

Reliance Com rolls out 3G services in HP

SHIMLA: Leading telecom service provider Reliance Communications (RCOM) has launched its 3G Services in major towns of Himachal Pradesh.

With the 3G rollout, the 3G services would be offered in Shimla, Solan, Baddi, Nalagarh, Paonta Sahib, Mandi, Kullu, Palampur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Dalhousie, Dharamshala, Macloedganj and Una.

It announced that the 3G services would be launched in Sundar Nagar and Manali shortly.

The company is targeting a national footprint of Reliance 3G services through associations with other like minded, quality 3G licensees and Reliance 3G is now available in all 13 circles in nearly 150 plus towns, a spokesperson of the group said.

The launch of Reliance 3G is an integral part of our Vision 2015 of creating a 'Wirefree Himachal' built on 'affordable 3G services for all' platform, he said

Personalization of services, simplification of tariffs and a content rich portfolio on the 'Best in Class' 3G Wireless Network will enable Reliance customers to get a much superior 3G service experience, significantly differentiated from others in the marketplace," said Sami Butt, Circle Head Wireless Business of the company. -PTI

Omar for revival of SFC to boost industrialization

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has emphasized on the need to rejuvenate the State Financial Corporation (SFC) to give the necessary boost to the industrialization in the state.

Chairing a meeting to review the measures to infuse new energy in the Corporation and making it a viable and effective tool to address the growth and development issues of industry in the state, the Chief Minister stressed on a clear road map in this regard.

Omar said SFC could prove highly effective in developing the MSME sector in the state and laying strong edifice for viable and profitable industries.

The Chief Minister said that strong credit institutions were imperative for paving the way to develop industries and ensure their sustenance. He said revival of SFC would be an important step in this direction.

The Chief Minister asked the Finance Department to move ahead and work out meaningful and viable strategy to achieve the goal. -PTI



Michael Boneham (R), President & MD, Ford India and Nigel Wark, Executive Director, Marketing, Sales & Service unveiling the Ford Fiesta during a press conference in New Delhi.

Interactive tool for autistic students launched

ASHOK OJHA

NEW JERSEY: 'Shanesh Colors', an interactive educational tracking and monitoring system was recently launched at Eden Institute in Princeton, which caters to the needs of individuals with autism.

Demonstrating the Shanesh

With three cameras mounted on it, the kiosk records users' response and stores the information for evaluation. "This method and technology maximizes results of all applied behavior activities without diminishing human touch," commented Parikh



At a function organized to commemorate Autism Awareness Month at Eden Institute in Princeton, NJ, seen from right are Doug Schoenberger, VP, Corporate and Public Affairs, Verizon, NJ Assemblyman Upendra Chivukula, Andy Armstrong, Director of Development at Eden Autism Services, Ann Lustenberg, Director, External Affairs, Verizon, Nish Parikh, CEO, WebTeam Corporation and Architect of Shanesh Colors Program and Helal Parikh, President, Rangam Consultants. (Photo by Ashok Ojha)

Colors kiosk to a small group of supporters, Nish Parikh the brain behind the software and CEO of WebTeam Corporation that developed the method and the system, said, "Shanesh serves the supple-

mental intervention requirement of teachers who need to monitor physical movements of students and deliver individualized intervention in the classroom. I believe our global patent pending method

and technology is going to revolutionize the special needs education world."

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for evaluation. "This method and technology maximizes results of all applied behavior activities without diminishing human touch," commented Parikh.

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Tata came close to getting married four times

NEW DELHI: Revealing one of the best kept secrets of his personal life, the bachelor industrialist Ratan Tata has said that he had fallen in love and had come seriously close to getting married as many as four times.

But in the hindsight, he thinks it was not a bad thing to remain unmarried and the situation would have been more complex had he got married, Tata said in an interview to CNN International's Talk Asia program.

"When you asked whether I'd ever been in love, I came seriously close to getting married four times and each time it got close to there and I guess I backed off in fear of one reason or another," he said.

He replied in the affirmative

when asked whether he had ever been in love. When asked how many times, he replied, "seriously,



Ratan Tata

four times." Ratan Tata, 73, heads one of the

country's biggest business empires which comprise nearly 100 firms with revenues totaling about

**'I came seriously close to getting married four times and each time it got close to there and I guess I backed off in fear of one reason or another'**

USD 67 billion dollars. He is scheduled to retire in December,

2012 when he turns 75.

Asked to speak more about his love life, Tata said: "Well, you know one was probably the most serious was when I was working in the US and the only reason we didn't get married was that I came back to India and she was to follow me..."

"... and that was the year of the, if you like, the Indo-Chinese conflict and in true American fashion this conflict in the Himalayas, in the snowy, uninhabited part of the Himalayas was seen in the United States as a major war between India and China and so, she didn't come and finally got married in the US thereafter."

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## UP mango production down 73 pc due to poor weather

LUCKNOW: In what may leave a sour taste for mango lovers, Uttar Pradesh—known for producing Dussehri, Langda and Chausa varieties of the saccharine fruit—may witness up to 73 per cent decline in production due to adverse weather conditions.

"There was bumper production of about 30 lakh tonnes mangoes last year. But this year the production is likely to go down by one-third. We are expecting about eight to 10 lakh tonnes of mango production this year", President All India Mango Growers Association, Inqram Ali told PTI.

The mango belts in Uttar Pradesh, which include Lucknow (Lucknow, Malihabad, Bakshi-ka-Talaab), Saharanpur and Sambhal-Amroha-Muzaffarnagar districts have registered poor flowering this season due to which mango lovers will have to be disappointed, Ali said.

He said that they were trying to save the fruit on the trees but it was sure that the situation was unlikely to improve much and production would certainly come down.

Renowned Mango grower Haji Kalimullaha Khan, a Padma Shri awardee and known for develop-

ing a rare technique for growing more than 300 varieties of mangoes of different shapes, sizes and hues on one tree, when asked said he was deeply worried at the scenario of decline in mango production scenario.

"A bumper crop is always succeeded by an average crop, but this time the situation is worse than expected by us. The mango

clearly notice the change this time.

"The trees, which were laden with fruit last year now have considerably less number of mangoes", Khan said.

The Lucknow belt, which produces world famous Dussehri mangoes besides Langda and Chausa, alone comprises 30-40 per cent of the state's annual

**'A bumper crop is always succeeded by an average crop, but this time the situation is worse than expected by us. The mango growers will be witnessing losses this season due to less flowering in trees due to adverse climatic condition', Khan, who owns an orchard in Malihabad, said**

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He said just a visit to the mango orchards in Malihabad, known for producing the Dussehri variety, earlier registered under the Geographical Indication (GI) Act for its unique sweet taste and fragrance, one can

mango production.

During 2010, the total arrival of mango in the market from Lucknow region was roughly 87,000 tonnes. The corresponding figures for 2008 and 2009 stood at 52,000 tonnes and 34,000 tonnes, respectively, official sources said.

Delhi is the biggest market for Uttar Pradesh mangoes, followed by Punjab, they said. -PTI

## Interactive tool for autistic students launched

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Scrolling over various features and activities of 'Shanesh', Parikh continued, "Individualized education is provided with the help of touch screen and animation technology. The program allows students to respond to animated characters on the screen while their responses are monitored by administrators or teachers. The reports and recorded video are accessible to experts for further analysis and improvements."

The group was given a guided tour of Eden Institute where students of different age groups and diverse needs are trained and educated under clinicians and instructors.

In the transition room Kirsten Meehan, Lead Teacher, was monitoring her students, who were enjoying the audio and visuals that appeared on Shanesh color kiosk with every touch of her finger. Once the student answered all questions a character appeared on the screen to reward the student with a colorful trophy, balloon or

candy as incentive to encourage her moving on to the next activity.

"The tool was introduced six months ago for children of age group 13-18. We are in the process of analyzing data generated

**'It is important to teach them lifespan needs. Once they enter their late teens and twenties, students can be trained in different skills, such as, copying, shredding and other office jobs'**

through this supplemental tool that we are using in our transition classroom," said Meehan. "Now we are ready to enter in the second phase of the program."

The group was shown classrooms where students were pro-

vided lifespan needs. "It is important to teach them lifespan needs. Once they enter their late teens and twenties, students can be trained in different skills, such as, copying, shredding and other office jobs. They achieve competency to work in the community as volunteers or paid workers," Melinda McAleer, Chief Development Officer of Eden Autism Services, pointed out.

Founded in 1975, Eden began as a small, family oriented school for individuals with autism.

Anna Lustenberg of Verizon, the sponsors of Shanesh Colors at Eden, said, "It is a great feeling watching them actively involved in Individualized Educational activities. We are very proud to be part of such an initiative."

Acknowledging the support extended by Verizon Foundation implementing Shanesh project at Eden, Parikh commented, "We truly appreciate the opportunity provided by Verizon Foundation and Eden Institute to pilot our innovative intervention technology."

## Wheat procurement down by 75 pc so far this year

NEW DELHI: Wheat procurement has declined by 75 per cent to 13.04 lakh tonnes so far this year as arrivals are yet to pick up in Haryana and Punjab, which together made up for nearly three-fourth of the central pool in 2010.

The procurement stood at 51.2 lakh tonnes in the year-ago period.

Food Corporation of India (FCI) had procured 22.5 million tonnes in the entire 2010-11 marketing year (April-March), of which Punjab had contributed the most at 10.2 million tonnes followed by Haryana at 6.34 million tonnes.

Procurement in Haryana and Punjab, which generally starts from April 1, has been very low because of less arrival of crop in markets owing to delay in harvesting.

In Haryana, FCI and other state agencies have procured 2.62 lakh tonnes till April 12 as against 28.32 lakh tonnes in the same period last year. Arrivals of wheat in the state has declined to 2.63 lakh tonnes against 28.32 lakh tonnes in the review period.

The procurement in Punjab so far is only 8,819 tonnes as com-

pared with 9.45 lakh tonnes in the corresponding period of last year.

In Madhya Pradesh, the procurement has declined to 10.17 lakh tonnes so far this year against 12.93 lakh tonnes in the year-ago period.

This is despite the state gov-

**Procurement in Haryana and Punjab, which generally starts from April 1, has been very low because of less arrival of crop in markets owing to delay in harvesting**

ernment paying Rs 100 per quintal more to farmers than the minimum support price (MSP) fixed by the Centre at Rs 1,120 per quintal.

FCI expects the procurement to touch 26.2 million tonnes in 2011-12 marketing year on the back of record wheat production of 84.27 per cent in 2010-11 crop years (July-June). -PTI

## Tata came close to getting married four times

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Asked why he never got married, Tata said: "Each of the occasions (the four times he was close to getting married, but did not) were different, but in hindsight when I look at the people involved; it wasn't a bad thing what I did. I think it may have been more complex had the marriage taken place."

Asked whether any of the people he was in love with were still in the city, he replied in the affirmative, but declined to speak any further on the matter.

"Oh, well I'd certainly because of the people that are here, of course this may be aired in the US, so I'd be in trouble, whatever I do, so I think I'd better stop here," he added. -PTI



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