

## 183.81 Cr For ULBs CS Warns Tata Power

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has approved today Rs. 183.81 Crore in the second phase in favour of 42 Urban Local Bodies covering 10 Districts of Southern RDC Division under the State funded flagship Scheme MUKTA for the financial Year 2023-24. The Districts include Ganjam, Gajapati, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Koraput, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Malkangiri, Kandhamal & Boudh. All these 42 ULBs have developed ward-wise feasible Annual Action Plans under MUKTA through a participatory process involving local citizens and key Stakeholders. All these projects are demand driven, technically feasible and environmentally sustainable projects.



These Action Plans have been screened at the Dept. level before approval of HCM. All these approved projects to be taken up under MUKTA will be executed directly by Mission Shakti Groups as Implementing Agency. It may be mentioned here that Secretary to CM VK Pandian discussed with public representatives of 42 ULBs of the above 10 districts on 9 June, regarding

implementation of the project. The Basket of Projects approved under MUKTA are climate resilient work, which includes creation of Civic Amenities (Mini Park, Open Air Gym, Child play station, Playground, Walking track, Loo, Vending Zones), Open Space Development, Water Body Development, Construction of Multi-purpose Community

Centers, Wall Painting, City beautification and other Labour-oriented works. "Mukhya Mantri Karma Tatpara Abhiyan" (MUKTA) was launched by Hon'ble CM on 18th April 2020 with a mission to create rapid, immediate and mass employment opportunities for urban poor, informal and migrant labourers, rendered unemployed and vulnerable in the

face of Covid-19 infused crisis, while addressing the needs of creation of climate resilient, cost-effective sustainable and replicable community assets by implementing labor-intensive public works across 115 Urban Local Bodies. MUKTA adopts a community driven, participatory and bottom-up approach ensuring transparency and accountability during entire stage of project implementation. MUKTA is a community driven scheme tailor made for Community Based Organizations (CBO) such as Women Self Help Groups (SHG) and Slum Dwellers Associations (SDA) to take the center stage. In the 3rd phase, 36 ULBs of remaining 10 Districts of Northern RDC Division will be covered.

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Amid frequent power outages at different places across the State, Chief Secretary Pradeep Jena on Monday asked Tata Power to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply to the people during the peak summer season. Chief Secretary Shri Jena held a review meeting to take stock of the situation. Top officials of the power distribution companies and Energy department attended the meeting. Sources said the Chief Secretary directed the power distribution companies to promptly address electricity supply problems. The distribution companies were asked to take immediate steps whenever power disruption is reported and to carry out restoration swiftly particularly after nor'wester. He stressed the need for proper coordination



between the Energy department and power distribution companies. The DISCOMs were asked to take immediate steps when they receive complaints from consumers on the phone. They were also asked to respond immediately on complaints posted in social media. Meanwhile, the student wing activists of the Congress Monday pelted tomatoes at the residence of the Energy Minister Pratap Keshari Deb in protest of frequent 'power cut' in many parts of the state including capital city Bhubaneswar

at the peak of summer. Hundreds of Chhatra Congress supporters carrying lanterns and handmade palm leaf fans shouted slogans and pelted tomatoes at the residence of the Minister in protest. The Chhatra Congress activists also scuffled with the security personnel while they tried to forcefully enter the residence of the Minister and the security personnel prevented them. The Congress activists demanded the resignation of Deb. Led by Chhatra Congress President Yashir Nawaz the agitators also sat on dharna in front of the residence of the Minister. While the people were facing a lot of trouble due to heat wave conditions and frequent undeclared power cuts, the Minister, instead of trying to ensure uninterrupted supply power was talking like an agent of the power Utility Tata Power

## Heat Wave: Mercury Crosses 40 Degrees C At 28 Places Of Odisha; Sambalpur Hottest With 46.1

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Mercury is on rise at many places in Odisha and IMD has warned of 'heat wave'. Twenty-eight places of the State witnessed day temperatures above 40 Degrees Celsius today. Sambalpur recorded the highest day temperature at 46.1 Degrees Celsius, followed by Hirakud (45.6), Sonepur (45.0), Bargarh (44.9), Bhubaneswar (44.3), Bolangir (44.0), Boudh (44.0), Titilagarh (44.0), Nayagarh (44.0), Talcher (44.0), Angul (43.9), Jharsuguda (43.4), Rourkela (43.2), Dhenkanal (43.2), Cuttack (43.2), Nuapada (43.2), Sundargarh

(42.7), Jagatsinghpur (42.5), Khordha (42.5), Kendrapara (41.8), Phulbani (41.5), Bhadrak (41.5), Rayagada (41.5), Bhawanipatna (41.0), Malkangiri (41.0), Keonjhar (40.8), Deogarh (40.2) and Baripada (40.2). There will be no major change in the Maximum (day) temperature over the districts of Odisha during next five days. The Maximum temperature is very likely to be above normal by 4 to 6oC at a few places over the districts of Odisha during next five days. Consequently, hot and discomfort weather are likely during next five days and people are



advised to take precautionary measure (avoid heat exposure, keep cool and avoid dehydration) while going outside during day time between 1100 IST to 1500 IST, a special bulletin of the IMD regional centre

said. Heat Wave to Severe Heat Wave conditions are very likely to prevail at a few places over the district of Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Sonepur, Boudh and Bolangir with validity from 0830

hrs IST of 13.06.2023 to 0830 hrs IST of 14.06.2023. Heat Wave condition is very likely to prevail at one or two places over the district of Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Angul, Dhenkanal, Deogarh, Kandhamal, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Nayagarh, Khurda, Cuttack, Ganjam and Jajpur, during the same period. Moreover, thunderstorm with lightning is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Gajapati, Ganjam, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore and Bhadrak.

## Odisha Launches Welfare Scheme For Motor Vehicle Drivers, Workers

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has approved a welfare scheme for the motor vehicle drivers and workers in Odisha. The Chief Minister has also given his nod to a proposal to constitute a welfare board to implement the scheme, said a senior official of the state government. "The state government has launched the scheme to safeguard the interests of motor vehicle drivers and workers in Odisha. In the initial phase, the state government will provide financial assistance to the welfare board to implement the scheme. Subsequently,

the board will augment its resources from registration fees and contributions from the motor vehicle owners," he added. In case of death due to road accidents, the welfare board will provide Rs 4 Lakh to the nominee of the deceased driver/worker. In case of severe injuries, the board will provide Rs 80,000 to the driver or worker. As per the scheme, the welfare board will provide Rs 2 lakh to the nominee of the motor vehicle driver or worker in case of ordinary death. Besides, any motor

vehicle driver or worker is eligible to get financial assistance of Rs 1.5 lakh in case of permanent disability. This apart, the motor vehicle drivers and workers will be included under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) and Madhu Babu Pension scheme of the state government if they fulfill the necessary criteria, said the official. "Around 5 lakh motor vehicle drivers and workers will be benefited under the welfare scheme. The motor vehicle drivers and workers will have their representatives in the board," he added.

## first Janjatiya Khel Mahotsav Concludes at KIIT Odisha Emerged in Overall Champions



**Bhubaneswar, June 12(KCN):** Curtains came down on the first Janjatiya Khel Mahotsav with Odisha emerging as the overall champions in both the men's and women's categories. The grand sporting extravaganza was hosted by KIIT and

was a joint initiative of the Ministry of Culture and the Odisha Government. The first edition attracted the participation of 5,000 tribal athletes and 1,000 officials from 26 states, with Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

describing the games as a historic event. He said that the event provided a unique opportunity to celebrate the athletic prowess of the tribals and promote their cultural heritage and traditional sports on the national stage. In the event, Karnataka

emerged as the 1st runners up and Jharkhand as the 2nd runners up in the overall. In Rugby, team Odisha won the Gold in both the men's and women's categories. In Hockey as well, Odisha was the winner in both the men's and women's categories.

In Kabaddi, Odisha bagged the 1st position in Men's category while Karnataka bagged the 1st position in the women's category. In Volleyball, Karnataka bagged the 1st place in both men and women category. In football Odisha emerged winner

in the men's category, while Chhattisgarh emerged winner in the women category. In Kho Kho, Odisha emerged the winner in both men and women category. Stating that the Tribal sports persons have made a very significant and bright profile in the

sports map of India, the CM said that in Odisha as well most of the sports persons are from the Tribal communities who have brought huge appreciation and laurels for the country. "I believe the time for the community in India is up and coming," he said. Thanking the Prime Minister and the Culture Ministry for allowing Odisha to host the first edition, he said that Odisha has developed a special affinity for sports. "Today Odisha has become a hub for the country. The concluding function was attended by ST and SC Development and Minorities and Backward Class Welfare, Law Minister Jagannath Saraka, School and Mass

Education Minister Sudam Marndi, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Culture Sanjukta Mudgal, President Rugby India Rahul Bose, the Founder of KIIT and KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta and others. Dr Samanta, in his address, said that it was a matter of pride for KIIT to have organised the first Janjatiya Khel Mahotsav. He said that the excitement among the participants and the officials was palpable notwithstanding the rain and heat. He expressed his gratitude to the Central Government, the Culture Ministry and the Odisha Government for their cooperation in making the event a success.



# Odisha State Open University Celebrates 8th Foundation Day Governor releases Narayan Mohanty's 'Reflections'

Bhubaneswar(KCN):Odisha State Open University, Sambalpur celebrated its 8th Foundation Day on 10th of June, 2023 in virtual mode. The meeting was chaired by Prof. (Dr.) Arka Kumar Das Mohapatra, Vice Chancellor of the University. The Chief Guest of the Meeting was Prof. T.V. Kattimani, Central Tribal University, Andhra Pradesh and the Guest of Honour was Prof. Santosh Panda, Former Chairman, NCTE, New Delhi and Director, STRIDE, IGNOU. Prof. Panda also gave away the Foundation Day lecture on Open Resource Learning and new



developments in the areas of OER in special reference to Open Universities in India. Prof. Manas Ranjan Pujari, Registrar of Odisha State Open University shared that ,SOU was established on 10th June 2015 through an Act of Odisha Legislative Assembly with the purpose of providing inclusive and quality education at affordable price to the needy, poor and deprived section of students of all age groups through ODL mode across the state of Odisha. OSOU has conducted 6 National Webinars during the year 2022-23 in which academics from reputed institutions and organisations acted as

resource persons. Prof. Das Mohapatra, the Vice Chancellor touched upon the key areas of the University and also shared the challenges currently faced by the University and also told that the University has signed a total number of 4 MoUs during the year 2022-23. The MoUs focus on development of Skill based modular courses, capacity building of faculties, faculty exchange, mutual use of SLMs, certification and academic collaboration etc. The University's mandate has been to "reaching the unreached; education for all; and education at an affordable cost". Lastly, Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarangi, the Comptroller of Finance gave away the vote of thanks. Miss. Reeta Singh, Academic Consultant in Management, coordinated the meeting.



Bhubaneswar, (KCN)- The Governor of Odisha, Prof. Ganeshi Lal released 'Reflections', an eclectic collection of essays edited by educationist Dr. Narayan Mohanty in Raj Bhavan today. Dr. Ashok Kumar Tarai, Head of the Department of Philosophy of Ravenshaw University, Dr. Sachindra Raul, General Secretary, All Odisha Philosophy Association (AOPA), Dr. Pabitra Kumar Ratha, Convener, State unit of Akhil Bhartiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasang (ABRSM) and others were present in the programme. The book contains fourteen essays written by eminent philosophers, medical practitioners, economists and political scientists of Odisha. The writers, in their essays, have expressed the basic principles of Philosophy in simple English language.

## Sabara Srikhetra, where tribes help Lord Jagannath recuperate from illness during Anasara

**Koraput:** Among the famous tourist attractions of Koraput, 'Sabara Srikhetra' holds a special place in the hearts of visitors. The place is known for the magnificent white temple of Lord Jagannath and is built exactly the same way as the Puri Jagannath temple.



However, the thing that makes the shrine unique is the role of the tribals, particularly from the Sabar community, in the rituals, even during the 'Anasara Ghara' stay of the Holy Trinity. After their Snan Yatra (ceremonial bathing), when the deities come down with 'fever,' tribes from the Sabara community serve them Pathi, a herbal drink, during quarantine.

Sabara priest, Ramachandra Gemel said, "I feel privileged to be able to serve the Lord. I not only serve Lord Jagannath the whole year, but I also perform secret rituals during His Anasara Ghara stay as well. Apart from herbs, the Lord is offered fruits in Anasara chamber too." prepare herbal medicines in the jungle

The temple has tribal connections, and the beliefs owe to those connections. It provides accommodation facilities for pilgrims, and the temple trust operates a Council of

Analytical Tribal Studies to preserve and propagate the culture of the local tribes. "There are actually very few temples in India that are open to all for darshan. This temple in Koraput is an amalgamation of all the religions and castes. This is the greatness of Hinduism and its traditions," said a tourist from Chhattisgarh.

## District level Islamic Jalsa held



**Jajpur, 12/06 (KCN):** A district-wide Salna Jalsa was held in connection with the Siratun Nabi Conference from 8 am on Sunday to 4 am on Monday in the Idgha area of Makar Sunguda Panchayat Muslim Basti under Badchana block of Jajpur district. In the first session, Islamic Religious Jalsa was held for women from 8 am to 2 pm. The organizer of the Jalsa, Ummatul Mumemin Conference Sunguda, was attended by Mufti Hafiz, Maulbi Alema Gufsa, Alema Taskin Akhtar, Tasreen

Rabia, Zakra Noori, Samina Khatun, Hasina Khatun, Sokiba Khatun, prominent religious preachers from outside the state, and followed the principles of Islamic Shariat, Law. to do He advised to think religiously and follow the principles and ideals of Muhammad, the founder and founder of Islam. Similarly, in the jalsa held under the chairmanship of Maulana, Mufti, Hafiz, Kari Maulbi Huzur Habib e Millat, who came from outside the state, Mr. Sabahat

Hossain, Muhammad Saqawat Hossain, Akhtar Raza Sahab, Nadet Kalam Asad Iqbal Sahab, Shahnaz Hassan, Sakir Ali Habibi Sunguda Imam Maulana. Kashim Raza Qadiri participated in the major jalsa and talked about Islamic religious shari'a. In the said jalsa, thousands of women and men youth groups from different parts of the state joined the jalsa. In the said Jalsa, all the necessary arrangements were taken, accommodation, food and drink, cold, drinking water, etc. The



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**Prabhas, Kriti Sanon's Adipurush Advance Booking Starts, Over 10000 Tickets Sold**

The advance booking of Hindi version of 'Adipurush' began on Saturday and as per reports, around 10,000 hall tickets have been sold, of which 60 per cent booking are for the first day. A TOI report mentioned that the bookings are from two of the biggest national cinema chains.

Headlined by Prabhas, Kriti Sanon, Saif Ali Khan and Sunny Singh, 'Adipurush' is the big-budget feature adaptation of 'Ramayana'. The multilingual period saga will hit the screens in 3D across the globe on June 16, 2023.

T-Series, the banner behind the upcoming film, shared the advance booking details on its



official Twitter page. "The wait is finally over! Get ready to experience a cinematic adventure like no other! Advance

Booking Open Now! Book your tickets on: <https://bookmy.Show/Adipurush> <https://m.Paytm.Me/adipurush>.

#Adipurush in cinemas worldwide on 16th June," the production house said in a tweet. The makers recently

unveiled a trailer of the upcoming film at the renowned Tirupati temple. The 2.24-minute long trailer received a

thumping response from the viewers as it crossed thousands of views within minutes of its being shared online. The trailer establishes the storyline of 'Ramayana', starting from Sita Haran featuring Kriti as Janaki and Saif as Lankesh. Prabhas shines as Raghava on the battlefield.

'Adipurush' will be released in 5 different languages in India including Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam. The film will also premiere on June 13 at the 2023 edition of the Tribeca Film Festival in New York. The pan-India release is budgeted at Rs 500 crore making it one of the most expensive Indian films ever made.

**Sanjay Kapoor Opens Up About His Character In Shahid Kapoor-Starrer 'Bloody Daddy,' Says 'Its A Bit Quirky, Negative'**

Actor Sanjay Kapoor talked about his grey hair look and the way he prepared himself for his role in the movie 'Bloody Daddy,' starring Shahid Kapoor, Diana Penty, Ronit Roy, Rajeev Khandelwal, Ankur Bhatia, and Vivan Bhatena.

He said, "My character is negative, but he is a bit quirky, and whenever you see him, there will be a smile on your face because he is not funny, but the situations and scenes are like that. It's a suave kind of role, cool, and never done before. Everybody has loved the look, also because it's a stylized film, and when you get the look correct, it's half the battle won." Sanjay further elaborated, "The look fits the part played by my character Hamid. Even if there are



different characters in the frame and I am not reciting any dialogue, the attention of the audience will still go to my character because of the way he looks." Talking about his experience of working with his co-stars in 'Bloody Daddy', Sanjay added, "I have worked with Shahid Kapoor before in 'Shaandar,' and it was good to be

back working together again after six, seven years. He is an extremely talented actor. There are a few actors who, with age, keep looking better, and Shahid is one of them. He is at the top of his game right now. He is looking very cool and dynamic." "Another actor that I have worked with for the first time is Ronit

Roy. I have known him for a very long time. We are gym buddies, and finally, when you spend quality time together, you tend to know each other well, though in the film we are at each other's throats. We had a great time shooting in Abu Dhabi. We used to work out together and have our lunches and dinners together. I enjoyed working with Rajeev Khandelwal as well. He is absolutely sincere and dedicated like Ronit."

On the work front, Sanjay reinvented himself when he starred in the anthology 'Lust Stories'. Now, after 'Bloody Daddy', he also has Sriram Raghavan's 'Merry Christmas' with Katrina Kaif and Vijay Sethupathi. The actor has some interesting unannounced projects in the pipeline as well.

**Ranbir Kapoor Unleashes The Roar Of 'Animal' In Pre-Teaser, Makers Shares Fierce Glimpse**



The pre-teaser of the upcoming Ranbir Kapoor-starrer film 'Animal' was unveiled on Sunday. It gives a glimpse into the film's captivating world and intense narrative. It starts off with what seem to be two rival gangs - one whose members wear a golden skull headgear and the other is a group of sardars.

The first gang calls Ranbir for a bloody face-off. Although the actor's face hasn't been fully revealed, he unleashes his wrath with the axe in his hand as he single-handedly hacks the other gang members and overpowers them before they're seen running away from him. The film has been directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, who is known for directing 'Kabir Singh' and 'Arjun Reddy'. It also stars Anil Kapoor, Rashmika Mandana, Bobby Deol, and Tripti Dimri. Produced by Bhushan Kumar & Krishan Kumar's T-Series, Murad Khetani's Cine1 Studios, and Pranay Reddy Vanga's Bhadrakali Pictures, 'Animal' will debut in theatres on August 11, 2023 in 5 languages - Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam where it will clash with two other big films, 'Gadar 2' and 'OMG 2'

**Gulshan Devaiah Begins Shooting For Patriotic-Thriller Ulajh**

Actor Gulshan Devaiah on Saturday said he has started filming for his upcoming movie 'Ulajh'. Directed by National Award winner Sudhanshu Saria, the film is billed as a patriotic thriller and stars Janhvi Kapoor in the lead. "#ulajh #firstdayoffilming Wish me luck," Devaiah, 45, tweeted.

Set in the prestigious and intriguing world of Indian Foreign Services (IFS), 'Ulajh' follows the journey of a young IFS officer (Kapoor), belonging to a prominent family of patriots, who gets embroiled in a dangerous personal conspiracy while far from her home turf, at a career-defining post. Produced by Jungle

Pictures, 'Ulajh' also features 'Darlings' actor Roshan Mathew in a pivotal role. The script of 'Ulajh' is penned by Saria and Parvez Shaikh, with dialogues by Atika Chohan. Actors Rajesh Tailang, Meiyang Chang, Sachin Khedekar, Rajendra Gupta and Jitendra Joshi also round out the cast of the film.

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

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



still relatable to a wide audience even today & that's what a beautiful story does. It leaves an impact every time. I can't believe the film has completed twelve years today. Gratitude only for all the love & support." The film has what it took to be a successful entertainer. It was a balance of comedy, romance, and drama which ran at perfect pace with the storyline written by Himanshu Sharma with interesting twists and turns. His latest venture into the regional cinema with Aatma pamphlet traveled across the globe & was screened at the Berlin Film Festival where a global audience

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





## 75% OF SEX WORKERS FACE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE



International Sex Workers' Day was observed on 2 June every year across the world. This day is celebrated not only to highlight the rampant exploitation of sex workers, their worst working and terrible conditions they living in but also to raise awareness of the rights of the sex workers and to combat stigma and discrimination. Since 1976 this day has been commemorated to show respect for the most abused, victimised and valuable section of the society. Prostitution is known as the oldest profession in the world. But for a long time, it did not find dignity in Indian society. Now,

however, the Supreme Court's new order has brought some light to the dark world of more than eight lakh sex workers in India. The apex court not only recognised prostitution as a profession but also instructed the police to neither interfere nor take criminal action against adult, consenting sex workers.

As per the available statistics on distribution of female sex workers in India, more than half of the 8.25 lakh identified female sex workers (FSW) in India are from the five southern states — Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Telangana. Andhra Pradesh has 1.33 lakh sex workers while Karnataka has 1.2 lakh. There are 22,060 FSWs in Uttar Pradesh and 46,787 in New Delhi. Globally, the average age of a sex worker is 13, but in India, it's 18, doesn't

mean that this benchmark is obliged. There are sex workers who're younger than 18 because the brothel keepers believe that the clients prefer younger sex prostitutes to offer the clients their services. Apart from this, it's also easy to manipulate a child and mould them according to the circumstances. Eventually, this leads to child abuse. According to the reports dated back to 2009, there were 1 million child prostitutes in India. Also, currently, more than 60% of prostitutes are underage. One out of ten men pay to have sexual interaction with sex workers. It provides a sexual alternative for men who lack a sexual partner or are dissatisfied with their current sexual partner. According to studies, it's recorded that when a partner indulges himself/herself to have sexual

### Prof. Sunil Goyal

contact with a prostitute, it helps keep the divorce rate low, since having contact with a sex worker doesn't require any emotional bonding which doesn't give any room for infidelity. Some view that the immorality of not named as "pimps" rather are known as their boyfriend, girlfriend, or marital partner. In India, brothels also called "Kota" which are run by the owners or "Malikins" are the ones who enjoy the profits. This results in poor income for

this belief is perhaps more common among indoor prostitutes than among street prostitutes; sex workers deal with different kinds of clients that have different states of mind. Some men prefer violent sexual engagement and abuse the person offering

of abuse. It's predominantly faced by women and the extreme case includes murder. Feminists believe that prostitution is degrading to women and provides a context in which prostitutes are robbed, beaten, and/or raped. Most prostitution involves pimps. Health service providers, shelter staff, survivors of prostitution, and law enforcement sources estimate that 65%-85% of all prostitution is pimp-dominated. Even though there are indoor sex dealings, most of the workers are operated by the pimps. Pimps take control of every activity of the worker, even if that requires bailing of the worker if sentenced with an offense. They live off the income of the worker and take away most of their remuneration. Female sex workers face discrimination at every level of society, be it in medical, educational, or cultural places. They lack an

identity of their own. The laws and systems in practice have put the lives of sex workers in a grey light. The Government have created the 'red-light areas', both for their personal and professional sustenance. This makes it hard for them to find clients and puts them in a state of fear of being caught by police and harassed and an increased chance of being misbehaved. They are hardly treated as an equal part of society. Individuals from the privileged class need to come forward and help sex workers get the status of what they deserve.

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prostitution should not prevent our society from dealing more wisely with it than it does now. Prostitution is a booming industry. It's a controversial statement, to say the least. Since men pay a fair amount to the sex workers for their service, pimps who own the workers earn a good income out of it. They're usually the sex worker. 73% of the workers earn around Rs. 3000–Rs. 5000 per month, while 27% of workers earn around Rs. 7000–Rs. 10000. In a study, it is stated that around 75% of sex workers face physical and psychological abuse. Many prostitutes believe that they are performing an important service for their customers, and

them the service. About 80% of sex workers are raped. Even though the sex workers earn a considerable income, they lead a lethal and disrespectful life, nevertheless. Violence against prostitutes is never taken seriously due to their profession, but even sex workers indeed face abuse, in fact, the worst kind

## RABI NARAYAN PATTANAYAK : THE LAST AMONG THE EMINENT ENGINEERS OF ODISHA

### Anil Kumar Dhir



and was appointed as a Senior Engineer in the Water Resources Department of the Government of Australia. He won laurels for his work in

of the Government of Odisha and had succumbed to tuberculosis. He had to give up his lucrative career as his father wanted him to

Senior Engineer in Cochin Harbour Port. Family pressure once again forced him to return to Odisha and he joined as an Assistant Engineer in



(1934-2023)

the Irrigation Department of the Govt. of Orissa. During his stint, he was actively involved in the construction of the Paradip Port. He served in many important projects before he retired as a Chief Engineer. Rabi Narayan Pattanayak was an eminent engineer, a good guide and an efficient administrator. He played various roles and rendered good service to the State.

**The Author is an Archeological Activist & Coloumnist**



Rabi Narayan Pattanayak was one among the well-known engineers of Odisha. He was born on 04.08.1934 at a small village near Jajpur. He got his primary education at the Jajpur High School. He enrolled at the Ravenshaw College for his B. Sc. In Statistics and passed out with a first class honours with distinction.

He qualified for the Commonwealth Scholarship in 1952 and went to Australia to study engineering. He was very intelligent and got many ranks during his period of study, both in school and college. He Graduated in Civil Engineering from the University of Sydney, getting a first class

the outback territories of Australia and rose high up the ranks. In 1958, he had to return to India due to the death of his elder brother, who too was an engineer in the Irrigation department

stay back. He applied for various jobs and was selected as a Senior Lecturer in Civil Engineering at the Roorkee Engineering College. After a short stint there, he joined as the



## Letter to Editor

**Sir,**  
Railway: Problems to be assessed imperatively  
The Indian rail services have been introducing further and further trains to manage with the soaring demand, but it suffers from geriatric structure and poor conservation factors frequently cited as the cause of accidents. It has been reported that there is a increase in train accidents across the rail network this year compared to last year. The railway board emphasizes frequently the deficit of force and flagged the problem of trespassed locomotive aviators. The recent rail accident has brought under scrutiny the union government's policy of accelerating privatisation of rail services and operations, assessing a snap on reclamation in vacant posts and its focus on running super speed and gaudy modernized trains for the rich classes.

**Dr. Vijaykumar H K Raichur, Karnataka**

**Dear Editor**

In 2002, the International Labor Organization (ILO), an agency of the United Nations (UN), declared June 12 as the 'World Day for the Prevention of Child Labour'. Every year June 12 is observed as the World Day for the Elimination of Child Labour. This year i.e. 2023 is no exception. World Day for the Elimination of Child Labor will be observed on Monday, June 12, 2023. World Child Labor Day will be observed on Monday, June 12 with the theme "Let's Ensure Social Protection and Welfare and End Child Labour". In 2019, the United Nations declared 2021 as the 'International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour'. The ILO decided to celebrate the first Child Labor Prevention Day in 1992. Accordingly, since June 12, 2002, the ILO has been observing this day every year as the 'Day Against Child Labour' through various programmes. According to statistics from the United Nations website, about 152 million children are forced into child labor. Out of 152 million, about 72 million children are involved in hazardous work. The majority of child labourers, about 71 per cent, are engaged in the agricultural sector. According to the United Nations, child labor has fallen by two-thirds in recent years.

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PM at the inauguration of the first-ever National Training Conclave at the International Exhibition and Convention Centre, in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi

## Gujarat Gears Up Ahead Of Cyclone Biparjoy's Landfall On Thursday

**Gandhinagar:** Gujarat Chief Minister Bupendra Patel on Sunday paid a visit to the State Emergency Operation Center to review the preparedness of coastal districts of the state against possible cyclones.

This was in view of the ongoing 'extremely severe' cyclonic storm, Biparjoy which is about to make landfall at the Kutchh and Saurashtra coast in Gujarat as well as in Pakistan on Thursday.

The Gujarat Chief Minister also held a video conference with all the officials of the potentially affected area. Chief Secretary Rajkumar, DGP Vikas Sahay, Relief Commissioner Alok Pandey, and heads of the Revenue Department, Energy Department and



Road Building Department joined the meeting. After a preliminary discussion with all heads of department, the Collectors and concerned officials of the potentially affected districts also joined through video conference. Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department issued a Yellow alert for Cyclone Alert for Saurashtra and Kutch Coast: Yellow Message. ESCS BIPARJOY lay over the east-central Arabian Sea at 0830 IST today, 460 km SSW of Porbandar, 510 km SSW of Dwarka, 600 km SSW of Naliya. To cross Saurashtra and Kutch and adj Pakistan coasts around noon of 15 June as VSCS," the met department tweeted. The IMD had earlier issued an alert in Thane, Mumbai and Palghar. It also asked fishermen in the coastal areas to be on alert from June 11 to June 14.

Saurashtra and Kutch Coast: Yellow Message. ESCS BIPARJOY lay over the east-central Arabian Sea at 0830 IST today, 460 km SSW of Porbandar, 510 km SSW of Dwarka, 600 km SSW of Naliya. To cross Saurashtra and Kutch and adj Pakistan coasts around noon of 15 June as VSCS," the met department tweeted. The IMD had earlier issued an alert in Thane, Mumbai and Palghar. It also asked fishermen in the coastal areas to be on alert from June 11 to June 14.

## IJU, Agartala Unit 2nd Years State Working Committee Anniversary Meeting held at Agartala



**Agartala / Tripura(KCN):** For the first time, the Tripura Journalists Association State Unit of Indian Journalist Union observed Three days long Working Committee 2nd Anniversary Meeting at Agartala Press Club from 10.06.2023 to 12.06.2023. This meeting was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of Food & Tourism, Sri Susant Choudhury. The National President of Indian Journalist Union, Madam Gitartha Pathak,

IJU, General Secretary & Technical Organisation, Vice President, Sabina Indrajit were attended as Guest of Honors & also Akhil Bharatiya Journalist Association, Secretary, Pranab Sarkar & Agartala Press Club President, Sri Jayanta Bhattacharya were present in this meeting. This Program was organised for three days & in this meeting, OJU, Odisha State President, Sashibhusan Praharaj, IJU, National Secretary & National

Executive Council Member, Sarat Chandra Behera of Odisha State were also participated. On the second day, that is on 11.06.2023, the IJU Working Meeting was held where the Hon'ble Minister of Labour, Youth Affairs & Sports of Tripura State, Government, Sri Tiku Ray & Mayor of Agartala, Sri Deepak Majumdar attended as Guest of Honors. In this meeting, numbers of Journalists across India were participated.

## Priyanka Gandhi's 5 Guarantees For Election-Bound Madhya Pradesh

**Jabalpur:** Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday launched the election campaign for the upcoming Madhya Pradesh assembly polls slated later this year and announced five guarantees for people of the state.

She launched the campaign in Jabalpur district and also addressed a public gathering on the occasion.

Talking about the five guarantees, Ms Gandhi said, "A monthly aid of ? 1,500 will be given to every woman in the state, an LPG gas cylinder to each household at ? 500, 100 units of electricity free and 200 units at half price, loans of farmers will be waived and will implement old pension scheme in the state."

"We have come to the banks of Maa Narmada, we will not lie," she added.

Targeting the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Congress leader said, "They



(BJP) come here and make announcements, but do not fulfil them. They talk about double engine and triple engine. They used to say the same in Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka but public has shown them that they should stop talking about the double engine and start working."

"Whatever promises our party made, we have fulfilled them in Chhattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh. Look at the condition

of the Congress-ruled states and you (the public) will realise. When the Congress government came to power in Madhya Pradesh, a lot of work and development were done," she said.

In the last assembly polls, the Congress government came in power, but the BJP broke the government by horse trading and formed their government. The mandate is being crushed on the basis of money power,

Priyanka Gandhi said. "There are so many scams going on in Madhya Pradesh. The list of scams here is longer than that of the list which was shown by Prime Minister Narendra Modi about abuses. There has been a scam even in the construction of the Mahakal Lok corridor in Ujjain. The BJP has done 225 scams in 220 months of rule in the state," the Congress leader added.

Besides, she took a jibe at Chief Minister

Shivraj Singh Chouhan and said, "A few days ago Chief Minister Chouhan came here and made some announcement for women (referring to the announcement about increasing the monthly aid of Ladli Bahna Yojana) because elections are round the corner. He has been the Chief Minister for so many years, why not then?"

"There is a huge inflation in the state. LPG cylinders, diesel and petrol have become expensive. It is a matter of shame that only 21 government jobs have been given in the last three years. Madhya Pradesh Chief minister is a g h o s h n a v e e r (announcer), he has made 22,000 announcements in the 18 years of rule," she alleged.

She further said that there were five guarantees given during the Karnataka election and after the formation of government, all the five guarantees passed in the cabinet.

## All faith prayer service to spread love across the country

**Kolkata(Amabar Mukherjee):** All religions teach us to love our fellow being, love God, spread peace and no one should be a victim of violence because of her or his religion. This was the common message conveyed by religious leaders from various faiths who attended a prayer meeting in

Kolkata in memory of all those who have lost their lives in the Manipur violence and to express solidarity to the families of those who died in the recent train accident in Odisha.

The event -- "All faith prayer service" for peace and understanding in situations of conflict across the world

especially in Manipur," held in Don Bosco School, Park Circus in Kolkata, was organized by the Catholic Association of Bengal, a 112-year old organization engaged in various welfare activities in the state. Braving the scorching sun, a large number of people from various faiths

attended the meeting and prayed for the peace and prosperity of people of India.

Speaking on the occasion, the religious leaders expressed their concern over the violence that broke out in Manipur last month and left more than 100 people dead and nearly 45,000 displaced.

The speakers urged

the Union Government to extend its assistance to all the needy persons of all communities affected by the Manipur violence and take necessary measures to stop the killing in the state.

They also read out from their respective religious books and urged people to maintain peace and

harmony. "People from different faiths attended the prayer service. The beauty of our country is in unity in diversity. People joined us spontaneously at the prayer meet today. This shows how we love our fellow beings. We need to spread this message of love to our countrymen," said Angelina Mantosh

Jasnani, the president of Catholic Association of Bengal after the meeting. She is the first woman president of the organization.

Representatives from the Catholic Churches, Armenian Church, Orthodox Church, Methodist Church, Assembly of God Church, Church of North India,

Missionaries of Charity, FGS Kolkata Temple, Parsi Fire Temple, Sikh Community, Shea community and Rama Krishna Mission were present on the occasion. West Bengal minister for disaster management, Javed Khan, MPs Mala Roy and Nadimul Haque also participated in the prayer service.



# October date for Odisha's bio-refinery project Chadha Is New AS W&CD Ministry



**BARGARH(KCN):** Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Sunday reviewed the progress of the ethanol bio-refinery project of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) at Baulsingha under Bhatli tehsil here on Sunday. Pradhan said work on the project was affected due to the outbreak of

Covid-19. However, it is nearing completion now. Efforts are underway to make it operational by September or October this year. "I held discussion with the officials and urged them to expedite the work." The union minister further said Bargarh is a farming district. Though a large quantity of paddy is produced here every year, the farmers face a

lot of problems in disposing of their surplus produce. After the project is commissioned, ethanol can be made from paddy straws and broken rice in the refinery. Farmers of the district will be benefitted from the bio-refinery. Reportedly, Bargarh produces around 17 lakh tonnes of paddy

annually. Around 15 lakh tonnes of straw is generated from paddy farming every year. Sources said the straw will be purchased from farmers to make ethanol at the bio-refinery which is being set up at a cost of Rs 1,607 crore. The bio-refinery will produce fuel-grade ethanol using around two lakh tonnes of paddy straw annually as feedstock. The ethanol produced from the plant will be blended with petrol to significantly reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and save crude import bills for India. The project will also create a large number of direct and indirect employment opportunities in the

district. Pradhan said, "During a discussion with the district collector, I gave suggestions to design relevant courses and modules in ethanol engineering, economics and technology in regional Govt ITIs for connecting local youth with the emerging green jobs and also prepare competent and skilled manpower through capacity building." Later in the day, the union minister addressed a gathering at Paikmal Garib Kalyan Samabesh to commemorate the completion of nine years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre.



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Ace Administrator Sanjeev Kumar Chadha has been appointed as Additional Secretary Women & Child Development Ministry. Recently Shri Chadha an 1989 Batch IFS Officer was empanelled in the rank of Additional Secretary (AS) in Government of India. Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) has

brought out the notification here in this regard. DoPT notification says "The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of "Shri Sanjeev Kumar Chadha, IFS (OR:89), presently in the cadre, as Additional Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development." Mr.Chadha is now serving as Principal Secretary of

the Department of Co-operation. Mr.Chadha is Chief of Odisha State Agricultural Marketing Board (OSAM) Board, which is spearheading the Agri-Marketing in the State. Department of Co-operation (DoC) is implementing 5T Charter with new initiatives, thanks to the overdrive of Mr.Chadha, who is a go-getter and workaholic mandarin.

## Drunk man kills wife for dancing at wedding party in Odisha

**BALASORE(KCN):** In a shocking incident, a man reportedly killed his wife for dancing in a wedding procession without taking his permission at Paikapada village within Oupada police limits in Balasore district on Saturday night. The accused is 43-year-old Ram Singh of Paikapada. The deceased was identified as Sharmila Singh (35). Ram is a driver by profession. Sources said a wedding ceremony was organised by Ram's neighbour on Saturday night. During the marriage procession,

some women requested Sharmila to dance with them. Though she refused, the women forcibly dragged her to the middle of the procession and made her dance. Ram, who was also present at the spot, saw Sharmila shaking a leg and became angry. However, he did not express his displeasure and waited for the function to get over. In the meantime, he consumed alcohol with his friends and became completely drunk. After attending the wedding feast, the couple

went home. At around 11 pm, a fight broke out between them as Ram yelled at Sharmila for dancing in the procession without his permission. When the woman protested, Ram became furious and in a fit of rage, assaulted her with a digging bar. The couple's two minor kids snatched away the iron bar from Ram's hands but the latter grabbed the handle of an axe and continued to assault Sharmila. The woman bled to death. On hearing the commotion, neighbours rushed to the spot and

found Sharmila lying in a pool of blood. They immediately informed the police about the incident. The next morning, a team of Oupada police rushed to the village for investigation. Sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) of Soro Ritesh Kumar Mahapatra said the woman's body was sent for postmortem. Basing on the complaint of the deceased's parents, police registered a case under section 302 of the IPC and arrested the accused. Further investigation is underway.

## Bitumen plant of Gopalpur MLA's aide sealed in Kukudakhandi



**BERHAMPUR(KCN):** An illegal bitumen mix plant at Baulajholi village in Kukudakhandi tehsil of Ganjam district was sealed by the administration on Saturday. Sources said the plant belonging to one Balyaram Dalai was being run by violating the pollution norms since the past many years. Dalai is reportedly a close associate of

Gopalpur MLA Pradeep Panigrahi. Locals alleged the illegal plant polluted the area, causing diseases. They had also written to the Ganjam collector and sub-collector and Berhampur SP urging action against the plant several times in the past. Accordingly, basing on collector Dibyajyoti Parida's direction, an enforcement team led

by Kukudakhandi tehsildar Kalyani Sanghamitra Devi along with officials from the pollution control board conducted a raid on the area. According to the sale deed, Balyaram's wife Priyanka had 2021 purchased around 750 decimal land in the village along with a stone crusher. The documents, however, reportedly

had no mention of the bitumen plant being set up on the said piece of land. Since Dalai failed to produce requisite official permission for running the plant, it was sealed on the charge of being run in violation of environmental laws. However, the fact that the plant continued to operate and stayed out notice of the administration for so long has surprised many.



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

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

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

Bajaj Allianz Life had launched a pan-India talent hunt, to showcase their talent and fulfil their dreams of

becoming a superstar. From a total of over 5400 entries, 11 superstars from different walks of life were handpicked to be part of the music video. All of these participants, at some point of their lives, had aspired to be dancers, musicians, singers, cinematographers, lyricists, art director and stylists, aside from being retired senior citizens.

The music video was created entirely by these 11 senior citizens, after going through multiple enriching workshops with expert mentors from Bollywood. The team's collective efforts for 37 days and 450+ hrs has resulted in this one-of-a-kind music video.

**RELIANCE BRANDS LIMITED INKS A JV WITH PLASTIC LEGNO SPA**

**Mumbai:** RELIANCE BRANDS LIMITED (RBL) and Plastic Legno SPA have signed a joint venture arrangement through which RBL will acquire a 40% stake in Plastic Legno SPA's toy manufacturing business in India. This investment by RBL serves a dual purpose, bringing in vertical integration for RBL's toy business and helping diversify the supply chain with a long-term strategic interest in building toy manufacturing in India.

Plastic Legno SPA is owned by the Sunino group that boasts of more than 25 years of toy production experience in Europe. The group started its India business in 2009 out of a need to develop a strong production hub that would cater to global markets, but more importantly to the fast evolving and growing Indian market.

"Keeping with our

honourable Prime Minister's vision of Atmanirbhar India, this collaboration with Plastic Legno's deep experience in world-class toy manufacturing coupled with our strong footing in the global toy retail industry would open new doors and unparalleled opportunities for toys manufactured in India. It is imperative for RBL to build design to shelf capability for a strategic advantage over the competition and to be an accelerator in building a robust toy manufacturing ecosystem in India not only for domestic consumption but also for global markets," said the spokesperson of Reliance Brands Limited.

RBL has a strong play in the Toy industry with its portfolio of Hamleys, the British toy retailer and homegrown toy brand - Rowan, making RBL one of the leading

toy distributors. Hamleys currently has a global footprint across 15 countries with 213 doors and is India's largest chain of toy stores.

"We are very privileged to have RBL as a partner in this Joint Venture. We are confident that Plastic Legno's experience in Toys production and Hamley's commercial outreach, will complement one another to enable the JV Company to achieve greater heights and successes. We have important development plans to implement, always in the spirit of creating a cultural background in this specific sector in India. We are ready for the challenges of the future, but when there is a group like RBL alongside, we are sure that together we can do a great development," said Paolo Sunino, Co-owner, Sunino Group.

**Aditya Birla Group formally launches TMRW - a Digital First 'House of Brands' venture in the Fashion & Lifestyle space**

**Mumbai:** Aditya Birla Group today announced the formal launch of its new 'House of Brands' entity - TMRW. This move is in line with the group's strategy to launch and back new-age digital ventures. TMRW, an Aditya Birla Group venture, will create India's largest portfolio of disruptor brands in the fashion & lifestyle space and enable the next phase of direct to consumer (D2C) growth in India, which is poised to be a \$100bn market by 2025. Over the next 3 years, TMRW will acquire as well as incubate 30+ innovative, customer-obsessed brands. The venture will also enable multiple founders to operate within a synergistic 'house of brands' platform that share a common vision and shared capabilities.

Aditya Birla Group has appointed ex Facebook & Bain executive, Prashanth Aluru, as the CEO & Co-Founder to lead the build out of this new venture. Prashanth

will set-up a nimble and agile founding team with the right skill sets and capabilities. Prashanth comes with extensive experience in Digital & Technology across strategy, growth and investing. He also brings to the fore rich entrepreneurial experience in helping build and scale new age ventures in Digital & E-Commerce.

Ashish Dikshit, MD of ABFRL said, "The formal launch of our D2C business, TMRW, is a key milestone for the company. This venture has the potential to become a significant growth engine by tapping into the new wave of entrepreneurial energy in India. Our aspiration is to build a portfolio of 30+ brands in the next 3 years. With the launch of this venture, we intend to double down on our ongoing program of strategically attracting new pools of capital that are seeking investment in high-growth businesses. We are confident that this

foray will successfully meet the aspirations of digitally native consumers and also create long-term value for investors and other stakeholders." Prashanth Aluru, CEO and Co-Founder, TMRW said, "I am excited to embark on this journey to build TMRW - a long-term enduring platform that will be home to the leading disruptor brands that provide the new age digitally savvy consumer what she is looking for across Fashion & Lifestyle. With the backing of the Aditya Birla Group and the right profile of long-term investors we will bring in, we are confident of powering the growth of several brands that shape the next phase of digital commerce growth till 2030 and beyond. With a new age Digital first DNA, at TMRW, we will jointly create an ecosystem of the most-loved disruptor brands partnering closely with highly competent founders."

**RELIANCE NIPPON LIFE'S PARTICIPATING POLICYHOLDERS RECEIVE Rs344 CRORE BONUS FOR FY23**

**Mumbai,:** Reliance Nippon Life Insurance Company Limited announced a total bonus of ₹344 Cr. for its participating policyholders in FY23. The Company registered a strong financial performance in FY23 delivering ₹108 Cr. as profits after tax (65% growth over FY22). As per this announcement, all participating policies with reversionary bonus in-force as of March 31, 2023, have been credited with

bonus declared. For policies with reversionary bonuses, this will increase the guaranteed benefits on Death and Maturity. This bonus is paid out of the profits generated by the company's participating policyholders' funds for the year FY23. This bonus issuance will advantage over 5,69,000 participating policyholders of Reliance Nippon Life. The company has been regularly declaring bonuses over the last 22 years as these

bonuses serve as an incentive for customers to regularly pay their premiums and stay invested for the entire policy term. Commenting on this bonus announcement, Mr. Ashish Vohra, ED & CEO, Reliance Nippon Life Insurance said, "We are purposed to deliver prosperity and peace of mind to all our customers. We are delighted to announce this bonus which will benefit over 5.6 Lakh customers. The bonus rate declared for various

participating policies is a testimony of our consistent endeavours to deliver superior value to customers. In the last few years, we have launched very competitive Participating plans such as the Milestone Plan and the Smart Zindagi Plus plan, and we hope to continue delivering value on these products." Bonuses announced under participating policies help in wealth creation, allowing customers to fulfil their long-term life goals. In

addition, the guaranteed benefit offered on policy maturity or in the unfortunate event of the demise of the policyholder, provides financial security for both the policyholder and their loved ones, ensuring a stable future. Reliance Nippon Life Insurance is India's leading and one of the most trusted private life insurance companies, with total Assets Under Management (AUM) of ₹30,609 Cr. and a Total Sum Assured of ₹85,950 Cr. as on March 31, 2023.

**Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India registers 3, 53,188 unit sales**

**Gurugram:** Noting a positive upward movement during the month, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India today announced its sales numbers for May 2022.

The company's total sales for the month stood at 3,53,188 with 3,20,844 domestic sales and 32,344 exports compared to the subdued market performance for same period last year amidst multiple lockdowns owing to impact from second wave of pandemic.

Commenting on the sales performance in May'22, Mr. Atsushi Ogata, Managing Director, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India said, "The market is gaining back strength as disturbances in terms of supply side are subsiding coupled with rise in physical presence at office and educational institutions. The sales figures this month remain incomparable from May'21 as frequent lockdowns in wake of second wave marred the performance during this period last year. Growth in domestic as well as international trade continues to complement each other as we approach an early monsoon."

**TVS Motor Company registers sales of 302,982 units**

**Hosur:** TVS Motor Company sales was at 302,982 units in May 2022. The year-on-year growth is not comparable due to the low base of sales in May 2021 because of the localised lockdown imposed by the Government of India during that period.

Two-Wheeler Total two-wheelers sales grew from 154,416 units in May 2021 to 287,058 units in May 2022. Domestic two-wheeler sales grew from 52,084 units in May 2021 to 191,482 units in May 2022.

Motorcycle sales grew from 125,188 units in May 2021 to 148,560 units in May 2022. Scooter sales of the Company grew from 19,627 units in May 2021 to 100,665 units in May 2022.

The shortage in the supply of semiconductors has impacted the production and sales of

premium two-wheelers. We are working aggressively with alternate sources and taking every effort to improve supplies at the earliest. Some improvement has been seen this month. We are optimistic that volumes will revive to normal levels once the semiconductor supplies improve.

The Company's total exports registered sales of 110,245 units in May 2022 as against 114,674 units in May 2021. Two-wheeler exports recorded sales of 95,576 units in May 2022 as against 102,332 units in May 2021.

Three-wheeler of the Company grew by 28% from 12,473 units in May 2021 to 15,924 units in May 2022.

The domestic two-wheeler sales include TVS iQube Electric sales of 2,637 units in May 2022.

**Union Bank of India signs MOU with SIDBI for Co-Financing arrangement of MSMEs**

**Mumbai:** Union Bank of India today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for a Co-Financing arrangement for MSMEs. The MoU was signed by Shri Lal Singh, Chief General Manager, Union Bank of India and Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, Chief General Manager, SIDBI. SIDBI is country's principal financial institution engaged in the Promotion, Financing and Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

Under the MoU, Union Bank of India would consider Joint financing/Co-Financing with SIDBI to Projects/Units in the MSME. This MoU would help the

Banks to increase their customer base, while helping the MSMEs to meet their funding requirements. The key highlights of the arrangement include joint identification of viable projects and term loan and working capital financing to MSMEs. Initially the arrangement would be at specific centers and once the arrangement stabilizes at these centers, more locations would be covered.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Lal Singh, CGM (MSME), Union Bank of India, said "MSME is one of the key sectors of our Indian Economy contributing to GDP, Exports, Manufacturing Output, Employment, Women Empowerment etc. MSME is one of the focused areas of the

Bank and at Union Bank of India, we aim to become Bank of 1st choice for MSMEs. This tie-up with SIDBI aids in realizing the Bank's vision to have increased credit flow to the MSME sector and extend operational convenience to the MSME clientele. Under partnership, Union Bank of India through its Pan India branch network can provide general Banking products like Current Accounts, Savings Accounts, Working Capital facilities and other related services to the MSME Customers of SIDBI."

Also, speaking on the tie-up arrangement, Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, CGM, SIDBI reiterated SIDBI's commitment towards timely financing for MSMEs across all sectors.

**Spice Money to enable farmers to withdraw PM-KISAN subsidy through its 1 million Adhikari Network**

**New Delhi:** The Government of India has disbursed PM KISAN subsidy, directly to the farmers' bank accounts benefiting over 10 crore farmers and families who have received a grant of Rs 2,000 each. Spice Money, India's leading rural fintech with 1 million strong Adhikari network covering 18,500 plus pin codes, is assisting the farmers and farmer families residing in the heartlands of the country, to withdraw this subsidy through AePS at their doorstep Adhikari outlet.

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

per year, divided into three installments, is directly transferred to the bank accounts of landholding farmer families, consisting of the husband, wife, and minor children.

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

families will no longer have to travel large distances to bank branches or just let the money lie idle in their accounts in times of need. Our Adhikaris, trusted banking partners in their communities, will be there at the villages to help farmers withdraw their money, with the help of AePS, thereby providing much-needed safe and secure access to the subsidy amount."

Spice Money has been spearheading the efforts towards bridging the financial services gap in rural India by providing banking and financial services to the remotest corners of the country, across 700 districts and 5,000 blocks, thereby revolutionising the way Bharat banks.

**Vedanta Aluminium Commissions India's Largest Fleet of Electric Lithium-Ion Forklifts**

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

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

smelter, ex-China. Further, as testimony to its endeavours towards increasing gender diversity in core manufacturing operations, Vedanta Aluminium is recruiting and training women to operate these top-of-the-line forklifts. The company has previously hired transgender employees as

forklift operators in its aluminium operations at BALCO in Chhattisgarh. These electric forklifts make use of the cutting-edge 'Smart Fleet Management' system to help ensure the highest levels of safety at site. The Smart Fleet Management system uses IOT (Internet of Things) technology to

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



# Rohit's faith in "different" template undeterred by batting malfunction in WTC final

**New Delhi:** It might have been the same old story for India in an ICC final but what stood out about this defeat was the nature of their dismissals especially in the second innings, when the conditions at The Oval were perhaps the most batting-friendly they had been in the Test match. So Rohit Sharma ended up sweeping a ball too full, Cheteshwar Pujara upper-cut one straight into the hands of the keeper and Virat Kohli chased a wide one once again.

Speaking after the 209-run loss to Australia at The Oval, Rohit defended the Indian batters, arguing that it wasn't the "lack of concentration" that brought about their downfall but the will to "play in a different way" that didn't quite work out on this occasion.

"We have played so many ICC tournaments and have not won yet. So our effort is to play in a different way and try to do something different," Rohit said.

"It's not a lapse of concentration. We have

told the boys to play freely. And if it seems so, then hit. It's a simple message. Whether it's Test cricket, T20 cricket or one day cricket, we don't want to play under pressure. If you look at the conditions at The Oval and I started in the second innings, our entire effort was to hit and play and put pressure on them. That's why we were 60 runs in 10 overs. But if you play with that mindset, chances are you'll get out. Then the comments and the people who talk about lapse of concentration. There is no lapse of concentration. It's just that we want to play in a different way. We want to do something different."

Rohit said that India also subscribes to the modern, disruptive brand of Test cricket, which encompasses a more risky brand of batting that comes with its promise and pitfalls. And that's a style that India, without an ICC trophy since 2013, will stick to in the upcoming ODI World Cup back home too according to Rohit.

"Test cricket is played in a different way these days now. And that's how we want to play as well. And it was a good pitch. You could play the shots that you want to," Rohit said. "Of course, keeping in mind, you know, if somebody is bowling a really good spell, you try and respect that. But otherwise, you have to try and do something different just to break the bowler's rhythm."

"And that is what Travis Head did. He came and played some shots. And he really got them out of that discomfort zone... We really thought we were, you know, quite in the game and then the way Travis Head came and played, he completely took the game away from us. And that is what we want to do as well. When you know the pitch is good, sometimes you have to let your instinct take those calls in the middle."

"And yeah, I don't think it was a concentration lapse or anything like that. It's just, sometimes guys feel that they're comfortable playing certain shots and they're



allowed to go and play those shots.

"When the World Cup will be held in October, we will try to play in a different way. We will try to give people freedom and not think that we have to win this or that match. We have been thinking that this match is important, this event is important and things are not happening. So obviously we will have to think differently and do things differently. Our message and focus will be on trying to do something different."

India coach Rahul Dravid, speaking to Star Sports after the game, felt it

"wasn't a 469 wicket" and India's bowling performance in the first couple of sessions on Day 1 came back to bite them. But Rohit instead felt the experienced batters in the side, who have been there and done that in England before, couldn't quite stand up and that cost them the title.

"When you have in your top six, you know, five or six batters who have quite experience played in these conditions before and couldn't go on to get big runs and that is what probably cost us the game," Rohit

said. "But yeah, I mean, look, I don't want to be too critical about it. The reason I say that is because when we were here last time, a lot of the senior batters actually put their hand up and got us ahead in the series. I mean, things like this can happen. We've had really good outings in the last two years. Whether we played in Australia or England, but yeah, like you said, this one-off game, if you're mentally not there, you can lose a game. You know, and that is exactly what happened."

It was also the second

consecutive loss for India in a World Test Championship final. Both have been held straight after a long couple of months of IPL, something which, to be fair, hasn't given India ample time to prepare.

"June is not the only month we should play the finals," Rohit suggested. "It can be played any time of the year. And anywhere in the world, not just in England."

"For an event like this, a final like this, you need a lot of time to prepare yourself and that is what we did in the last time when we were here in England. We had a good 25-30 days to prepare ourselves. And you saw the result. We were 2-1 up until that game got called off. Yeah, ideally, we would want to have a good time in hand to prepare, and give enough rest to the bowlers. Sometimes it can be tough because playing T20 cricket, you completely bowl different lengths, different lines and a lot of change-ups. "And then Test cricket obviously requires a lot of discipline, hitting that

area consistently and challenging the batsmen - but again you know Shami, Siraj, Umesh they all are experienced, they obviously know how to prepare themselves and get ready for a game like this. But in an ideal scenario, yes, I would prefer it if we have 20-25 days to prepare for a game like this." Would a three-Test WTC final make for a better option? "I would love that. But is there a time?" Rohit asked. "That's the big question. But honestly, in a big event like this, you need to have fair opportunities for both the teams. You know, a three-match series would be nice, but it's about finding that window where it can fit in. In an event like this, you work hard for two years and then you have only one shot at it. So, you cannot get into that momentum that you need in Test cricket. You know, Test cricket is all about finding that rhythm, finding that momentum as well. So, I think, yeah if in the next cycle, if it is possible, a three-match series would be ideal."

## Novak Djokovic Savours 'Historic' 23rd Grand Slam Win, Rafael Nadal Congratulates Him On Reaching 'Impossible' Number



**Paris:** Novak Djokovic made clear for years this was his goal. What drove him. What inspired him. The biggest titles from his sport's biggest stages were Djokovic's main aim and now he finally stands alone — ahead of Rafael Nadal, ahead of Roger Federer, ahead of every man who ever has swung a racket. If Djokovic could wait this long to hold this record, he certainly could wait for the half-hour or so it took to straighten out his strokes in the French Open final. And so, after a bit of a shaky start in thick, humid air and under foreboding clouds Sunday, he imposed himself. The opponent at Court Philippe Chatrier, Casper Ruud, never really stood a serious chance after that.

Djokovic earned his men's-record 23rd Grand Slam singles championship, breaking a tie with Nadal and moving three in front of the retired Federer, with a 7-6 (1), 6-3, 7-5 victory over Ruud that was not in doubt for most of its 3 hours, 13 minutes. Djokovic puts this one alongside the French Open titles he earned in 2016 and 2021, making him the only man with at least three from each major. He won his very first at the 2008 Australian Open and now possesses a total of 10 trophies from there, seven from Wimbledon and three from the US Open. "I knew that going into the tournament, going into the match, especially, today, that there is history on the line, but I try to focus my attention and my

thoughts into preparing for this match in the best way possible to win, like any other match," Djokovic said, wearing a red jacket with "23" stitched on the chest. "Of course I would lie if I say that I didn't think about the finish line that is right there and that one more match is needed to win a trophy — a historic one."

Also worth noting: He again is halfway to a calendar-year Grand Slam — winning all four majors in one season — something no man has achieved since Rod Laver in 1969. Djokovic came close in 2021, when he won the Australian Open, French Open and Wimbledon and made it all the way to the title match at the U.S. Open before losing to Daniil Medvedev.

Djokovic will resume that pursuit at Wimbledon, which begins on the grass of the All England Club on July 3. "He has this software in his head that he can switch (on) when a Grand Slam comes," said his coach, Goran Ivanisevic. "The day we arrived here, he was better, he was more motivated, he was more hungry. Every day, he played better and better." Entering the 2011 season, this is how the Slam count looked: 16 for Federer, nine for Nadal, one for Djokovic. "Pretty decent 12 years, I must say, for me," Djokovic said with a smile.

The climb began with a trio that year and accelerated lately: He has clutched the trophy at 11 of the last 20 Slams, a remarkable run made even more so when considering that

he did not participate in two majors during that span because he did not get vaccinated against COVID-19. Djokovic was deported in January 2021 before the Australian Open, and he was not allowed to fly to the United States ahead of last year's US Open under a rule that since has been lifted. Getting to 23 not only sets the mark for men, but it also lets Djokovic equal Serena Williams, who wrapped up her career last year, for the most by anyone in the Open era, which began in 1968. Margaret Court won some of her all-time record of 24 Slam trophies in the amateur era.

At 20 days past his 36th birthday, the Serb is the oldest singles champion at Roland Garros, considered the most grueling of the majors because of the lengthy, grinding points required by the red clay, which is slower than the grass or hard courts underfoot elsewhere. Nadal's 22nd major arrived in Paris a year ago, two days after he turned 36. He has been sidelined since January by a hip injury and had arthroscopic surgery on June 2. "Many congrats on this amazing achievement," Nadal tweeted shortly after the final concluded. "23 is a number that just a few years back was (impossible) to think about, and you made it!"

## Rohit, Cummins weigh in on chasing in England

**New Delhi:** The WTC final witnessed the best conditions for batting on the fourth afternoon and it took a fair number of false shots from India to really go astray in a tall chase of 444 at The Oval. Otherwise, there were few demons in the pitch.

Both Rohit Sharma and Pat Cummins wanted to bowl first, which initially seemed dictated by the green-tinged pitch in front and the dark overhead conditions above, but both captains admitted after the game that they had batting last at the back of their minds too. For context, six out of the last nine Tests in England have finished in successful run-chases. Of course there was the Jonny Bairstow factor last summer but truer pitches have incidentally returned to Test cricket in England in this era of "Bazball". Rohit, who also swears by positive brand of batting irrespective of the format, said that one of the reasons India wanted to bat first was because they expected the pitch to get better as the match progressed. "... One of the reasons for us to consider batting last was because we thought the wicket will not change too much. In fact, it will get better and better," Rohit said after India's 209-run loss to Australia in the WTC final. "But, yeah, obviously a lot of the things that we spoke of - how we want to bowl, how we want to bat, we didn't actually do that. That's probably the reason we were very



much behind in the game all four days." Cummins, on the other hand, said that the "stigma" around bowling first and not bowling out the opposition is receding as run-chases become more commonplace in this format. "I think the question you always ask yourself is, is it going to be easier to bat first innings or fourth innings? That's mainly the decision," Cummins said. "I think both teams thought there's probably more of a chance to get 10 wickets on that first day than fourth innings. How it played out would have changed it? Honestly, I don't know. That's the main question you keep asking yourself. There are overheads in your conditions. There's a bit in it at day one and you feel like you're going to take 10 wickets. You just go for it. I think the stigma around bowling first and not bowling them out has gone a bit as opposed to in the past." This one (toss) was a little bit trickier because there hasn't been a Test match played in June. The wickets have always been a bit... a couple of months further into the

summer." Even while chasing 444, India looked comfortable at one point in time before a false shot from Virat Kohli triggered a collapse. Were Australia worried? "I wouldn't say worried," Cummins said. "We had four 430 odd on the board declared. We felt like that was enough. I think the new ball period was always going to be the one you had to watch out for. The rock hard ball can ping around the field a little bit. I think taking constant wickets always felt like we were in control. We saw this morning and still felt like the wicket had a little bit in us for us quick bowlers." When India had visited England for the rescheduled Test match last year in Birmingham, Ben Stokes won the toss and said he "wanted to chase", not necessarily a phrase you hear too often in Test cricket, if at all. England, of course, went on to pull off a successful fourth-innings chase and in doing so, set forth a template that could continue well into this summer too. It sets up the scene nicely for the Ashes over the next few weeks.