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AMUSEMENT INDUSTRY NEWSLETTER

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VGP Marine Kingdom reopens with more zeal.

At VGP, there was much to celebrate with the announcement from the Tamil Nadu government allowing theatres and entertainment centres to open from 10th November 2020. While VGP Marine Kingdom was already partially functional offering home aquariums, private candle light dinners, scuba diving apart from keeping the fish healthy, implementing the COVID-19 safety protocols was all that was remaining to get visitors back to our aquarium. Following the guidelines put forth by the Tamil Nadu Government, the same was swiftly put into place.

On the day of re-opening, the visitors were very co-operative, right from temperature checks and hand sanitisation at the gate to following the visible display signs that encourage social distancing. Daily sanitisation of the premises and good maintenance of the exhibits has definitely encouraged more patrons to tell their friends and family, as the visitor count is increasing over the days.

Wonderla Holidays shares rise 12% as Bangalore theme park opens water rides

WONDERLA PARKS AND RESORTS

Wonderla Holidays share price rose 12 percent intraday on November 18 after its Wonderla Bangalore opened for water rides from November 20, 2020.They announced that the water rides at the theme park will be open to the public from November 20, 2020. The dry rides have already been operating since November 13. The park will be reducing the entry limit to 4000 from its original capacity of 10,000 per day for safety reasons.

As a re-opening offer the entry price of the park has been reduced to Rs 699 inclusive of GST, for all the ride access for unlimited times. Park will be functional only on weekends and holidays, from Friday to Sunday and as per the government safety guidelines few of the water rides will not be operational, company said in the release.

(Source : www.moneycontrol.com)

FUNCITY now OPENS its 19 outlets post COVID lockdown

One of the most popular brand of entertainment centre – FUNCITY has a total of 25 Fun City outlets and 3 Tridom stores. Post the unexpected lockdown, they are back in action with stores reopening; 1 in Gurgaon, 4 in Karnataka, 4 in Tamilnadu, 3 each in Punjab & Uttar Pradesh, 2 in Gujarat and their Tridom Stores at Gurgaon and Bangalore.

FUNCITY follows all SOPs and Safety measures like daily sanitization of the store and rides, masks and temperature checks, Social distancing through markings and cashless payments. They have also taken a mobile first approach and launched the all new "Fun City India mobile App" which is available in iOS & Play store which has some great new features like recharge, check balance, validity, PlayBox and more.

They are happy that the customers have shown their trust by visiting the facility and are delighted with the FUN experience.

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A Roller Coaster Ride and the New Normal for India's Theme Parks

The Indian amusement park industry that directly employs a minimum of 80,000 persons is in limbo with job losses, pay cuts and small parks that have shut permanently. Following their unprecedented closure amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the industry is opening up in phases, struggling to draw crowds in a new 'normal' with increased expenses, safety and health regulations along with reduced operative hours and limited tickets.

Amusement parks, the annual hub for thrill-seekers, have always meant heady adventures, screams of excitement and people emerging giddily from roller-coaster rides. As per the unlock guidelines, children below the age of 10 and adults over 65 have been advised to stay at home. Theme park authorities are now grappling to protect their patrons, staff and also find the right recipe to draw visitors. The new normal has meant online pre-booked admissions, bright markers showing where to stand, social distancing and temperature screening of all visitors and employees at the entry point. Park operators are also pushing for contactless transactions with food orders and menus on apps.

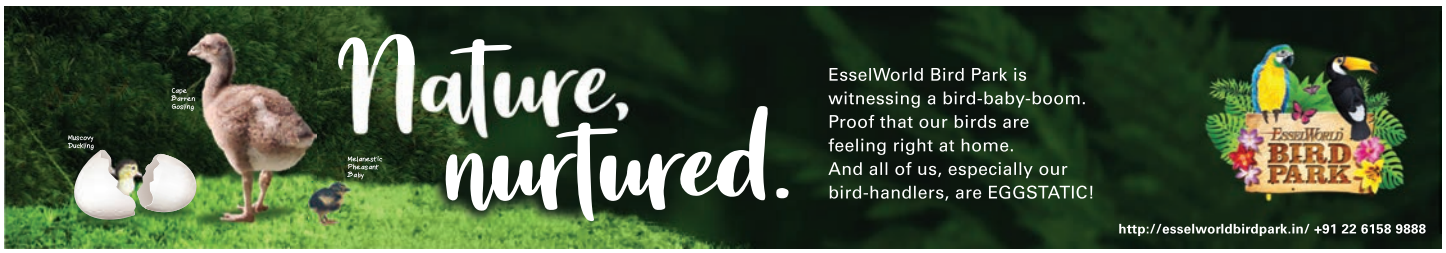
(Source : www.thewire.in)

Families of the Exotic Birds is growing at the park.

India's first Interactive Bird Park that was launched in April 2019 houses more than 500 exotic birds of 60 different species. With a tropical rain forest theme of the Park, these Birds have made EsselWorld Bird Park their natural habitat and are extending their family. This year, Cockatoos, one of the big flying birds had a little baby for the first time through a natural breeding.

Moreover, joining the new baby birdie clan were Golden Pheasants, Monk Parakeets & Cockatiels. Monk Parakeets and Cockatiels have bred for the second time since their arrival to the Park while Golden Pheasants have bred thrice.

Interestingly, the Cape Barren Geese were the first terrestrial Birds in the Park to give babies through natural breeding and have been breeding every winter season since then. However, the Zebra Doves breed round the year and have now grown by 70-80% of their population in the Park.



Museums rely on generosity of paying members and loyalty schemes to survive pandemic

In the wake of the Covid-19 crisis, cash-strapped UK cultural institutions are relying on their fee-paying membership and Friends loyalty schemes more than ever. Some venues are counting on the goodwill of their members, renewing payments without offering extensions; these include the Royal Academy of Arts (RA), the British Museum, the Southbank Centre and the National Gallery. The RA is particularly vulnerable as it receives no funding from the government; the situation has also been exacerbated by the second lockdown imposed by the government across England which runs until 2 December.

(Source : www.theartnewspaper.com)