

Paradip Port Creates loading record



Paradip (KCN): Paradip Port Authority Chairman P L Haranadh is in a happy mode. This is because, highest ever iron ore fines was loaded at Paradip Port in a ship, MV Arabella. In fact it has created a record loading in the history of

Paradip. The quantity of 1,49,651 MT Iron Ore loaded in a ship MV Arabella surpassed the previous highest ever quantity of 1,48,500 MT of Iron Ore loaded in MV Shinyo Guardian. The cargo is being loaded at New Iron

Ore Berth of JSW terminal which is a mechanical loading berth having lesser manpower used in the project. PPA Chief Mr. Haranadh congratulated all the officials and Port users and other associates for the success. Mr. Haranadh said

that in the cargo handling Paradip Port will be the 'Number One' Port in the country soon. PPA is scaling up its capacity and is all set to achieve the target set by Ministry of Port, Shipping and Waterways to be a World Class Port by 2047.

Chairman of Russia's largest private oil company dies after falling from a Moscow hospital window

The chairman of Russia's largest private oil company Lukoil died Thursday after falling from a Moscow hospital window, according to Russian media reports. The Moscow Times, quoting RBC news website said that Ravi Maganov, 67, plunged from the

sixth-floor window of the Central Clinical Hospital.

for its treatment of patients from Russia's political and

passing to state-run news agency RIA Novosti without disclosing the circumstances of his death. Maganov is the second top Lukoil executive to die in mysterious circumstances in recent months. Russian police opened a criminal



The hospital, known as the Kremlin Clinic

business elite, confirmed Maganov's

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'Action against corrupt people creating new polarisation in national politics': PM attacks opposition

KOCHI(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that action against corrupt people in the country has resulted in a new polarisation in national politics with cer-

tain political groups openly trying to get organised into a unit to save those facing graft charges. Modi, who arrived in Kerala on a two-day visit, said that corruption was the biggest hurdle in development and interests of the youth.



"I had said from the Red Fort on 15th August

that the time has come to fight decisively against corruption. However, what we see is that as we take action against the corrupt persons, there has emerged a new polarisation in national politics", he said. Speaking to a large gathering of supporters outside the Cochin International Airport at Nedumbassery near here, Modi, without naming any political party, alleged that certain such groups have started coming together and urged the people to be vigilant against such groups. "To save these corrupt people, certain political groups are openly coming out and trying to get organised into a unit. People of India and Kerala have to be vigilant against such groups," he said. The Prime Minister's

CONTINUED ON: P-7

Smt. Sonam Datta Mehta (Advocate) Delhi High Court Sensitized the families of CRPF of M & N sector, CRPF, About their rights



Kolkata (KCN): On 31/08/2022, Mrs. Sonam Datta Mehta, Advocate Delhi High Court, gave an interactive lecture on Marriage & Divorce Law, Maintenance, Adultery, Right to Property & Stridhan and

Right to custody of child to all members of RCWA, GC, Imphal under the aegis of M&N Sector. The lecture was well attended and highly appreciated by the participants.

HC scraps jail term to former Congress MP Annu Tandon, associates

LUCKNOW(KCN): The Allahabad High

ment given by the trial court was excessive. The trial court had

The Bench of Justice D K Singh passed the order while partly allowing an appeal filed by Annu Tandon and her associates against the verdict of a special court meant to hear cases against legislators.

"The appellants have already deposited the said fine, hence, they need not to deposit any further fine," said the HC Bench.

The Bench said except for detaining the train for 15 minutes, there was no damage to private or public property by the protest in 2017. The trial court had



Court on Thursday scrapped the two-year jail term given to a former Congress MP and her associates for stopping a train during a protest, saying the punish-

awarded two-year jail term to former Congress MP Annu Tandon and her associates in the case and also imposed fine a fine of Rs 25,000 on each of them.

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Odisha CM to meet Union ministers during six-day Delhi visit

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday left for New Delhi on a six-day visit where he is likely to meet several Union ministers and leaders of the ruling BJP. The visit, which will be the sixth by the CM during the last two months, holds political implications though the focus will be on the investment meeting scheduled on the evening of Wednesday. Sources in the ruling BJD maintained that the Chief Minister will pursue different

projects pending with the central minis-

cals and Fertilisers Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankar



Sources, however, maintained that appointments are yet to be confirmed. Naveen is also likely to meet the President of India Droupadi Murmu and

during the visit. Besides, he will receive the lifetime achievement award from Capital Foundation in New Delhi on September 4. He will return on September 6.

An Indian Institute of Chemical Biology Alumnus Develops on Artificial Protein Shell to Combat Covid-19

Kolkata(KCN): He did his doctoral studies on the host-pathogen interaction of Leishmania

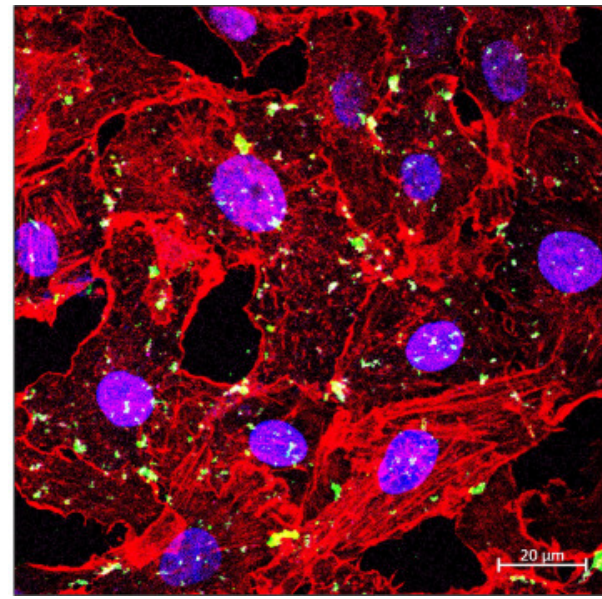


nia donovani, an intracellular parasite which causes leishmaniasis, at the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata. The Department of Biotechnology of the Government of India awarded him the National Bioscience Award for Career Development, one of the highest Indian science awards in 2005. At present he is working as the Professor at the Department of microbiology and Cell Biology (MCB), Indian Institute of Science (IISc). Professor Das, who during the first COVID-19 wave, and his colleagues were sequencing thousands of samples every day to check for SARS-CoV-2 variants as part of INSACOG, the Government of India's genome surveillance initiative, were racing against time to track mutations as they appeared. The assay protocol widely followed, involved isolating the virus from the samples, creating multiple copies of the virus, and studying its transmissibility and efficiency at entering living cells. Working with such a highly infectious virus is dangerous and requires a Bio Safety Level-3 (BSL-3) lab, but there are only a handful of these labs across the country equipped to handle such viruses. To address this problem, Professor Das and his team, along with collaborators, and with funding from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), have now developed and tested a novel virus-like particle (VLP) – a non-infectious nanoscale molecule that resembles and behaves like the virus but does not contain its native genetic material – in a study published in Microbiology Spectrum. Such VLPs have several uses. They can not only be used to safely study the effect of mutations that may arise in SARS-CoV-2 – without requiring a BSL-3 facility – but can also potentially be developed into a vaccine candidate that can trigger an immune response in our bodies. Soma Das, a DST Woman Scientist adds

that these VLPs can also be used to cut down the time taken to screen drugs that can fight the virus.

The scientists have shown that VLPs can be used as vaccine candidates to trigger an immune response. When the pandemic hit, Professor Das and his team began working on a VLP for SARS-CoV-2. They first had to artificially synthesise a VLP with all the four structural proteins – spike, envelope, membrane and nucleocapsid – seen in the actual virus.

SARS-CoV-2 replicates by producing each structural protein separately and then assembling them into a shell containing the genetic material inside to form an active virus particle. To recreate this, the team chose a baculovirus – a virus that affects insects but not humans – as the vector (carrier) to synthesise the VLPs, since it has the ability to produce and assemble all these proteins and replicate quickly. Next, the researchers analysed the VLPs under a transmission electron microscope and found that they were just as stable as the native SARS-CoV-2. At 4 degrees Celsius, the VLP could attach itself to the host cell surface and at 37 degrees Cel-



sius (normal human body temperature), it was able to enter the cell.

When the team injected a high dose of VLPs into mice in the lab, it did not affect the liver, lung, or kidney tissues. To test its immune response, they gave one primary shot and two booster shots to mice models with a gap of 15 days, after which they found a large number of antibodies generated in the blood serum of the mice. These antibodies were also capable of neutralising the live virus, the team found. The researchers have applied for a patent for their VLP and hope to develop it into a vaccine candidate. They also plan to study the effect of the VLP on other animal models (using the expertise of S G

Ramachandra, one of the inventors), and eventually humans. According to one of the researchers, they have also developed VLPs that might be able to offer protection against the more recent variants like Omicron and other sub lineages.

The Heritage College Kolkata organizes its induction and orientation programme Connexions 2022

KOKLATA (KCN): On 31st August 2022, The Heritage College Kolkata organized its induction and orientation program - ConneXions 2022 which was graced by CA Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal, Former Chairman, ICAI, Eastern India Regional Council and currently the Central Council Member, ICAI, Delhi as the Chief Guest followed by Mr. Debanjan Chakrabarti, Director- East and North-East, British Council as the Guest of Honour. During the inaugural address, CA Ranjeet K. Agarwal stressed on the three factors - purpose, passion, and perseverance that are currently required for students in higher education. Citing as an example from the findings of recent research conducted by Boston Consulting which says that out of 6 hours of the study done by the students, only 1 hour is productive and the remaining 5 hours are wasted, he emphasized on the multitasking habits of the students which are currently prevalent among them.

Mr. Debanjan Chakrabarti stressed on the three values- curiosity, compassion, and collaboration that are necessary for the students in their career growth. "You need to embrace the complexities of the outside world after completing your graduation," said Mr. Chakrabarti during his inaugural address. The session was also addressed by Prof. Amitava Ghose, Teacher-in-Charge, The Heritage College, Prof. Debashis Mazumdar, HOD, Department of Economics, The Heritage College, Prof. Basab Chaudhuri, Principal, Heritage Institute of Technology and Shri Pradip Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata. 'Alumni members of The Heritage College are pursuing higher studies in various universities and institutions across the world. Within a short span of time, we have created our presence among the top institutions in the Country,' said Shri P.K. Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata.

The new office building of "Prayash" NGO inaugurated

Barbil(KCN):The new building of "Prayash" voluntary organisation inaugurated at

each core member was felicitated with a Club logo's badge starting from the President and



Barbil.The chairman Barbil municipality formally inaugurated the building by cutting ribbon

Ritesh Karmakar ,the president of the organisation formally welcomed all the dignitaries, at the dais and guests. He mentioned how the club is made by some like minded people and their work in the field of education,health, environment .

Laxman Mohanta addressed the gathering and energized the crowd by his speech. He too appealed prayash to extend support to Barbil municipality for sanitary management

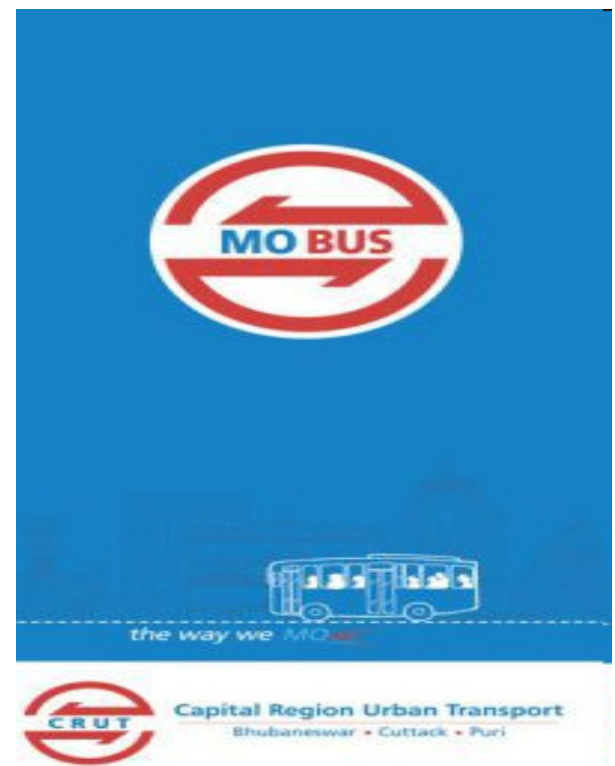
The Badging Ceremony took place wherein

ending with other members . After the Badging Ceremony, Ram Karmakar joint Secretary of Prayash presented a short presentation on the overview of the organisation which included the Objectives, List of Short term and Long-Term Goals. Indra

Kumar Yadav the secretary of the organisation extended his gratitude to Sangita Patra,Barsha Patra and Micky Patra who donated two freezer for hearse maintained by Prayash group.It is to be noted that two important member Sarat Patra,the Father and Panchanan Patra,the son died of Corona pandemic last year. At the end Prakash Sahu,the ambulance driver was felicitated for his selfless work.Laxman Mohanta was also felicitated for his dedicated work for social cause by the organisation .Pratap Das coordinated all the programme of the day.

Mo Bus bags award

Bhubaneswar (KCN): 'Moving with Pride' (Mo Bus and Mo E-Ride) by Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT), Odisha has received Smart Solutions Challenge & Inclusive Cities Award. Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs & Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri presented Smart Solutions Challenge & Inclusive Cities Awards 2022, here today. These awards are an initiative of the National Institute of Ur-



ban Affairs (NIUA) and the United Nations (UN) in India to address city-level accessibility and inclusion challenges faced by persons with disabilities (PwD), women and girls, and the elderly.

The UN Resident Coordinator in India, Shombi Sharp, the Joint Secretary and Mission Director, Smart City Mission, MoHUA, Kunal Kumar and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Barbil forest intensified mansoonfoot patrolling in Thakurani RF



Barbil (KCN):With the onset of monsoon, foot patrolling has been intensified by Barbil forest range as bad roads restrict vehicular movement in forest areas. Taking advantage of the movement of controlled vehicles, hunters enter the forests. . The

forest officials track human movement by identifying footprints and surrounding areas. They are also keeping an eye on people entering the forest. Ranjan Kumar Pani,the range officer of forest Barbil forest division said that the poacher resorted to

poison and used electric current as they could not stay in the forest for long due to rain. "Illegal felling of trees and poaching are likely to happen as many areas are inaccessible. Senior forest officers, forest guards and daily wage security assistants are already started Mansoon foot patrolling in Thakurani reserve forest under Keonjhar forest district, Orissa "Joint teams have been formed for foot patrolling, which will continue till September,he added.

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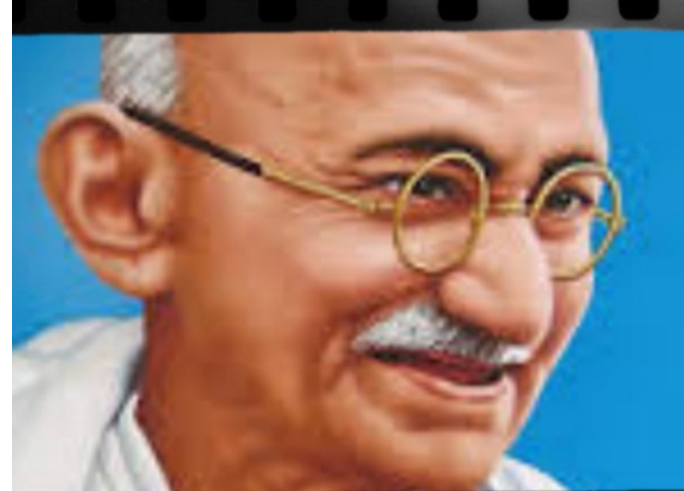
Essay competition in four languages on "Mahatma Gandhiji" by social organization, "Gandhi Vichar Manch", first prize Rs 11,000



Mumbai (KCN): In the memory of late Shri Manmohan Gupta, the founder of social organization "Gandhi Vichar Manch" and social worker, an essay competition has been organized by 'Gandhi Vichar Manch' on any topic

on Mahatma Gandhi. In which any Indian can participate by writing an essay in any one of Ram Trade Centre, 6th Floor, Above HDFC Bank, Near Chamunda Circle, Borivali (West),

of Rs. 2,501/- and 10 consolation prizes of Rs. 1000/- along with trophy and certificate has well as minimum 700 words and maximum 3000 words. In which any student, any woman or man,



the following languages: Hindi, English, Gujarati or Marathi and submit it by 25 September 2022 by courier or post at Gandhi Vichar Manch, Shri

Mumbai - 92. For more details you can contact at gvm7848@gmail.com. For which first prize of Rs. 11,000/-, second prize of Rs. 5,001/-, third prize

been kept. The reward will be announced on October 2, 2022, on the occasion of 'Gandhi Jayanti'. The essay should be original and unpublished as children, youth, litterateur, journalist, story writer, novelist, etc., all countrymen can participate. The decision of the social organization will be the final decision.

Signing 'Indian 2' has been a step up in my career, says Kajal Aggarwal



CHENNAI (KCN): Actress Kajal Aggarwal, who teams up with actor-filmmaker Kamal Haasan for the first time in the upcoming Tamil film "Indian 2", says signing the project has been a step up in

her over a decade-long career. Last seen on screen in Telugu film "Kavacham", Kajal has already begun prepping for her role in "Indian 2". "I'm really thrilled to be part of

the project. I'm quite excited about my role and the skills I will get to learn on the job. I see signing 'Indian 2' as a step up in my career," Kajal told IANS along the sidelines of the launch of beverage

brand 7Up's new campaign, 7Up Ponneram. Ponneram translates to golden times in English. Kajal said her career's golden times started when she signed S.S. Rajamouli's "Magadheera". "My golden times started when I signed 'Magadheera'. I have seen many ups and downs in my profession but it was only after I did 'Magadheera' did my career catapult to the next league. It earned me a lot of recognition which I enjoy

even today," she said. Talking about what excited her most about the association with 7Up, Kajal said: "It's a brand a lot of us can easily identify and relate with. I like the fact that it's a very clear beverage. It's also a drink that lets you take a step back and chill. I treat success or failure by taking a step back and I believe it gives you a lot of clarity." On the career front, Kajal is keenly looking forward to the release of "Paris Paris", the Tamil re-

make of Kangana Ranaut's "Queen". "Paris Paris" will be Kajal's first release of 2019. "When I was offered the 'Queen' remake, I saw it as a story that can be explored in many languages. It's a simple story of a simple girl that I could connect with on many levels. I'm sure there are a lot of girls across different parts of Tamil Nadu who will relate to this story and I'd be glad if this film empowers them," she added.

From 2.0 to Raazi, top 10 Indian movies based on worldwide gross

2018 has been an eventful year for Indian cinema. From Sanju to Sarkar, the industry faced a row of controversies. Yet some movies shined amid the storm.

According to IMDb, here's the list of ten movies that performed well in the box office last year.

- 2.0:** It won't be an exaggeration to call 2.0 as India's 'Superhero' movie. True to that, Kollywood and Bollywood superheroes Rajinikanth and Akshay Kumar played the lead roles in the movie. The movie has so far earned over Rs 700 crore worldwide already and is still running successfully in theatres. Directed by Shankar, who's known to make magnificent movies, 2.0 comes with a social message for people on why one should reduce the use of mobile phones. Also, it is the first Tamil film to enter the 700 crore club. If you haven't watched the film yet, book your tickets right away!
- Sanju:** Sanjay Dutt's biopic 'Sanju' minted Rs 340 crore at the box office and was declared as 'double blockbuster' film. The movie showed the different phases of the controversial actor Sanjay Dutt, which really didn't go well with some organisations. RSS openly criticised the movie in their mouthpiece 'Panchjanya.' However, the movie became a huge hit in no time. It's definitely Ranbir Kapoor's best work ever. The movie was a comeback for both the reel and real Sanjus.
- Padmaavat:** Initially scheduled to be released in 2017, the movie was caught in a row of controversies and finally got released early this year in January. Set in medieval Rajasthan, the story revolves around the life of Queen Padmavathi, which drew the flak from right-wing groups. Unlike the claims by the religious fanatics, the movie actually portrayed queen Padmavati in the best light. However, the film's team was asked to remove a few scenes from the movie

before its release. Despite the fuss, the movie became a blockbuster at the box office, earning Rs 293 crore.

- 4. Race 3:** 'Our business is our business, none of your business' line from the movie took the internet by storm and hundreds of memes were made on it. Based on relationship and royalties, this is the first film in the series that Salman Khan was a part of. Race 3 was critically panned and failed to do the expected business. But in spite of being a flop, it managed to mint Rs 166 crore in the box office.
- 5. Sarkar:** Sarkar's plot is about a successful businessman from the USA coming to India to cast his vote on election day. To his shock, he finds out that his vote has already been cast by someone else. So he decides to take up a political battle against the miscreants and how he survives the race makes the rest of the story. Directed by AR Murugadoss, the movie got into a huge row and was criticised by the ruling Tamil Nadu government for allegedly misrepresenting AIADMK's late leader J Jayalithaa and the government freebie schemes.. A few scenes were deleted from the movie too. The matter was later settled in Madras HC. It was much hyped that actor Vijay may begin his political career after this movie. Sarkar was well received by the Tamil audience and it made Rs 151 crore in the box office.
- 6. Baaghi 2:** This Tiger Shroff-Disha Patani starrer failed to impress audience due to its poor storyline line. Despite that, the movie minted Rs 161 crore in the box office and became a blockbuster. The story is about an army man trying to save his ex-lover's kidnapped daughter. The Baaghi series will have a third part 'Baaghi 3,' which will be out on March 6, 2020.
- 7. Thugs of Hindostan:**

The film set in the 18th century earned Rs 130 crore in the box office against the 275 crore budget ending up a huge disaster at the box office despite having strong star cast including Aamir Khan, Amitabh Bachchan, Katrina Kaif. The film received hilarious reactions on social media as well. Later, Aamir Khan apologised for failing to entertain people. Even Katrina Kaif, Fatima Sana Shaikh expressed their disappointment.

- 8. Badhaai Ho:** Badhaai Ho is nothing but fun! Made at a 30 crore budget, the movie became a mega-blockbuster, minting Rs 136 crore in the box office. This unconventional story is about a 25-year-old man facing embarrassment in society as his mother gets pregnant. Watching this movie will hurt your belly from laughing but it leaves you with a thought to ponder.
- 9. Rangasthalam:** With the right mix of content for a commercial flick, Rangasthalam made it big in the box office by collecting Rs 151 crore. The story is about how a young man with hearing impairment and his brother decide to dethrone their village's president who's been ruling the village for 30 years.
- 10. Raazi:** An adaptation of Harinder Sikka's 'Calling Sehmat' novel, Raazi is based on the true story of an Indian spy, who gets married into a Pakistani family of military officials to spy on Pakistan during the Indo-Pak war of 1971. It's easily Alia Bhatt's career best. The movie minted Rs 121 crore in the box office against the budget of Rs 30 crore. It's been a great year for Indian cinema which took us on a journey of emotions, from laughter to tears, sometimes of joy. Though a lot of films didn't make it to this list, good films silently made it into the hearts of the audience.

“Ikigai” - Little things that add up to a long and happy life

Yesterday I got an opportunity to read a very nice book “Ikigai” - The Japanese Secret to a Long and Happy Life written by Hector Garcia and Francesc Miralles and found it very incredible. While going through the book I found that it really realises the value of a purposeful life and helps us to find our purpose in life. It makes us more positive from within and motivates us to

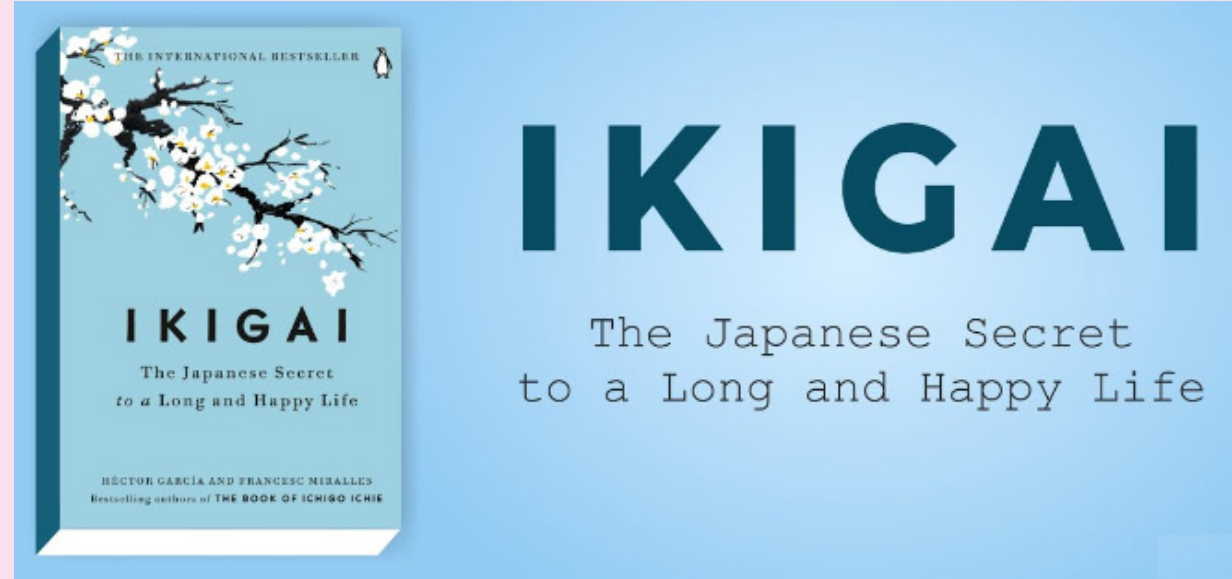
feel at peace with ourselves and our life. On reading the title “Ikigai” one feels what it means. It means “Life to be worthwhile” or “Purposeful Life”. “Ikigai” is a Japanese concept that means “your reason for being”. Here “Iki” means “Life” and “gai” means “Value” or “Worth”. I found the book “Ikigai” worth reading as it contains many powerful and proven concepts that can help us to live a purposeful life and it also leads us to our way of living.

We all have observed that today Japan has the highest life expectancy in the world and a particular region named “Okinawa” in Japan has a higher life expectancy than the national average. Why do they live longer lives? Because one thing among them is common is they have purpose in their life. The current life expectancy for Japan in 2022 is 84.91 years, a 0.14% increase from 2021. As per the United Nations projections till 2100. The life expectancy for Japan in 2021 was 84.79 years, a 0.14% increase from 2020. The life expectancy for Japan in 2020 was 84.67 years, a 0.14% increase from 2019. The Japanese

live with ‘ikigai’ - an ancient philosophy that preaches that one must seek some joy and purpose in life instead of merely existing. It’s about having a practice that guides you towards fulfilment. It is not about instant gratification but surely about defining your purpose in life, your personal mission, and discovering your full potential. Japan is one of the most rapidly ageing societies in the world. A quarter of the

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

population is 65 or older. In Tokyo alone, some 3.1 million residents will be 65 or older by 2025, according to the health ministry. If one is positive the effect on others may or may not be positive and the environment may not necessarily become positive. But when a person is negative the effect definitely rubs on others and the environment becomes negative. Each one of us is negative or positive at some point in our life. Through awareness and perseverance we can turn the



directions by a variety of distractions. Long hours of thinking are not possible for everyone but one has to be a think-tank for himself for three hours a day. In order to stimulate your mind, spend time with people who are successful. Today, everyone wants to be happy but how can one be happy in life? Happiness is an emotional state characterised by feelings of joy, satisfaction, contentment, and fulfillment. Everyone experiences both positive and negative emotions, feelings, and

moods. According to Aristotle Happiness could be achieved through the golden mean, which involves finding a balance between deficiency and excess. Happy people still feel the whole range of human emotions—anger, frustration, boredom, loneliness, and even sadness—from time to time.

The Japanese have an advanced healthcare system. Regular health campaigns that guide people to incorporate healthy lifestyles like reducing salt consumption, and free treatment for TB are a norm. Hence, to attain a healthy mind and a healthy body, we should eat healthy food. One should keep a check on the lifestyle disorder by modifying food habits, making exercise as part of life, reducing the intake of junk food and adopting relaxation techniques to keep stress at bay. There is a tendency to excessive eating of certain kinds of food that contain a lot of fat, sugar and salt. This fact causes many problems. One should eat as many various foods as possible to get all the vitamins and minerals and should drink water, milk and 100% natural juices as the main drinks. Eating healthy foods and getting plenty of exercise are the two most important things a person can do for their body to maintain a healthy weight. Healthy foods assist a person in enhancing their physical and mental well-being. These foods are full of nourishment and enhance growth. Health in reproduction is therefore of great importance for the well being of families and communities and therefore it has been rightly said that health is not everything but health affects everything. Can't we lead a long and happy life as Japanese live?

B-15 Jyoti-Kalash Society, Jodhpur
Tekra, Satellite, Ahmedabad

Interview

Broadway style theatres may open new vistas in brand campaign

Born in a traditional Marwari business family, Kolkata girl Tanvi Rajgarhia, going by her stage name- Jhansi, has set out on a mission-driven sojourn to promote and also to commercially exploit the unique art form called Broadway style theatre. Trained at Singapore’s prestigious Lasalle

College of the Arts, Tanvi (Jhansi) is burning midnight oils in creating and producing musical theatres that will not only be accepted as a form of popular stage theatre but

also in the world of advertising and brand building. Speaking to Ritwik Mukherjee exclusively Jhansi narrates her journey so far and describes the path she has charted out for future- smart ways of commercially utilising a unique art form! Excerpts:



RM: How did you get into this field? Was it by accident or was it by choice?
Jhansi: My exposure to art and culture in my school days was restricted to stuff which are rudimentarily Bengali, Indian and mostly Tagore plays, Tagore songs and so on. The only different experience came when I was in Class 8 and watched a stage performance with my family. Somehow this whole thing of acting created a lasting impression on my mind.

Initially I thought of studying psychology and then while looking for an interesting place to study, I found an institute and I decided to take a wild swing after school, and attempted to study Broadway Style Performance as my bachelors degree. The Almighty must have agreed, because I was accepted

(after few rounds of auditions) into the notoriously small class size of 10 at Lasalle College of the Arts, Singapore, for a BA in Musical Theatre Performance. At this point I must say that my parents were of great support. My Mom said: ‘Not to worry, if you, for some reasons, don’t like it, don’t feel comfortable or cannot manage to do well, just drop out and do something else one year down the road. And my dad agreed to this. I didn’t have take this route. But after college came the big question... ‘AB KYA KARE?’!

India did not have a culture of western musical theatre, and that’s what (and possibly all) I wanted to do, so I realised after a couple of years that if I wanted to ever perform, I would need to start writing, as there was simply not enough happening to be cast in. Starting modestly with Broadway style political parodies, I got on a Netflix show: “Queens of Comedy”, where I was competing as a musical comedian.

That was the beginning.
RM: When you say Broadway style theatre, what do you mean by that?

Jhansi: Broadway theatre or Broadway, are the theatrical performances presented in the 41 professional theatres, each with 500 or more seats, located in the Theatre District and the Lincoln Center along Broadway, in Midtown Manhattan, New York City. Broadway and London’s West End together represent the highest commercial level of live theater in the English-speaking world. Broadway style theatre is Western style musical theatre, which has fun elements, sarcasm, music and a socio-political message.

RM: What did you do after the Netflix show?
Jhansi: After a bunch of works in Mumbai, getting cast in the huge Aladdin BMS production, performing with various festivals and storytelling communities such as Kommune to much appreciation on videos, I realised that now it is time to level up, and devote a year to study Broadway Style songwriting, as it is so very different from any

Ritwik Mukherjee

other style. So I moved back to Kolkata and found every online resource I could and learnt all new tricks of the Broadway trade, and was halfway into that journey, when the pandemic hit. Confined at home for an unforeseeable amount of time, and turning twenty-five, I had to answer the question that relentlessly started plaguing me... “Am I anywhere close to where I had dreamt I would be in my life

by this age. What now?”
RM: All artists and stage performers were hit badly by the pandemic and lockdown. So did you tweak your ways, thought process?
Jhansi: Yes, of course. I had to. Broadway style musical theatre presented in an interesting video (audio-visual) format is the way forward. With mobile video, OTT, and other digital platforms booming in India, artists like us will have to explore such platforms—both for acceptability, recognition and for commercial purposes. That is the way forward. And I have already started working on that. But one has to offer the feel and

experience of stage shows. One must keep that in mind.
RM: Since you have mentioned about commercial exploitation of this unique art (or theatre) form and also mentioned that Broadway style theatre has elements like fun, satire, sarcasm, music and a message, do you think that this art form can be very effectively applied and utilised in advertising and brand building and campaign exercises?
Jhansi: Certainly yes. In fact, in my initial years in this area, I was drawn to many products and brands and created what could possibly be their brand campaigns using Broadway style, in my own way. In fact, this is another way forward. Advertising and brand campaigns are areas where Broadway style theatres will have enormous scope and it will appeal the younger population and millennial hugely. I am doing significant home work in this area and would look forward to any such opportunity. Mind



you advertisements and brand promotions are all about sending across a message about the product and the brand to their target group and they often use fantastic jingles. Broadway style theatres also tell our own stories, talk about us, our challenges, our society, our people, using this incredible art form. And music is the prime mover of Broadway style theatres.

RM: As you said that the pandemic was a major setback for performing artists like you. But was there a positive learning or experience as well?

Jhansi: Yes. During the pandemic many sad and depressing thoughts used to consume me for many months, before suddenly, one night, the creative overlords decided to give me a gift. Suddenly in my mind, the phrase ‘Terrified of Twenty-Five’ flashed, and in that instant, I knew what I had to dedicate my life to for the next couple of years.

Terrified of Twenty-Five, a Broadway style musical, is a show that will capture your fears about growing up, change, comparison, marriage, stagnancy, failed hopes and dreams, and hopefully make you laugh, cry and groove as you come to a sense



of peace by the end of the show. I interviewed more than 100 people of all ages before starting to write this show, in order to see whether we all feel the same way, despite our differences.

I am touring across the country with my new musical show: Terrified of Twenty Five.

RM: What’s up your sleeves next?
Jhansi: Next year, that is in 2023, I will move to NYC where I have been invited to write musicals for two years by the very prestigious BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop. I am also working on an ambitious project on Mahabharata for a well known production house in the US.

Author is a Kolkata based
Freelance journalist.

Move for Angul MCH Naveen invites foreign countries to partner with Odisha's industrial journey

Bhubaneswar(KCN): After getting approval from the Na-

had proposed to establish the medical college and hospital

Medical College in the academic year 2016-17. The con-

civil works need to be taken to make the 330 bed hospital functional within 3 months.

The DMET has been asked to suggest the posts in different categories that need to be created so that after two years, it would be possible to apply for Letter of Permission (LoP).

The approximate annual revenue expenditure for making the 330-bed hospital functional would also be chalked out, the officials said.

Notably, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has accorded its approval to start admission into 100 MBBS seats at the newly constructed Government Medical Colleges (GMC) at Sundargarh and Keonjhar from the 2022-23 academic year.



tional Medical Council (NMC) for functioning of new medical colleges and hospitals at Sundergarh and Keonjhar, the State Government has now geared up for early functioning of the proposed Medical College & Hospital at Talcher in Angul district.

The Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), a subsidiary of Central PSU Coal India Limited (CIL),

in the district as part of its CSR commitment for the district. Accordingly, the MCL had signed an MoU with the State Government in 2014 to establish a 500-bedded & 100-seated Medical College and Hospital at Talcher. The State Government has provided 20 acres of land free-of-cost for the project. The initial commitment of MCL was to operationalise the

struction of the campus was completed in 2019-20. However, the medical college is yet to start functioning. The State Health and Family Welfare Department has asked the Director of Medical Education and Training (DMET) to have a meeting with MCL team and suggest what specific equipment needs to be procured and what

BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday interacted with a host of ambassadors in New Delhi and invited their countries to partner with Make-in-Odisha Conclave 2022, Odisha Government's flagship investment meet scheduled to be held later this year at Bhubaneswar. Addressing the ambassadors at a curtain raiser for the third edition of the industrial carni-

highly skilled workforce and robust ecosystems for sectors like food processing, IT/ITeS, Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM), plastics, metals and metal downstream.

"The State has nearly 200 engineering colleges and 1000 ITIs. We have recently established a first-of-its-kind World Skill Centre (WSC) for advanced skill training," he said. Prior to the meeting, over 17 one-on-one B2G meetings with various industrial houses were held with Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra. Principal Secretary of In-



val, Naveen urged the countries to invest in Odisha and said an international pavilion will be set up as part of the conclave for coordinating overseas investments. The Make-in-Odisha Conclave 2022 will be held from November 30 to December 4.

"We would like the countries to set up their offices and stalls in the pavilion during the conclave and conduct G2B and B2B meetings. We will provide all necessary facilitation for the investors to become partners of the State's transformational journey," he told the envoys during the interaction.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik addressing the ambassadors' meet in New Delhi on Wednesday | Express

Odisha is one of the fastest growing economies in India and has consistently grown above the national average in the last decade and a half, he said.

"We are fast emerging as a major industrial destination in eastern India because of our natural resource advantage and strategic location. Over the last 20 years, my government has focused on leveraging these natural advantages through progressive policy, efficient administration, and technological interventions," the CM said.

Minister for Industries, MSME and Energy Pratap Keshari Deb said Odisha's industrial growth has been focused on developing a



dustries department Hemant Sharma, 5T Secretary VK Pandian and Director General of FICCI Arun Chawla were present among others. Diplomats from around 30 countries attended the ambassadors' meeting organised in collaboration with FICCI. The countries included Japan, Korea, Brazil, South Africa, Bahrain, Finland, Morocco, Canada, Norway, Myanmar, Philippines, Slovenia, Cambodia, Iran, Iraq, Mexico, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Bhutan and Great Britain.

This was the third investment road show after Dubai and Ahmedabad ahead of the mega event. The fourth meet is slated to be held in Mumbai on September 14.

There are still people in RSS who don't support saffron politics: West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee

KOLKATA: Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee set tongues wagging in West Bengal's political circles by praising RSS, the ideological parent of the BJP, her party's arch rival in the state, saying all in the organisation are not bad and don't support the saffron camp. Accusing the BJP-led Union government of using central forces for political ends and referring to arrest of two TMC heavyweights -- former minister Partha Chatterjee and party's strongman Anubrata Mondal -- by the CBI and Enforcement Directorate, Mamata on Wednesday said, "There are conspiracies. We are being blackmailed. RSS is not that bad. There are still people in the RSS who do not support saffron politics."



hikes financial assistance for Durga puja clubs "There can be political differences. But that doesn't justify killing supporters of opposition parties. Around 60 BJP supporters were killed in the violence that was unleashed after the 2021 Assembly elections," said RSS state general secretary Jishnu Basu.

"She is the Chief Minister of those who voted for her party and voted against her party. She should have ensured law and order in place," Basu added. Mamata Banerjee meets PM Modi, seeks urgent release of Bengal's dues

CPI(M)'s politburo member Mohammad Selim said Mamata's praise for RSS was evidence that she and the BJP are hand-in-glove.

State Congress president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the comment was expected from Mamata. "She allied with the BJP-led NDA during former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's tenure. She has a strong connection with the BJP and RSS as well," he said.

Nuakhai bhethghat: Western Odisha set to soak in celebration

SAMBALPUR: Markets in the Sambalpur district witnessed a huge crowd as people stepped out to shop for Odisha's major agrarian festival Nuakhai beginning Thursday. This year, the festival is all set to be celebrated with pomp and grandeur after a gap of two years. The preparation for the festival began a fortnight ago with the cleaning of houses in rural areas with a mixture of cow dung and

between 10:56 am and 11:10 am on Thursday. Rituals at Maa Samaleswari temple will be conducted by the priests of the temple in the morning as per tradition.

Members of most families were seen busy preparing the typical delicacies for the occasion such as 'Mug bara', 'Mug mada', 'Chaula mada', 'Kakara pitha' and 'kheeri'. A local, Ajit Bohidar said, "Nuakhai had been a low-key affair for the last two years. However, this year everyone is filled with enthusiasm. Many who could not return home due to Covid during the last two years are back home to celebrate with family and friends." The festival is celebrated with fervour, especially in western Odisha. Goddess



mud on the walls. While every house in the villages wears a festive look, the paddy fields shine green with standing crops during the festival.

Similarly, in urban areas, the celebrations of Nuakhai include wearing of new clothes, worshipping the presiding deity and having a sumptuous lunch with the entire family, apart from the usual rituals.

This year the first harvested crop will be offered to goddess Samaleswari in Sambalpur at the stipulated Lagna (auspicious moment)

Samaleswari in Sambalpur, Patneswari in Balangir, Sureshwari in Sonapur, Sekharbasini in Sundargarh and Manikeswari in Kalahandi are offered puja as the presiding deities. On the other hand, Sambalpur city was soaked in festivity on Ganesh Chaturthi on Wednesday. The major attraction this year is a 16-foot tall Lord Ganesh idol made of laddoos by Natraj Club which has been organising the Puja for the last 47 years. Besides a Covid-themed Ganesh pandal at Hatpada in the city also drew a huge crowd.

Normalcy in India-China ties key for Asian Century: Former Singaporean FM George Yeo

SINGAPORE: Singapore's former foreign minister George Yeo has said that normalcy in the relations between India and China is key to regional prosperity and stability and hoped that the top leaders of the two countries will meet in Indonesia next month and work for the Asian Century.

Speaking on the sidelines of the launch of his book 'George Yeo Musings' on Wednesday, the veteran politician said: "For us, if India, China relations are good, it will boom and if India-China relations are bad, it will affect us."

Yeo, 67, served as minister in various capacities, the last was as the Foreign Minister till he retired in 2011.

Responding to a series of questions after delivering a lecture on India's Vision of the Indo-Pacific' at the prestigious Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok last month, Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar said: "the relationship between India and China was going through an extremely difficult phase after what Beijing had done at the border and emphasised that the Asian Century would not happen if the two neighbours could not join hands."

"There was an immediate powerful resonance in China," Yeo said, referring to Beijing's backing of Jaishankar's statement.

Any other country or separate customs territory in the region can accede to the pact from July 1, 2023, onward.

Experts believe that India had not signed the RCEP pact in Bangkok over concern that Indian farm produce and products from small businesses would not be able to compete in the regional markets.

Yeo cited the example of steel from Tata Group's Jamshedpur plant being initially uncompetitive with

products from Scottish and British mills, asserting that Indian steel is now in the international market. He had visited Jamshedpur in 2007 at the invitation of Ratan Tata's business executives.

He observed that Indian exports to China are complex products such as cables and chemicals while imports are simple products like air-conditioners. 'Patterns of torture' allegations in China's Xinjiang 'credible': UN

"India and Singapore were once part of a common larger system. Our old schools, hospitals, military and police masses, government buildings and law courts in Singapore were mostly scaled-down versions of similar facilities still found all over India," Yeo writes in his book.

"If India was the jewel in the crown of the British Empire, Singapore was only a little gem on its side," it says.

"As the Indian Military Academy was tri-service, we took a special interest in it," he writes in the book.

"It was the only academy with a Tri-Service at Officer level which we wanted to be," he says. Yeo and his wife enjoy

visits to India. His first visit was to the wedding of a classmate in Madurai in 1986.

"India is a huge canvas. It is the great land, the Maha Bharat. I don't enjoy India the way I do Bali or Switzerland. In fact, oftentimes on arrival, the abject poverty, messiness and pollution hit me like a blast of hot air. After a day or two, however, India gets inside me and I enjoy it for what it is. My wife likes India too and is always happy to accompany me whenever she can," he said.

"My daughter learned Indian dance in school all my three sons have been to India too," he writes in the 464-page book.



Bhubaneswar: While Odisha has collected Rs.3884 Crore in August, the Country's Gross GST Revenue collected in the month of August 2022 is Rs.1,43,612 Crore.

Odisha continues to register more and more growth in GST Collection continuously. While in August 2021, State had collected Rs.3317 Crore, collection jumped 17 Percent during August- 2022, officials say. Out of Gross GST of Rs.1,43,612 Crore, CGST is Rs.24, 710 Crore SGST is Rs.30,951 Crore.

IGST is Rs.77,782 Crore including

August GST 3884 CR

Rs.42,067 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs.10,168 Crore including Rs.1,018 crore collected on import of goods).

The government has settled Rs. 29,524 crore to CGST and Rs. 25,119 crore to SGST from IGST. The total revenue of Centre and the States in the month of August 2022 after regular settlement is Rs.54,234 Crore for

CGST and Rs.56,070 Crore for the SGST. The revenues for the month of August 2022 are than higher than 28 Percent of the GST revenues in the same month last year of Rs. 1,12,020 crore.



During the month, revenues from import of goods were 57 Percent higher and the revenues from domestic transaction (including import of services) are higher than

the revenues from these sources during the same month last year.

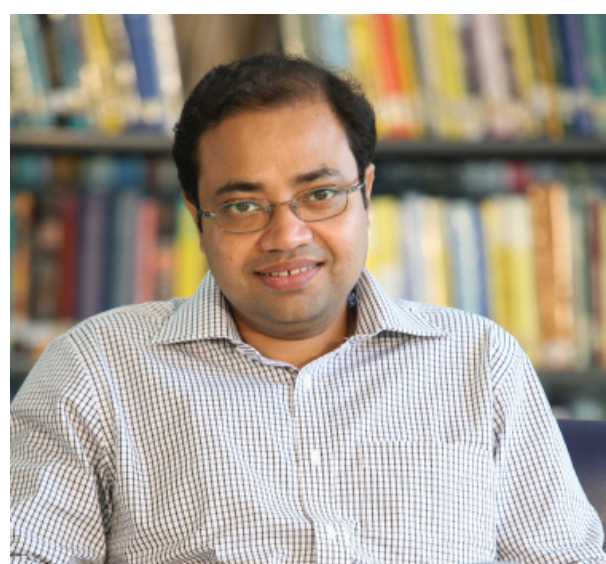
For six months in a row now, the monthly GST revenues have been more than the Rs. 1.4 lakh crore mark. The growth in GST revenue till August 2022 over the same period last year is 33 Percent, continuing to display very high buoyancy.

This is a clear impact of various measures taken by the Council in the past to ensure better compliance. Better reporting coupled with economic recovery has been having positive impact on the GST revenues on a consistent basis.

During the month of July 2022, 7.6 crore e-way bills were generated, which was marginally higher than 7.4 crore in June 2022 and 19% higher than 6.4 crore in June 2021.

Hydration of Proteins May Act as a Potential Marker for Early Detection of Neuro-degenerative Diseases, Observes Scientists

Kolkata, (KCN): Hydration dynamics of proteins plays a pivotal role in the aggregation of several proteins which is a preliminary step towards various neuro-degenerative dis-



phenomenon called 'liquid liquid phase separation' (LLPS) underlines the formation of cells organelles like P bodies, nucleolus which are membrane-less compartments in the cytoplasm of cells. LLPS, a self-aggregated system, is an intermediate step during the formation of the stable protein aggregates. When multivalent proteins interact they undergo rapid transformation from small complexes to large polymeric assemblies with increase in protein concentration. This dense phase often resembles liquid droplets exhibiting higher protein density and weaker molecular motion than the surrounding medium. This process, initiated through liquid liquid phase transfer, plays a crucial role in inducing human diseases, especially age-related neuro-degenerative diseases like Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and cataract. Therefore, understanding the process of phase separation at a molecular level has become an emergent area of research in the molecular biology fraternity.

Scientists of this autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) have explored how the hydration of proteins gets altered as LLPS sets in. The researchers have spotted the crucial role of water in Liquid liquid phase separation which holds the key to neuro-degenerative diseases. They found that some excipients or inactive substances that serve as the vehicle or medium for a drug or other active substance like sucrose can stabilise LLPS while some can inhibit it. Thus the aggregation process of these diseases could be modulated by altering water network dynamics using these excipients. Their experiments have identified that both protein and excipient hydration are important in regulating the LLPS process. Monitoring a change in hydration could therefore act as a potential marker for an early and easy detection of LLPS onset.

Understanding debilitating neuro-degenerative diseases at the molecular level is crucial to find treatments or solutions for them. A

SOA Welcomes Start up Yatra

Bhubaneswar: The Start-up Odisha Yatra 2.0 launched by

As the van rolled into the campus of Institute of Technical

The aim of the Start-up Odisha Yatra 2.0 is to reach all the 30

Odisha of which 40 per cent were women. The van was wel-



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on August 26 visited the SOA campus on Tuesday triggering much enthusiasm among students. The objective of the initiative was to look for best entrepreneurial ideas from the young minds.

Education and Research (ITER), SOA's faculty of engineering and technology, students from different branches pitched their ideas which were accepted. Mr. Ravi Pandey and Ms. Asha Mohapatra explained the objective of the initiative.

districts of the state in 60 days visiting 100 institutions and assemble 5,000 ideas from aspiring entrepreneurs so that they could be extended support from Start-up Odisha. So far 1,300 startups had been registered by students in

came into the ITER campus by its Dean Prof. P K Sahu, Additional Dean (Research) Prof. Priyabrata Patnaik and professors from different departments. The program was coordinated by Dr. Satish Kumar Samal and Mr. Ashok Kumar Nayak.

International Monsoon Literary meet

Kolkata (KCN): online magazine Shreyashi organised a multilingual meet under the flag Monsoon literary meet yester evening with the gathering of poets from different parts of country and abroad. The two and half hours long meet kicked off its sojourn with the Rabindra Sangeet by a student from Ramnagar College Sampriti Maity. Rana Zaman from Mirpur, Dhaka, Bangladesh read his poems and

share fruitful views relating to life and literature. Tapesh Bhowmik from Coochbehar read poems in Hindi based on contemporary issues. Deb Kumar Mukhopadhyay from 24 pragana, Kshdiram Naskar from Kolkata, Dulal Somaddar from Chattisgarh, Goutam Pramanik from the department of Bengali, Ramnagar College, Putul Maity from Karanji Subhas Vidya Bhavan

, Ranu Mukherjee from Gujarat, Pranab Kanti Bhattacharjee and Sushant Sahu from Ramnagar read poems in Bangla. Dr. Gagan Ch. De Prof from Sabang College recited poem in Sanskrit that metamorphosed the meet. Indrani Nag's lucid voice reaped the rapture of recommendation from all. Debjani Roy from Khurda, Tarun Kumar Das from Paschim Medinipur, Jasbont

Pattnaik from Odisha, read poems in Odia. Manojit Das from Mahisadal read translation and threw light on noted Indian English poet Jayanta Mahapatra. Yoga Guru, blogger and poet Sanatan Mahakud and Santanu Bisoi were connected while Barun Kumar Das, the editor of the shreyashi anchored the entire programme. With the exchange of greetings and good wishes the meet came to an end.




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Roys says Adani needs IT approval for the conversion of warrants into stake in NDTV

NEW DELHI: After reaching out to the market regulator SEBI for clarification regarding a 2020 order, NDTV founders Radhika and Prannoy Roy have now said that the Adani Group-owned Vishvapradhan Commercial Private Lim-

Wednesday. RRPRH, the promoter holding vehicle, said that it has informed VCPL that operation of these order(s) of attachment will require approvals and/or clarifications from the Income Tax authorities in relation to the

RRPRH. "With the Securities Appellate Tribunal concluding, in its order of July 20, 2022 that the intent and language of the loan agreement and call option agreements read with the SAST Regulations makes it clear that there is no

from sub judge (impugned) orders. ALSO READ | Adani's possible NDTV takeover: How Rs 403-crore loan landed Roys in trouble The Adani Group on August 23 announced it is indirectly acquiring a 29% stake



ited (VCPL) requires approval from the Income Tax authorities for exercising their right to convert the warrants that would result in the acquisition of a 29% stake in the media outlet. This comes as NDTV promoters continue to delay Adani Group's hostile takeover.

"RRPRH, which owns 29.18% equity interests in NDTV, has intimated VCPL on August 31, 2022 that equity shares of NDTV held by RRPRH were provisionally attached by the Income Tax authorities in the year 2017, with notification in 2018 that the attachment shall remain in place until completion of reassessment proceedings," said NDTV in a regulatory filing late

public announcement of August 23, 2022 by VCPL. RRPRH has invited VCPL to join them in their application before the Income Tax authorities.

ALSO READ | From Ambani to Adani: The NDTV saga According to NDTV's regulatory filing, "The Income Tax Department attachment order of 2017 (read with order of 2018) pertains inter alia to the loan agreement with VCPL in 2009, and is premised on RRPRH (allegedly) transferring its controlling interest in NDTV to VCPL for Rs.403.85 crore, culminating in an estimate of Rs.175 crore "tax on capital gains arising on sale of controlling interest in NDTV to VCPL" on

direct or indirect control of NDTV by VCPL. The transaction structure does not lead to a conclusion that VCPL has acquired direct or indirect control over NDTV, the Income Tax Authorities will be required to clarify whether in light of the SAT order, the provisional attachment will continue to operate on RRPRH equity shares held in NDTV," the regulatory filing read.

Further, RRPRH has intimated VCPL that as individuals, Radhika and Prannoy Roy, may individually require independent approval, under section 281 of the Income Tax Act, from the Income Tax Authorities, to deal with any assets, including indirect shareholding in NDTV, arising

in NDTV and had asked the holding firm -- RRPR -- to transfer by August 25 all its equity shares to VCPL.

VCPL, which was acquired by the Adanis for Rs 114 crore, owns warrants in RRPR and a conversion of warrants into equity will result in VCPL acquiring control of RRPR, which holds 29.18% stake in NDTV.

The Roys, however, have raised technicalities in the SEBI order of 2020 that for two years, until November 26, had barred NDTV's founder-promoters from dealing in their shares directly or indirectly.

The two parties on August 29 reached to SEBI for clarification on this.

GST collection rises 28 per cent to Rs 1.43 lakh crore, festive season to drive mop-up

NEW DELHI: India's tax collection from the sale of goods and services soared 28 per cent to Rs 1.43 lakh crore in July aided by rising demand, higher rates, and greater compliance. The GST collection remained above the Rs 1.4-lakh-crore mark for the sixth straight month in August and the ensuing festive season will help continue the trend.

Better reporting coupled with economic recovery has have a "positive impact on the GST revenues on a consistent basis", the finance ministry said

in a statement. The gross GST revenue collected in August 2022 is Rs 1,43,612 crore of which CGST is Rs 24,710 crore, SGST is Rs 30,951 crore, IGST is Rs 77,782 crore (including Rs 42,067 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs 10,168 crore (including Rs 1,018 crore collected on import of goods), the ministry said. The revenues for the month of August 2022 are 28 per cent higher than the GST revenues of Rs 1,12,020 crore collected in August 2021.

"The growth in GST

revenue till August 2022 over the same period last year is 33 per cent, continuing to display very high buoyancy. This is a clear impact of various measures taken by the Council in the past to ensure better compliance," the Ministry said.

The collection in August is, however, lower than Rs 1.49 lakh crore collected in July. The mop up was at a record high of Rs 1.67 lakh crore in April.

KPMG in India Partner Indirect Tax Abhishek Jain said, "The consistent high collections indicate upward economic

trajectory despite fluctuating COVID cases and to some extent attributable to inflation and better compliance being ensured by the government.

"N A Shah Associates, Partner, Indirect Tax, Parag Mehta said the collection increase is due to better compliance and the removal of various exemptions from July 2022.

"Further, with the festive season setting in, the collections for the next 2-3 months will also show an upward trajectory," Mehta said. Deloitte India Partner MS Mani

Fuel demand in August: Petrol sales rebound, diesel shows decline

NEW DELHI: Petrol sales in India rebounded in on-month, the demand slipped 1 per cent when



August but diesel continued to show a decline over the previous month as rains in several parts chipped away demand in some sectors, preliminary industry data showed.

Petrol sales, which had dipped 5 per cent in July, increased 5.8 per cent to 2.81 million tonnes in August when compared with 2.66 million tonnes of demand in the previous month.

The consumption was almost 16 per cent higher than August 2021 and 31.7 per cent more than 2.14 million tonnes in the same month in 2020. It was 20.6 per cent higher than the pre-pandemic demand of 2.33 million tonnes in August 2019.

Diesel, the most widely used fuel in the country, saw consumption drop 4.9 per cent to 6.11 million tonnes from 6.42 million tonnes in July.

The monsoon rains weigh heavily on diesel demand in the country and consumption traditionally is lower in July-September than in April-June.

Rains restrict mobility and demand from the farm sector, which uses diesel in irrigation pumps and trucking. Diesel demand had dipped 13.1 per cent in July. Consumption of diesel in August was, however, 23.5 per cent higher year-on-year, supported by strong economic growth and a relatively low baseline for the same period in 2021 when the second wave of COVID-19 had impacted the economy.

Diesel demand was 43.4 per cent higher than the 4.26 million tonnes demand during August 2020 and 11.6 per cent more than the pre-COVID sale of 5.48 million tonnes in August 2019, the data showed.

The decline in auto fuel sales in July and August came after a surge in June that was supported by increased summer travel to colder areas of the country to escape from the heat and vacations during annual breaks at educational institutions.

ALSO READ | India to start supplying petrol with 20 per cent ethanol from April 2023

As the aviation sector opened up, India's overall passenger traffic (both domestic and international) at airports inched closer to pre-COVID-19 levels. Accordingly, jet fuel (ATF) demand more than doubled to 541,000 tonnes during August when compared to the previous month.

It was 51.4 per cent higher than last year and 118.9 per cent more than August 2020. It, however, was 14.3 per cent lower than pre-COVID August 2019. With strong economic growth of 7.1 per cent, India's oil demand has been rising steadily since the country eased pandemic lockdowns.

Cooking gas LPG sales were up 5 per cent year-on-year at 2.44 million tonnes in August. LPG consumption was 7 per cent higher than in August 2020 and 2.5 per cent more than in August 2019. Month-

compared to 2.46 million tonnes of LPG consumption during July, the data showed.

Chairman of Russia's largest private oil company dies after falling from a Moscow hospital window

Continued from page-1

case after the death of former Lukoil executive Alexander Subbotin in early May.

Lukoil, Russia's second-largest oil company, was one of a handful of domestic corporations to openly call for an end to the country's invasion of Ukraine in early March.

"We stand for the immediate cessation of the armed conflict and duly support its resolution through the negotiation process and through diplomatic means," Lukoil said in a letter to shareholders at the time.

The long-serving head of Lukoil, Vagit Alekperov, resigned in June after being hit by Western sanctions.

'Action against corrupt people creating new polarisation in national politics': PM attacks opposition

Continued from page-1

statement came in the wake of various central agencies' probe against certain powerful opposition politicians over alleged corruption and subsequent attack by them against his government, alleging that the BJP was targeting its rivals by "misusing" the central agencies.

The PM further said that people in the state are viewing the BJP with renewed hope as they realise that it is working for change and development in India.

"In the entire country, wherever BJP is ruling in the states, development is on fast track. This is because of the double-engine government at the Centre and at the state. This very government can help the development of Kerala scale new heights," he said.

Citing the 13.5 per cent growth achieved in the GDP in the April-June period this fiscal, Modi said it indicates the opportunity in the country for faster development and employment.

He also said the GST collection numbers of the last few months are setting new records. "The central government is also increasing its investment in development projects."

Modi asserted that the biggest priority of his government is to provide fundamental facilities to every citizen of the country and build modern infrastructure. The union government is working to provide homes to the poor.

Under the 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana' scheme, two lakh houses have been approved and more than 1.30 lakh have been completed in Kerala, he noted.

Modi said the Centre has spent around Rs 1 lakh crore in Kerala on various projects.

"The central government is working to open at least one medical college in every district, and it will hugely benefit the youth of Kerala. To develop modern infrastructure, the BJP government is spending around Rs 1 lakh crore on multiple projects in Kerala," he said.

HC scraps jail term to former Congress MP Annu Tandon, associates

Continued from page-1

testers and by and large it was a peaceful and symbolic protest.

The Bench observed, "Citizens of this country are not permitted to violate a law enacted by the legislation while exercising their right to protest, freedom of speech and expression."

The Railway Police had registered the case on June 12, 2017.

Paul Pogba's World Cup place in doubt amid scandal and bad knee

PARIS: Paul Pogba's knee injury could save France coach Didier Deschamps from having to make a painful choice.

The midfielder's fitness could prove to be the determining factor in deciding whether he plays at the World Cup, amid an extortion scandal that threatens to disrupt France's preparations for the tournament in Qatar.

What would otherwise have been an injury headache for Deschamps may give him an escape from the potential migraine of another scandal to hit Les

Bleus, seven years after the last one. Defending champion France can ill afford a campaign where two of its biggest stars "Pogba and Kylian Mbappe" are embroiled in controversy. French officials said that Pogba paid 100,000 euros (nearly \$100,000) to an organized group including his brother that was trying to extort him for millions more.



French prosecutors are investigating allegations that Pogba was the target of extortion by his elder brother Mathias Pogba and childhood friends. They allegedly demanded 13 million euros (nearly \$13 million) from the France midfielder.

Pogba reportedly made the payment after he was threatened by masked, armed men in a Paris apartment in March while he was in France for national team duty. The group also made demands of the midfielder at the Juventus training center in Turin. He said Mathias Pogba was among them, according to reports.

French media reports said Pogba told investigators the extortionists wanted to discredit him by claiming he asked a witch doctor to cast a spell on Mbappe — an allegation denied by Pogba.

Mathias Pogba on Sunday appeared to address the witch doctor claim in a Twitter post directed at

Virat Kohli equals record of most fifty plus scores in T20Is

DUBAI: Virat Kohli scored his 31st half-century on Wednesday, equalling the record with Rohit Sharma for scoring the most 50-plus scores in T20Is.

middle of the bat in the later stages of the innings.

He now has 31 half-centuries in 94 innings from 101 matches. His highest score was 94*

than 30 such scores.

Virat also recently became the first Indian player to represent India in 100 matches across the three formats, he joined Ross

massive sixes.

Then in the final few overs, Suryakumar Yadav exploded, smashing a brilliant 68* off 26 balls with six fours and six sixes.



The former India captain achieved this feat during India's Group A tie against Hong Kong in Dubai in the ongoing 2022 edition of the tournament.

Kohli found much-needed form in the match, scoring an unbeaten 59 of 44 deliveries with the help of a boundary and three towering sixes. he looked scratchy, to begin with, but found the

which came against West Indies in December 2019.

The 33-year-old is now tied with Rohit Sharma who also has 31 half-centuries in 126 innings from 134 matches along with four centuries. Babar Azam, David Warner, Martin Guptill, and Paul Stirling are the only players with more than 20 scores of fifty or more in T20Is. No other batter has more

Taylor to become the second player ever to do so.

In his 100th T20I match against Pakistan, Virat scored 35 of 34 calls before getting out. Coming to the match, put to bat first by Hong Kong, Team India posted 192/2 in their 20 overs. Virat Kohli showcased glimpses of his old self and hit 59* off 44 balls, decorated with one four and three

Pacer Ayush Shukla (1/29 in four overs) was Hong Kong's bowlers' pick. Chasing 193, Hong Kong had posted 51/2 in their powerplay. Babar Hayat (41 off 35 balls) and Kinchit Shah (30 off 28 balls) played some solid knocks. But it was not enough to help Hong Kong shock the mighty Indians as they fell 40 runs short of a win. They finished their innings at 152/5 in their 20 overs.

player: the star striker Mbappe.

They both scored second-half goals in the 4-2 World Cup final win against Croatia four years ago and would normally be first-choice picks for Deschamps. In normal circumstances, it would have been likely that Deschamps gave Pogba the maximum amount of time to recover from his knee injury.

At the European Championship in 2008, then-coach Raymond Domenech took an injured Patrick Vieira in his squad, such was the midfielder's importance to the team.

But the current climate surrounding Pogba could affect how much indulgence Deschamps shows one of his closest players. The president of the French Football Federation, Noel Le Graet has downplayed the scandal.

"These are just rumours at this point," Le Graet told Radio Monte Carlo. "I love Paul. I hope this does not call into question his (World Cup) spot on the French side."

ALSO READ | Pogba reportedly opts against surgery in a boost to World Cup hopes

"Crucially, Le Graet had initially taken Benzema's side before Euro 2016, only to fall into line with what Deschamps wanted" leaving Benzema feeling let down since he was close to Le Graet.

Time is not on Deschamps' side, either. He knows the questions will come on Sept. 15 as soon as he names his squad for Nations League games — home to Austria on Sept. 22 and at Denmark three days after.

They are the last two games before France's opening game of the World Cup against Australia on Nov. 22. Pogba is recovering from a meniscus tear to his right knee. He decided against having an operation and is expected to be out for a few more weeks.

This could give Deschamps an easy yet diplomatic get-out in resolving the issue by saying he won't be a match fit, rather than having to drop a player who has been a central element in his team since he took

charge 10 years ago.

It seems unlikely the 29-year-old Pogba would recover in time to face Austria and Denmark, anyway. Even if his knee improves, he'll be well short of match fitness.

So Deschamps could cite fitness — or hope the whole mess is cleared up in time when he submits his official World Cup squad in mid-October.

But even that won't stop the questions coming in Qatar, where Pogba's presence could impact Mbappe's form and thus weigh on the squad's general mood under intense media scrutiny.

Benzema is expected to win the Ballon d'Or as the world's top player, while Mbappe has won the French league's best player award three times.

They are the top priorities in Deschamps' team, while Pogba is perhaps not as valuable as he once was with Aurelien Tchouameni now impressing at Real Madrid.

Given how well Mbappe has combined with Benzema, would Deschamps want to disrupt it for the sake of loyalty toward a player who "even without this scandal" would have been doubtful to play in Qatar anyway? Then there's Pogba's brother, the 32-year-old Mathias.

They were close when growing up in a housing project with Florentin Pogba "Mathias' twin" in the eastern Paris suburb of Roissy-en-Brie.

All three played for the commune's local club at junior level, and the twins also had lower-level professional careers. That family unity now appears fractured.

The case became public after Mathias posted on social media last weekend with threats to share 'explosive' revelations about Paul's agent Rafaela Pimenta, and about Mbappe.

He posted another obscure and cryptic video with a voice-over containing violent language and a moody soundtrack on Tuesday night.

What if Mathias Pogba keeps posting such videos during the World Cup? It is a distraction Deschamps could probably do without.

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