and the provision of ORS (Oral Rehydration

Solution) powder, the week-long program successfully reached out to more than 6500 people across the district. Heat stroke is a serious medical condition that occurs when the body overheats due to prolonged exposure to high temperatures and inadequate hydration. With rising temperatures and changing climate patterns, it is crucial to raise awareness about heat strokes and equip people with knowledge of preventive measures. Through the Heat Stroke Awareness program, Vedanta Aluminium aims to educate the community about the importance of recognizing early symptoms and taking immediate action. The program highlighted the significance of staying hydrated, seeking shade

during peak sun hours, wearing appropriate clothing, and avoiding strenuous physical activities during extreme heat conditions, and training on immediate actions to be taken in the event of a heat stroke incident. Thanking the company for their efforts to bring about timely awareness, Dr. Dolmani Patel, Chief District Medical & Public Health Officer, Jharsuguda, said, "I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Vedanta Aluminium for their remarkable initiatives in enhancing community health. By sensitizing people to recognize early symptoms and to take immediate action, we can effectively combat the risks associated with heat-related illnesses."

Innauguration of Mission Shakti Cafe at Khaprakhol



Khaparakol/ Patanagarh/ Balangir (KCN): Mission Shakti, the Mahila Sasaktikarana is a mile stone & a big achievement of the BJD, Government under the leadership of Sri Naveen Pattanaik, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha State, the result oriented, helping & cooperative Chief Minister not only for Odisha State, but also for across India. Today, inside the Khaprakhol Block of Patanagarh Subdivision under Balangir District

premises, the new Cafe of Mission Shakti was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Hon'ble MLA of Patanagarh & deputy chief whip of Odisha Assembly Sri Saroj Meher & the Collector, Balangir Sri Chanchal Rana, IAS attended as Guest of Honors. Dr. Bijayananda Sthi, OAS I (SB) & Block Chairman Madam Nirupama Patel were present in this auspicious occasion. Hon'ble MLA, Sri Saroj Meher told that the Odisha State Government is giving

importance to the Mahila Sasaktikarana for all total development of Women as well as for their livelyhood & self engagement & self independence. This Mission Shakti Cafe will give encouragement to go ahead for the Women & for self engagement & self independent. Maa Gaja Laxmi SHG has taken the management charges. In this Innaugural Function, the Khaprakhol BDO, Bijoy Hota, Mission Shakti, District Project Cordinator, Suman

Dwebedi, CDPO, Sujata Dora, Mission Shakti, Block Project Cordinator, Manoj Kerketa, Block Vice Chairman, Sukhram Shanda, BLC, Prasanta Nanda, Zilla Parisad Member, Zone 4, Madam Pramila Pathar, Zone 3, Madam Sanjukta Meher, Khaprakhol Block Samiti Member, Madam Sushila Bhue, Khaparakhol Grampanchayat Sarpanch, Madam Betikhai Sendriya were also present in this opening function.

Social Organizations organised blood donation camp at Cuttack for Balasore train tragedy



Cuttack Sadar, (KCN): Leading social organizations Bishnupriya Charitable Trust, Orissa (BCT), Maruti Bahini Sangathan Cuttack, Bajaranga Organization Dhenkanal, Social workers from Khurda Town combindly organised a blood donation camp at Central Redcross Cuttack Branch, SCB blood bank Cuttack on an emergency

basis for the Coromandel Express horrific train accident at Bahananga railway station Balasore Odisha. This camp began from 3rd June will continue for 15 days drives (3rd June to 18th June - 2023) as till time collection of 157 Units of bloods. This camp conduct under guidance of BCT Secretary Honorable Prince Nanda Ji in presence of Bajrang

Organizations president Mithun Swain, vice president Sibani Nayak, secretary Rudrakanta Nayak, Maruti Bahini president Papu Dalabehera, coordinator Jyoti Sahoo, Murali Swain, Dibasha Behera, Likuna Khuntia, Samira Behera, Ganeswar Prusti, Chandan Swain, Sipu Nayak, Manash Kumar, Kanha Prusti, Biswaranjan

Patra, Biswamber Sahoo, Bidyadhar Sahoo, Bhimsen Das and team. For Great seva work the publick, Central Redcross Cuttack branch Director Dr. Chandrika Prasad Das, Medical officer Kanakalata Dai, SCB Cuttack blood bank chief Professor Smita Mahapatra paid there thanks to all organizations respectively.

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Bigg Boss OTT 2 Highest Paid Contestants: Anjali Arora Getting Huge Amount Per Week?

The second season of the reality TV show Bigg Boss OTT is all set to premiere on June 17, 2023. The show hosted by Salman Khan will be streaming on JioCinema. The first season was won by Divya Agarwal and was hosted by Karan Johar. Just as the OTT show is about to kickstart, a list of Contestants is doing the rounds on social media platforms already. From Kacha Badam girl Anjali Arora, Awez Darbar to Mahesh Poojary, Poonam Pandey among many others are speculated to be on Bigg Boss OTT Season 2. Details about the contestants are still under wraps but rumours about the highest-paid contestants list is keeping the buzz alive: According to a report on

Zoom TV, Anjali Arora, Awez Darbar to Mahesh Poojary are the highest-paid contestants this season. They are reportedly getting Rs 15 lakh per week. Anjali Arora is a digital content creator and social media sensation who shot to fame after her video on Kacha Badam became an instant hit on social media. Anjali Arora was first seen in Lock Upp - a reality show hosted by Kangana Ranaut and produced by Ekta Kapoor. Other names doing the rounds include TV actress Pooja Gor, Sooraj Pancholi - who was recently acquitted in the Jiah Khan suicide case and singer Sunidhi Chauhan. The 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan' superstar



recently made the announcement about Bigg Boss OTT Season 2 in a special video. The promo shows Salman, dressed in a shiny silver jacket and matching T-

shirt and can be heard saying, "Cricket ke baad kya dekhein ye hai dilemma, entertainment hai 24 ghante available only on JioCinema. Main lekar aa raha hoon 'Bigg

Boss OTT' toh dekhta jaaye India (What to watch after cricket is the dilemma, entertainment is now available for 24 hours on JioCinema. I'm coming soon with 'Bigg

Boss OTT', so brace yourself".) Who will really make it to the show this season, only time will tell. Till then, keep reading this space for more updates on Bigg Boss OTT 2.

Dhoomam: Hombale Films Unveils Gripping Trailer for Malayalam Suspense Thriller

Hombale Films, a prominent production house in the Indian film industry, has released the highly-anticipated trailer for their upcoming suspense thriller 'Dhoomam'. The trailer offers a tantalizing glimpse into the intense world of the movie, leaving audiences eager for more. Written and directed by Pawan Kumar who is known for acclaimed films like 'Lucia' and 'U-Turn' and produced by Vijay Kiragandur under the banner of Hombale Films, 'Dhoomam' features an ensemble cast including Fahadh Faasil, Aparna

Balamurali, Achyut Kumar, Roshan Mathew, Vineeth Radhakrishnan, Anu Mohan, Joy Mathew and Nandhu. 'Dhoomam' marks Hombale Films' debut in the Malayalam film industry and the next big release following the tremendous success of Raajakumara, the 'KGF' series and 'Kantara'. The movie is originally in Malayalam and will be released across 300 plus in screens in Kerala alone, ensuring a wider reach and catering to diverse audiences. This approach highlights the production house's commitment to delivering



quality cinema across the Southern region. In 'Dhoomam', Avi (Fahadh) and Diya (Aparna) find themselves entangled in a race against time. Danger lurks around every corner and ghosts from the past are close behind, threatening their

very existence. As the lines between heroes and villains begin to blur, they must confront their deepest fears and make unimaginable sacrifices to reclaim their sense of safety. Fahadh Faasil, known for his remarkable performances in movies

like "Vikram," "Pushpa," "Joji" is in a riveting portrayal, commands the screen with his intense presence, while Aparna Balamurali, the 'Soorai Pottru' fame lead, adds layers of complexity to her character, leaving audiences intrigued. The trailer showcases the versatility and promises to keep viewers at the edge of their seats. The music for 'Dhoomam' is composed by the talented Poornachandra Tejaswi. His haunting melodies and gripping background score add depth and intensity to the movie, enhancing the

overall cinematic experience. Celebrated cinematographer Preetha Jayaram, renowned for her stunning visuals in acclaimed films, has captured the essence of 'Dhoomam' with her remarkable cinematography, creating a visually immersive world. Suresh, vastly experienced editor having previously collaborated with Pawan on the critically acclaimed film 'U Turn', brings his exceptional editing skills to 'Dhoomam'.

Khatron Ke Khiladi 13: Rohit Roy Aces The 'Pose Game' With Shiv Thakare, Daisy Shah And Others



In a treat to the eager fans, Rohit Shetty is all set to come back with his popular stunt reality show, Khatron Ke Khiladi 13. Just like it has been in the last couple of years, the 13th season will also be held in South Africa's Cape Town. The 14 contestants along with host Rohit Shetty have started the shooting. Some popular faces like Shiv Thakare, Mohammad Sheezan Khan, Archana Gautam, Arjit Taneja, and Rohit Roy will be seen coming together to face their fears and perform

some daring stunts on the screen this year. Now, Rohit Roy shared a bunch of pictures with his co-contestants. The opening frame is a group picture. Rohit Roy, in the following pictures, is seen posing with actress Daisy Shah, singer Dino James, actress Nyra Banerjee, actor Arjit Taneja, Roadies fame Soundous Moufakir, Bigg Boss fame Shiv Thakare, and actors Anjum Fakih and Ruhi Chaturvedi, among others. "Kuch khaas hai, hum sabhi mein!", he wrote.

Reacting to it, many of the contestants also shared their thoughts in the comment section. Not just Rohit Roy, other contestants have also been sharing their experience from the South African jungle as the shooting has begun. Several BTS pictures and videos have been going viral, showing the bond among the contestants. This has left the audience more eager and impatient for the season to come on air. Ever since the news of Khatron Ke Khiladi's latest

instalment came out, it has kept the Internet abuzz, with fans waiting to watch their favourite contestants perform some nerve-wracking stunts on the screen. While a total of 14 celebrities are expected to take part in the latest edition, they will shoot the promo of the show in the coming days. As per sources, the season is expected to premiere on television around July on Colors. However, an official confirmation is yet to be provided by the makers of the show.

RRR Star Jr NTR's 30th Film Called 'Devara', First Look Is Raw, Intense And Deadly

NTR Jr has announced the official title of his film that was previously titled 'NTR30': 'Devara'. The highly anticipated action drama is directed by Kortala Siva and the actor is looking all things raw, intense and tough in its official first look. Speaking of his look, NTR Jr looks like an alpha man who's on a mission in this action spectacle. With 'Devara' which means God, the star is here to set new benchmarks for the action genre in India. 'Devara' is produced by Yuvasudha Arts & NTR Arts and presented by Nandamuri Kalyan Ram. The film is slated to release Pan Indian on April 5, 2024. The film also stars Janhvi Kapoor and Saif Ali Khan in pivotal roles. 'Devara' also marks Janhvi Kapoor's debut in the Telugu industry. The film is produced by Mikkilineni Sudhakar and Kosaraju Hari Krishna. Anirudh Ravichander will handle the music, R. Rathnavelu will be the cinematographer, Subu Cyril will lead the art department, and Sreekar Prasad will serve as the editor.



INDIA'S DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND ATTRACTS FDI



Prof. Sunil Goyal

According to the latest RBI bulletin, net FDI in the financial year 2022-23 declined by 27 per cent year-on-year to \$ 28 billion. In 2021-22, there was a net FDI of \$ 38.6 billion in the country. Not only India, global FDI inflows slowed down in 2022 due to the global economic slowdown, but the data for April 2023 showed a slight increase in FDI new investments. Major global FDI recipients recorded lower FDI inflows in 2022, notably China and the United States, partly as a result of new investment activity. Nevertheless, the United States and China were the top two FDI destinations worldwide in 2022, followed by Brazil, receiving peak levels of inflows partly due to increased reinvestment of earnings. FDI inflows

to OECD economies fell by 26% due to disinvestment from Luxembourg, which was partially offset by large increases in Switzerland and the United Kingdom. FDI inflows to non-OECD G20 economies fell by 38%, mainly reflecting the decline in China. FDI outflows from OECD and non-OECD G20 countries fell by 14% and 28%, respectively. Cross-border mergers and acquisitions (M&A) activity slowed, with few deals expected to close in 2022, possibly in response to a tightening financial environment, given continued geopolitical challenges and concerns about a looming recession. However, the outlook for greenfield investment activity in 2022 remains positive. While announced capital expenditure increased in advanced, emerging and developing economies, the number of projects still remained below pre-pandemic levels. In India's perspective, the RBI said that the slowdown in the global

economy has led to a decline in FDI. According to the central bank, a total of \$ 81.97 billion FDI came in the country in 2021-22. This was 10 per cent more than in 2019-20. According to the RBI, net FDI in 2022-23 is also set to decline by 27 per cent year-on-year to \$28 billion. In 2021-22, there was a net FDI of \$ 38.6 billion in the country. According to data released by RBI, India's semiconductor industry is expected to attract FDI of \$26.2 billion during 2022-23. India ranks second in the world in terms of FDI in this sector. America has been at the first place with foreign investment of \$33.8 billion. Here the country's foreign exchange reserves saw an increase from \$7.196 billion to \$595.98 billion. India's foreign exchange reserves rose to a 10-month high of \$588.8 billion in the week to April 28, indicating strengthening financial conditions. With this, India is in a satisfactory position to meet all the needs of the next five-

six years even in the worst-case scenario. No other developing country in the world is in such a better position. This is the first time; we are seeing commercial interest rates at par with developed countries.



This is a compelling case for investment, growth, expanding our international reach, bringing technology and innovation into the country. The world is witnessing India emerging as the land of opportunities and one of the fastest growing economies in the world. With a developing economy and a large population, India has emerged as a desirable location for investors looking to tap

into the country's potential. With a strong stable GDP growth rate, India has consistently maintained a high growth trajectory. India has a large domestic market, favourable demographics and a growing middle class,

which together form a solid platform for future growth. Also, India has become the centre of a diversified and expanding economy. India is home to a wide mix of industries including manufacturing, agriculture, services and IT. To strengthen the economy, the Government of India is aggressively pursuing economic diversification and has launched several

programs such as Make in India and Digital India. In recent years, several unicorns have emerged in India, which also boasts of a booming startup ecosystem. Global investors want to capitalize on India's

large and young population. More than 1.4 billion people call India home, and more than half of them are under the age of 25. For businesses, this large and young population provides a huge market base. Additionally, it is projected that by 2025, India's middle class will grow from 400 million to 500 million, providing a huge opportunity for consumer-driven enterprises. The

favourable policies of the government are playing a very important role in taking the country towards progress. In order to attract foreign investment, the Government of India has formulated several policies. These measures include easing restrictions on FDI (foreign direct investment), allowing 100 percent FDI in many industries, streamlining the tax code, and setting up an organization specifically to facilitate foreign investment. Reforms such as the Goods and Services Tax (GST), Bankruptcy Code, and liberalization of foreign investment have boosted investor confidence and made it easier for companies to do business in the country. India has some of the least competitive labour prices in the world, which attracts businesses looking to set up manufacturing or service operations. Additionally, India has a large labour force that is highly skilled in areas such as engineering and information

technology. India's demographics are positive for investors. India has become the most populous country in the world. Due to this demographic dividend, companies have a huge potential to capitalize on the large and expanding consumer base of the country. Clearly, India is a desirable destination for investors looking to tap the country's potential due to its strong economic growth, diverse and expanding economy, large and young population, government reforms, affordable labour costs and favourable demographics.

Author is an Eminent Social Scientist, Columnist, and presently posted as Dean and Chairman – Board of Studies at Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University of Social Sciences, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar (MHOW), Madhya Pradesh.
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International Day Of Biodiversity

Saikat Kumar Basu

The International Day of Biodiversity, also known as World Biodiversity Day, is observed on May 22nd each year to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity and the need to protect and conserve the Earth's rich variety of plant and animal species. It serves as a reminder of the vital role that biodiversity plays in sustaining our planet and supporting all forms of life.



The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed May 22nd as the International Day for Biological Diversity to commemorate the adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on May 22nd, 1992. The CBD is an international agreement that aims to conserve biodiversity, ensure its sustainable use, and promote the equitable sharing of benefits derived

from genetic resources. The theme for each International Day of Biodiversity is chosen to highlight specific aspects of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. These themes often reflect current issues and challenges faced in preserving biodiversity and can vary from year to year. Various organizations, governments, and communities around the world organize events and activities



on this day to promote biodiversity awareness and encourage actions to protect and conserve nature. The International Day of Biodiversity encourages individuals, communities, and governments to take steps towards conserving biodiversity. This may involve supporting protected areas, adopting sustainable

agricultural practices, promoting wildlife conservation, restoring ecosystems, reducing pollution, and raising awareness about the importance of biodiversity among the general public. Biodiversity is essential for the health of ecosystems and provides numerous benefits to human societies. It contributes to food

security, supports livelihoods, provides medicines, regulates climate, purifies air and water, and enhances resilience to environmental changes. Preserving biodiversity is crucial for achieving sustainable development and ensuring a habitable planet for future generations. On International Day of Biodiversity, people are encouraged to explore and appreciate the natural world, learn about the different species and ecosystems, and take actions in their daily lives to protect and conserve biodiversity. It is a time to reflect on the importance of nature and the interconnectedness of all living beings on Earth.

PFS, Lethbridge Alberta, Canada; email: saikat.basu@alumni.uleth.ca

Letter to Editor

Sir

Kudos to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav and the team of railway officials and employees, working so hard not even sparing a minute and setting the tracks ready for transportation. The minister and his huge team camped at the disaster sight for three days, taking stock of the situation, and within 51 hours of the accident set the tracks ready for rail movement. The minister not only led the team for relief and rescue operation but simultaneously saw to it that restoration work was done so that rail connectivity in the eastern section was done without delay. This shows his grit, determination and commitment to his work. He also made arrangements with the medical department to provide medical care and directed the various departments for identification and handing over of bodies of the victims to their relatives.

The technocrat minister during his initial career had served as a dynamic District collector at Balasore and noted for mobilising and directing large-scale relief work during a devastating typhoon that hit the region in 1999. He was also deputy secretary in the office of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, besides showing his calibre as a team leader in the various departments and institutions he worked. His devotion to his tasks, responsibility, persistence and zeal to accomplish his duty is an answer to those baying for his blood and resignation.

M PRADYU KANNUR Geeth Thalikavu Kannur 670001.

Dear Sir, Applaudable operation by NCB
 Chasing down on medicine bootleggers, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) busted a pan-India combination operating on the darknet. The NCB's strategic and functional planning led to a massive seizure of more than two thousand spots of LSD a synthetic chemical-grounded medicine categorised as a hallucinogen and popularly called ecstasy as per reports. The success of this operation is significant as it demonstrates that the law enforcement authorities are rising to the challenge of the decreasingly high-tech fight against the illegal medicine trade. The Central government has set up the Narcotics Coordination medium for uniting state position. India has also inked pacts or MoUs with countries to enable the NCB to work in tandem with them for combating the illegal medicine imminence.

Dr. Vijaykumar H K Raichur, Karnataka

"Man Who Gave You Ministerial Berth...": Congress Hits Back At S Jaishankar

New Delhi: The Congress hit back at External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday over his criticism of Rahul Gandhi for his remarks made in the US recently, saying the man who started the practice of taking national politics

In an apparent swipe at Prime Minister Modi, Mr Ramesh said on Twitter: "The man who started the practice of taking national politics outside the country is none other than the man who gave you (Jaishankar) your ministerial position. You know it, but you cannot

said, "Rahul Gandhi has a habit of criticising the country and making comments on our politics whenever he goes abroad. The world is looking at us and what is it seeing? Elections are held in the country and sometimes one



outside the country is none other than the one who gave him a ministerial position. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh's attack came after Jaishankar slammed Mr Gandhi for his "habit" of criticising India abroad and said taking national politics out of the country is not in the nation's interest. To a question at a press conference on the Congress leader's strong remarks made in the United States against the Narendra Modi government, Mr Jaishankar said he does not have a problem with whatever is done within India, but asserted that taking internal issues aboard is not appropriate.

acknowledge it Dr Minister." Asked about Mr Jaishankar's criticism of Rahul Gandhi, Congress general secretary Randeep Surjewala said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has given an "old script" to the external affairs minister and he should read a new one. "The prime minister has made fun of previous governments and made light of the country's over-70-year-old history. What Rahul Gandhi has said is only the truth that a planned systematic attack on our constitutional bodies is happening," Mr Surjewala said at a press conference here. In his remarks at the presser, Mr Jaishankar

party wins and at times, the other party wins." He also exuded confidence that the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) will retain power in next year's parliamentary polls as he said, "2024 ka result toh wohi hoga, humein pata hai (we know what will happen in 2024)." "If you see all the narratives (against the government), they are made within the country. If a narrative does not work or is less effective, then it is taken abroad. They expect that the outside support will work in India," the external affairs minister said. Mr Jaishankar said taking national politics abroad will not enhance Mr Gandhi's credibility.

Court Extends Ex-Anti Drugs Officer Sameer Wankhede's Prevention From Arrest



Mumbai: In yet another big relief to former Narcotics Control Bureau Mumbai Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede, the Bombay High Court has extended his prevention from arrest for another two weeks. The Bombay High Court was hearing the Sameer Wankhede case on Thursday. It has now listed the next hearing on June 23. While Sameer Wankhede had filed the

plea to quash the case registered by the CBI against him, the central investigating agency has appealed to the court to remove the protection he presently enjoys from being arrested. The CBI pleaded to the court that there are very 'serious' and 'sensitive' allegations of bribery against Mr Wankhede and hence the his relief from arrest should be denied. On the other hand, Sameer

Wankhede's lawyer sought time from the court to amend the petition. Earlier Mr Wankhede told Mumbai Police that he was receiving threats through fake Twitter account in the name of gangster Dawood Ibrahim. Mr Wankhede grabbed headlines two years back for arresting Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan in the Cordelia cruise drug bust.



The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu receives warm welcome, in Belgrade

ANTI ADDICTION CAMPAIGN OF BOBBY CHAKRABORTY IN AMERICA

Kolkata(KCN):It's a matter of pride for our country that the award winning, free of cost,

much needed sessions in U. S. A. are Sanku Mallik and Ipsita Mallik, both renowned scientists at

this awareness among the children, who are our future. With the advent of smart phones and

and perverts all over! Then ofcourse there is the recurring menace of substance abuse forever

welcomed me and my mission with much warmth, through the able support of the Dean of



global awareness program, 'I AM THE KING OF MY MIND', conducted by actor/activist/teacher of method acting Bobby Chakraborty, against addiction of all sorts and harmful social trends among the youth, has reached the educational institutions of United States of America. The two main personalities responsible for organising these

North Dakota State University ,who are strong soldiers of Bobby's fight against these social evils, which are destroying the young generation. We spoke with Bobby who had this to say:- "Among all countries I have interacted with globally, I felt that The Government of U.S.A. has been the most receptive about the immediate necessity of

social media, there is a totally dark parallel universe that the children dwell upon, even before their teens. The harm that is being caused to their mental well being is fatal even before they realize the trap of no return they are in! A trap of 'views', 'subscription' and 'followers'! They are ready to go to any extent , getting even more entangled in that dirty trap laid down by creeps

that a child imbibes in the growing up years to look 'cool' and be 'accepted' .This is an effort on my part to guide the youth towards the right path of their lives,against all these evils, before it's too late! Bobby also added, "Among all the institutions I have visited in U.S.A. till date , there is this one school , 'Cheney Middle School' in Fargo which has

Students, Candida Braun and the Principals, Donald Lennon and Amber Rudolph . There have been numerous sessions in this particular school with terrific feedback from all the students and their parents, as is evident from the photos. Awareness against addiction, the lack of which has destroyed my family, is all I want! Nothing more, nothing less."

Jagriti Dham Sheds Light on the Future of India's Ageing Population

Kolkata(ABHIJIT SETH):Jagriti Dham, the first green-certified living centre for senior citizens in Eastern India, recently hosted an enlightening panel discussion in Kolkata that delved into the future of India's ageing population and the field of gerontology. The event aimed to shed light on the challenges and opportunities presented by the growing elderly population while raising awareness about the importance of geriatric care. The panel discussion, skilfully moderated by Aninda Das, Vice President of the Marketing team at

Infinity Group which looks after Jagriti Dham, brought together distinguished experts in the field. Dr. Indrani Chakravarty, founder and director of the Calcutta Metropolitan Institute of Gerontology, shared invaluable insights on the subject matter. Chitrakana Bandyopadhyay, a Consultant Clinical Psychologist, provided valuable perspectives on the psychological well-being of the elderly. Apratim Chattopadhyay, Founder and MD & CEO of Support Elders, contributed his expertise in creating a supportive environment for

senior citizens. Additionally, Nilanjana Maulik, Secretary General of Alzheimer's and Related Disorders Society of India, Calcutta Chapter, shared her experiences and highlighted the challenges faced by individuals with dementia and their caregivers. During the event, a presentation on Elderly Abuse Awareness emphasized the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007. The presentation outlined the objectives of the act, which include the maintenance, care, and protection of

senior citizens. This discussion took place against the backdrop of Jagriti Dham, the first green-certified living centre for senior citizens in Eastern India. This state-of-the-art facility seeks to revolutionize the concept of senior care by addressing the daily needs of the elderly. Jagriti Dham received certification from the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) and became the first senior living establishment in the Eastern region and the second in India to achieve a silver rating, thereby championing assisted and independent living.

The vibrant discussion among the panellists underscored the immense significance of the future of the elderly population and the field of gerontology as the world navigates changing demographics and societal dynamics. Several key aspects emerged, highlighting the future trajectory of the elderly population and the field of gerontology, such as Increased Life Expectancy, Holistic Geriatric Care, Technological Innovations, Age-Friendly Communities, Social Support Systems, Interdisciplinary Collaboration and more.

Madhu Pension In Cash

Bhubaneswar: The State Government has directed the Collectors to initiate all required steps to ensure smooth disbursement of Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY) money in cash mode to the beneficiaries in the month of June. Expressing concern over the difficulties faced by old persons and PwDs to collect their monthly pension from banks, the State Government last month decided to distribute the MBPY money in cash to the beneficiaries. Till last month, the pension was disbursed on the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.

In this direction, Secretary of Department of Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) Aswathy S. has written a letter to all Collectors. "All MBPY pensioners including the new sanctions will get pension in cash. Old/differently-abled beneficiaries, who are otherwise unable to come to disbursement places, shall receive pension at their doorstep. The list of such beneficiaries may be prepared and communicated to the officials/staff engaged in the disbursement process. There will not be any other method of



disbursement as far as MBPY is concerned," Shrimati Aswathy told Collectors. She instructed the Collectors to undertake adequate steps to raise awareness and sensitize beneficiaries under MBPY about cash

disbursement; particularly those beneficiaries who used to receive pension through DBT in their bank account. Public announcements will be made in rural areas to sensitize people about cash disbursement. The Secretary also

said that the pension disbursement should be carefully done by following the acquittance roll generated from NSAP-PPS. The disbursing officer will conduct physical verification with the list of pensioners at the time of disbursement

Further, the Collectors were asked to make necessary arrangements at disbursement places for sufficient shade, drinking water facilities etc. for pensioners. Time and place of disbursement will be scheduled keeping in view the prevailing weather conditions. The beneficiaries, who were unable to withdraw pension in previous months due to Aadhaar mis-match or otherwise, will be verified on the spot and information in this regard to be compiled for further action. Block officials asked to supervise the

pension disbursement till completion of the process. All preparatory activities for disbursement should be completed by June 10 positively. Bankers should be advised to ensure the availability of cash vans on the day of disbursement and BC/CSPs service for seamless disbursement of cash, she pointed out. The District and Block officials were directed to remain vigilant and ensure that no genuine beneficiary is left out. In the case of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), there will not be any

change in the disbursement process. DBT under NSAP for June, 2023 has been processed. The DBT paid pensioners under NSAP will be ensured to receive/ withdraw cash at BC/CSPs as before, she added. MBPY was launched on January 1, 2008 in an effort to bring more people from vulnerable sections of society under the social security net. Currently, over 28.5 lakh beneficiaries are served by MBPY. Under the scheme, those aged between 60-79 years are provided Rs 500 per month, while those above 80 years get Rs 700 per month.

Railways Load More Freight



New Delhi: During the month of May 2023, originating freight loading of 134 MT has been achieved against loading of 131.50 MT in May 2022, which is an improvement of approx 2% over the last year. Freight revenue of Rs. 14641.83 crore have been achieved in May 2023 against Rs 14083.86 crore freight earnings in May 2022, thereby an

improvement of about 4% over last year. On cumulative basis from April - May 2023, freight loading of 260.28 MT achieved against last year loading of 253.48 MT, an improvement of approximate 3% over last year loading. Railways have earned Rs 28512.46 crore against Rs 27066.42 crore over the last year which is an improvement of

approx 5% as compared to the same period of the last year. IR has achieved freight loading of 65.89 MT in Coal, followed by 15.23 MT in Iron Ore, 13.20 MT in cement, 10.96 MT in Balance other goods, 6.79 MT in containers, 4.89 MT in Fertilizer, 4.85 MT in Food grains and 4.23 MT in mineral oil in

May'2023. Following the Mantra, "Hungry For Cargo", IR has made sustained efforts to improve the ease of doing business as well as improve the service delivery at competitive prices. The customer centric approach and work of Business Development Units backed up by agile policy making helped Railways towards this significant achievement.

Reserve Water Tank damaged due to not functioning

Bhubaneswar/ Ganjam (KCN): It is shameful to say that the constructed Reserve Water Tank of RWS & S, Division, Bhanjanagar of Ganjam District since 2014 for supplying of purified Water to the Villagers of Achuli which is coming under Purusottampur Block of Ganjam District has not functioned since 2014 from the date of its construction. The concerned Contractor had already been got the entire payments from the RWSS, Department. But till now, it has not been inaugurated or not functioned. For that, now the Reserve Water Tank is in totally damaged and rejected



condition. Now question arises that how the concerned RWS&S Division dared to neglect and not functioning the Reserve Water Tank from the completion of the water Tank, though or no doubt that it constructed for supplying of purified & clean water to the Villagers of Achuli. On the other hand, it will be imagined that how

innocent the Villagers of Achuli & from 2014, how & why the RWSS, Department is not serious, not aware of it as well as sitting in silence and idle. This irregularities of the RWSS, Department of Bhanjanagar of Ganjam District came to the notice when one Senior Journalist made a complaint before the

Honorable Chief Minister of Odisha Sri Naveen Pattanaik Jee. Going into the indepth on humanity ground, now the sensitive and intellectual Citizens of Ganjam District are appealing and demanding before the Honorable Chief Minister of Odisha to have a personal look into this sensitive matter and do pass an order for an impartial enquiry against this irregularities as well as to take immediate prompt step to construct a new Reserve Water Tank for supplying of purified water to the Villagers of Achuli of Purusottampur, Block, Ganjam District.



2023-2024



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SAMCO bets on the future of investing in India

Mumbai: SAMCO Asset Management Private Limited, a distinguished investment management firm, is thrilled to announce the launch of India's first actively managed momentum fund - SAMCO Active Momentum Fund. Leveraging the persistent and globally acclaimed momentum anomaly in finance, this pioneering fund aims to deliver exceptional risk-adjusted returns to investors, tapping into the immense potential of momentum investing in the Indian market.

The Nifty 200

Momentum 30 index has achieved an impressive compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 17.79% over 18 years, outperforming the broader Nifty 50 and Nifty 500 indices. Similarly, the Nifty Midcap 150 Momentum 50 index has achieved an exceptional CAGR of 21.28% since its inception. Moreover, when compared to the MSCI World Momentum Index, which produced 20x returns, the MSCI World Index delivered a commendable 10x return. Based on this extensive market research

and a proven track record, SAMCO MF launches India's 1st active momentum fund that utilizes these insights, offering investors an opportunity to tap into the remarkable growth potential that market momentum can provide.

Extensive historical research conducted by MSCI World Momentum Index substantiates that the Momentum factor has consistently proven itself as one of the most potent generators of excessive returns. Building upon this

powerful investment strategy, SAMCO Active Momentum Fund meticulously selects stocks with momentum characteristics such as breakouts, price leadership, and more, deploying a proprietary momentum-seeking algorithm. By capitalizing on the prevailing price trends, the fund aims to outperform the market and generate superior returns for investors.

Umesh Kumar Mehta, Chief Investment Officer (CIO), SAMCO Asset Management Private Limited, said,

"Historically, the momentum factor, or the phenomena based on persistence of stock price trends has been one of the strongest return generators. In Momentum investing, active management offers several unique advantages such as a wider investible universe, quicker rebalancing and hedging flexibility during periods of anti-momentum. By investing in stocks exhibiting momentum characteristics, we aim to offer our investors the potential for superior risk-adjusted returns."

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance relaxes claims settlement process for Odisha train accident victims

Bhubaneswar: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has relaxed the claim settlement process for the families impacted by the Odisha train accident and stands in solidarity with them. The Company will also expedite the claim settlement to provide financial relief to those affected by the tragedy.

The processing of death and health claims including those covered under the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), will be done on the basis of just three basic documents.

Documents required to settle claims:

- Bank account details
- Death certificate from municipal authorities.
- If death certificate is not available, list of deceased passengers issued by hospitals, government authorities or the police
- Copy of valid address proof of the nominee

To assist with claim related inquiries, the Company has set up a dedicated 24x7 helpline number (1-866-266-7766).

Mr. Amish Banker, Senior Executive Vice President - Customer Service & Operations, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance said, "We express our condolences at the loss of lives in the horrific train crash in Odisha. In this hour of grief, our customers can count on us to be supportive and sensitive to their needs. We have therefore relaxed the claims settlement process as per which the nominee needs to submit only three basic documents. Our dedicated 24x7 helpline is equipped to handle all queries pertaining to claims. Nominees can also call our helpline to get all their queries clarified."

Aditya Birla Group forays into branded jewellery retail

Mumbai: Aditya Birla Group is set to foray into the branded jewellery retail business with an investment of around Rs 5000 crore. This business will be housed in a new venture, "Novel Jewels Ltd", that will build large-format exclusive jewellery retail stores across India, with in-house jewellery brands. The new venture will seek to transform the customer experience by creating an aspirational national brand with unique designs and a strong regional flavour. This is the Group's third major foray into a new business in the last two years after paints, and B2B e-commerce for building materials.

Mr. Kumar Mangalam

Birla, Chairman, Aditya Birla Group said, "Aditya Birla Group's foray into branded jewellery retail marks a pivotal moment in our storied legacy of building businesses underpinned on trust. This foray is a strategic portfolio choice that allows us to tap into new growth engines and expand our presence in the vibrant Indian consumer landscape. With rising disposable income, discerning and aspirational consumers are leaning more towards design-led, bespoke, and high-quality jewellery. This venture will capitalise on Aditya Birla Group's deep expertise in lifestyle retail and nuanced understanding

of consumer preferences."

The new venture will be operated by a newly recruited leadership team with deep retail and category expertise.

India's gems and jewellery market contributes approximately 7% to the GDP. The jewellery market is projected to grow to ~USD 90 billion by 2025. Amidst this rapid growth, a steady transition from an unorganized to an organized sector is being observed. The Group's timely entry is set to embellish this dynamic landscape, offering Indian consumers a diverse array of meticulously crafted and intricately designed jewellery.

Odisha Vets stand firm with Government: Donate 20 Lakhs to CM's relief Fund to mitigate the train tragedy

Bhubaneswar: The whole world is shaken by the railway mishap at Bahanaga, Balasore on 2nd June 2023, that has disturbed many families both within the state and outside. While many children have been orphaned by the tragic incidence, many other families of survivors have fallen prey to prolonged physical and financial sufferings. The heart-breaking occurrence has driven humanitarians contributions from all corners in many forms to support the victims. The instant rescue and rehab measures taken by the locals have been widely praised.

The Government of Odisha under the dynamic leadership of Honourable Chief Minister S. J. Pattanaik is also leaving no stones unturned in

combating the disaster. The entire Government machinery of has also been working day and night to bring down the sufferings on the parts of the affected passengers.

As sensible human beings and responsible employees of the Government, the Veterinarians of the state under the banner of Odisha Veterinary Service Association (OVSA) have also extended their supporting hands to the victims of the tragedy. Dr. Jadunath Parida, President, OVSA has informed that they have donated a sum of Rupees Twenty Lakhs to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund on 6th June 2023. A bank draft with the above amount has been handed over to the Chief Secretary of Odisha by the office bearers of Central Executive Committee of OVSA in

Presence of the Principal Secretary, Fisheries & Animal Resources Development Department. The General Secretary Dr. Sankarshan Mahunta has informed that a special General Body meeting of the association was held in virtual mode on Dt 03.06.23 where all members unanimously decided to raise a fund for financial assistance to the victims. The association also decided to collect the contribution at earliest so that it can help the very cause to the maximal extent and the amount was contributed by all veterinarians within only 12 hours.

The association has also planned for organisation of a blood donation camp shortly to meet the needs of the injured passengers who are under treatment now.

Honda's New Global SUV ELEVATE makes its World Debut in India

New Delhi: Honda Cars India Ltd. (HCIL), leading manufacturer of premium cars in India today unveiled Honda's latest global SUV - Honda ELEVATE at a World Premiere event in India. Scheduled for launch during festive season this year, India will be the first country to manufacture and sell the All New Elevate globally. While the initial introduction of Elevate is focused on domestic

market, India also aims to serve as an important export hub for the new model to other parts of the world, catering to the robust demand for SUVs globally.

Developed on the grand concept of 'Urban Freestyler', Elevate aims to appeal to customers with active lifestyles & a global mindset, and blends cutting-edge aesthetics with functionality to create a visually stunning,

incredibly versatile, comfortable, and fun-to-drive SUV that's ready for adventure inside and outside the city limits.

The Elevate is a mid-size SUV that features a Bold and Masculine exterior design with striking front face, sharp character lines and unique rear design which come together to create a vehicle with strong road presence. The front fascia showcases Honda's

signature grille, flanked by sleek LED headlights, while the side profile emphasizes its sporty character, and the rear boasts a distinctive taillight design and LED taillights.

All New Elevate has been developed by Honda R&D Asia Pacific center located in Thailand to match the needs and aspirations of younger customers who are looking for status, comfort and have an

active lifestyle. The R&D team in India has specifically worked on understanding potential target customers through extensive market surveys which reflect their three main motivations for purchasing SUVs including Stylish Bold Exterior design, Strong Safety package with active and passive safety and Overall Comfort when travelling Long Distances with Interior Roominess & Space.

Amitabh Bachchan partners with GSK for shingles awareness and prevention

Bhubaneswar: GSK today announced a partnership with veteran actor Amitabh Bachchan to raise awareness about shingles, a painful condition that affects 1 out of 3 adults above the age of 50 years. The campaign film evocatively captures the agonising pain caused by shingles and its debilitating impact on the people living with it. It gives an important message that it is possible to protect ageing adults against this pain through vaccination.

Commenting on the partnership, Mr. Amitabh Bachchan said, "Shingles is known to be painful and thus certainly

a setback to senior citizens. For prevention against Shingles, I recommend the senior citizens to talk to their doctors." Shingles is caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox. The virus remains inactive in the body after a person recovers from it. When the immunity of the body weakens, it re-activates to cause shingles. More than 90% of Indians by the age of 50 years have this virus in their body and are vulnerable to shingles. Dr Rashmi Hegde, Medical Director, GSK, said, "Amitabh Bachchan has been the face of several disease and vaccination awareness campaigns before, and his support has motivated people to take

the required action to prevent these diseases. Today, India's ageing population is rising, and we need to make them aware of diseases such as shingles which can impact their quality of life. We believe this will persuade more people to talk to their doctors about protecting themselves or their loved ones from shingles."

Commenting on the creative insight for the film, Sagar Kapoor, Chief Creative Officer (Global Brands), Lowe Lintas said, "Our challenge was to find a way to 'show' the unbearable pain of shingles, a sensation that can only be 'felt'.

Meesho Unveils New Brand Identity to Reflect Aspiration & Inclusivity

Bhubaneswar: Meesho, India's only true e-commerce marketplace, has revealed a new brand identity to reinforce how the e-commerce platform helps every Indian derive absolute joy by making a value-first purchase decision. The company aims to strengthen its positioning as a one-stop horizontal platform that meets the everyday needs of millions of Indian shoppers. The brand revamp also aims to showcase the e-commerce platform's inclusivity with a vast collection of value-first products, and how it's helping consumers across income segments, geographies, languages, genders and age groups realize their shopping aspirations.

The new color palette features hues of 'Jamuni' and 'Aam', which encapsulate the vibrancy and grandeur of India's diversity. According to color theory, Jamuni has an association with aspiration while Aam is seen as inviting and welcoming. The refreshed color palette aims to evoke personality traits of confidence and approachability among Meesho consumers and sellers. However, the logo retains Meesho's iconic 'M', albeit in a more colorful and interconnected avatar - which has been strongly associated with the brand since its inception in 2015. As part of this initiative, Meesho has leveraged auditory touch points to build an emotional connect with users. Built on the premise of 'all good things arrive with a ting tong', the company's sonic identity beautifully captures the anticipation and excitement that one experiences while expecting the delivery of an online order.

Embrace the spirit of the festive season in true style as you celebrate with Lifestyle Stores

Bhubaneswar: Immerse yourself in a world of latest fashion and elegance as Lifestyle Stores invites you to indulge in a stylish celebration like never before. Lifestyle Stores has launched a curated festive edit with the newest trends of the season. From glamorous ethnic wear to contemporary western outfits, you'll find an extensive range of apparel, footwear, handbags and accessories that cater to every style and occasion.

With the upcoming festivities, the collection is designed to inspire and enhance your festive dressing, ensuring that you make a striking impression on every celebratory occasion. To

elevate the fashion experience, Lifestyle has partnered with the renowned Odia celebrity and dancer, Bhoomika Dash. In an engaging and interactive reel, Bhoomika gracefully showcases a captivating range of outfits from Lifestyle's new festive collection. Her seamless transitions between Indian and Western ensembles beautifully capture the essence and versatility of styles available at Lifestyle.

Commenting on her association with Lifestyle stores, Bhoomika Dash said, "I am thrilled to be associated with Lifestyle again. I am a loyal customer and I am always fascinated with the wide range of trendy

styles and brands available at the store. Lifestyle offers the most up-to-date, fashionable collection across various categories, all within an affordable price range. For those seeking the latest in festive fashion, I highly recommend a visit to the Lifestyle store at Forum Esplanade mall for a memorable shopping experience during this festive season."

Rohini Haldea, Assistant Vice President - Marketing, Lifestyle said, "Our goal at Lifestyle is to constantly deliver an exceptional shopping experience where customers are able to find an array of options across brands and categories.

On World Environment Day, Reliance Foundation launches 'Plant4Life' initiative for a greener tomorrow

Mumbai: 'Plant4Life', a community-driven environment initiative by Reliance Foundation to enhance green cover and to care for the Earth was launched on the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5.

Over the course of the next few months, 500,000 saplings are set to be planted across the country with the support of at least 50,000 volunteers through 'Plant4Life'. The campaign aims to build a buzz around environment conservation and involvement of the

community. A strong momentum would be generated by Reliance's community of volunteers imbuing the spirit of 'We Care'. "On the 50th anniversary of World Environment Day, we wanted to mark the occasion with a special initiative, bringing together thousands of Reliance volunteers across the country to create momentum for individual and community action, to protect and preserve our Earth for future generations," said Mr. Jagannatha Kumar,

CEO, Reliance Foundation. On Monday, the campaign kickstarted with the planting of over 1 lakh saplings in 25 states and three Union Territories. Plant4Life also has a self-plantation component for Reliance employees to take care of their own plants. The campaign, which will continue over the next few months, includes making of seedballs by volunteers and their families. Seedballs made with mud and compost germinate and give way to plants when dispersed during rains.

This Summer, Home Credit India says 'LifeMeinNoSamjhauta' with a new #ZindagiHit campaign on Home Appliances

New Delhi: Home Credit India (HCIN), a local arm of the leading global consumer finance provider, unveiled its summer campaign, with a considered focus on home appliances - #LifeMeinNoSamjhauta. The new digital campaign under #ZindagiHit brand thought showcases the consumer finance NBFC as an enabler towards fulfilling aspirations with easy financing options beyond mobiles

to home appliances such as air conditioners, coolers, television, refrigerator, and other essentials. The #ZindagiHit brand thought centers on traits such as optimism, progress, trustworthiness, transparency, and that of an enabler, making it a brand of choice when it comes to consumer loans. Home Credit is trusted by 1.6Cr+ customers with the support and special

relation enjoyed with over 50,000 retail partner network pan-India. Commenting on the summer campaign, Ashish Tiwari, Chief Marketing Officer, Home Credit India, said, "With the revival in positive consumer sentiments and declining inflationary pressures, the new brand campaign talks about Home Credit's expanded consumer financing categories beyond mobiles.

French Open 2023: Unseeded Karolina Muchova To Face World No 1 Iga Swiatek In The Final

Paris: As it is, Karolina Muchova was the unseeded, unexpected participant in the French Open 2023 semifinals. And then, dealing with cramping legs nearly three hours into the match, she was just one point from losing to No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka, who entered Thursday with a 12-0 Grand Slam record in 2023, including an Australian Open title. Muchova somehow worked her way out of that difficult situation, grabbing the last five games against an error-prone Sabalenka for a 7-6 (5), 6-7 (5), 7-5 victory at Roland Garros to reach her first major final at the last place she expected. "A roller coaster," Muchova said. In Saturday's title match, she will meet No. 1 Iga Swiatek, the defending champion, who got past No. 14 Beatriz Haddad

Maia 6-2, 7-6 (7) on Thursday night. Swiatek is seeking a third title in Paris and fourth major championship in all and her win in the semifinals assured the 22-year-old from Poland of remaining atop the WTA rankings. At No. 43, Muchova is the fourth-lowest-ranked women's finalist in French Open history. On the other hand, she is now 5-0 for her career against players ranked in the Top 3. It was tough to decide which was more stunning: that Sabalenka lost — or the way she lost. "I just tried to keep fighting and it worked," Muchova said. "I really don't know what happened." Well, here are the basics: Sabalenka held a match point while ahead 5-2 in the third set, but Muchova erased that



with a forehand winner. That began a run in which Muchova collected 20 of the last 24 points. "After that game, she kind of stepped in

and started playing a little bit more aggressive, and I kind of lost my rhythm," was Sabalenka's summation. "Yeah, I wasn't there."

Until Saturday, this trip to Paris was far more complicated off the court for Sabalenka than on it, where all six of her opponents was

unseeded. The subject of Belarus' role in Russia's invasion of Ukraine — the attacks began in February 2022 and continue to this day — and Sabalenka's stance on the matter arose repeatedly, in part because she faced two Ukrainian opponents. She was asked about the war following each of her first two victories, and Sabalenka refused to participate in standard post-match news conferences after her next two contests, saying she felt unsafe and wanted to protect her mental health and well-being. She returned to speaking to the media after her quarterfinal win. "Some challenges," Sabalenka said. "Emotional challenges." Swiatek did not begin particularly well on Thursday, getting broken at love in the very first

game. But she quickly turned that set around. Then, in the second, the big-swinging, left-handed Haddad Maia took a 3-1 lead, before Swiatek got back on serve. In the tiebreaker, Haddad Maia held a set point at 6-5, but she slapped a seemingly neutral ball into the net. A few moments later, it was over, allowing Swiatek to improve to 60-13 in Grand Slam play for her career — the same record Serena Williams had after 73 matches at majors. "It was stressful in some moments, so I'm happy that I was really solid and I was able to close it in the tiebreaker," Swiatek said. "It wasn't easy." Hours earlier, in the 80-degree warmth of Court Philippe Chatrier, Muchova's variety and all-court style provided the right mix against one

of the game's biggest hitters. An oversimplification, granted, but think of it this way: Sabalenka tries to hit the ball past her opponent; Muchova tries to hit the ball away from her opponent. "It's kind of a little bit tricky to build points against her," Sabalenka said. Muchova, a 26-year-old from the Czech Republic, has always found that her game worked best in faster conditions: Her best previous showing at a major was a semifinal run at the 2021 Australian Open on hard courts, her lone WTA title came on a hard court, and she never made it past the third round on the red clay at Roland Garros until now. "It's not my favorite surface," Muchova said earlier in the tournament, "but I think I can play good on it."

Studious Smith transcends conditions yet again BCB considering increased breaks for Afghanistan Test

New Delhi: Steve Smith has always been fussy with the specifics of his game. Approaching 9000 Test runs at an average close to 60, you'd think that Smith has his game working like clockwork. However, for the 34-year-old, reinvention is the only constant. Earlier this year, there was a noticeable change in Smith's trigger movements at the crease, or rather the lack of it. The exaggerated shuffle across was put in the backburner and he revealed how it was a conscious decision which enabled him to access the off-side a lot more frequently. Come the WTC final, that patented shuffle and trigger were back in business, and it was no accident. "I quite like it for English conditions and the way the ball bounces over here. It obviously



worked when I was here last time," explained Smith at the press conference after the second day's play at The Oval where he scored his 31st Test hundred. "And yeah, just the positions I get myself into, it doesn't mean I'm going to do it all the time. I may revert back to old styles at certain periods when I feel it's necessary, but on this surface and with the bowlers I was coming up against, I felt that was the right way forward." "Doesn't take long to get back. It's probably my

more natural sort of movement, I suppose. So, no, it didn't take very long. I actually batted the other way in my first two county games I played here and then started playing that way in the third game because I wasn't quite happy with the positions I was getting into. So yeah, it didn't take long. One hit out in the middle and I was fine." Smith's 285-run stand with Travis Head was the cornerstone of Australia's big first innings effort as the

former neatly played second fiddle to his partner's astonishing counterattack. The day started with Smith on 95 and it didn't take long for him to get to his accustomed three-figure mark, stroking Mohammed Siraj for consecutive fours to get to his 31st Test century. Chuffed as he was about his personal milestone, Smith was all praise for Head's masterclass. "I think when I first started this morning I couldn't ask for anything more than two half volleys on my pad to get me going. That was nice to get over that milestone. But, no, I was proud of the way I played. I thought I applied myself nicely. Left well yesterday morning. Hit the balls in my area and yeah it was pretty solid in defense. So yeah, felt good out there." "Obviously a really good

partnership with Trav who batted beautifully in that middle session yesterday. I thought the way he took the game on, put the pressure back on their bowlers, got them off their lengths, which I think helped me at the other end as well. Yeah, set us up for a nice innings." In hindsight, Head's innings was a template that India missed from their batters as the Australian seamers made better use of a typical surface at The Oval. Unlike their counterparts, the Aussie quicks were relentless in their lengths and were also spot on in terms of their lines, bringing the stumps into play a lot more frequently. It also helped Pat Cummins' men that they had naturally taller bowlers to cause distress to the batters.

New Delhi: Bangladesh Cricket Board is considering the idea of increasing the number of breaks during the one-match Test series against Afghanistan, due to excessive heat. The Test is scheduled to be played at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium from June 14. Heat seems to be a major concern for the hosts, who are playing only their second Test in June at their own backyard, with the other one played against India in 2015 at Fatullah. The temperature touched 38 degrees on Wednesday. BCB have taken several measures to make sure that their cricketers are able to withstand the heat that seemed to have had taken a toll on them in the preparation camp ahead of the Test. "Look, we would like that the number of breaks are increased in the Test match against Afghanistan," BCB



chief physician Debashish Chowdhury told Cricbuzz on Thursday. "During the series against West Indies 'A', we decided to increase the number of breaks as both parties agreed to it. Whether it will happen in the Test match can be decided only by the match referee or the members of the team. From a medical point of view and taking the players' health into consideration, we would like to have more breaks in the game." "There are three sessions in a Test match and there is a

drinks break in every session apart from the lunch and tea breaks. But if we can have two drink breaks instead of one, it could be helpful. Apart from that, the cricketers should get permission to drink water or go into the shade whenever they need to, to get some respite from the heat." Shahriar Nafees, BCB's cricket operation manager, told Cricbuzz that if both the teams agree, more breaks can be introduced in the upcoming Test.

How Apple And Adidas Got Lionel Messi To Pick Inter Miami Over FC Barcelona

New Delhi: David Beckham's Inter Miami are set to sign the most coveted free agent from this summer window, Lionel Messi. The MLS franchise was in race with Messi's childhood club FC Barcelona and Saudi Arabian outfit Al-Hilal, who were offering a massive deal and were also the frontrunners for his signature. However, Messi got attracted to Miami. Why? It appears Messi has received a unique offer that was not in the books of FC Barcelona or even Al-Hilal. As per a report from

the Athletic, Apple and Adidas have been involved in the deal to bring the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner to the USA. The forward has been offered a share of revenues generated through his participation in the MLS. Apple has offered the player a share of their revenue generated by the new subscribers of MLS Season Pass following his signing. Adidas have offered him a cut of any increase in their profits which can come from his involvement in the stateside. Football Club



Barcelona tried their best to bring World Cup winner Lionel Messi back to Barcelona but couldn't crack the right deal while negotiating.

Barcelona gave a heartfelt message to Lionel Messi as they wished him the best of luck for his future endeavours. On Thursday, Football

Club Barcelona released an official statement on social media and on their website which said, "On Monday, June 5,

Jorge Messi, the player's father, and representative, informed Club Inter Miami Stuns President Joan Laporta of the player's decision to join Inter Miami, despite having been presented with a proposal from Barca, in consideration of the desire of both FC Barcelona and Lionel Messi for him to once again wear Blaugrana." It further stated, "President Laporta understood and respected Messi's decision to want to compete in a league with fewer demands, further away from the spotlight and the pressure he has been

subject to in recent years." (Lionel Messi Move To David Beckham-Owned Club Inter Miami Stuns President Joan Laporta of the player's decision to join Inter Miami, despite having been presented with a proposal from Barca, in consideration of the desire of both FC Barcelona and Lionel Messi for him to once again wear Blaugrana.) While concluding it stated, "Both Joan Laporta and Jorge Messi also agreed to work together to promote a proper tribute from Barca fans to honor a footballer who has been, is, and always will be beloved by Barca", as per the official website of Barcelona. In 2021, Lionel Messi left Barcelona after the club failed to meet his wages. He then joined Paris Saint Germain.

After Barcelona's exit, he agreed to a two-year deal worth a 104 million dollar contract. At Paris Saint Germain, he played for two seasons and managed to win the Ligue 1 title twice. The seven-time ballon d'Or will now join Inter Miami which former England football legend David Beckham owns. Inter Miami, is an American professional soccer club based in Fort Lauderdale. Established in 2018, the club began to play in Major League Soccer in the 2020 season.