

Sustainable Sand Mining: A Call for Responsible Practices

Sand, a vital natural resource, ranks second only to water in terms of consumption. Its relentless extraction, driven by the ever-increasing demand for construction, poses significant environmental challenges. Unregulated sand mining, particularly from riverbeds, can have severe consequences, the extent of which is determined by extraction rates and methods.

The unbridled extraction of sand from riverbeds leaves an indelible mark on the environment. The severity of these impacts can be catastrophic without proper regulation. Recent research by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar, underscores the potential of scientific mining along rivers to mitigate the damage caused by floods. The study suggests that regulated mining could have increased the river's storage capacity, reducing the magnitude of losses suffered by Punjab residents during this year's monsoon.

Editorial

Illegal mining not only depletes sand resources but also disrupts natural river flow, creating ditches that exacerbate environmental degradation. Effective policies for sustainable sand extraction necessitate comprehensive data on mining effects. The Punjab government, recognizing this need, engaged IIT Ropar to assess sediment deposits post-monsoon. The institute recommends a regulatory framework, employing drone technology to map riverbeds and identify unexpected depressions. To curb illicit activities, the digitization of land transactions is proposed, scrutinizing purchases near riverbanks.

Support for research into sustainable sources of construction-grade sand is imperative. Collaborating with premier institutes focused on environmental preservation and infrastructure protection can facilitate an audit of sand extraction practices. However, caution is advised regarding claims of untapped sand and mineral potential in Punjab. Rather than expanding mining operations, the emphasis should be on enforcing existing regulations and improving management at authorized mining sites.

To ensure responsible sand mining, policy guidelines should advocate optimal distances between mining sites, tailored to the river's width and replenishment rate. This approach prioritizes environmental sustainability over indiscriminate extraction. The call for sustainable sand mining practices resonates as a critical imperative. Collaboration with research institutions, adoption of advanced technologies, and stringent policy enforcement are essential steps toward preserving this invaluable resource and mitigating the environmental impacts of its extraction.

Bollywood Actor Vicky Kaushal Promotes 'Sam Bahadur' in Kolkata!

Kolkata, Bollywood actor Vicky Kaushal was spotted promoting the upcoming film 'Sam Bahadur,' based on the life of India's first Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, against the backdrop of the 1971 India-Pakistan war. The promotion event took place in Kolkata, where Vicky received an enthusiastic welcome from his fans.



Vicky Kaushal, who portrays the role of Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw in the film, first visited the Eastern Command Headquarters Fort William to promote the film. Notably, Sam Manekshaw had served as the head of the Eastern Command during his military career. Later, the 'Sam Bahadur' actor made an appearance at Bhawanipur College in Kolkata, where approximately 3500 students were already gathered. The energy and excitement of the students were palpable as Vicky played the trailer of his film and the song 'Badhte Chalo.' During this interaction, Vicky witnessed the high spirits of the students and ensured that their enthusiasm remained unbridled. He also promised to meet everyone in theaters along with 'Sam Bahadur' and expressed gratitude for the love he received from the audience. The film, directed by Meghna Gulzar, is set to hit theaters on December 1st and features Vicky Kaushal alongside Fatima Sana Shaikh, Sanya Malhotra, Neeraj Kabi, Edward Sonnenblick, and Jaishankar Ayyub in prominent roles. 'Sam Bahadur' is produced under the banner of RSVP Movies, with Ronnie Screwvala leading the production.

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'Sanam' Bhojpuri Film's Rapid Shooting in Gorakhpur

Gorakhpur, Under the banner of Ratnakar Kumar, a globally recognized name, the shooting for the romantic Bhojpuri film 'Sanam' is progressing swiftly in Gorakhpur. Directed by Ananjay Raghuraj, the film features Bollywood actor Rahul Sharma in a leading role, alongside Meghashree.



Vinod Mishra, and Sanjeev Mishra. Producer Ratnakar Kumar, while discussing the making of the Bhojpuri film 'Sanam,' expressed, "Creating good and commercial films is my priority. Every film made under the 'World Wide' banner is crafted based on the emotions and demands of the audience, with a focus on excellent subjects.

In line with this, our next film 'Sanam' is a splendid mix of romance and social nuances. The story is fantastic, and the making of the film is happening on a grand scale. The star cast is also remarkable. The entire team of the film is outstanding, and we hope to release the film by the end of this year.

HDFC Bank Marks International Fraud Awareness Week

Udaipur: HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank, hosted a one-day conference on 'Banking/Financial Cybercrime Prevention and Detection' in collaboration with Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), to commemorate International Fraud Awareness Week (IFAW). This is the 4th year in a row that HDFC Bank has been actively contributing to Cyber Fraud Awareness during the IFAW.

Through this conference, HDFC Bank aims to provide a platform for experts, practitioners, policymakers and stakeholders to share their insights, experiences and best practices on cybercrime prevention and generate concrete and actionable recommendations for enhancing cyber security and resilience.

The Conference was attended by eminent dignitaries from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, IIPA, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), National Cyber Security Coordinator (NCSC), CERT-

in, Delhi Police, Haryana Police, Uttar Pradesh Police and senior officials from leading banks and financial intermediaries.

Shri S N Tripathi DG, IIPA (Retd. IAS) said, "In the digital age, the battle against cybercrime requires a united front. Collaboration and awareness should be our strongest shields. By encouraging this kind of collaboration and recognition, we can fortify our defenses and work towards a secure and resilient financial landscape.

We are positive that this initiative will strengthen dialogues and to come up with recommendations to enhance cybersecurity that can protect individuals and organizations from the increasing menace of cybercrime. Let us stand together against cyber threats, ensuring the safety and trust of individuals and organizations alike."

Speaking on the occasion Mr. Prashant Mehra, Group Head, Retail Portfolio Management and Fraud Control, HDFC Bank said, "Cybercrime is a serious threat

to the privacy and well-being of individuals and organizations as well as to national security. It is imperative to raise awareness on cyber frauds and HDFC Bank's 'Stay Safe, Stay Vigil' campaign is yet another initiative by the Bank to do so. HDFC Bank has been conducting Cyber Fraud Awareness Workshops under the Secure Banking initiative at various locations across the country over the past four years. The Bank has also been educating people about safe banking practices that would protect them from being victims of fraud. Through this conference our aim is to foster dialogue and collaboration among the participants and to generate concrete and actionable recommendations for enhancing cyber security and resilience."

On the sidelines of the conference, HDFC Bank unveiled industry's first transaction verification method which operates over WhatsApp. This allows verification without voice information by customers. This will be launched for customers before



the end of the year.

During the event, experts shared insights and laid emphasis on building a robust and secure financial ecosystem which can proactively detect and combat digital frauds. The sessions stressed on the importance of cybersecurity awareness and customer protection; strategy to deal with mule accounts by banks; use of technology in predictive modelling on cyber frauds.

According to National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, more than 52,900 cyber-crime cases were registered in 2021 in India. Out of this approx. 60% cases pertained to financial frauds. In a presentation DoT stated that cybercrime will cost

increase awareness on all types of frauds and the importance of not divulging confidential information, in order to prevent falling prey to fraudsters.

Over the past four years, HDFC Bank has conducted over 10,000 Cyber Fraud Awareness Workshops as part of its Secure Banking Initiative to promote safe digital banking practices. These workshops are aimed at educating customers, law enforcement agencies, senior citizens, Self-Help Groups, educational institutions, vendors, partners and employees, among others.

The Bank encourages customers to take a pledge to adopt safe banking habits while transacting digitally and avoid sharing their confidential banking information with anyone. It educates them on the need to refrain from clicking unverified links. In case a customer falls prey to frauds, they must get in touch with their respective branch immediately and call 1930 (Helpline number by National Cybercrime Reporting Portal).

Film 'Animal' Creates Buzz with Special Cut Projection on Burj Khalifa!



The much-anticipated film 'Animal,' produced by Bhushan Kumar and Krishan Kumar's T-Series, Murad Khetani's Cine1 Studios, and Pranay Reddy Vanga's Bhadrakali Pictures, has created a spectacle with a special cut projection on the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa. The cinematic magic of 'Animal' transformed this projection into a mega canvas, capturing the attention of fans gathered in Dubai. Actors Ranbir Kapoor, Bobby Deol, and producer Bhushan Kumar, along with other notable figures, graced the event at the Center

Stage in Dubai.

Shiv Channa and Pranay Reddy Vanga also added to the grandeur of the event with their presence. Previously, the film had garnered attention by projecting its teaser on the iconic Times Square in Manhattan, showcasing the film's visuals on the digital billboards and drawing global interest. 'Animal' boasts an ensemble cast, including Ranbir Kapoor, Rashmika Mandanna, Bobby Deol, and Anil Kapoor. The film is set to release on December 1st in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam.

Nexus Select Trust Shows Strong Performance

Udaipur: Nexus Select Trust, India's first listed retail real estate investment trust (REIT), has announced its financial results for the quarter ending September 30, 2023. The board of directors of Nexus Select Management Pvt. Ltd., the manager of Nexus Select Trust, reviewed and approved the financial results during a board meeting.

Financial Year 2024 Q2 The Trust demonstrated strong operational performance with a leased occupancy (retail) of 97%, a growth of 18% in tenant sales (compared to the same period last financial year), robust net operating income at Rs. 3,909 million (17% increase from the previous year), and an advancing direction towards achieving the projections for FY 2024. Retail leased occupancy

improved by 120 basis points compared to September 2022, maintaining a strong balance with a 14% lower LTV, attractive cost of debt at 8.3%, AAA/stable rating, and no near-term matured debt. The announcement of the first distribution of Rs. 4,521 million, translating to Rs. 2.98 per unit, is for the period from May 19, 2023, to September 30, 2023, and will be paid as 62% profit share (tax-free), 28% as interest, and 10% as SPV date amortization (tax-free at distribution). The trust has also signed non-binding term sheets to acquire three Grade-A shopping centers in South India. Our GRESB score is now 86/100, an increase of 10 points from the previous year.

Dalip Sahgal, Executive Director and CEO of Nexus Select Trust, commented

on the strong start to the financial year 2024's first quarter and continued momentum into the second quarter. He stated that the robust 18% growth in the same period as the last financial year reflects the quality and scale of our strong organic growth strategy. Expressing happiness over the announcement of the first distribution of Rs. 4,521 million, translating to Rs. 2.98 per unit, for the period from May 19, 2023, to September 30, 2023, he emphasized that it is a 100% payout for this period.

While maintaining their focus on organic growth, they have signed a non-binding term sheet for the acquisition of three malls in South India, reflecting their commitment to delivering the best for their customers.

Aryan Babbar to Play the Main Antagonist in Bhojpuri Film 'Rajaram'

The shooting of the Bhojpuri film 'Rajaram,' produced under the banner of Technician Film Factory, is currently underway in the picturesque locations near Ayodhya and the surrounding areas of Gorakhpur. Aryan Babbar, who has previously shared the screen with Salman Khan in the film 'Reddy,' will be seen in the role of the main antagonist in 'Rajaram,' challenging Bhojpuri film star Khesari Lal Yadav.

Directed by Parag Patil and Rakesh Roushan Singh, the film boasts a talented cast and crew, including DOP R.R. Prince, writer Arvind Tiwari, music composer Krishna Bhardwaj, PRO Ranjan Sinha, and Marketing Head Vijay Yadav. In addition to Aryan Babbar, the film features an ensemble cast that includes Khesari Lal Yadav, Rahul



Sharma, Sonika Gauda, Sapna Chauhan, Subodh Seth, Vinod Mishra, KK Goswami, Sanjay Pandey, Amit Shukla, JP Singh, Dr. Yadavendra Yadav, Sanjeev Mishra, Deepak Sinha, Bhanu Pandey, and Nisha Tiwari,

showcasing their acting prowess.

The film is expected to present a riveting clash between Aryan Babbar and Khesari Lal Yadav, adding excitement and anticipation among Bhojpuri cinema enthusiasts.

Bollywood Legend Awards 2023 Event to be Organized on December 2nd

Kali Das Pandey, the founder/director of Maharashtra's renowned social service organization Krishna Chauhan Foundation (KCF), is set to organize the 5th season of the 'Bollywood Legend Awards 2023' on December 2nd. The event will take place at Mayor Hall in Andheri (West), Mumbai. The award ceremony aims to honor distinguished individuals from Bollywood, including artists and technicians, alongside notable journalists.

Dr. Krishna Chauhan, recently acclaimed as the Showman for his involvement in the award ceremony, had previously organized a Diwali Milan program at Mayor Hall. The event was attended by several personalities from Bollywood, including singer Dr. Anjali, singer Mangesh, graphic designer R. Rajpal, author P.K. Gupta, Pappu Kumar, media personality Dr. Kewal Kumar, Ghazi Moyn, Dilip Patel, and press photographer Dinesh, among others. During the Diwali Milan program, Dr. Krishna Chauhan presented special Diwali gifts to many attendees.



Dr. Krishna Chauhan, active as a filmmaker in the film industry for the past two decades, has been contributing both as a filmmaker and in social activities. His latest music video, 'Zikr Tera,' has been successful in capturing the hearts of the youth. Additionally, his upcoming horror thriller film, 'Atma Dot Com,' featuring the acclaimed Bollywood music composer Dilip Sen, is soon to go on the floors.

Bhojpuri Film 'Vivah 3' to Release on the Occasion of Chhath Puja

Under the banners of Yashi Films and Renu Vijay Films Entertainment, the eagerly awaited Bhojpuri film 'Vivah 3' is set to be showcased across Bihar on November 20th, coinciding with the auspicious occasion of Chhath Puja. Subsequently,



on November 24th, the film will be released nationwide. The previous installments, 'Vivah' and 'Vivah 2,' were both super-hits, garnering immense popularity. Now, all eyes are on the third installment directed by Rajneesh Mishra.

The cinematography for this Bhojpuri film is by Mahendra Sherla, with action direction by S. Mallesh, lyrics by Rajneesh Mishra, Prabhu Tiwari, and Abhijeet Mishra, music composition by Rajneesh Mishra, choreography by Mona Sheikh, Manoj Gupta, and Lucky Vishwakarma. The film is co-produced by P.R.O. Ranjan Sinha, Dr. Sandeep, and Sushant Ujjwal.

Starring Pradeep Pandey Chintu and Aamrapali Dubey, along with Sanyukta Ray, Avdhesh Mishra, Sanjay Pandey, Rohit Singh Matru, Sujan Singh, Anita Rawat, Manoj Dwivedi, Rajneesh Jha, Nisha Singh, Avinash Tiwari, special song by Yamini Singh, and featuring special appearances by Dinesh Lal Yadav and Babloo Khan.