



the pioneer

Established 1865

BHUBANESWAR, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹4

www.dailypioneer.com

PUBLISHED FROM: DELHI | LUCKNOW | BHOPAL | BHUBANESWAR | RANCHI | RAIPUR | CHANDIGARH | DEHRADUN | HYDERABAD | VIJAYWADA

INSIDE

SPORTS 11
DEEPIKA'S BRACE HANDS
INDIA 3-2 WIN OVER
SOUTH KOREA



Polls on platter, all eyes on Wayanad



Women from the tribal community give a traditional welcome to a polling official before he leaves for his allotted polling station on the eve of the 1st phase of Jharkhand Assembly elections, in Ranchi, Tuesday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/RANCHI/WAYANAD

Boyed by the success of Assembly elections in Haryana right after the Lok Sabha polls, a high voltage campaign led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, several Union Ministers and Chief Ministers has set the tone and tenor of the first phase of Assembly elections in Jharkhand, and bypolls in 31 seats spread across 10 states, and the most watched Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency, which will be held on Wednesday amidst tight security arrangements. The second phase of

Assembly polls and bypolls is scheduled on November 20 which will see second phase of Jharkhand, single phase Maharashtra and several bypoll Assembly pockets including that in Uttar Pradesh. Counting will be held on November 23, as per the Election Commission dateline. Though these by-elections are not going to have any bearing on the governments, they are seen as a big test for the Congress and the INDIA Bloc which failed to put up a united show in the recent Haryana Assembly polls. Most of these seats fell vacant after the sitting MLAs contested the Lok Sabha elections and won

while in some constituencies, the bypolls are being held due to death of the representatives. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is making her electoral debut from Wayanad vacated by her sibling Rahul Gandhi who also won from the Rae Bareilly parliamentary constituency. Voting will be held in seven seats in Rajasthan, six in West Bengal, five in Assam, four seats in Bihar, three in Karnataka, two seats in Madhya Pradesh, and one seat each in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala and Meghalaya. Votes will be counted on November 23. Though polling was also scheduled for two seats in Sikkim, Soreng-Chakung and Namchi-Singhithang, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) nominees Aditya Golay and Satish Chandra Rai have already been declared unopposed after their rivals withdrew from the race. In Rajasthan, bypolls will be held in Jhunjhunu, Dausa, Deoli-Uniara, Khinvsar, Chaurasi, Salumber and Ramgarh. In Salumber and Ramgarh, the bye-elections were necessitated due to the demise of the sitting MLAs, Amritlal Meena (Bharatiya Janata Party) and Zubair Khan (Congress) respectively. The ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) in West Bengal had won five of the six seats, Taldangra, Sitai-SC, Naihathi, Haroa, Medinipur, and Madarihat - in the 2021 Assembly polls. The Madarihat seat was held by the BJP.



ED raids multiple locations in Jharkhand, WB

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ RANCHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday raided multiple locations in poll-bound Jharkhand apart from West Bengal in a money laundering investigation linked to alleged illegal infiltration of Bangladeshi nationals, official sources said. A total of 17 places are being covered in the two neighbouring states by the Ranchi office of the federal probe agency, a day before the first phase of polling in Jharkhand. Visuals of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel positioned outside a hotel located on Bariatu Road in Ranchi and a resort in the city were captured by press teams as ED teams scoured for documents, ledger entries and financial records inside. The ED in September filed a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to probe an instance of alleged infiltration and trafficking of some Bangladeshi women into Jharkhand leading to the generation of alleged slush funds. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders have accused the State Government of aiding such infiltration leading to the altering of the demographic landscape of the tribal-dominated areas of Santhal Pargana and Kolhan regions during the recent poll campaign. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday accused the ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-led coalition of converting Jharkhand into a 'dharmashala' for Rohingyas and Bangladeshi infiltrators.

Overaged vehicles choking NCR

One crore end-of-life cars are still running on Delhi's roads

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

As there is no letup in worsening air pollution in Delhi and its neighbouring region as the air quality index here remains in the 'very poor' category for the past 13 days, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) directed to launch actions to remove highly polluting end-of-life (EoL) vehicles (petrol vehicles older than 15 years and diesel vehicles older than 10 years) still reported to be plying in Delhi. The National Capital Region (NCR) still has over one 1.06 Crore 'overage' vehicles (End of Life (EoL) running on the roads illegally and adding to the pollution. Of them, only 26,064 vehicles have been seized in 2023 and 6011 till September 2024. In Delhi, the transport sector is the most significant contributor at 15.496 per cent, as per the Decision Support System data by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM). The PM2.5 concentration is currently 40.4 times the World Health Organization (WHO) annual PM2.5 guideline value. Data shows there are 60,14,493 such vehicles in Delhi. Of them, only 24,706 have been impounded so far. A survey by the Delhi government in October estimates there are 15,00,000-2,00,000 EoL vehicles still on roads. An estimated 1.1 million vehicles enter and exit Delhi daily, further worsening the air quality. The traffic congestion caused by this vehicle influx also intensifies pollution, particularly nitrogen oxides (NOx), which account for 81 per cent of NOx pollution in Delhi. Data shows that during peak traffic hours (5 pm - 9 pm), when average traffic speed drops to 15 km/h, NO2 levels are 2.3 times higher than noon levels (12 pm - 4 pm) when traffic speed averages 21 km/h.



Photo: Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

These congestion-related emissions worsen air quality, especially during winter when inversion layers trap pollutants close to the ground. According to the Ministry of Road and Transport, Haryana has over 27.50 lakh while Uttar Pradesh has over 12.38 lakh such vehicles. Rajasthan has 6.06 lakh such vehicles. Transport department Officials said that there are a large number of EoL vehicles plying on the roads, causing traffic snarls here. In an order to Delhi, the Commission has directed that EoL vehicles should be denied fuel at petrol pumps and more importantly, immediate legal action should be taken against such vehicles, including impounding and further disposal in accordance with RVSF Rules, 2021 and other extant policies of the respective State Governments and the GNCT Delhi. "As a deterrent measure, all such EoL vehicles are identified through the Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera systems at petrol pumps. Delhi has piloted one such innovative and effective solution which envisages Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera systems which are in the process of being installed at all 500+

fueling stations in the capital city". "These cameras, besides capturing and displaying the registration details of all the vehicles that enter the premises of the fueling station, also have a provision of integration with VAHAN database and thus the status of "EoL" vehicles or vehicles without valid Pollution Under Control Certificate "PUCC" can be readily captured by the system. The system further has a provision for an audio message which is relayed in respect of such non-compliant vehicles entering the premises of the fueling station," it said. "In view of the high polluting nature of EoL vehicles and considering that such a large fleet, while de-registered, is still reported to be plying, NCR States / GNCT of Delhi, there is an urgent need to launch / intensify drives against such vehicles. While much more intensified "on-road" drives should be taken up to guard against such overage vehicles plying on roads or parked in public spaces, suitable technological interventions and intelligent solutions also need to be employed towards identification / detection of such EoL vehicles still running in the NCR," it said.



Canada temple cancels event amid protest threats

PTI ■ OTTAWA

The Brampton Triveni temple in Canada has cancelled a consular event after the Canadian police warned them of an "extremely high and imminent" threat level of violent protests. The Life Certificate event, organised by the Consulate General of India, Toronto, was scheduled for November 17 at the temple premises. It was part of the consulate's many camps for issuing Life Certificates for pension purposes. On Monday, the temple authorities said the event was cancelled due to "official intelligence from Peel Regional Police, stating that there is an Extremely High and Imminent Threat Level of violent protests". "...We must make the appropriate decision to cancel to ensure the safety of Brampton Triveni Mandir devotees, community visitors, and the general public," the temple authorities said in a statement. "We are deeply saddened that Canadians now feel unsafe coming to Hindu Temples in Canada," it added. Temple authorities called on Peel Police to address the threats being circulated against the temple and provide security guarantees to the Canadian Hindu community and the general public. The cancellation came almost a week after protestors carrying Khalistani flags clashed with devotees at a Hindu Sabha temple and disrupted an event co-organised by the temple authorities and the Indian Consulate at Brampton. Last week, the Consulate General of India in Toronto said it was cancelling some of its scheduled consular camps after the Canadian security authorities conveyed their inability to provide minimum security protection to its organisers. After the protests at the Hindu Sabha temple in Brampton on November 3, the Ministry of External Affairs said that New Delhi remains "deeply concerned" about the safety and security of Indian nationals in Canada. India condemned the attack with an expectation that those indulging in violence "will be prosecuted". The relations between India and Canada have come under severe strain following Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in September last year of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in Khalistan extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar's killing. New Delhi rejected Trudeau's charges as "absurd." Nijjar, a Canadian citizen, was designated a terrorist by India.

Bodies of two Meitei men recovered

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ IMPHAL

Bodies of two elderly men belonging to the Meitei community were recovered on Tuesday morning in Manipur's Jiribam district where a gunfight between suspected militants and security forces broke out a day before, police said. Operations are underway to trace three women and three children, who have been reported missing since the violence erupted in Jiribam on Monday, IGP (operations) I K Muivah said. The bodies of the two men, Laishram Balen and Maibam Kesho, were found lying in debris during a search operation in the Jakuradorh Karong area where a few shops were set on fire by suspected militants on Monday, another senior officer said. "The two elderly men belonging to the Meitei community died after the insurgents torched a few shops in the Jakuradorh Karong area," he said. The Jiribam district administration imposed prohibitory orders to avoid any untoward incident in the area, the officer said. A



shutdown has been observed since five am on Tuesday in Kuki-Zo majority areas in the hills to protest against killing of suspected insurgents in the gunfight with security personnel, another police officer said. The Kuki-Zo Council called for a total shutdown in the hill areas of the state from 5 am to 6 pm on Tuesday to express their "collective grief and solidarity for those who were brutally shot dead". The police had said 10 suspected militants were killed in the fierce gunfight with security forces on Monday after insurgents in camouflage uniforms, armed with sophisticated weapons, fired indiscriminately at a police station and an adjacent CRPF camp in Jiribam district. However, a senior officer had put the toll at 11.

New entrance exam series in January

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday announced that the Centre is introducing various reforms in the entrance examinations in the country beginning January and appealed to the state governments to extend their support for zero-error entrance tests. Pradhan said the Radhakrishnan panel has submitted its report outlining reforms in the National Testing



Agency (NTA) and to implement the recommendations, cooperation of states is essential. "I have appealed to all state government education secretaries. A new entrance exam series for the upcoming year will begin in January. Based on last year's experiences, the government has introduced numerous reforms," he told reporters on the sidelines of a national workshop on higher and technical education attended by secretaries of states and Union territories (UTs).

"The Radhakrishnan committee has submitted its recommendations and to implement it, the states' cooperation is essential. I have appealed to everyone on this matter, especially regarding entrance examinations. "Bringing examinations, especially entrance exams, to zero error is the responsibility of both the Government of India and the state governments. We will work as a team to build confidence in the children of our country," the education minister added.

Retail inflation rises to 6.21 per cent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Retail inflation rose to 6.21 per cent in October from 5.49 per cent in the preceding month mainly due to higher food prices, breaching the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) upper tolerance level, according to official data released on Tuesday. The consumer price index-based inflation was 4.87 per cent in October 2023. The National Statistics Office data showed that inflation in the food basket rose to 10.87 per cent in October from 9.24 per cent in September and 6.61 per cent in the year-ago month. The RBI, which kept the key short-term lending rate unchanged earlier this month, has been tasked by the government to ensure inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.



Tourists play in the snow at a ski resort after season's first snowfall at Kongdoori area of Gulmarg, in Baramulla district, Jammu and Kashmir, Tuesday

CM launches Pravasi Bharatiya website



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Tuesday embarked on a two-day trip to New Delhi in connection with launching of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas website.

The 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will be held in Bhubaneswar at the Janata Maidan from January 8 to 10 next year. Soon after his arrival in the national capital, the CM launched the website in the presence of External

Affairs Minister Dr S Jainshankar at the CB Muthamma Hall, Jawaharlal Bhawan. The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is being jointly organised by the Odisha Government and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

In Bhubaneswar Student leader, 2 aides held for attacking YouTuber

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A student leader and two others were arrested on Tuesday for allegedly attacking a YouTuber, Tapi Mishra, near the Saheed Nagar police station here. While the arrested student leader was identified as Itish Pradhan, the two others are Biplab Parida and Arpan Mishra. As per reports, Itish and others allegedly attacked Tapi and demanded Rs 50,000 from him. Based on Tapi's complaint, the Saheed Nagar police arrested the trio.



As per sources, YouTubers Tapi Mishra and Arpan Mishra had a feud over some reason. Arpan called Tapi and attacked him along with others near the Saheed Nagar police station. "I got a fake phone call in which a person impersonating self as the IIC of Saheed Nagar PS said that a complaint has been lodged against me and asked me to come to the police station. When I went to the police station, seven to eight persons came in two vehicles and attacked me with sharp-edged weapons and liquor bottles," Tapi alleged. "Somehow, I managed to grab one person among them and dragged him to the police station. Based on my complaint, three persons have been arrested and forwarded to court. The phone from which I was called is of Itish Pradhan," added Tapi.

Rehabilitation measures Deceased govt staff's kin may get Rs 30-40-lakh aid

If employment not possible
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In case of death of a government employee, the Odisha Government may take a significant decision regarding the rehabilitation of his or her family.

If employment-based rehabilitation is not possible, a lumpsum financial aid might be provided. Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan has indicated.

Speaking at an event, Harichandan mentioned that

according to the 1990 rehabilitation policy, if an employed family member passed away, another family member could be employed. However, changes were made in the policy in 2020 by the then government. This policy essentially meant no job to anyone. Consequently, situations were created where nobody received employment.

Harichandan explained that those whose family members died before 2020 were still being evaluated based on the 2020 rules. As a result, nobody received jobs. Those who applied for jobs faced legal cases

instead.

According to the minister, approval of the Law Department is necessary for such matters.

He further informed that a Cabinet meeting was recently held where there was much debate over the issue. Senior government officials including the Chief Secretary presented their arguments in the meeting.

Harichandan suggested that if the government can't provide jobs, a 'golden handshake' of Rs 30 to 40 lakh could be considered as part of the rehabilitation scheme.

The minister assured that the government's policies would be conducive for the welfare of the employees.

"As per the 1990 rehabilitation policy, when a government employee of the government died, one of his/her family members was getting the job. However, the government changed the policy in 2020. As per the new policy, a situation was created so that nobody would get the job under such circumstances. Now the government is considering to provide 'golden handshake' of Rs 30 to 40 lakh to a member of the family," said he.

Youth critical after attack in city



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Unidentified miscreants chased and attacked a youth with sharp weapons over past enmity at Badagada in Bhubaneswar on Monday night.

The victim was identified as Dipak Pradhan, a resident of Badagada village.

According to sources, Dipak was returning home at around 11 pm when the bike-borne masked miscreants intercepted him. Before, Dipak

could understand anything; they attacked him with knives and surgical blades, leaving him critically-injured.

Dipak sustained injuries in his back, hand and face in the attack.

On being informed about the incident, police reached the spot and launched an investigation based on the footage from the CCTV installed in the area.

However, the motive behind the attack on the youth was yet to be ascertained.

Three universities to get new VCs

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

New Vice-Chancellors will be appointed in three universities of Odisha soon. These varieties are Utkal University, Rama Devi University and Gangadhar Meher University.

As the tenures of the present heads of the universities end this month, Governor and Chancellor of universities Raghubar Das has asked the Higher Education Department to start the process for the appointment of the new Vice-Chancellors.

The Governor's office has

directed the department to complete the appointment process soon so that academic activities will not be affected in the three leading universities. As per sources, developmental and academic activities are often affected in the universities in the absence of Vice-Chancellors. Hence, the Governor's office has given emphasis on a speedy completion of the appointment process.

Earlier in 2020, the then Governor Prof Ganeshi had appointed Vice-Chancellors to six State-run universities.

Scribes meet Chief Secretary



Discuss journalist protection laws
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A delegation of journalists led by National Media Foundation chairman Rajendra Jain met Odisha Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja at the Lokseva Bhavan here.

The meeting included discussions on the implementation of the Journalist Protection Act in Odisha, similar to other States.

The Chief Secretary assured that he would study the Journalist Protection Acts in other States and make appropriate

decisions. Pension schemes for journalists, currently available in States like Rajasthan, were also discussed with a promise of a positive decision soon.

Demands for simplified accident and health insurance as well as accreditation for journalists were sympathetically considered by the Chief Secretary. The delegation included Sarat Chandra Behera, executive chairman of Odisha State of National Media Foundation, Sukirti Jain, senior advisor of National Media Foundation, and Dr OP Yadav, Media Officer of SAARC countries.

Sri Sri Univ's 11th Convocation 'Embrace life of wisdom, compassion, service'

Guru Ravi Shankar advises students
PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Sri Sri University hosted its 11th Convocation Ceremony on November 10. The event was graced by Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, lifetime president of the university.

Minister of State, Fisheries and Animal Resource Development, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of Odisha Gokulananda Malik joined the event as chief guest while the guest of honour was American Venture Capital Investor Dr Tim Drapper.

In his presidential address, Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar inspired the graduates, urging them to embrace a life of wisdom, compassion, and service. Chief guest Malik appreciated the university's meteoric rise



and its transformative contributions to global academia. He praised Sri Sri University's pursuit of academic distinction by saying this as a beacon of light.

President of Sri Sri University Prof Rajita Kulkarni spoke of the institution's pivotal role in attracting global talent to Odisha while radiating Odisha's cultural heritage to the world. She wished the graduating students good

luck. Guest of honour Dr Drapper taught the students the truth of life by giving them real life examples. Vice Chancellor Prof Tej Partap presented the university's annual report, highlighting strategic initiatives for future growth, while Executive Registrar Prof Anil Kumar Sharma addressed all the attendees.

The ceremony conferred degrees upon a distinguished cohort of 574 graduates, com-

prising 17 PhD awardees, 142 postgraduates and 415 undergraduates, while 31 exemplary Gold Medallists were recognized for their extraordinary scholastic achievements.

Chief Advisor to Governor Santosh Kumar Satpathy spoke about the necessity to bring back the glory of India through more partnerships among institutions, saying that SSU can play a pivotal role in the same.

NLSD observed in Jagatsinghpur dist

To raise awareness about free legal aid to needy
KAHNU NANDA ■ JAGATSINGHPUR

The National Legal Services Day (NLSD) was observed on Saturday at the Shree Jagannath High School in Nagaon block in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority, (DLSA), Jagatsinghpur.

The NLSD is observed on November 9 every year across the country as an occasion to give legal relief to weaker sections and emphasise the importance of accessible legal aid and justice for all.

The DLSA Secretary informed that the observance of this day is an essential milestone in ensuring that access to justice is not a privilege for just the affluent class but a right of all citizens, including those from downgraded and penniless backgrounds.

He said it is a landmark development within India's legal structure since 1995, aimed at providing free and competent legal services to those unable to afford them.

The DLSA gives service to individuals who are denied access to legal help due to the factors of poverty, ignorance and social stigma.

A one-act of play 'Domestic violence' was performed by school students.

IIT BBS hosts Yuva Manthan 2024



Features Model UN, Youth Parliamentary Debate, hackathon
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar recently organised Yuva Manthan 2024, a two-day experiential event encompassing a Model United Nations (YMUN), a Youth Parliamentary Debate (YPD) and a Yuva Manthan

Hackathon. The programme brought together students for an inspiring blend of debates, policy discussions and innovative competitions. The theme of this year's Yuva Manthan was 'Igniting India's Journey To 2047: Vision of a Developed India'.

The event was inaugurated on November 9 by Prof Shreepad Kalmakar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar, who stressed on the role of 'Communication, Collaboration and Critical Thinking' in the intellectual development of

youths of the nation.

The Model United Nations (YMUN) involved 60 participants across three committees. In the International Press (IP) committee, journalists and videographers ensured transparency and fair reporting of all discussions. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) committee saw delegates representing different countries in debates while the All-India Political Parties Meet (AIPPM) committee allowed students to represent native

political leaders, gaining insights into contemporary Indian politics and policymaking.

On November 10, the Youth Parliamentary Debate (YPD) provided a new platform for students to engage in parliamentary-style discussions. The participants delivered speeches on topics such as electoral reforms followed by an open debate. The Yuva Manthan Hackathon was themed 'Unleashing Youth Ingenuity and Vision through Innovation and Development'.

'Chinese' woman stopped from Srimandir



PNS ■ PURI

In a major security lapse, a foreign woman, suspected to be a Chinese, allegedly tried to enter the Jagannath Temple here on Tuesday. The identity of the devotee was yet to be ascertained. However, no police complaint was registered in this connection.

According to sources, the woman had managed to reach the Gumuta of the Srimandir before she was spotted by police. The cops then brought

her out of the temple as she complained of being man-handled.

She was suspected to be a Chinese or a Japanese, going by her appearance. She appeared to be in her late 60-70s and spoke in English.

The on-duty police officials politely asked her not to enter the temple again and left her outside the temple barricade.

As per the temple norms, non-Hindus and foreigners are not allowed inside the 12th century shrine.

NHRC to Railways 'Ensure toilets in EMU, MEMU trains'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the Chairman, Railway Board, to ensure toilet facilities in all the EMU and MEMU trains.

Considering a petition filed by advocate and rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy, the NHRC passed the order. Tripathy invited attention of the Commission towards hardship faced by the pregnant women, children, patients, senior citizens, the physically challenged and other passengers due to non-availability of toilets in EMU and MEMU trains of the Indian Railways. He further alleged that the Ministry of Railways has admitted that all the EMU and MEMU trains are running in the country without toilet facilities.

Tripathy requested intervention of the Commission to direct the Railways authorities to ensure toilets in all the trains including EMU and MEMU trains running in India. The NHRC asked the Chairman, Railway Board, to consider the basic human rights issues raised in the petition and ensure the needful action within a reasonable period.

Tripathy cited the response obtained from the Railways. It was stated the DEMU and MEMU coaches, which have been manufactured prior to 2009-10, do not have toilet facilities as there was no such policy for provision of toilets on these coaches. There is no plan for retrofitment of toilets in DEMU/MEMU coaches manufactured prior to 2009-10 as the same involves major modification in the coach structure.

Is BJP soft-peddalling issues of graft, crime?

In 5 months, no tangible move by govt against tainted BJD leaders
SRIKANTA K TRIPATHY ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Mohan Majhi government has completed over five months in office but, except for reshuffling of the bureaucracy, it has not taken any step against the corrupt BJD Neta or Babus who were hand in glove.

Yes, there were some motions around Pranab

Prakash Das over his secret chambers in the Government quarters allotted to him and all the fuss about the inquiries going on there. There was a hue and cry over another Jajpur leader, former Dharmasala MLA Pranab Balbantray over his Bale Bale Dhaba. But after a while, these chapters seem to have ended then and there.

In the run up to the 2024 General and Assembly elections, BJP's prime targets were former CM and BJD chief Naveen Patnaik and his lieutenant former IAS officer VK Pandian. The BJP leaders, including the Central and State

leaders, and even the PM, the Home Minister and several Central Ministers, apart from CMs of some BJP ruled States were all hammer and tongs against Patnaik and Pandian in their campaign rallies. While Patnaik was in the eye of the storm for promoting a non-Odia bureaucrat at the cost of the Odia leaders in his party and giving free reins to Pandian in matters of managing the elections, Pandian's growing stature in the State politics, his free use of the State exchequers for development projects and State wide tours for election campaigns were highlighted by the BJP to

take political mileage. Issues like rampant corruption; growing incidents of rape and murder, deterioration of law and order, besides the Ratna Bhandar key missing were repeatedly raised along with the ill-health of Naveen and possible takeover of Tamil Nadu-born Pandian as CM of Odisha if BJD won the polls. Above all, Odia Asmita was the key poll plank of the BJP, apart from many attractive schemes including Subhadra, paddy MSP hike to Rs 3,100 per quintal, old age pension hike, creation of jobs and more industries among others that touched the voters and the rest

was history.

However, five months after the new government by BJP was formed in Odisha, there is virtually no action against the tainted BJD leaders whose names did the rounds for all the wrong reasons. They are off the hook and roam freely.

The people of the State expected a lot from the BJP Government. Former Minister Naba Das's murder is still a mystery. The rape and murder cases in which names of BJD leaders like Dibya Shankar Mishra and Arun Sahu figured remain inconclusive. Ratna Bhandar issue is yet to be resolved to the satisfaction of all

as only the treasury has been opened and inventory of the valuables was done but the result is to be made public. Similarly, Pandian and Naveen are yet to be booked for the alleged misuse of the coffers while many BJD leaders and contractors who gulped crores in the various schemes of the past BJD Government are going scot-free.

It may be said that the new government has got a very short period of time to deal with such a big number of issues. But it does not seem the Mohan Government has made a good start yet. For, well-begun is half done.

In Jharsuguda Man dies by 'suicide' after online betting loss

NALINI SAHU ■ BHUBANESWAR

A 31-year-old man from Kendrapada district, identified as Achyutananda Sahoo, reportedly died by suicide after a significant financial loss in online betting.

Sahoo, who worked as a hotel staffer in Jharsuguda, took his life by jumping in front of a moving train near the Jharsuguda railway station.

Sources said Sahoo had



texted his mother about a personal loan of approximately Rs 25 lakh that he had taken. It was believed that he took the

drastic step due to the mounting pressure for repaying this debt.

Hotel facility manager Pradipta Kumar Sahu said, "When I spoke to him (Achyutananda) in the morning, he showed no signs of distress. He was the head cashier."

Later that evening, the hotel manager received a call from a member of Sahoo's family, informing him about a message Sahoo had sent to his

family. "I immediately informed the Jharsuguda Town police station and requested them to help locate him," the manager added.

Preliminary investigation, along with messages from Sahoo's phone, suggested he died by suicide due to financial losses from online betting. Jharsuguda GRP Inspector-in-Charge Santosh Mirdha said the actual cause of death would be confirmed by a post-mortem report.

In Baleswar Youth held for sexually assaulting married woman



After BJD fact-finding team meets SP

PNS ■ BALESWAR

The Nilgiri police on Monday arrested a youth who allegedly sexually assaulted a married woman at Kantabani under Dhubosila gram panchayat in Baleswar district.

Although the incident took place on November 7, it had been alleged that police did not take any action due to political reasons. However, police swung into action after a fact-

finding team of the BJD led by former Minister Snehangini Chhuria visited the village of the victim and held talks with her. Further, the team had discussions with Baleswar SP Raj Prasad regarding the issue demanding strict action against the accused. Later, the accused identified as Akash Bindhani was apprehended by police.

The other members of the fact-finding team included former Minister Tukuni Sahu, former MLA Rajashree Mallick, former MP Sarmistha Sethi and Basta MLA Subasini Jena.

In Brahmapur Protests against death of bizman owing to GST raids

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

A gold merchant of Jaipur is alleged to have died under mental pressure after raids at his residence and shop by the Goods and Services Tax (GST) officials.

On Friday, the Ganjam Chamber of Commerce strongly condemned the incident and demanded a high level inquiry along with stringent action against the culprits. In the morning, many members from different business associations and businessmen gathered at Kamalavari street from where they took out a procession, and marched through Sana Bazar, Hanuman Bazar, Urban Bank Road, Old Bus Stand, Khalikote University, Kamapalli and reached the office of the Revenue Divisional Commissioner. They submit-

ted a memorandum, addressed to Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, to the RDC.

Later, they reached the office of the GST Commissioner and held a demo.

On the occasion of Dhanteras, GST officials conducted raids on the residence and showroom of a gold merchant. Hence he was under mental pressure, which is alleged to have led to his death.

The agitating businessmen demanded for a high level inquiry into the Jeypore incident. At the same time they appealed to the authorities not to harass them intentionally. Under the leadership of president of the Chamber Epari Siba Prasad Rao, secretary V Santosh Kumar, coordinator Epari Tripati, a large number of businessmen participated in the rally.

'BJP grabbed power in Odisha by false promises'

BJD leaders slam Mohan gov't in Jajpur rally

PNS ■ JAJPUR

Giving many false promises during the last general and Assembly elections, the BJP came to power in Odisha and did just the opposite to its assurances in the last 5 months. The party betrayed the general public, many BJD leaders alleged here.

A Janasampark Padayatra was conducted by the BJD in Dharmasala constituency in Jajpur district on Sunday, starting from Santibazar to Dharmasala. The rally was organised under the leadership of BJD MLA Pranab Kumar Balabantray. Among others, MLA Pratap Deb, former Minister Sanjay Dasburma, Pritiranjana Ghadai, Pranab Prakash Das, MLA Pramila Mallick, MLA Biswaranjan Mallick and former MP Sharmistha Sethy



attended as guests on the occasion.

The performance of the BJP government in the first 100 days shows that the State's development has gone two steps backward during the period. Without getting down to the serious business of governance, the government has been busy changing names of schemes. Referring to the BJP government's flagship scheme Subhadra Yojana, the leaders said women of the State have been cheated.

The BJP had promised vouchers of Rs 50,000 to every woman in Odisha, but the

In Jajpur Postmaster usurps Rs 50L from depositors' accounts

AKSHAYA ROUT ■ JAJPUR

The Postmaster of Kuanalo Branch Post Office under the Binjharpur police station in Jajpur district is absconding after allegedly misappropriating around Rs 50 lakh from accounts of depositors.

Kodandadhara Boitai is accused of siphoning off the money from the accounts of more than 50 depositors.

Irate depositors gheraoed the office of the Assistant Su-

perintendent of Posts in Jajpur town on this issue on Monday.

The forgery came to light when a woman depositor, Sabitarani Das, arrived at the Branch Post Office to withdraw money from her account for her daughter's marriage last month. Although Das had Rs 1.4 lakh in her account, she could not withdraw the sum due to insufficient funds. When she confronted Boitai, the latter could not furnish a satisfactory reply. "The post-

master had collected passbooks of several depositors including mine on the plea of entering records of quarterly interest in September. The passbooks have been with him since then. When I came to withdraw money on October 21, Boitai asked me to come after two days on the plea that all passbooks were sent to the Jajpur Head Post Office for interest calculation," said Das.

When Boitai went into hid-

ing on October 23, Das found that a total of Rs 1.4 lakh was withdrawn from her account in seven installments by Boitai by allegedly forging her signature.

Jajpur Postal Division Assistant Superintendent Harisankar Subudhi said, "We came to know about it last month. A departmental inquiry into the matter has been launched. Stern action will be taken against the erring official as per law."

BJD leaders slam Mohan gov't in Jajpur rally

PNS ■ JAJPUR

Giving many false promises during the last general and Assembly elections, the BJP came to power in Odisha and did just the opposite to its assurances in the last 5 months. The party betrayed the general public, many BJD leaders alleged here.

A Janasampark Padayatra was conducted by the BJD in Dharmasala constituency in Jajpur district on Sunday, starting from Santibazar to Dharmasala. The rally was organised under the leadership of BJD MLA Pranab Kumar Balabantray. Among others, MLA Pratap Deb, former Minister Sanjay Dasburma, Pritiranjana Ghadai, Pranab Prakash Das, MLA Pramila Mallick, MLA Biswaranjan Mallick and former MP Sharmistha Sethy

attended as guests on the occasion.

The performance of the BJP government in the first 100 days shows that the State's development has gone two steps backward during the period. Without getting down to the serious business of governance, the government has been busy changing names of schemes. Referring to the BJP government's flagship scheme Subhadra Yojana, the leaders said women of the State have been cheated.

The BJP had promised vouchers of Rs 50,000 to every woman in Odisha, but the

time period has been extended from two years to five years. Besides, the entire assistance will be paid in 10 installments which will in no way help promote women empowerment, they charged.

Alleging that there is no control of the government on the law and order situation, the leaders said no action has so far been taken against the son of the Governor who assaulted a government employee at the Raj Bhavan in Puri. The assault on an army official and his fiancée inside Bharatpur police station points to the extent of deterio-

ration in the law and order situation, they said further. The government has failed to bring prices of potato and onion under control. It has also not initiated any measure to create employment opportunities for lakhs of unemployed youths in the State, while smuggling of black stones from the non-leased mines under the Dharmasala Tehsil in Jajpur district is rampant, the BJD leaders said. They also pointed out BJP's poll promises of 300 units of free electricity and Rs 3,500 old age pension to persons above 80 which are yet to be fulfilled.

In Kalahandi Robbers disguised as cops loot Rs 2.40L

Locals nab 3 of the criminals

PNS ■ BHAWANIPATNA

Seven miscreants allegedly looted Rs 2.40 lakh from a person's house by impersonating as police officials at Ruben village under the Mohan Giri police station in Kalahandi district on Monday.

As per reports, the looters dressed in police uniforms entered the home of Reepa Majhi. They threatened the residents, claiming they needed to search the house for hiding of a young man and a woman. During this staged search, they took Rs 2.40 lakh

from a box and attempted to flee.

However, locals chased the robbers and managed to overpower three of them and detained their Boloro. Four others managed to escape and they were still at large.

Later, the villagers handed over the three robbers to the Mohan Giri police.

As per police sources, the looters belong to Kandhamal district and their interrogation was ongoing. "The robbers intimidated me and decamped by looting Rs 2.40 lakh from a box at my house. Subsequently, some of our villagers chased the miscreants and managed to capture three of them," said the victim Reepa.

In Nayagarh 4 BJP members of a family injured in attack



PNS ■ NAYAGARH

Tension prevailed at Chandibasta village under the Town police station in Nayagarh after four members of a family were allegedly attacked by BJD workers over political enmity on Monday.

As per the allegation, several BJD workers attacked the members of the family, which supports BJP, with sharp weapons, leaving four of them critically-injured.

The injured were first rushed to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) and later shifted to Capital Hospital and AIIMS,

Bhubaneswar after their health condition worsened.

Getting information, the Town police reached the spot and launched an investigation into the matter.

"We are supporters of BJP and the attackers are BJD workers. During the elections, the BJD workers had threatened us several times of dire consequences," alleged a complainant.

"Some patients have endured head injuries with skull fracture and their condition is critical. We have referred them to the Capital Hospital and AIIMS, BBSR for better treatment as their injuries are severe," a DHH doctor said.

In Sambalpur Paper cups banned; cleanliness norms strengthened

NIMAI CHARAN SAHU ■ SAMBALPUR

The Sambalpur Municipal Corporation (SMC) will ban paper cups in the city soon. Small vendors, commonly using paper cups for tea and beverages, will be encouraged to switch to glass, clay or steel alternatives.

SMC Commissioner Vedabhusan explained that paper cups pose health and waste management issues, prompting this decision.

The SMC has also introduced new cleanliness rules for residents and business bodies. "Each establishment must keep separate bins for wet and dry waste and ensure a clean five-meter area around their premises," Vedabhusan said at a press conference.

Random waste dumping is prohibited, and daily waste collection vehicles will pick up



the sorted trash. The rule, implemented in some areas already, has led to better cleanliness and will now expand citywide.

Business establishments failing to follow these standards will face fines: Rs 500 for not maintaining separate bins and Rs 1,000 if their surroundings are unclean. Specific bin types must be used for waste as thermocol boxes and cardboard cartons are prohibited.

For those lacking proper bins, the SMC will provide them the bins and recover costs through fines.

To enforce these new rules, the SMC has expanded its team with 13 members, including eight retired Army personnel. Identifiable by their unique uniforms, they will oversee city cleanliness and waste management.

Additionally, the SMC is addressing city encroach-

ments, which obstruct drainage systems. Any illegal structures, especially along key areas like Ainthapali and Khetrapur, will be removed to improve drainage flow.

To tackle parking issues, the SMC has urged shop owners to arrange parking for employees, and new public parking facilities are planned under the city's overbridge. Discussions on parking fees are ongoing.

ISOPARB's Nat'l Yuva Conf ends at J'suguda

Over 200 young docs, gynaecologists from across India join

RAJ KUMAR SHARMA ■ JHARSUGUDA

The 2nd National Yuva Conference, hosted by the Indian Society of Perinatology and Reproductive Biology (ISOPARB) concluded in Jharsuguda on Sunday, drawing over 200 young doctors and gynaecologists from across India.

The two-day event focused on emerging advancements in maternal and child health, with specialized training on diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of key reproductive health issues.

The conference sessions addressed critical aspects of



reproductive care, including management of endometriosis, postnatal care, and health risks facing young mothers. Experts also provided insights on anemia prevention during pregnancy and the latest in ultrasound technology for foetal monitoring, essential for early detection of complications.

More than 30 seasoned professors conducted discussions and training, covering six major areas of reproductive health. These sessions included delivery-related chal-

lenges and lifestyle considerations for young mothers, aimed at enhancing maternal and fetal well-being.

Distinguished guests attended the closing ceremony, with Jharsuguda MLA Tankadhar Tripathy as the chief guest. He was accompanied by Dr Jaykishan Patel, Chairman of the organizing committee, along with Dr Manjulata Mishra, former ISOPARB president, Dr Ojaswini Patel, Dr Narayan Jena, and GbBhaskar Rao, chairman of the Bikas Foun-

datation. Adding an interactive element, the conference featured an online quiz organized by Dr Babita Ramani, Dr Harapriya Rath, and Dr Maya Padhi. Attendees also enjoyed a cultural highlight with a Sambalpuri dance performance by doctors, which was warmly appreciated.

The conference emphasized ISOPARB's commitment to advancing maternal and child healthcare in India, equipping young medical professionals with skills to meet modern healthcare challenges.

MSCB Varsity reels under teachers' crunch

Most departments understaffed

KABI BISHNU SATPATHY ■ BARIIPADA

Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanjajadeo (MSCB) University, situated in Sriram Chandra Vihar, Takatpur, Baripada, is presently beset with the problem of teachers crunch. Though a major centre of higher education and learning in north Odisha, the university now finds itself in an unhappy situation, as many teaching posts here are lying vacant for quite some time now.

Teaching post vacancies are noticed in, at least, four departments of MSCB University these days. While six sanctioned teaching posts are lying vacant in each of the three



departments of English, Sanskrit and Geology, three posts are lying vacant in the department of Odia. This is so, in spite of the fact that UGC guidelines prescribe the posts of 1 Professor, 2 Associate Professors and 3 Assistant Professors (6 in all) for each department.

The issue of self-financing of certain departments is also

a cause of concern for the well-wishers of the university. The departments of "Library and Information Science", "Remote S & GIS" and "Yoga and Naturopathy", which have been imparting education to the students for the last about 18 years, 15 years and 10 years respectively, continue to be self-financed. Similar is the plight of the departments of Com-

merce, History and Political Science.

The MSCB University, earlier known as North Orissa University (NOU), was established here in the year 1999, in order to cater to the expectations of the aspirational students of the region. And its otherwise-smooth onward journey received a setback on November 30, 2023, when all the sanctioned posts of the university's second campus at Keonjhar were transferred to DD University, Keonjhar. The transferred posts included six teaching posts of English, two of Sanskrit and three each of the departments of Geology, Material Science and Odia.

However, now that a new political dispensation is in the State, which expresses its commitment to quality education, it is expected that the government will promptly address the issues.

BJP's Ravi Shankar Prasad accuses Congress of conspiring with divisive Muslim elements

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad on Tuesday alleged that the Congress party was conspiring with divisive elements in the Muslim community, sensing defeat in the upcoming Maharashtra and Jharkhand Assembly polls. In a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, Prasad claimed that Congress and other INDIA bloc members were trying to appease the Muslims to get their votes. "The BJP is very clear that the Congress party is conspiring with all the conservative, divisive elements in the Muslim community for the sake of votes, as they are apprehensive about their imminent defeat," he said.



"PM Modi says 'Ek rahenge toh safe rahenge,' and they (Congress) are making fun of it and knocking on the doors of the Election Commission," he said. The BJP MP also questioned Congress leader Rahul

Gandhi's stance on the Constitution and criticised his party's approach to religious reservations. "They have a problem with unity and are conspiring with forces who want to break the country and are

trying to take away the rights of the poor OBCs to give them to Muslims. BJP will oppose every attempt to strip the marginalised and backward OBCs of their rights," Prasad said. The BJP had on Saturday claimed that the Maharashtra unit of Congress assured a Muslim body that it would take steps to fulfil its demand of a 10 per cent quota for the community in jobs and education. Prasad said the BJP would like to ask the Congress and INDIA bloc whether the benefits given to Scheduled Castes will also be extended to the Muslims. "It contradicts the principles of the Constitution, we will oppose it completely," he added.

Odisha police tighten security along Jharkhand border ahead of Assembly elections

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Ahead of the first phase of polling for the assembly elections in Jharkhand on Wednesday, the Odisha police have tightened security in the districts sharing the border with the neighbouring state to ensure peaceful voting there, a senior police officer said. Security has been tightened in the borders of Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Sundargarh districts close to Jharkhand. Check posts have been installed and armed personnel deployed round the clock to prevent entry of unwanted people and materials to the poll-bound state, said Odisha's ADG Law and Order Sanjay Kumar. "The measures were taken after a meeting with the Election Commission of India (ECI). Odisha has already established 29 check posts in the border districts and intensified patrolling in all the sensitive



areas," the ADG said. Meanwhile, a report from Rourkela said that the Sundargarh police were in touch with the West Singhbhum district police. The objective of the coordination is to ensure that any attempt by Maoists to disrupt the elections is prevented. Sundargarh has 75 km border with Jharkhand and most of the places are forested areas. The security arrangements were made in the wake of Bihar-Jharkhand Special Area Committee of the outlawed CPI (Maoist) outfit asking Jharkhand voters to boycott the election through posters and banners.

Indian Army's Project Akashteer takes flight

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The phased induction of control and reporting systems under 'Project Akashteer' of the Indian Army is currently underway and out of a total requirement of 455 systems, 107 have been delivered, official sources said on Tuesday. The project aims to deliver a situational awareness and control for the force to ensure safety of friendly aircraft and engage hostile aircraft in contested airspace. Through this project, a cutting-edge initiative designed to automate air defence control and reporting processes by digitising them, the Indian Army is positioning itself at the forefront of air defence technology, ensuring a secure and vigilant airspace over India, a source said. Project Akashteer's phased induction is already underway. Out of a total requirement of 455 systems, 107 have been delivered, with an additional 105 expected by March 2025. The remaining units will be delivered by March 2027, ensuring comprehensive coverage across the Indian Army's defence units and formations, the source added. This significant achievement underscores the commitment of India's defence forces to innovate and enhance capabilities in response to "ever-evolving security dynamics", the sources said. Recently, a "real-time validation" of Project Akashteer was carried out simulating scenarios as expected in future wars. A senior officer from military hierarchy witnessed the validation and



appreciated the achievements of the project and commended the team involved in developing it, a source said. The officer acknowledged their efforts and mentioned that it has realised a "transformative leap" in the Indian Army's air defence capabilities. In the 'Year of Technology Infusion' (2024), the Army has boosted its air defence capabilities with 'Akashteer Control and Reporting Systems'. The deployment of 'Akashteer' had begun in April with the flagging off of the first batch of control centres from BEL-Ghaziabad. Developed by the Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) as part of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, this project is poised to significantly enhance the operational efficiency and integration of the Army's air defence mechanisms, sources earlier said. Some of the key features of 'Project Akashteer' include comprehensive sensor fusion; automated operations for faster response; decentralised engagement authority; advanced real-time air picture; built-in redundancy and scalability; and flexible deployment across formations, the sources said.

India and Bangladesh strengthen ties: joint infrastructure development plans for shared border



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and Bangladesh on Tuesday decided to enhance cooperation in building infra-

structure and operational efficiency at the various land ports and check-posts located along the 4,096-km long shared international border. The commitment was made

during the 6th Subgroup meeting of the Land Port Authority of India (LPAI) with the Bangladesh Land Port Authority (BLPA) here. The LPAI functions under the Union home ministry. The bilateral meeting aims to strengthen ties and discuss issues related to cross-border infrastructure, connectivity and facilitation of trade between the two nations. The Indian delegation was led by LPAI Member (Planning and Development) Sanjeev Gupta with officials drawn from the border management division of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Border Security Force (BSF),

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), and Customs, among others. The Bangladeshi side was led by BLPA Joint Secretary and Member (Development) Tahmina Yeasmin along with officials from the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and ministries of industries and shipping, among others. "Building on the discussions held at the last subgroup meeting in Dhaka in November 2023, the meeting reviewed the progress made on the previous initiatives and identified new areas for cooperation to enhance infrastructure and operational efficiency at the

land ports," an official statement said. The major agenda items discussed included developing port facilities at Gede (Darshna in West Bengal) and Bholaganj (Meghalaya), expediting clearance of Bangladesh's export cargo at Petrapole (West Bengal) and Agartala, prioritising the development of land ports and integrated check-posts (ICPs), and considering a common cargo gate at Bhomra (Ghojandanga in West Bengal), the statement said. The meeting also discussed facilitating the movement of Bangladeshi trucks carrying

exports to Nepal and Bhutan through Burimari and Banglabandha ports in that country, operationalising the land port at Sabroom (Tripura), developing the Tegamukh (Bangladesh)-Kawrupichuah (Mizoram) port, and establishing certain ports operational 24x7, it added. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to "deepen" India-Bangladesh relations, enhance bilateral trade, and advance shared goals for regional connectivity and economic growth through "collaborative" border management, the statement said.

Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Dr. PK Mishra stresses need to mitigate glacial lake risks for safer communities



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Dr. PK Mishra, on Tuesday highlighted mitigating risks associated with glacial lakes in order to ensure a safer future for our communities. Mishra was speaking on the occasion of 4th Workshop of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction (CoDRR) on Strategies for GLOF (Glacial Lake Outburst Flood) Risk Reduction here today. Complimenting the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the Department of Water Resources for organizing the workshop, he focused on international perspectives and experiences, pertinently India's experiences, gaps and challenges in

mitigating the risks and related aspects. Mishra said that the discussions on Sikkim glacial lake outburst flood disaster has brought to focus the enormity of the challenge. Indeed, the South Lhonak GLOF was a wake-up call for all of us. He underscored the urgent need for effective strategies to address risks associated with glacial lakes. Quoting Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's words, "Disaster risk reduction is not just about responding to disasters but also about building resilience." Dr Mishra reiterated PM's emphasis that "the best way to deal with disasters is to prevent them,"

reminding us that proactive measures are essential in safeguarding our communities. Furthermore, he stated, "We must work together across borders and disciplines to create a safer world," highlighting the importance of collaboration in addressing global challenges like GLOF risks. On the International Cooperation side, Dr Mishra emphasized that India's commitment extends beyond national borders; hence the vital aspect of engaging with GLOF experts from countries such as Bhutan, Nepal, Peru, Switzerland and Tajikistan. He iterated that such collaboration is vital to enhancing our understanding of response strategies. Mishra underlined the key contributions from Experts from the country and abroad, who have enriched our understanding of the critical issues. He stressed that the Government of India initiated a coordinating platform named the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction (CoDRR). He also mentioned that States were encouraged to conduct expeditions to assess all A-category lakes in summer 2024, leading to significant engagement from local authorities.

No oral mentioning, only email or written: says CJI Sanjiv Khanna

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna on Tuesday said no oral submissions for urgent listing and hearing of cases will be permitted and urged lawyers to either send emails or written letters for it. Usually lawyers mention their cases before the CJI-led bench at the outset of the day's proceedings for out of turn listings and hearing of cases on grounds of urgency. "No written or oral mentioning anymore. Only in email or written slip/letters. Just state the reasons for urgency," the CJI said. The CJI has outlined a citizen-centric agenda for judicial reforms and said ensuring easy access to justice and equal treatment to citizens regardless of their status is the constitutional duty of the judiciary. Justice Khanna, who was sworn in as the 51st CJI by President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Monday, expressed deep honour in leading the judiciary, the third pillar of democracy. "Judiciary is an integral, yet



distinct and independent part of the governance system. The Constitution trusts upon us the role of constitutional guardian, protector of fundamental rights, and responsibility to fulfil the important task of being a service provider of justice," the CJI had said in his first statement on Monday. He said, "The justice delivery framework in terms of providing equal treatment necessitates fair opportunity to succeed to all, regardless of status, wealth or power, and a just and unbiased adjudication. These mark our core principles." "The responsibility entrusted upon us affirms our commitment as protectors of citizens' rights and as dispute resolvers. It is our constitutional duty to ensure easy access to

justice to all citizens of our great nation," he said. Chief Justice Khanna identified pressing challenges facing the judiciary, including the need to reduce case backlogs, make litigation affordable, and simplify complex legal processes. Recognising that the justice system must cater to all citizens, he outlined a vision to make courts more approachable and user-friendly, said CJI. The CJI aimed to adopt a self-evaluative approach which is receptive and responsive to feedback in its working, the apex court said in a statement. "Making judgments comprehensible to the citizens and promoting mediation will be a priority," it said. With a focus on criminal case management, the CJI pledged to prioritise reducing trial durations, adopting a systematic approach, and ensuring that legal procedures are not gruelling for citizens. He also highlighted the importance of promoting mediation to resolve disputes efficiently and provide timely justice.

PM Modi to lay foundation stone for AIIMS Darbhanga



PTI ■ PATNA

All preparations have been made for the laying of the foundation stone for AIIMS Darbhanga by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday, Bihar Health Minister Mangal Pandey said. The north Bihar town will become the second place in the state, after capital city Patna, to have an All India Institute for Medical Sciences (AIIMS). "Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for the second AIIMS in the state in Darbhanga tomorrow. All preparations have been made for the event. It will be a historic moment for the people of Mithila region in particular, and entire Bihar in general. The project will come up on Ekmi Shobhan Bypass at a cost of around Rs 1,700 crore," Pandey told PTI on Tuesday. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Union ministers Chirag Paswan and Jitan Ram Manjhi will also be present at the function. "The AIIMS at Darbhanga is a great gift given by the Centre to Bihar and its people. We thank the PM and Union Health Minister J P Nadra for giving the nod for it. "Under the leadership of our prime minister and chief minister, work on improving medical facilities in the state has progressed at a rapid pace and it will continue further. AIIMS Darbhanga will not only provide the best healthcare facilities to the people of Bihar but will also benefit the people of the neighbouring states," Pandey said. The Bihar government had recently transferred over 37 acres of additional land on Ekmi Shobhan Bypass to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the construction of the AIIMS, he said, adding the state government has so far provided 187.44 acres of land to the Union ministry for the project.

Rahul Gandhi vows financial empowerment for women, youth and farmers ahead of Jharkhand elections



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said the INDIA bloc will give more money to women, youth, farmers and poor than the BJP has given to its "billionaire friends", adding that the alliance in Jharkhand has decided to hike the honorarium given to women to meet their needs to Rs 2,500. Rahul Gandhi's reiteration came a day ahead of the first phase of Assembly elections in Jharkhand to be held on November 13. "Yesterday, the fourth instalment of Maiyaa Samman Yojana was credited

to the accounts of mothers and sisters in Jharkhand. This scheme is especially helping women fight inflation and live with self-respect. That is why we have decided to further increase the amount given under this scheme," Rahul Gandhi said in a social media post in Hindi. From December 2024, women in Jharkhand will be given an honorarium of Rs 2,500 under the scheme which is benefiting 53 lakh women in the state, the Congress leader said. "I have said it before and I am repeating it -- INDIA (bloc) will give more money to women, youth, farmers and poor to meet their needs than what the BJP has given to its billionaire friends," the former Congress chief said. The Congress-Jharkhand Mukti Morcha combine is seeking to retain power in the 81-member Jharkhand Assembly, while the BJP is seeking to oust the ruling coalition in the polls to be held in two phases on November 13 and November 20. The results will be announced on November 23.

India eyes \$100 billion Russia trade target ahead of 2030 deadline: EAM S Jaishankar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India is confident of achieving USD 100 billion in annual bilateral trade with Russia well ahead of the timeline of 2030 and a more substantive relationship between the two nations has a larger global resonance, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said here on Tuesday. "There have been challenges to trade, especially with regard to payments and logistics and perceptible progress has been made in that regard, but there is still some work to be done, he said. The external affairs minister was speaking at the 25th India - Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC). The Russian delegation at the meeting was led by First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov. In his televised opening remarks at the 25th session of the (IRIGC-TEC), Jaishankar said the trade between the two countries needs to be "more balanced and that would require



addressing current constraints and undertaking greater facilitative efforts." "As two major nations in an increasingly multipolar world, a more substantive relationship between us has a larger resonance," he said. The external affairs minister said New Delhi welcomes and fully reciprocates Moscow's growing interest in exploring economic opportunities in India. "Our economies are not only complementary in many respects but benefit from the trust and confidence built over many years.

The growth in bilateral trade is now estimated at USD 66 billion and it is impressive," he said. "Our goal is that it needs to be more balanced and that would require addressing current constraints and undertaking greater facilitative efforts. Making it easier to do trade should be accompanied by progress in the negotiations on the India-Eurasian Economic Union FTA," he said. Jaishankar said India has noted Russia's growing interest in the Make in India

programme and it would encourage joint ventures and other forms of collaboration between the two sides. "I am confident that we will achieve the trade target of USD 100 billion by 2030, well before that," he said. The external affairs minister also highlighted India's impressive growth rate in the last few decades. "India that has many decades of 8 per cent growth at least ahead of it obviously values a reliable partner when it comes to resources, technology and best practices," he said. Jaishankar also touched upon Russia's supply of fertilizers, crude oil and coal to India. "Russia has emerged as a major source of fertilizers for us. Its supply of crude oil, coal and uranium are indeed important. Similarly, India's pharmaceutical industry has emerged as an affordable and reliable source for Russia." "Looking ahead we are also exploring the mobility of talent, skills, customising them for the Russian market has to be a shared enterprise," he said.

The external affairs minister also talked about the importance of various connectivity projects. "Our joint endeavours in regard to connectivity, such as the International North-South Transport Corridor, the Chennai-Vladivostok Corridor and the Northern Sea Route must go forward," he said. "We will also be discussing cooperation critical for our food, energy and health security," he added. In his remarks, Manturov also delved into fast evolving trade ties between India and Russia. "Over the last five years, the trade turnover of our country has grown more than fivefold. And India is now the second country among all the foreign economic partners of Russia," he said. "Among other things, we confirm our strong commitment on signing the free trade agreement between the EEU (Eurasian Economic Union) and India, as well as the bilateral agreement on services and investments. This fully meets the needs of our business community," he said.

Students protest against UPPSC decision escalates

BISWAJEET BANERJEE
LUCKNOW

The uproar over the Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission's (UPPSC) decision shows no signs of dying down, as students staged an intense overnight protest. The aspirants, steadfast in their demands, have coined a slogan, "Na Batenge Na Hatenge" (We won't split, we won't leave), which has become the rallying cry of the movement. Thousands of leaflets bearing this slogan were distributed among the protesters, reflecting their determination. Former Inspector General Amitabh Thakur, who had arrived at Prayag station via Prayagraj Intercity to support the protesting students, was taken into custody by the police and brought to Katra outpost. Meanwhile, Samajwadi Party



chief Akhilesh Yadav criticized the BJP government for its handling of the protest. He tweeted, "The BJP's agenda is only 'elections,' while candidates are left with nothing but 'stress' under BJP rule. The youth say, no more BJP! When BJP leaves, jobs will come." Former UP Chief Minister Mayawati also voiced her support for the students on social media, criticizing the

police action against protesters and UPPSC's failure to organize the PCS and RO-ARO preliminary exams for 2024 on the same day. She noted that it is natural for the news of students' anger and police action to draw widespread attention. The protesting students, through their slogan, are demanding that UPPSC hold the exams over two days and rescind the normalization process. They have vowed not to leave the protest site until an official notice is issued meeting these demands. Many students held placards voicing their dissatisfaction with UPPSC's decision. Throughout the night, students maintained a peaceful protest. Notably, no banners from student organizations or political parties were visible—only the Indian tricolor was

seen. Demonstrators also waved pictures of freedom fighters like Chandra Shekhar Azad, Bhagat Singh, and Mahatma Gandhi, symbolizing their commitment to a peaceful protest. Late at night, Police Commissioner Tarun Gaba and District Magistrate Ravindra Mandar visited the protest site to try to mediate with the demonstrators. However, the talks did not succeed, as students remained firm in their demands. Despite the authorities' assurances, the students showed no inclination to back down. The protest underscores the growing discontent among young aspirants in Uttar Pradesh, highlighting a disconnect between the government and the youth over employment concerns and examination fairness.

Thousands flock to Shree Jagannath temple for Panchuka celebration amidst tight security

PTI ■ PURI/ODISHA

Thousands of devotees on Tuesday visited the Shree Jagannath temple here on the occasion of 'Panchuka', the last five days of the holy month of Kartik, amidst tight security measures, officials said. While at least 30 platoons (1 platoon comprise 30 personnel) of security forces were deployed to man the crowd, the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration was allowing the devotees to enter the 12th-century shrine only through the 'Singhadwar' (Lion's Gate), they said. "As there is a huge rush of devotees on the occasion of Panchuka, the last five days of the holy month of Kartik, the administration allowed

entry into the shrine only through the Singhadwar and exit by three other gates. We seek the cooperation of servitors and devotees for smooth conduct of Panchuka," SJTA chief administrator Arabinda Padhee said. Puri Collector Sidharth Shankar Swain said that the administration has also raised barricades and 'Bada Danda' (grand road in front of the temple) has been declared a no-vehicle zone from municipal market square. The collector said lifeguards and fire services personnel have been deployed on the five km stretch of sea from Chakratirtha to Swargadwar to prevent any drowning incident on the beach as a large number of devotees take holy dip in the sea on

the occasion of Panchuka. Though Panchuka is celebrated for five days every year, this time it is confined to four days as per the almanac. The people of Odisha usually refrain from eating non-vegetarian food during Kartik month. During the Panchuka, the devotees worship Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Narayan. Married women also worship Goddess Vrundavati, the wife of the demon Jalandhara, in the form of the sacred tulsi plant, praying for the long life of their husbands. During the Panchuka, Lord Jagannath is adorned in different Beshas (attires). Lord Jagannath is adorned in Laxmi-Narayan Bhesa on the first day of the Panchuka (Tuesday).

Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah's position weak, Congress Government's lifespan ending: BJP leader R Ashoka

PTI ■ CHITRADURG/KARNATAKA

Leader of Opposition in Karnataka Assembly R Ashoka on Tuesday said the position of the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has become weak and the lifespan of the Congress government led by him is coming to an end. The BJP leader said repeated assertions of Siddaramaiah that he would continue as CM suggest that his position is no longer strong, raising questions about the stability of the Government, which assumed power in May last year. "D K Shivakumar (Deputy CM) is claiming during the Channapatna by-poll campaigning that he will become the Chief Minister. What is the guarantee that the Congress party will be there (in power). Last time also during the JD(S)-Congress coalition government they (Congress) had claimed no one can shake them for five years, but 14 MLAs quit Congress (resulting in the govt



collapse)," Ashoka said. Speaking to reporters here, he claimed that Congress MLAs themselves have not got a single paisa for development in the last 17 months. "They have started thinking that if they are with Siddaramaiah, they will not even get peanuts." Recently, state BJP President B Y Vijayendra too had claimed that the Chief Minister, facing probe in the MUDA site allotment case, will resign soon. Both Shivakumar and Congress national President M Mallikarjun Kharge are also aware as to when Siddaramaiah will quit, he had said.

Ashoka said speculations regarding the stability of any government should have arisen in normal course during the fag end of its tenure. "But, this government has just come, and already every day there are claimants for the Chief Minister seat, there are allegations of corruption, there are prophecies that the government will collapse. Despite all this, Siddaramaiah is saying that he will remain the CM," he said. Citing that Siddaramaiah has on numerous occasions asserted that he will remain the CM, Ashoka, a former Deputy

Chief Minister, said: "What is the need for it? If strong, no one will keep on saying it (I will remain CM), only when weak, one has to keep on asserting his position." "If strong, no one will question (the stability of the government), neither the media, nor opposition. As his (Siddaramaiah) position is weak, everyone keeps asking about stability. The life span of Siddaramaiah's government is coming to an end," he added. The opposition has been demanding Siddaramaiah's resignation, following charges against him in the MUDA site allotment case. There were also behind-the-scenes political activities within the ruling Congress earlier this year, with a few Ministers in the Siddaramaiah Cabinet holding closed door meetings, fueling speculation about leadership change. But such interactions came to a halt following instructions from the party high command, which sought to crack the whip.

BJP's Kewal Singh Dhillon exudes confidence in winning Barnala bypoll, citing BJP's development track record

PTI ■ BARNALA/PUNJAB

BJP rule is synonymous with development and people are well aware of this, Kewal Singh Dhillon, the party's candidate from the Barnala assembly segment, said, confident he will win the bypoll. Dhillon, a former MLA, said the Bhagwant Mann government in Punjab had "failed" on all fronts and the Aam Aadmi Party and the Congress were "hand-in-glove" with each other. The Barnala assembly seat fell vacant after Gurmeet Singh Hayer, the local MLA from the AAP, was elected from the Sangrur Lok Sabha seat. Hayer won the Barnala seat in 2017 and 2022 assembly polls. Dhillon is facing Congress's Kuldeep Singh Kaka Dhillon, AAP's Harinder Singh Dhaliwal, Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) nominee Govind Singh Mann and AAP rebel and Independent candidate Gurdeep Singh Bath in the bypoll. The 74-year-old became an



MLA from Barnala in 2007 and 2012 on Congress tickets. He joined the BJP in 2022. He lost the Sangrur Lok Sabha bypoll in 2022 and was at the fourth spot. Campaigning for the November 20 bypoll, Dhillon gave himself the credit for the creation of Barnala as a district in 2006. It was because of his efforts, a road from Barnala to Ludhiana was rebuilt to facilitate the people of Barnala, he also claimed. "A railway underbridge and a network of roads were built.

We carried out several development projects in villages," Dhillon told PTI. The BJP candidate alleged the ruling AAP had lost its credibility in the state. "People are already against the AAP government. They also know that the Congress and AAP are hand in glove. People know that wherever the BJP comes to power, be it Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, development takes place there. "People have made up their mind this time to give votes to the BJP in the bypolls. The Lotus (BJP's poll symbol) will bloom in Barnala on November 23," he said. The BJP nominee said the Mann government failed to rein in law and order in the state. "The law and order has collapsed. The financial situation of the state is bad. I have been meeting people who are completely disappointed with the Bhagwant Mann regime," he claimed.

Dhillon blamed the state government for hardships faced by farmers in grain markets because of "tardy" paddy procurement. Farmers also complained of shortage of DAP fertiliser, he said. "They (the AAP government) did not place any order for DAP fertiliser. Farmers could not get it for wheat sowing," said Dhillon. He said he raised the issue with Union Minister J P Nadda, following which the fertiliser was supplied to meet the shortage. Dhillon said the AAP could not run the government, alleging that it remained "ineffective" on all fronts. "There is no section in the society which is satisfied with the AAP government," claimed Dhillon. The bypolls to the four assembly seats - Gidderbaha, Dera Baba Nanak, Chabbewal and Barnala - will take place on November 20 and counting of votes will be held on November 23.

Two drivers killed in freak accident on airport road after verbal altercation



PTI ■ BENGALURU

Drivers of a truck and a car were killed in a freak accident on Airport road here, police said on Tuesday. The concrete mixer truck hit the car - a sports utility vehicle (SUV) - following which the drivers of the two vehicles got down and engaged in a verbal altercation over the minor mishap on Monday night. In the meantime, a Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport



Corporation (BMTC) bus heading towards the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) From Rajarajeshwari Nagar rucked into the stationary truck on the right side of a flyover, and ran over the two drivers. The truck driver Kuldip Kumar (42) died on the spot while the car driver Jagadish (40) succumbed to injuries at a hospital, a senior police officer said. A case has been registered at Yelahanka traffic

police station and further investigation is underway, he said. In a statement, the BMTC said as the bus was approaching the GKVK (Gandhi Krishi Vigyana Kendra) flyover on the airport road, it encountered the previously crashed vehicles parked "dangerously and in an unscientific manner", with their drivers engaged in a verbal altercation. "At this moment, the Volvo bus driver, unable to react in time due to low visibility in the dark in the downhill road of the flyover, could not avoid the collision, resulting in a chain accident," it said. The bus driver, Puttaswamy sustained minor injuries, and the only passenger travelling in the bus escaped unhurt, the BMTC said.

55 held for attacking officials in Vikarabad land acquisition protest

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

As many as 55 people were on Tuesday taken into custody for allegedly attacking officials during a protest in a village against the acquisition of their lands for proposed pharmaceutical companies in Vikarabad district, police said. Three officials—an Additional Collector, Kodangal Area Development Authority (KADA) chairman and a DSP rank police official—were injured after some villagers in Lagacharla village of Dudyala mandal allegedly attacked them on Monday. While a public hearing was proposed to be conducted by the Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIC) on the village outskirts, a BRS youth wing leader approached district Collector Prateek Jain requesting him to visit the village, where farmers would give their opinion. The

Collector accepted the request and visited the village along with other officials to listen to the farmers' views, where they were confronted by a mob, police said. The protesters jostled Prateek Jain besides pelting stones on his vehicle and other district authorities vehicles. "Fifty-five people were on Tuesday taken into custody in connection with the incident and police are investigating how many of them were involved in the attack," a senior police official said. A BRS youth wing leader who allegedly instigated the "pre-planned" attack was on the run, the official said. Three FIRs were registered over the incident, and authorities also suspended internet services in Dudyala mandal. The situation is now under control and additional police personnel have been deployed. Further investigation is on.

Home Minister Shah alleges Waqf Board land grabbing, urges reforms and Uniform Civil Code

PTI ■ BAGHMARA/JHARKHAND

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday accused the Waqf Board of grabbing land of temples, villagers and others in Karnataka and asserted that it was time to make changes in the body and amend the related Act. He also claimed that no one can stop the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), which is "needed to check infiltrators", and assured tribals that they would be kept out of its ambit. "The Waqf Board is in the habit of grabbing land. In Karnataka, it has devoured the assets of villagers...It has grabbed land parcels of temples, farmers and villagers...Tell me whether changes are required in Waqf Board or not. Hemant Babu and Rahul Gandhi say no. I tell you let them oppose it, the BJP will pass the Bill to



amend the Waqf Act. No one can stop us," Shah said while addressing a poll rally in Jharkhand's Baghmara. He also accused the JMM-led coalition of making infiltrators its vote bank and claimed that "trainloads of illegal immigrants will be sent to Bangladesh if the BJP is voted to power in Jharkhand". "No one can stop implementation of Uniform Civil Code aimed at preventing infiltration in Jharkhand, and tribals will be kept out of its ambit," he claimed. Shah alleged that the

Congress was opposed to OBC reservation. "Rahul Gandhi's four generations can't touch your reservation," Shah alleged while addressing the rally. The BJP leader also accused "JMM-Rahul baba of dividing the country on the basis of castes" and claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi made only four categories - poor, farmers, youths and women - for the welfare of people. The union home minister promised that if the BJP is voted to power, it would make Jharkhand the most prosperous state in the country in the next five years and "each paisa looted by JMM-Congress leaders will be returned to its treasury." "We will set up mineral-based industries in Jharkhand and create an environment in which no one will migrate to other states," he added.

Indian Army's motorcycle expedition covers 550 km in Arunachal Pradesh to Commemorate Battle of Walong

PTI ■ ITANAGAR

The Indian Army's motorcycle expedition team completed a three-day journey covering 550 km across the scenic and rugged terrain of eastern Arunachal Pradesh to commemorate the Battle of Walong, an official said on Tuesday. The expedition was flagged in at the Walong War Memorial on Monday, where riders paid tribute to the courage and sacrifices of soldiers who fought in the 1962 Battle of Walong, the defence spokesperson said. The expedition, including 20 riders from the Indian Army and local adventure enthusiasts, began from Dibang Valley in the northeastern state on November 9 and traversed through Roing, Tezu, vibrant village of Hayuliang



and finally reached their destination at Walong in Anjaw district. Along the rugged and challenging route, participants navigated mountainous trails and endured varying weather conditions, embodying the resilience of the soldiers who once defended India's northeastern frontier. The expedition was

organised to honour the soldiers who fought for the nation during the 1962 Sino-India conflict and commemorate the Battle of Walong, the spokesperson said. The fierce Battle of Walong unfolded in the unforgiving terrain of Kibithu, Nanti Tri Junction (famously known as Tiger's Mouth), Walong and adjoining

features in the easternmost parts of Arunachal Pradesh, the Army spokesperson said. The route, tracing a historic path through the beautiful landscapes of Arunachal Pradesh, symbolises the Indian Army's commitment to fostering unity and promoting adventure tourism in border areas, the spokesperson said. Each halt was an opportunity for the riders to connect with the local communities, highlighting the strength, resilience and solidarity that define the spirit of the region, and promote national integration, he said. The motorcycle expedition is a part of the month-long celebrations that started on October 17 to mark the 62nd anniversary of the Battle of Walong fought during the 1962 Sino-Indian War.

Omar Abdullah stunned to see the progress of new Assembly complex in Jammu

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was on Monday taken aback by the poor pace of work when he visited the under-construction Assembly complex after resuming work at the civil secretariat here in Jammu. After attending the brief ceremony in the portico of the civil secretariat building Omar went around the power corridors and interacted with his ministerial colleagues as they resumed working in their offices. Later Omar stepped out of his office chamber and walked on foot to the project site. The security officials hurriedly covered him in different layers of protection as they marched on foot outside the civil secretariat complex. The foundation stone of the multi-floor Assembly complex was laid by Omar himself on July 1, 2011. In the



last over 13 years the successive governments failed to complete the project. Omar toured the complex, where officials from the Public Works Department (PWD) Roads & Buildings (R&B) Division provided a detailed briefing on the project's various stages, timeline, and next steps. During the inspection visit to the project site, Omar asked pointed queries to the senior officers of the project

executing agency to learn more about the reasons behind the delay and the current status of the progress. As Omar went around the assembly complex along with Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary and other cabinet colleagues he was informed by the officers that the new assembly complex may take at least two more years to get ready. Omar when enquired about the reasons behind the delay

of the project was informed by the senior officials that the non-availability of the funds was the primary reason. Due to prolonged delay the original cost of the project initially pegged at around 110 crores has already exceeded 200 crores. On ground zero, the construction work was started in August 2011. Initially, the project was estimated to be built at a cost of around 113 crores in a stipulated period. According to the project engineers, who remained in charge from time to time the work on the project was going on smoothly till 2015 but the same hit the roadblock during the BJP-PDP alliance government in office. The alliance government raised certain specific queries related to the administrative and financial approval before giving their formal nod to the revised estimates.



www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

Deliver tangible results

With 2024 set to be the hottest year on record, the stakes for COP29 are higher than ever

The 29th annual UN climate summit, COP29, has officially begun in Baku, Azerbaijan. This year's conference brings together diplomats, climate experts, activists, and political leaders from nearly 200 countries to address critical issues in the fight against climate change. However, the event is already facing challenges, both from the host country's fossil-fuel-centered economy and the re-election of Donald Trump as US President, which could impact future climate commitments from one of the world's largest emitters. COP29 is being held in Azerbaijan's capital, Baku, a decision that has sparked criticism from environmentalists worldwide, with activists like Greta Thunberg referring to the summit as a "greenwash conference." This year's COP has been dubbed the "Finance CoP" due to its focus on securing adequate funding for climate action. Low-and middle-income countries are advocating for significant financial support to help them reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to renewable energy. The UN estimates that developing countries, excluding China, need more than \$2 trillion annually by 2030 to make meaningful progress.



The current debate centers on who will finance these initiatives. In 2009, wealthier nations pledged \$100 billion annually in climate financing for developing countries, a goal they only reached two years behind schedule. Now, many of these recipient countries are calling for a new target of at least \$1 trillion per year to effectively address climate challenges. Countries such as China and the UAE, which are still classified as "developing" but are major emitters and fossil-fuel producers, face pressure to contribute more substantially to the climate finance fund. Another core issue at COP29 is the review of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the plans each country submits outlining their goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. With the next round of NDC updates due in early 2025, this summit is a crucial opportunity to solidify targets that align with the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius by 2100. The hope is that countries will commit to more ambitious emission reductions and be transparent about their paths toward net-zero emissions. COP28, held in Dubai in 2023, marked the first time a COP agreement openly called on countries to transition away from fossil fuels. However, progress has been inconsistent. The International Energy Agency's (IEA) tracking tool, established in April 2024, shows mixed results, with many countries struggling to meet their renewable energy targets. COP29 in Azerbaijan faces substantial challenges, from balancing climate goals with fossil fuel interests to addressing the financial needs of developing nations. If COP29 is to be a success, it must result in tangible commitments to climate finance, renewable energy, and unity among nations. This will be essential to ensuring that COP29 is remembered as a turning point in the global response to climate change—not as a missed opportunity.

Another core issue at COP29 is the review of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the plans each country submits outlining their goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. With the next round of NDC updates due in early 2025, this summit is a crucial opportunity to solidify targets that align with the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius by 2100. The hope is that countries will commit to more ambitious emission reductions and be transparent about their paths toward net-zero emissions. COP28, held in Dubai in 2023, marked the first time a COP agreement openly called on countries to transition away from fossil fuels. However, progress has been inconsistent. The International Energy Agency's (IEA) tracking tool, established in April 2024, shows mixed results, with many countries struggling to meet their renewable energy targets. COP29 in Azerbaijan faces substantial challenges, from balancing climate goals with fossil fuel interests to addressing the financial needs of developing nations. If COP29 is to be a success, it must result in tangible commitments to climate finance, renewable energy, and unity among nations. This will be essential to ensuring that COP29 is remembered as a turning point in the global response to climate change—not as a missed opportunity.

PICTALK



Students pass by a wall painting depicting a scene from 'Krishna Leela', in Prayagraj

Domestic tensions add to Oli's predicament



ASHOK K MEHTA

Amid a mounting internal criticism, Nepal's Prime Minister KP Oli faces daunting challenges, from managing a coalition to dealing with China

My Diwali and Tihar vacation in Nepal is continuing. Here is a flash report from Pokhara. After a turbulent 18-month rule, in which former Prime Minister Prachanda had to seek a vote of confidence five times, the two leading parties Nepali Congress and Unified Marxist Leninist unholy alliance ended CPN(Maoist) kingmaker Prachanda's rule of just 32 seats in a 205-member house. PM KP Oli-led coalition is short of a two thirds majority. They share 4 to 3 in NC's favour in ruling the seven provinces. The promise of Ram-Rajya is unlikely to materialise. Two things stand out: an uneasy stability in government; and Oli's apparent unpopularity. Oli's only claim in his first 100 days is a positive stock market. And breaking the tradition of a Nepalese PM's first overseas visit to India by going first to China from 2 to 6 December, which high profile foreign minister Arzu Rana is organising. India not inviting Oli to become PM is a deliberate omission which was served to late PM Sushil Koirala also a decade ago.

Oli's standing as a leader has diminished because he is a junior partner to NC which is seen favoured by India, and due to his apparent loss of control and power over UML. A front-page report in Kathmandu Post (5 November) illustrates this. But alleged corruption cases against him and his supporters including the super department store chain Bhat Bhateni owner Min Bahadur Gurung have dimmed his reputation. On occasions, he was greeted with the chant "Oli chor, desh chhod". Still, Oli retorted: "wait and watch my party perform during 2027 elections". He is hoping to resuscitate his image from his visit to China. His stock with India is low. While Rana was given a red carpet welcome in India - meeting PM Modi, NSA Ajit Doval and Secretary to Prime Minister PK Misra - Oli's meeting with Modi on the sidelines of UNGA was low-key. The China visit will have the Oli hallmark. He will meet President Xi Jinping, his counterpart Li



Qiang and Foreign Minister Wang Yi. He will try to convert the USD 250m loan from the Exim Bank of China for the China-constructed Pokhara International Airport - a white elephant like Hambantota in Sri Lanka - to grant though China has insisted it is part of the BRI loan. Oli is expected to sign the BRI implementation plan which China has been pressing but so far, Nepal has resisted as Kathmandu wants BRI to come under a grant scheme and not a high-interest loan. The BRI deal has been pending since 2020. Oli during his 2018 China visit had outlined 35 projects which were trimmed to nine projects under BRI. If Oli can persuade China of his 'grant scheme for BRI' or place some of the nine projects under it, he will have made a big breakthrough. Strangely few protest about Chinese intrusions in the north. The Jeevan Bahadur Shahi report which had recently mapped Chinese encroachments, missing border pillars and illegal construction, has been quashed. Nepali leaders willingly oblige Beijing over the One China policy that has ensured the 'Great Wall of China' on the border to prevent Tibetan infiltration and migration to Dharamsala. Only one or two Tibetans slipped through this year. China wants Nepal to sign and ratify 'the Border



Oli's ONLY CLAIM IN HIS FIRST 100 DAYS IS A POSITIVE STOCK MARKET. AND BREAKING THE TRADITION OF A NEPALESE PM'S FIRST OVERSEAS VISIT TO INDIA BY GOING FIRST TO CHINA FROM 2 TO 6 DECEMBER, WHICH HIGH PROFILE FOREIGN MINISTER ARZU RANA IS ORGANISING

Management System' which Kathmandu has not done so far. But Beijing hopes Oli will. China-Nepal relations were upgraded to Strategic Partnership during Xi's historic 2019 visit. The Xi visit was unique because none of the agreements signed had been implemented. A power trade agreement may be facilitated now after the completion of the 220 KVA transmission line from Rasuwagarhi to Kirung to sell power from Chinese hydro projects. It is in the energy sector that Nepal will eventually prosper. Bangladesh, Nepal and India signed a tripartite agreement for the 40MW sale of Nepal electricity to Bangladesh in the rainy season. India holds the key to the development of Nepal's power sector. Nepal is complaining about the Bureau of Indian Standards withholding certification of exports, especially with Chinese components which will hit Kathmandu, not Beijing. The opposition is in disarray with former Home Minister, once a rising star, Rabi Lamichhane, back in jail for the Pokhara Cooperative fraud. His party and his image have taken a beating though independents like Kathmandu Mayor, Balen Shah and Dharan Mayor, Harka Sampang, are progressing relentlessly to clean politics. While King Gyanendra's pop-

ularity may appear to be rising, a return to constitutional monarchy is unlikely despite his recent visit to Bhutan which triggered unusual speculation. It is India that is making quiet gains, the embassy keeping a low profile, letting PMO Delhi run the show. Lingering negativity about Indian interference has all but vanished. On Agniveer, the feeling among Indian Gorkha ex-servicemen is that Nepal should lift the embargo on it. "Something (even four years service) is better than nothing". Foreign Minister S Jaishankar's remarks in July on Agniveer (relating to Nepal) were clear. "India's foreign policy is determined by its national interest. Not by any other country". The message reportedly conveyed to Arzu Rana in Delhi was: "no change in terms of engagement on Agniveer" even as a review is ongoing. COAS Gen Dwivedi is arriving here on November 21 for a ceremonial appointment as Honorary Chief of Nepal Army which has lost its lustre because not a single Nepali has been recruited in the Indian Army for five years. (The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff; the views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CHADRACHUD'S IMPACTFUL TENURE

Madam — Apropos your editorial, "A rich legacy," published on November 11. Justice DY Chandrachud's tenure as the CJI of India, which concluded on last Sunday, was marked by transformative rulings and substantial reforms, carving out a unique legacy in the Indian judicial history. The list of judgements penned by him is long and covers almost all aspects of law. They blend scholarship and jurisprudence and are likely to inform both future decisions and how the law is studied. Striking down the Electoral Bonds Scheme and upholding the abrogation of Article 370 are among his influential verdicts that stand pillars of his legacy. His decisions resonate not only within the corridors of the Supreme Court but also in the lives of countless Indians whose rights and freedoms he defended. Through humour, resilience, and an unwavering dedication to constitutional ideals, Chandrachud exemplified judicial leadership. As India's judicial landscape evolves, his tenure will be remembered as a testament to the power of law to uphold equality, integrity, and the spirit of democracy. Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

PRIORITISE MENTAL WELLBEING

Madam—Apropos to "Creating a workplace culture that truly supports mental health," published on November 11. It is good that they chose to focus on mental health in the workplace on Mental Health Day on October 10. Because the way few professionals in both the private and government sectors have taken their lives due to undue work pressure in the last few months is alarming, to say the least. Now a days, whoever is entering the corporate world is expected to be mentally strong to cope with the rising pressure and huge mismatch in work-life balance, but how would we justify the death of a young girl who has done well academically to clear CA and get into one of the top 4 consulting firms in the country and was forced to take her life in Pune? We in India have a very abysmal psychiatrist-patient

A boost to women entrepreneurs



The Finance Minister launched five Nari Shakti branches of Union Bank of India for women entrepreneurs in a step to boost women's power. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman virtually inaugurated five Nari Shakti branches of Union Bank of India

from Bengaluru. She urged the bank to develop technology-driven, cluster-based schemes specifically tailored to support women, aiming to empower female entrepreneurs and strengthen financial inclusion for women across the country. Furthermore, she encouraged women entrepreneurs to make use of these schemes and contribute to job creation. The Nari Shakti operates with a focus on extending credit to women entrepreneurs. In addition to financing women-owned manufacturing and service units, the bank will also focus on advisory services, workshops on start-ups, skill development programs, mentorship, networking, and collaborations. Union Bank of India has opened Nari Shakti branches in Bengaluru, Chennai, Visakhapatnam and Jaipur. It is a right step in the right direction. Akhilesh Krishnan | Mumbai

ratio. We have 0.75 psychiatrists per 100,000 mental patients against the prescribed 3 psychiatrists. Though things are changing a bit and people are approaching mental health professionals after many celebrities have opened up about this, we still need to cover a long distance in terms of enhancing mental health infrastructure and speak openly about this. Go! would need to go all out to open thousands of mental health education institutes and hospitals to bridge this huge gap and encourage young students to take up this profession. We will have to teach our children about the importance of mental and emotional health and need to bring a drastic change in our society when it comes to talking about mental health issues. There should not be any stigma attached to it. Bal Govind | Noida

SMOKING BAN

Madam — The decision of the Karnataka government to ban smoking and tobacco consumption in government offices

and on its premises, though laudable, boils down to its efficacious implementation. Moreover, the state government circular has said precious little about the punishment for flouting rules. Having said that, the move is indeed praiseworthy because it will send a strong message to all stakeholders about the perils of smoking and chewed tobacco. Furthermore, passive smokers can have a sigh of relief as they stand to suffer as well from smoke. It is also time the Centre revisits COTPA and contemplates better execution of the Act. By "The Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act 2003," also referred to as COTPA, smoking and consumption of other tobacco products in public places is prohibited nationwide. This Act also encompasses other requirements like displaying signage and enforcement. Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Organic farming: Cultivating a climate-conscious future

Organic farming is emerging as a sustainable agricultural solution, offering an eco-friendly alternative to conventional farming practice

With a growing focus on environmental issues, organic farming has emerged as a powerful ally in the fight against climate change. As global temperatures climb and natural ecosystems deteriorate, there is a shared conviction among scientists, environmental activists and farmers about the pressing need to create sustainable methods for food production. Organic agriculture holds significance not just for cultivating food without synthetic pesticides and fertilisers, but also for fostering farming systems that harmonise with nature. Could organic farming be the answer to the climate crisis? The fundamentals of organic farming lies in its significant potential to greatly diminish greenhouse gas emissions. The production of these, in conjunction with chemical pesticides, demands significant amounts of fossil fuels, whereas organic farms prioritise natural fertilisers and composts that enhance soil health over time. Environmental scientists, states, "Soil in organic farms often contains more carbon



because of the organic matter used." Healthier soil retains more moisture and serves as a carbon sink, effectively capturing CO₂ from the atmosphere. Organic farming promotes a rich variety of life forms. The importance of biodiversity cannot be overstated when it comes to creating resilient ecosystems. Traditional monoculture farming strips the soil of essential nutrients, reduces the diversity of habitats, and leaves crops vulnerable to numerous pests and diseases. Organic farming often embraces a variety of crops, fosters the growth of wild plants in and around the farm, and supports pollinators like bees and butterflies. Organic farms can have as much as 30 per cent greater

species richness than conventional farms, allowing for a greater diversity of birds, insects, and other wildlife to flourish alongside agricultural activities. This is similarly true regarding the conservation of water. Organic farms utilise techniques such as mulching and crop rotation to effectively conserve water. These methods enhance the soil's composition and increase its ability to retain moisture. This is why the organic farm is more adept at managing droughts, as numerous regions impacted by climate change are grappling with this issue. Through organic farming, we're cultivating more than just crops; we're fostering a sustainable water cycle. While there are several advantages to consider, some contend that relying solely on organic farming may not suffice to nourish the global population, as it tends to produce lower yields compared to traditional practices. Incorporating organic practices, such as crop rotation and minimising reliance on chemicals, into extensive agricultural operations significantly impacts the fight against climate change. Organic farming may not be a perfect solution, yet its environmental advantages are clear: reducing carbon emissions, conserving water, and boosting biodiversity are integral components of a comprehensive strategy in sustainable agriculture. As consumers, we can contribute by opting for organic products whenever we have the chance. Together, we can achieve significant strides towards a more sustainable world. The path to achieving climate resilience is intricate; nonetheless, by embracing organic farming, we can certainly sow the seeds for a greener future. (The writer is a motivator and a freelance writer; views are personal)



RACHNA LAKHPATRI



FIRST COLUMN

BLESSINGS OVER BILLIONS

If we want to be happy, then we should earn blessings which is our real wealth



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

We all love money ...don't we? It's a fact that money makes the world go round because it can make the impossible possible and the unimaginable real. Hence, it won't be an exaggeration to say that money can do almost everything. (At least those who have it feel so for sure) There is a famous Hindi film song that says "The whole thing is that ki bhayi Sabse Bada Rupaiya". We all have experienced how money can make people change their moods and colours in a jiffy. Haven't we? It can close the eyes, seal the mouth and deafen the ears wherever needed. We have seen in many scenes of movies how witnesses of crime turn a blind eye and a deaf ear and maintain a stony silence even though they know the truth.

Similarly in the world of business, money is the prime force behind the movers and shakers of mega deals, mergers and break-ups. Whether it's sports, entertainment or any other business, money can make cut-throat competitors get into cooperative mode in mutual interest. Money can match the mismatched, miss targets and change roles. At present it is observed that money has a considerable clout even in matters of faith. Like, it can gain you easy access to the holy citadels of godmen who may anoint you as their ardent follower. With money, you can also have a quick darshan of your favourite lord at the temple without having to wait in long queues. The list is unending. In short, money can buy anything and everything under the sun that can be bought. Though money creates this illusion that we are living in paradise money cannot



do any of the following for us. Like, money can buy us a beautiful house but not a happy home; it can buy us delicious food and expensive healthcare but not good health; it can provide us with high security but it cannot guarantee even minimum safety; it can buy us countless things for entertainment but not cheer and joy; it can buy us a comfortable bed but not sound sleep; it can buy name and fame but not real respect; it can buy the best contacts and relations but not true and honest love; it can buy crowns and thrones but not real power; it can buy good education but not intelligence and wisdom & lastly it can bail us out from the worst crimes but it cannot help us escape divine justice & buy us liberation from our sins and sufferings.

So, no matter if money does make the world go round, at the end of all the going round, we reach nowhere and get nothing substantial and real and end up being more impoverished than ever. Since ages, our scriptures and sages have spoken about the vices and virtues. Of all the vices like lust, anger, attachment, greed and ego, the most dangerous and subtle is "Greed". It is said that greed is such a kind of hunger that's never satisfied. Our desire for food ends when our hunger is appeased, our anger also subsides when its purpose is achieved, but! Greed is not satisfied even if we get the kingdom of the whole world.

Hence, it is this tendency, which is created by wealth, in a person who possesses it, that leads to corruption at all levels. So, does it mean one should not recognise the importance of money? Not really! Instead, we must understand that money or wealth is merely a tool that has to be used wisely and without greed, attachment or selfishness to create happiness for all. Hence, as long as we use it as a master's, it will bring us benefit and happiness. As soon as we become slaves to it, it will bring loss and misery. An enlightened person would always use money for the maximum good of a maximum number of people, whereas for a spiritually empowered soul, money becomes a tool to create good karma and a good destiny for the self and others. So, the story's moral is that money has never made man permanently happy, nor will it. Hence if we want to be happy, then we should earn blessings which is our real wealth and which would go along with birth after birth. Think about it!

(The writer is a spiritual educator and popular columnist; views are personal)

IFFI 2024: A global stage for cinema, culture and talent



CHAITANYA K PRASAD

This year's edition reaffirms IFFI's role as a powerful force in global cinema, connecting storytellers, industry leaders and audiences in a shared appreciation of the cinema



The 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is set to bring a fresh wave of cinematic celebration to the scenic coast of Goa from November 20th to 28th, 2024. This year's festival promises to be more than just a film showcase; it's a convergence of global cultures, a launchpad for emerging voices, and a profound tribute to India's cinematic legacy. IFFI 2024 is a bold step forward, not only in its evolution but as a distinctive international film festival that celebrates both India's vibrant culture and the art of cinema on a global stage. This year, IFFI spotlights Australia as its "Country of Focus," emphasising the festival's commitment to bridging cultures and fostering international understanding. This section invites Indian audiences to dive into the heart of Australian cinema, exploring a curated selection of films that range from gritty dramas to adventurous comedies and reflective documentaries.

Through this focused lens, audiences will experience the unique and evolving cinematic language of Australia, making IFFI a powerful platform for cross-cultural appreciation and dialogue. In doing so, IFFI 2024 goes beyond traditional film screening to create an immersive experience that positions the festival as a bridge between the stories, people, and cultures of the world. IFFI 2024's newest addition, the "Best Debut Director of Indian Feature Film" award, shines a spotlight on the next generation of Indian filmmakers. This award isn't just a recognition; it's a pivotal moment in a young director's career, marking a path for fresh perspectives in Indian cinema.

By dedicating this category to first-time directors, IFFI signals its commitment to nurturing innovative voices and helping them gain visibility in an increasingly competitive industry. While many international film festivals focus on established talents, IFFI's recognition of debut filmmakers reflects its dedication to fostering growth and embracing the future of Indian cinema. This year's festival also pays homage to four towering icons of Indian cinema: Raj Kapoor,



WITH OVER 200 FILMS FEATURED IN ITS VIEWING ROOM, FILM BAZAAR IS WHERE STORIES FIND INVESTORS, FILMS CONNECT WITH DISTRIBUTORS, AND COLLABORATIONS ARE BORN

Tapan Sinha, Akkineni Nageswara Rao (ANR), and Mohammed Rafi. These legends shaped India's cinematic legacy and captured the hearts of audiences across generations. By featuring restored classics and specially curated presentations, IFFI brings their artistry to life for a new generation and provides international attendees with a meaningful glimpse into India's rich cinematic history. This tribute serves as a reminder of the depth of Indian cinema, its transformative impact on culture, and the enduring relevance of these trailblazers. IFFI's Film Bazaar, now in its 18th year, stands out as a dynamic marketplace that brings together filmmakers, financiers, distributors, and international industry leaders.

With over 200 films featured in its Viewing Room, Film Bazaar is where stories find investors, films connect with distributors and collaborations are born. This dedicated platform sets IFFI apart from other festivals focused solely on screenings by creating opportunities for projects to grow and flourish beyond the festival circuit. For both Indian and international filmmakers, Film Bazaar represents a gateway to global audiences and a rare chance to network and secure support for future projects. The Indian Panorama section of IFFI has become a hallmark of the festival, offering audiences a diverse selection of contemporary Indian cinema. With 25 feature films and 20 non-feature films selected for their cinematic excellence, thematic resonance and aesthetic creativity, Indian Panorama showcases the vibrancy and diversity of Indian storytelling.

For international attendees, it provides an authentic insight into India's socio-cultural landscape, spotlighting everything from regional narratives to avant-garde experiments. This section rein-

forces IFFI's mission to present Indian cinema in all its depth and diversity, making it an invaluable part of the global film conversation. One of IFFI 2024's standout initiatives is "Creative Minds of Tomorrow" (CMOT), a program me by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) dedicated to nurturing young filmmakers. CMOT provides a platform for emerging voices to showcase short films, documentaries and animations, facilitating connections with seasoned industry professionals. Through CMOT, IFFI is not only showcasing young talent but also empowering the next generation of Indian filmmakers with the resources and connections to succeed.

This initiative solidifies IFFI's role as a festival that goes beyond celebration to become a nurturing ground for creativity and growth. In line with the essence of Bharat Parv, which captured the world's attention at Cannes 2024, IFFI brings forth a celebration of India's diverse cultural heritage. Bharat Parv, a campaign highlighting India's rich traditions and unity in diversity, finds its cinematic expression at IFFI, where films, events, and programming reflect India's multifaceted identity. This celebration of Indian culture provides international visitors with an immersive experience and a deeper understanding of India's story, offering a window into its heritage through the powerful lens of cinema.

IFFI 2024 arrives at a transformative moment for Indian cinema, serving as a platform to elevate Indian filmmakers onto the world stage. The festival's emphasis on emerging talent, global collaboration, and cultural exchange aligns with India's aspirations to be a global leader in the arts. IFFI's unique combination of industry

initiatives, recognition of fresh voices and celebration of cinematic heritage enables it to play a pivotal role in the growth of Indian cinema and its reception on the global stage. This year's edition promises to leave an indelible impact on the industry, redefining IFFI as a festival that doesn't just reflect India's cinematic culture but actively shapes its future. For international filmmakers, IFFI 2024 offers an unparalleled opportunity to connect with India's vibrant cinematic landscape.

By providing exposure to a diverse Indian audience, access to Film Bazaar's resources and engagement with sections like the Australian showcase, IFFI offers international filmmakers insights into India's tastes, trends, and opportunities. IFFI's homage to iconic Indian artists also provides a rich cultural context that enables international guests to appreciate the legacy and contributions of Indian cinema. Through these interactions, IFFI creates a unique, collaborative environment that enriches both Indian and global cinema.

The 55th IFFI is a festival that seamlessly merges tradition with forward-thinking innovation, paying tribute to the giants of Indian cinema while embracing the voices of tomorrow. From the spirit of Bharat Parv to the debut of a new award for emerging talent, IFFI 2024 embodies the evolving nature of cinema and celebrates the power of storytelling as a tool for connection. As the festival draws international filmmakers, industry leaders, and audiences together, it positions India as a key player in global cinema and reaffirms IFFI as a festival of lasting impact and vision.

(The writer is former additional DG, DFF and festival director, IFFI; Inputs provided by Zoya Ahmad and Vaishnavi Srinivasan; Views expressed are personal)

Staying grounded: Lessons from the 1984 elections and anti-Sikh riots

Both politicians and journalists risk misjudgment when they distance themselves from the realities on the ground

The 1984 election results were a shock to many. Rajiv Gandhi won a record-breaking 414 seats, toppling major political figures. Veteran leaders like Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Chandra Shekhar faced unexpected defeats—Vajpayee in Gwalior and Chandra Shekhar in Ballia. But this story is less about the triumphs or losses and more about a crucial lesson this journalist learned from an open-hearted conversation with Chandra Shekhar. In an interview, this journalist asked the seasoned leader if he had anticipated the wave that swept away even stalwarts like himself. Chandra Shekhar replied candidly: "To be honest, I had become



MANOJ RAGHUVANSHI

disconnected from the grass roots. I didn't realise there was such a wave." This realisation left a lasting impact on the journalist, shaping their perspective going forward.

The same kind of shock had reverberated through the nation during the 1977 elections, but in the opposite direction. Indira Gandhi was

ousted from power, losing her own seat in Rae Bareilly, while her son Sanjay Gandhi lost in Amethi. The Congress party was routed, failing to win a single seat in Uttar Pradesh or Bihar. Despite her stature and the counsel of her closest advisors, Indira Gandhi had also become detached from grassroots sentiment. This disconnect was something this journalist later witnessed in the field of journalism itself. During the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, this journalist returned from the field after witnessing the violence firsthand. His editor, Ayub Syed, was discussing the events with a senior journalist, OP Sabherwal, who was analysing the riots from afar.

Sabherwal likened the situation to 1947, predicting that the riots would continue indefinitely. The journalist respectfully intervened, sharing what he had observed in RK Puram: a Gurdwara under attack, granthis being rescued by the army, looters scattering when a single soldier raised his hand, and a crowd dispersing with just a shout. He explained to his seniors that the violence was being stoked by the Congress government, with rioters emboldened by police assurances of impunity. The journalist conveyed that the riots were far from uncontrollable and could be stopped whenever the government chose. And he was proven right; the violence



ceased once the government decided it had gone too far. The lasting lesson? Whether a politician or a journalist, detachment from reality clouds judgment. Without a connection to the ground, even the most obvious forces at play can go unseen.

The 1984 election and subsequent events taught a vital lesson about staying connected to the grassroots. Rajiv Gandhi's landslide victory, which swept aside prominent leaders like Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Chandra Shekhar, highlighted how even seasoned politicians could lose touch with public sentiment.

In a candid interview, Chandra Shekhar admitted his own disconnect from the grassroots, mirroring

the misjudgment that cost Indira Gandhi the 1977 election. This theme resonated again during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, where a journalist's firsthand observations clashed with distant analyses in the newsroom. The violence, stirred by political agendas, was ultimately controllable when authorities chose to act.

The takeaway? For both politicians and journalists, a disconnect from on-the-ground realities can obscure clear judgment, leaving critical forces unrecognised. Staying rooted is essential to understanding and addressing the true dynamics at play in any situation.

(The writer is a senior journalist; views expressed are personal)

Trump taps Rubio as Secretary of State

US President-elect Donald Trump has tapped Florida Senator Marco Rubio as his Secretary of State and Congressman Mike Waltz as his National Security Advisor. Rubio, 53, is considered to be a friend of India and has been an advocate of the India-US relationship, while Waltz, 50, is an old-India hand and has been co-chair of the Congressional Caucus for India and Indian Americans for years. By picking Rubio and Waltz as his top diplomat and NSA guarantees a continuation of bi-partisan support and further strengthening of India-US relationship under the second Trump administration. The news of these two major appointments came as the Republican party won a majority in the House of Representatives, thus giving Trump control over both the wings of the US Congress. The role of NSA does not require Senate confirmation. There has been no official statement from the Trump Transition Team. "I'm thrilled for my friend, Florida colleague, and our next Secretary of State Marco Rubio. He will restore American leadership around the world, especially in Latin America, as he represents the United States with dignity and courage!" Florida Senator Rick Scott said. Scott is seeking to be the Senate Majority Leader, which is currently being held by Democratic Senator Chuck Schumer. "I am thrilled that President Trump has chosen Rep. Mike Waltz to serve as his National Security Adviser. There is no one more capable or qualified for this crucial role," said Congressman Mike Rogers, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, "As a Green Beret, Rep. Waltz bravely fought to defend our nation. As a leader on the House Armed Services Committee, Rep. Waltz has continued to work around the clock to bolster US national security. Our national security is in good hands with Rep. Waltz at the helm," Rogers said. Waltz, a Trump loyalist, is a combat-decorated Green Beret who served in Afghanistan, the Middle East and Africa. He would be the first former Green Beret to hold the role. Waltz has served in Congress since 2019. He has called for Europe to do more to support Ukraine and for the US to be more stringent with its support, aligning with a key foreign policy goal of the president-elect.

Developing countries must not leave Baku empty-handed: UN Secretary-General

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres Tuesday urged world leaders to ensure that COP29 must tear down the walls of climate finance, warning that "developing countries must not leave Baku empty-handed". Addressing the opening ceremony of the World Leaders Climate Action Summit at COP29 here, Guterres sought urgent measures to support developing nations, which are bearing the brunt of climate-fuelled catastrophes despite contributing relatively little to global emissions. "The rich cause the problem, the poor pay the highest price," Guterres said, pointing out that developing nations face disproportionate impacts from climate change, such as food insecurity, infrastructure damage, and biodiversity loss. "Developing countries must not leave Baku empty-handed. A deal is a must and I'm confident it will be reached," he said. With 2024 on track to be the hottest year on record, he described climate change as a "masterclass" in destruction, devastating communities and driving up global food and energy prices. In his address, Guterres outlined three priorities essential to achieving climate goals, particularly stressing the role of developed nations in ensuring that developing countries have the necessary resources to adapt and transition to cleaner energy. He called for developed countries to lead emissions reductions by providing emerging economies with technology and financial aid to enable climate action. Guterres highlighted the staggering financial gap in adaptation financing, which could reach \$359 billion annually by 2030, and urged developed countries to fulfil promises to double adaptation funding by 2025. "These missing dollars are not abstract numbers on a balance sheet; they are lives taken, harvests lost, and development denied," he said, advocating for rapid progress in establishing effective finance solutions for vulnerable nations. The UN Secretary-General further advocated a new climate finance structure to ensure developing countries receive



adequate support. He proposed a five-point finance plan that includes boosting concessional public finance, tapping into innovative revenue sources, and transforming multilateral banks to channel greater investment into these regions. Guterres warned that without significant support, COP29 risks ending without meaningful results for developing countries. He also emphasised that climate finance is an essential investment in global stability and resilience.

UGRO U GRO Capital Limited

4th Floor, Tower 3, Equinox Business Park, LBS Road, Kuria, Mumbai 400070

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES BY PRIVATE TREATY

SALE NOTICE OF 15 DAYS FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS ("SECURED ASSETS") BY PRIVATE TREATY UNDER THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISIONS TO RULE 8 AND 9 OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.

This notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) of the below described Secured Asset(s) mortgaged / charged to U GRO Capital Limited ("Secured Creditor"), the possession of which has been taken by the authorised officer of Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is what is" and "As is where is" and "Whatever there is" basis, by way of private treaty after 15 days from this notice, for recovery of Rs. 43,31,174/- as on 11.01.2023 and further interest and other expenses thereon till the date of realization of amount, due to Secured Creditor from the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) namely 1) Shri. Akash Atri 2) Mr. Akash Atri 3) Mrs. Lakmi Devi the Reserve Price will be Rs. 76,00,000/- and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 7,60,000/-.

Description of Secured Asset(s):

"All the piece and parcel of the immovable property being Land area measuring 65 Sq. Yds. and construction thereon, Situated at Khata No. 164, Kharsa No. 501 & 500K, Main Dabari Surajpur Road (Noida Dabari Road), Village Devla, Pargana & Tehsil Dabari, District Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201306."

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in U GRO Capital Limited/Secured Creditor's website. i.e. www.ugrocapital.com or contact the undersigned at authorised.officer@ugrocapital.com.

Date: 13-11-2024, Place: Uttar Pradesh Authorised Officer, UGRO Capital Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring in common notice that Vinod and Subhash Chand Yadav S/O Ramchandra is owner in Property having Details IX/6592 Nehru Gali, Dharam Pura, Near Geeta Gali, Gandhi Nagar, East Delhi-110031. Purchased this property vide Sale Deed Reg no - 8015, Book Vol no - 3876. Date - 10/08/2023. I have lost surviving Member Certificate in the name of Satya Devi. This is to confirm that we are the absolute owner. In anyone has any disputes Please inform with in 15 days to Mr Ashok Singh +91-9312306881

DCB Bank Limited, Ground & 1st Floor, Plot No. 23/24, Mahila Colony, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-110031

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large are hereby informed that M/s Elite Design Pvt. Ltd. claims to be the absolute owner and in possession of Flat No.767 on Second Floor, having its plinth / covered area measuring 98 sq. meters, Pocket-E, Situated at Mayur Vihar Phase-II, New Delhi (said property) on the basis of Sale Deed dated 30.05.2022 executed by Sh. Anil Kumar Sachdeva (S/o Late Sh. Raj Kumar Sachdeva & Late Smt. Lajwanti Sachdeva).

Now, M/s Elite Design Pvt. Ltd. proposes to mortgage the aforesaid property with our client HDFC Bank Ltd.

Any person(s) claiming any rights, title or interests whatsoever, in and over the aforesaid property or any part thereof through sale, exchange, mortgage, gift, trust, inheritance, bequest, possession, lease, lien, easement or otherwise may lodge his claims/objections with documentary proof thereof, to the undersigned, within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice, as otherwise our client bank shall proceed towards the mortgage transaction with good faith, as if there are no subsisting claims/objections, and all such claims/objections not filed in time shall be deemed to have been waived & given up and shall not be binding on M/s Elite Design Pvt. Ltd. and our client HDFC Bank Ltd.

Mohd. Raees (Advocate)
D/4450/2015
R&P Legal
Advocates & Legal Consultants
I-1693, Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi-110019.
Mobile No: 9654708907
Ph. 011-46063838, 41018803 Extn. 106

CAN FIN HOMES LTD

CIN : L85110KA1987PLC008699, Above Canara Bank Building, First Floor, Plot No C - 3, Sector - 1, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, Pin Code : 201301, E-mail : noida@canfinhomes.com, Ph No : 0120 - 2970164/65/67, 7625079126

APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 9 (1)]
Sale notice for sale of immovable properties

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

NOTICE is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the authorised officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd., Noida Branch, will be sold by holding e-auction on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 03-12-2024, for recovery of Rs. 32,07,344/- (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh Seven Thousand Three Hundred Forty Four Only) due to Can Fin Homes Ltd. from Mr. Vinod Kumar and Mrs. Soniya (Borrowers) and Mr. Dalbir Singh (Guarantors), as on 11-11-2024, together with further interest and other charges thereon. The reserve price will be Rs. 8,10,000/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Ten Thousand Only) and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 81,000/- (Rupees Eighty One Thousand Only)

(Description of the immovable property)
Residential Flat No. FF-4, Back Side, First Floor (L.I.G. Type, Without Roof Right), Plot No. G-52 & 53, Kharsa No. 1458, Balaji Enclave Colony Hadobast Village-Raispur, Pargana-Dasna, Tehsil and District Ghaziabad

Boundaries G-52 and 53: East- Plot No. G-48 and 49, West - Road 20 FT Wide North- Plot No. G-54, South- Plot No. G-51

Known Encumbrance- Nil

The detailed terms and conditions of the sale are provided in the official website of Can Fin Homes Ltd., (<https://www.canfinhomes.com/SearchAuction.aspx>). Link for participating in e-auction: <https://sarfaesi.auctionright.net>

Place: Noida Authorised Officer
Date: 11-11-2024 Can Fin Homes Ltd.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that We (1). Dr. Partho Protim Barman S/o Shri Manindra Chandra Mallabarm, (2) Mrs. Sutapa Barman W/o Shri Bishwa Pratim Barman Daughter in law of Shri Manindra Chandra Mallabarm, (3) Mrs. Manmita Mandal D/o Shri Manindra Chandra Mallabarm are filing application in L&DO for substitution of the property No. J-1973, Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi-110019 in the name of (1). Dr. Partho Protim Barman, (2) Mrs. Sutapa Barman, (3) Mrs. Manmita Mandal on the grounds of Legal Heirs. If there are any objections/claims from the general public on this application, the same shall be communicated to L&DO with supporting documents through registered post or by visiting L&DO at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi or through an email at l&doinfo@nic.in, within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Name : Dr. Partho Protim Barman
Address: J-1973, Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi-110019
Phone : 882042880

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client Azad Khokhar is in process to purchase the Ground Floor of Property bearing No. F-6155 without Roof Right, measuring 50 Sq. Yards, i.e. 41.80 Sq. Mtrs out of Kharsa No. 47 & 48 situated in the Abadi of B-Block, Pandav Nagar in the area of Village Gharonda, Neem Ku Bangar alias Patpar Ganj, Hagi, Shahdara, Delhi-110061 (availing loan from PNB) from Kavita Sharma, having acquired the said property vide Sale Deed dated 29/6/2019 (Document No. 4320) executed by Smt. Meera Chopra. He confirmed that his seller i.e. Kavita Sharma is not having the below documents pertaining to the property in question - Original Sale Deed dated 25.05.2017 executed by Mr. Shankar Mulwani in favour of Mrs. Neeru Chopra Doc no.2558

All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise whatsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Kamal Kanti Gupta (Advocate)
Unit No. FF-2, First Floor, Mahalaxmi Metro Tower, Sec-1, Vashi, Dist. U.P., Mob. 9810963951

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL

PROTECTING INVESTING FINANCING ADVISING

ADITYA BIRLA FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat-362266
Branch Office: 2nd Floor, Vijaya Building, 17, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001

APPENDIX IV RULE 8 (1) POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of M/S ADITYA BIRLA FINANCE LIMITED under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 19-06-2024 calling upon the borrower M/s. Empire Furniture Co. Through Proprietor, Mr. Gurpreet Singh Bhatia, M/s. B J Corporation, Through Proprietor, Mrs. Sonia Bhatia, Loan Account No. ABND_LAP0000064092 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 6,56,29,368/- (Rupees Six Crore Fifty Six Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Eight Only) as on 14-06-2024 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this 11th day of November of the year 2024.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of M/S ADITYA BIRLA FINANCE LIMITED, for an amount of Rs. 6,56,29,368/- (Rupees Six Crore Fifty Six Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Eight Only) as on 14-06-2024 and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub - section (8) of the section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property
Northern Side Portion of First Floor, Second Floor and Third Floor with roof rights, Part of Property bearing No.59, Motia Khan Durgam Scheme, M.M. Road, Rani Jhansi Road, Delhi-110055
PLACE: New Delhi, DATE: 11.11.2024 Authorised Officer, (Aditya Birla Finance Limited)

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the original share certificate bearing No. 510255, 510256, 510257, 718012, 718013 & 718014 of 150 shares with Folio No.: ESC0130639 of ESCORTS KUBOTA LIMITED. Standing in the name of Pravinaben Vinubhai Patel & Vinubhai Vithalbai Patel have been lost or misplaced and undersigned have applied to company to issue duplicate certificates in lieu thereof. Any person who has a claim in respect of said shares should lodge such claim with company at its Administrative Office at ESCORTS KUBOTA LIMITED Company Address : 15/5, Mathura Road, Faridabad, Haryana - 121001 within 21 days from this date, else the company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificate.

Folio No.	Certificate No.	Shares	Distinctive Numbers From	Distinctive Numbers To
ESC0130639	510255	25	24159884	24159908
	510256	25	24159909	24159933
	510257	25	24159934	24159958
	718012	25	30409884	30409908
	718013	25	30409909	30409933
	718014	25	30409934	30409958

Date: 13-11-2024
Name(s) of the shareholder (s) : Vinubhai Vithalbai Patel

MANIBHAVNAM HOME FINANCE INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

REGISTERED OFFICE:- Farm No. 10, Tropical Drive, Ghitori, M.G Road, New Delhi - 110030
Mob-9310100001, Email: customer@manibhavnam.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public in general, and the customers in particular, that the management of the Company has decided to close the following branch :

Name Manibhavnam Home Finance India Private Limited
Current Address Office No. 02, Jawahar Nagar, A.B. Road, Dewas, M.P.-455001

Contact Details +919910705878
of Closing Branch vipin.gupta@manibhavnam.com

Tentative Date of Closing 20th February, 2025

KOVALAM INVESTMENT AND TRADING CO. LIMITED

Regd. Office: Premises Oswal Woolen Mills Limited G.T. Road, Shergur, Ludhiana-141003 PB
CIN:L65910PB1981PLC023055, Ph.: +91-61-5066605

Website: www.ovmwhar.com/kovalam, Email: kovalam@ovmwhar.com

Statement of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter/Half Year Ended 30/09/2024 (Rs in Lacs, unless otherwise stated)

Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Half Year Ended		Year Ended (Audited)
		30.09.2024 (Unaudited)	30.06.2024 (Unaudited)	30.09.2024 (Unaudited)	30.09.2023 (Unaudited)	
1	Total Income from operations (net)	177.97	109.02	86.82	286.99	361.00
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before tax)	175.14	106.63	83.07	281.77	349.33
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax)	161.92	101.83	75.31	263.75	305.15
4	Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss) for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income/(Loss) (after tax))	864.98	1,231.32	932.11	2,096.30	3,134.10
5	Equity equity share capital (Face value : Rs.10/- per share)	222.39	222.39	222.39	222.39	222.39
6	Reserves (excluding revaluation reserve as shown in the per audited balance sheet of previous year)	-	-	-	-	8,568.41
7	Earning per share (EPS) (Rs.) Basic and Diluted EPS	7.28	4.58	3.39	11.86	6.99

Notes: 1. The Unaudited financial results of the Company for the Quarter and Half Year ended 30th September, 2024 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on November 12, 2024. The financial results have been subjected to Limited Review by Statutory Auditors of the Company.
2. The above is the extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended September 30, 2024 filed with the Stock Exchanges under regulations 33 of the SEBI (Listing and other disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended September 30, 2024 are available on the Stock Exchange website i.e. www.bseindia.com and Company's website: <http://www.ovmwhar.com/kovalam/investor.php>

For Kovalam Investment & Trading Co. Ltd.
Naveed Sharma
Non-Executive - Non Independent Director
DIN : 00454285

Date: 12.11.2024
Place: Ludhiana

SAR Televature Limited

(Formerly SAR Televature Private Limited)
CIN: L45202HR2019PLC080514
Regd. Off.: Plot No. 346 A, 2nd Floor, Udyog Vihar, Phase-4, Gurugram-122016 Haryana
Contact: +91-8587050050, Email: info@sarteleventure.com

EXTRACT OF STATEMENT OF CONSOLIDATE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED 30.09.2024

Sr. No.	Particulars	6 Months Ended on		Year Ended	
		30.09.2024 Unaudited	30.09.2023 Unaudited	31.03.2024 Audited	31.03.2023 Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	11813.54	3581.49	8835.48	12416.97
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or extraordinary Items#)	1635.64	419.03	1187.57	1606.6
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or extraordinary Items#)	1635.64	419.03	1187.57	1606.6
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or extraordinary Items#)	1599.01	405.88	1160.29	1566.16
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	1599.01	405.88	1160.29	1566.16
6	Equity Share capital	742.85	210	300	300
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	53068.71	2673.14	823.13	6880.43
8	Earning per Share (face Value of Rs. 10/- each) (not annualised)	4.31	5.09	11.94	16.12
	1. Basic	4.31	5.09	11.94	16.12
	2. Diluted	4.31	5.09	11.94	16.12

NOTES:
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of half year financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the half year financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange website www.nseindia.com. The same is also available on the Company's website www.sarteleventure.com.
2. The above results duly reviewed by the Audit Committee, were approved by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on 11.11.2024.

For SAR Televature Limited
Sd/-
Pankaj Nagpal
Director

Date: 11.11.2024
Place: Haryana

Maar India Limited

Regd. Office: 306-308, Square One, C-2, District Centre, Saket, New Delhi - 110017
CIN - U45201DL200PLC133161
Email ID - bharat.garg@maar.ae Website - www.in.maar.com

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024 (Rs. in million)

S. No.	Particulars	For the quarter ended			For the half year ended			For the year ended
		September 30, 2024	30 June 2024	31 March 2024	September 30, 2024	September 30, 2023	31 March 2024	
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	
1	Total Income from Operations	2,840.83	2,941.72	5,716.65	5,782.55	15,989.32	27,565.67	
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(1,160.84)	(1,113.43)	(1,553.37)	(2,274.25)	(868.37)	(2,385.20)	
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period Before Tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary Items)	(1,160.84)	(1,113.43)	(1,553.37)	(2,274.25)	(868.37)	(2,385.20)	
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary Items)	(1,160.84)	(1,113.43)	(1,553.37)	(2,274.25)	(868.37)	(2,385.20)	
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	(1,159.10)	(1,120.40)	(1,557.75)	(2,279.48)	(864.95)	(2,382.86)	
6	Paid-up equity share capital (Face value of Rs. 10 each)	1,693.87	1,693.87	1,693.87	1,693.87	1,693.87	1,693.87	
7	Other equity (Reserves excluding revaluation reserves)	-	-	-	-	-	(39,951.20)	
8	Net worth	-	-	-	-	-	(38,257.33)	
9	Paid up debt capital / Outstanding debt	81,063.45	80,531.93	78,485.34	81,063.45	77,590.33	78,485.34	
10	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-	-	-	
11	Debt / Equity Ratio	(2.04)	(2.08)	(2.15)	(2.04)	(2.15)	(2.10)	
12	Earnings per share (EPS) (Face value of Rs. 10/- each)	(6.85)	(6.57)	(9.17)	(13.43)	(40.36)	(14.08)	
	1. Basic	(6.85)	(6.57)	(9.17)	(13.43)	(40.36)	(14.08)	
	2. Diluted	(6.85)	(6.57)	(9.17)	(13.43)	(40.36)	(14.08)	
13	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	
14	Debt to Equity Ratio	738.13	738.13	738.13	738.13	738.13	738.13	
15	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	0.18	0.04	0.03	0.14	0.25	0.21	
16	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	0.37	0.37	0.09	0.37	0.75	0.65	

Notes:
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results filed with stock exchange under regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulation, 2015. The full formats of financial results are available on the website of the stock exchange www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website www.in.maar.com.
2. For the other line items referred in regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulation, 2015, pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange and can be accessed on the website of stock exchange www.bseindia.com.
3. The above financial results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at their meeting held on November 11, 2024.

For and on behalf of Board of Directors of Maar India Limited
Sd/-
Jamal Majed Khalifa Bin Thaniyah
Director
DIN - 07534810

Place : Gurugram
Date : November 11, 2024

ROTOGRAPHICS (INDIA) LIMITED

CIN : L74899DL1976PLC008036
Regd. Off.: Unit No. 8, Ground Floor, Pocket M, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi 110076
Telephone: 011-47366800 E-mail: info@rotoindia.com Website: www.rotoindia.co.in

Extract of Statement of Standalone Unaudited Financial Result For the Quarter And Half Year Ended 30th September, 2024

Particulars	Quarter Ended		Half Year Ended		Corresponding 3 Months Ended in the previous year (31/03/2024) (Audited)	Previous Year Ended (31/03/2023) (Audited)
	(30/09/2024) (Unaudited)	(30/09/2024) (Unaudited)	(30/09/2024) (Unaudited)	(30/09/2023) (Unaudited)		
1. Total Income from Operations	1.27	2.54	1.27	4.33	4.33	4.33
2. Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extra Ordinary Items#)	-3.88	-4.26	-2.14	-6.83	-6.83	-6.83
3. Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extra Ordinary Items#)	-3.88	-4.26	-2.14	-6.83	-6.83	-6.83
4. Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extra Ordinary Items#)	-3.89	-5.00	-2.14	-6.07	-6.07	-6.07
5. Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	-3.89	-5.00	-2.14	-6.05	-6.05	-6.05
6. Equity Share Capital	360.13	360.13	360.13	360.13	360.13	360.13
7. Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.		

Amsterdam police warn of fresh unrest a day after rioters torch tram

AP THE HAGUE A senior police officer warned Tuesday of calls for more rioting in Amsterdam, after dozens of people armed with sticks and firecrackers set a tram on fire Monday night as the city faces tensions following violence last week targeting fans of an Israeli soccer club.



In this image taken from video, police officers patrol in riot gear on the streets of Amsterdam as the city is facing tensions following violence last week.

Police noted the tense atmosphere since five people were treated in the hospital and dozens detained Thursday following a Maccabi Tel Aviv-Ajax match. Youths on scooters and on foot went in search of Israeli fans, punching and kicking them and then fleeing to evade

arrested last week would remain in custody while the investigation continues. Two of those are minors, a 16-year old and a 17-year old from Amsterdam. The other two men are from Amsterdam and a nearby city. Police said they have identified over 170 witnesses and have taken forensic evidence from dozens.

UK supports India for permanent UNSC seat

PTI LONDON The UK has reiterated its support for permanent membership for India in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as part of an expansion of the international panel to ensure it can continue to rise to the pressing challenges faced by the world.

“We continue to support an expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of membership to a total in the mid-twenties. We want to see permanent African representation, and permanent seats for Brazil, Germany, India and Japan,” he said.

Haiti's main airport shuts down as gang violence surges

AP PORT-AU-PRINCE Haiti's international airport shut down on Monday after gangs opened fire at a commercial flight landing in Port-Au-Prince, prompting some airlines to temporarily suspend operations as the country swore in a new interim prime minister who promised to restore peace.

au-Prince which may include armed violence, and disruptions to roads, ports, and airports.” Spirit, JetBlue and American Airlines said Monday they were cancelling flights to and from Haiti.

stricken nation and hold elections, which haven't been held in Haiti since 2016. “There is a lot to be done to bring back hope,” he said before a room of suit-clad diplomats and security officials.

35 killed as man rams car into crowd in China PTI BEIJING Thirty-five people were killed and 43 others injured when a 62-year old man rammed his car into a crowd in China's Zhuhai City on Monday, official media reported on Tuesday.

Mauritius Opposition gets landslide win in polls

AP JOHANNESBURG Mauritius' opposition coalition has won the country's election by a landslide, taking all seats in the country's 21 constituencies. The Alliance for Change coalition's win will see the return of Navin Ramgoolam as the country's prime minister.

before all results were announced, saying his Militant Socialist Movement coalition was headed for a huge defeat as it became clear that the opposition was winning in all of the country's 21 constituencies.

a total of 70 parliamentary seats. At least 1 million people were registered to vote on Sunday in the 12th election since Mauritius gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1968.

सार्वजनिक सूचना सहायकार को सुनिश्चित किया जाता है कि निचे नाम अर्द्धाकार...

PUBLIC NOTICE It is hereby notified for general public that my client, Sri Anshul Goel S/o Chandan Mullan Goel, has severed all his relations with his wife...

THROUGH SLEEPER RENEWAL WORKS E-Tender Notice No. 88/W-2/APDJ Dated: 06-11-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Tender No. 39-AP-1-2024. Name of work: Rainnagar Jalpaiguri-New Coochbehar-TSR (P)-12-800 TKM. Tender Value: ₹5,14,80,005.25/- Earnest Money: ₹4,07,400/- Date & Time of Closing of Tender: 13:00 hrs. of 28-11-2024 & opening at 15:00 hrs. of 28-11-2024.

EXECUTION, USING CONTRACTOR'S PQRS MACHINE E-Tender Notice No. 98/W-2/APDJ Dated: 08-11-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Tender No. 45-AP-1-2024. Name of work: Execution, using Contractor's PQRS machine, of new Coochbehar-Fakiragram Jn.-TSR (P)-48,160 Tkm. Tender Value: ₹21,73,02,131.11/- Earnest Money: ₹12,36,500/- Date & Time of Closing of Tender: 13:00 hrs. of 29-11-2024 & opening at 15:00 hrs. of 29-11-2024.

सार्वजनिक सूचना सहायकार को सुनिश्चित किया जाता है कि निचे नाम अर्द्धाकार...

PUBLIC NOTICE It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Prem Shankar Mishra had acquired Plot no. 105/B, area measuring 37.5 Sq. yds. out of khasra no. 24/20, situated at Village Dabri, Block C, Dabri Ext. New Delhi vide GPA Dt. 28.01.1983 along with ATIS executed by Mr. Kamwar Lal and Now Mr. Prem Shankar Mishra is the undisputed owner of the said property.

DRM (W), Alipurduar Jn. NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Serving Customers With A Smile

DRM (W), Alipurduar Jn. NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Serving Customers With A Smile

PUBLIC NOTICE General public is hereby informed that I/We SH. DHEERAJ TANDON am/are filing application in L&DO for substitution / mutation of the property no.231 Front side Bharat Nagar, Ashok Vihar, North West Delhi-110052 in the name of LATE SH.DARSHAN LAL TANDON on the grounds of LEGAL HEIR If there are any objections / claims from the general public on this application, the same shall be communicated to L&DO with supporting documents through registered post or by visiting L&DO at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi or through an email at ldo@nic.in, within 30 days of publication of this notice.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS CHANGE OF NAME I, Manoj Kumar Singla S/o Suresh Chand and F/o Sameer Singla R/o 137/3 Patparganj, Village Ghronda Neem Ka Bangar Delhi-110091, solemnly affirm and declare that Manoj Kumar Singla and Manoj Kumar is one and same person. PD(915)C I, Manoj Kumar Singla S/o Suresh Chand and F/o Sameer Singla R/o 137/3 Patparganj, Village Ghronda Neem Ka Bangar Delhi-110091, solemnly affirm and declare that Manoj Kumar Singla and Manoj Kumar is one and same person. PD(916)C

FORM NO. NCLT 3A Advertising Detailing Petition BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL BENCH-II NEW DELHI In the matter of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 And In the Matter of Section 7 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 read with rule 4 of the insolvency and Bankruptcy Rules, 2016 And In the Matter of Central Bank of India Stressed Assets Management Branch, Jeevan Tara Building, 5, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001 Vs M/s. Indian Technometal Co. Ltd. CIN- U27205DL2009PLC192248 Registered Office: 1107, Vikrant Tower 4, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008, India Company Petition / No.(IB) 676 of 2024 NOTICE OF PETITION A petition/application/reference (Case Title: Central Bank of India Vs M/s. Indian Technometal Co. Ltd.) under section 7 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 read with rule 4 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Application to Adjudicating Authority) Rules, 2016 for initiating a insolvency proceedings, was presented by BKM & Associates on the 10th Day of June 2024, and the said petition is fixed for hearing before Bench-II of National Company Law Tribunal, New Delhi on 09.12.2024. Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said petition / application/reference should send to the petitioner's advocate, notice of his intention, signed by him or his advocate, with his name and address, so as to reach the petitioner's advocate not later than two days before the date fixed for the hearing of the petition / application /reference. Where he seeks to oppose the petition /application / reference, the grounds of opposition or a copy of his affidavit shall be furnished with such notice. A copy of the petition / application / affidavit will be furnished by the undersigned to any person requiring the same on payment of the prescribed charges for the same. (Sd./-) BKM & ASSOCIATES Advocates, Solicitors & Consultants, Counsel for the Financial Creditors 206, A.J, Chambers, Naiwala Bank Street, Karolbagh, New Delhi-110005. Mobile: 9868113796, E-mail: bkmdelhi@gmail.com Dated 12/11/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE In terms of the Order dated 07-11-2024, passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 7777/2023, it is stated that M/s Maniyata Pristine Partnership Firm owns following unencumbered lands in which Respondent No. 7 namely Reddy Veeranna has 90% share and the partnership firm has passed a resolution that the land shown hereunder will be furnished as security in terms of the Order dated 03.10.2024 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India: SL. No. VILLAGE NAME Sy. No. EXTENT (in Guntas) 1. Valagere Kallahalli 185 30 2. Valagere Kallahalli 170 30 3. Valagere Kallahalli 92/1 87 4. Valagere Kallahalli 130/1 60 5. Valagere Kallahalli 162/4 20.25 6. Valagere Kallahalli 134/2 58 7. Valagere Kallahalli 135/1 15 8. Valagere Kallahalli 144/4 10 9. Valagere Kallahalli 136/27 38.25 10. Valagere Kallahalli 132/1 10 11. Valagere Kallahalli 99 50 12. Valagere Kallahalli 171 30 13. Valagere Kallahalli 90 20 14. Valagere Kallahalli 92/7 8.75 15. Valagere Kallahalli 92/3 6.25 16. Valagere Kallahalli 89/1 13.25 17. Valagere Kallahalli 89/2 9.75 18. Valagere Kallahalli 139 21 19. Valagere Kallahalli 180 40 20. Valagere Kallahalli 181 30 21. Valagere Kallahalli 186 30 22. Valagere Kallahalli 187 40 23. Valagere Kallahalli 132/1 50 24. Valagere Kallahalli 136/40 98 25. Valagere Kallahalli 129/1 55 26. Valagere Kallahalli 91/2 38 27. Valagere Kallahalli 91/2 36 28. Valagere Kallahalli 90 20 29. Valagere Kallahalli 177 30 30. Neriga 193/1 43 31. Neriga 193/2 40 32. Neriga 195 80 33. Neriga 195 40 34. Neriga 192 81 35. Neriga 191 72 36. Neriga 194 20 37. Neriga 194 40 38. Neriga 108/p10 80 39. Neriga 108/p36 80 40. Neriga 108/p46 100 41. Neriga 108 40 42. Neriga 195 40 43. Neriga 108/p37 80 44. Neriga 108/p44 80 45. Neriga 108/p46 100 46. Chamenahalli 39/17 26 47. Chamenahalli 39/p50 17.75 48. Chamenahalli 135p 40 49. Chamenahalli 34/3 72.5 50. Chamenahalli 39/p50 13 51. Chamenahalli 39/p50 18 52. Yamare 93/2 31 53. Yamare 108/2 33.5 54. Yamare 90/3 50 55. Yamare 91 71 56. Yamare 93/3 32 57. Yamare 93/4 25 58. Yamare 108/1 83 59. Yamare 91 80 60. Yamare 91 60 61. Yamare 108/2 33.5 TOTAL IN GUNTAS 2686.75 TOTAL IN ACRES 67.16875 And also, below mentioned additional lands: SL. No. VILLAGE NAME Sy. No. EXTENT (in Guntas) 1. Neriga 184 80 2. Neriga 186 82 3. Neriga 182/1 11 TOTAL IN GUNTAS 173 All the above lands are situated at Sarjapura Hobli, Ansil Taluk, Bangalore Urban District. If any financial institution, bank or any other person has any claim or objection against the said land, they may file their objections/claims before the Registrar (Judicial), Supreme Court of India, within two weeks.

ReNew Wind Energy (JAMB) Private Limited CIN No. U40106DL2012PTC242743 Regd. Office : 138, Ansal Chambers II, Bikkaji Cama Place, Delhi-110066 India Corporate Office : ReNew Hub, Commercial Block-1, Zone-6, Golf Course Road, DLF City Phase-V, Gurugram 122009, Haryana, India Phone No. : 124 489 6670/80 Statement of Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended September 30, 2024 (Amounts in INR millions, except share and per share data, unless otherwise stated) Particulars Quarter ended 30 September 2024 Quarter ended 30 June 2024 Quarter ended 30 September 2023 Half Year ended 30 September 2024 Half Year ended 30 September 2023 Year ended 31 March 2024 Total Income from Operations Net Profit for the year (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) Net Profit for the year before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) Net Profit for the year after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) Total Comprehensive Income for the year (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)) Paid up Equity Share Capital Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) Securities premium Net worth Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares Debt Equity Ratio Earnings Per Share* (face value of per share INR 10/-) (for continuing and discontinued operations) 1. Basic : (2,886.93) (1,038.37) 11,211.10 (3,855.30) 7,082.13 24,078.28 2. Diluted : (2,886.93) (1,038.37) 11,211.10 (3,855.30) 7,082.13 24,078.28 Capital Redemption Reserve Debenture Redemption Reserve Debt Service Coverage Ratio* Interest Service Coverage Ratio* Current Ratio Long Term Debt to Working Capital Current Liability Ratio Total Debts to Total Assets Ratio Debtors Turnover Ratio* Inventory Turnover Ratio* Operating margin (%) Net profit margin (%)

Vistara flies final journey as it merges with Air India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

After operating for nearly 10 years, full service carrier Vistara flew into the sunset on Tuesday early morning operating its last flight from the national capital to Singapore. Vistara a joint venture between Tata and Singapore Airlines has now merged with Air India, creating an enlarged entity that is now the country's largest international carrier and second-largest domestic carrier.

UK115 flight from Delhi to Singapore was the last flight of Vistara with the code 'UK' while UK986 from Mumbai to Delhi was the carrier's last domestic flight.

Starting a new chapter in India's fast-growing civil aviation space, the merged entity operated its first flight with the code 'AI2286' from



Doha to Mumbai. In the domestic sector, the integrated entity's first flight AI2984 took off from Mumbai to Delhi. All the four flights landed at their respective destinations early in the morning on Tuesday, according to information available on the flight tracking website

Flightradar24.Com. According to an official, the two airlines have been merged, passengers are being issued Air India boarding passes and check-in counters of Vistara at airports have become that of Air India. The code 'AI2XXX' is being used for Vistara flights that are being operated by Air

India post the merger to help passengers identify the Vistara flight at the time of booking. On Monday, an official said the integrated entity will be operating services on 103 domestic and 71 international routes. With the merger, first announced in November 2022, Singapore

Airlines will have a 25.1 per cent stake in the integrated entity, which will operate more than 5,500 weekly flights on local and international routes. A formal announcement about the merger is expected later in the day, as the group has led the consolidation wave in Indian aviation with two major mergers in less than two months. AIX Connect was integrated with Air India Express on October 1 and now the merger of Vistara with Air India. Air India, Vistara and AIX Connect together had a domestic market share of little over 29 per cent in September, as per latest official data. Together, the Air India group has an operational fleet of 298 aircraft around 208 with Air India and about 90 with Air India Express.

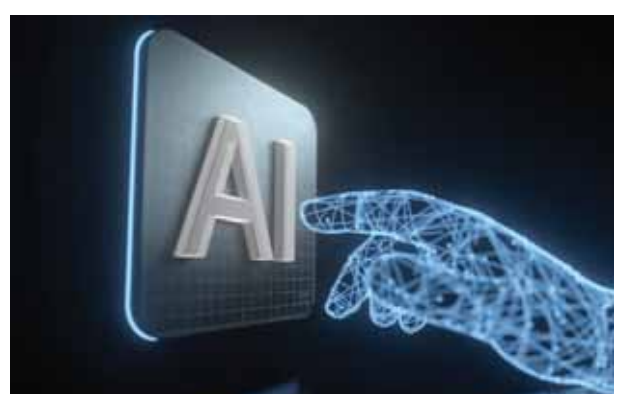
Nirmala Sitharaman to meet state FMs for pre-Budget

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is likely to meet her state counterparts on December 21-22 for pre-budget consultations and meeting of the GST Council, an official said. The meeting assumes significance as states finance ministers would present their recommendations for 2025-26 Budget to be unveiled on February 1, 2025. The 55th GST Council meeting would be held during one of these two days in which the much awaited decision on exemption or lower GST rate on health and life insurance would be taken. The Council may also take up some rationalisation exercise and reduce tax rates on a host

of common items from 12 per cent to 5 per cent as per the recommendations of a panel of state ministers. The two-day meeting is slated to take place in Rajasthan, either in Jaipur or Jodhpur, the official added. Last month, the group of ministers (GoM) on health and life insurance GST broadly agreed on exempting insurance premiums paid for term life insurance policies, and senior citizens' health insurance from GST. Also, GST on premiums paid by individuals, other than senior citizens, for health insurance with coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh is proposed to be exempted. However, 18 per cent GST will continue on premiums paid for policies with health insurance cover of over Rs 5 lakh.

The GST Council in its 54th meeting on September 9 had tasked the GoM to finalise the report on GST levy on insurance by October-end. Separately, the GoM on GST rate rationalisation has also suggested that the GST Council re-jig tax rates on a host of goods, including packaged drinking water, bicycles, exercise notebooks, luxury wrist watches, and shoes. This rate re-jig is expected to result in revenue gain of about Rs 22,000 crore. The GoM on rate rationalisation proposed reducing GST on packaged drinking water of 20 litre and above to 5 per cent from 18 per cent. If the GoM's recommendation is accepted by the GST Council, GST on bicycles costing less than Rs 10,000 will be reduced to 5 per cent from 12 per cent.



Majority of Indian businesses invest in AI but only 39 per cent ready to fight ransomware attacks: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Spotlighting a critical vulnerability in the country's cybersecurity landscape, a recent report has said while Indian businesses are actively looking to capitalise on AI and investments are rising, only 39 per cent of them are prepared to survive a prolonged ransomware attack. Cybersecurity firm Sophos on Tuesday unveiled the "Cybersecurity Playbook for Partners in Asia Pacific and Japan", which stressed the urgent need for enhanced security measures as organisations increasingly face sophisticated cyber threats, especially those augmented by artificial intelligence (AI). The findings revealed that while 70 per cent of Indian organisations have implemented cloud security strategies and over half of the respondents surveyed are investing in AI-driven security measures, a significant gap remains in overall preparedness. "Only 49 per cent have established security maturity frameworks and 44 per cent report meeting security standards. Additionally, just 39 per cent feel prepared to withstand a prolonged ransomware attack, underscoring the ongoing need for robust cybersecurity advancements," the report said. While Indian businesses are embracing AI to enhance operations, they also recognise its dual nature both

as an asset and as a potential security risk, it added. The research, conducted in July 2024, surveyed 900 companies across India, Australia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Singapore, of which 200 were from India. Commenting on the dual nature of AI in cybersecurity, Sunil Sharma, Vice President of Sales for Sophos in India, said enterprises are taking AI seriously, both as a powerful ally and a potential threat. "The fact that organisations are significantly boosting their cybersecurity budgets is a great sign that the country is committed to protecting its digital infrastructure. The growing investment in key areas such as threat detection, incident recovery, and data protection not only reflects the proactive stance of Indian businesses but also highlights their readiness to tackle the complex challenges posed by AI-driven cyber risks," he said. Further, the survey revealed that only 5 per cent of Indian firms depend on a single security vendor, while 71 per cent utilise three or more to handle their cybersecurity demands. Multi-vendor setups are anticipated to increase as businesses look for specialised, adaptable solutions. The increasing investments in cybersecurity and the preference towards multiple expert vendors present a significant opportunity for MSPs to help enterprises improve their customers' defences with a customised approach, Sharma said.

IndiGo seeks extension of Boeing 777 lease amid rising international demand

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is working with the civil aviation ministry to explore the possibility of extending the wet lease of wide-body Boeing 777 planes from Turkish Airlines, as the existing lease period is ending this week. Currently, IndiGo is operating two wet-leased Boeing 777 planes for flights from Delhi and Mumbai to Istanbul. These are also the only two wide-body aircraft that are in the fleet of the airline, which is India's largest carrier with a domestic market share of over 62 per cent. These aircraft were wet-leased to cater to the rising demand for international travel from

India. IndiGo started operating its first wide-body Boeing 777 aircraft on the Delhi-Istanbul route from February 1, 2023, and began operating the Boeing 777 plane on the Mumbai-Istanbul route from May 17, 2023. Sources in the know said the airline has not received an extension for continuing with the wet lease of the aircraft. When contacted, an IndiGo spokesperson on Monday told PTI that the airline is "working with the ministry to explore solutions to extend the wet lease as our AOG (Aircraft On Ground) related capacity constraints, while improving, are not entirely behind us". The two Boeing 777 planes will be operated by IndiGo till



November 14 for the flights from Delhi and Mumbai to Istanbul. From November 15, the airline will be deploying A321 aircraft for operating these flights, according to information available on

flight tracking website Flightradar24.Com. Wet lease of an aircraft by an Indian carrier involves the leasing of foreign aircraft, along with crew, maintenance and insurance. The plane is also under the

operational control of the foreign operator (lessor) and subject to regulatory requirements of the foreign civil aviation authority concerned. The safety oversight of such operations is also under the purview of the foreign authority concerned, and the role of Indian carriers is limited to commercial aspects of operations. While announcing the induction of the second Boeing 777 plane into its fleet in May 2023, IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers said the new aircraft will not only increase capacity on the route but also help keep the fares affordable. The Boeing 777 aircraft has a seating capacity of 400 passengers in a dual-class configuration with 24

business and 376 economy class seats, the airline said. In the wake of Pratt & Whitney engine issues, the airline has grounded many aircraft, impacting its capacity. Last month, IndiGo, which also became India's first airline to have more than 400 aircraft, said the number of grounded aircraft has reduced to the high 60s from the mid-70s and will further come down to the sub-60 level by the year-end. At the end of September, the carrier had a fleet of 410 planes. As part of expanding its international network to long-haul destinations, IndiGo, in May this year, placed a firm order for 30 Airbus A350-900 aircraft.

NSE inks pact with Zomato to empower delivery partners with financial literacy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) on Tuesday said it has inked a pact with online food delivery platform Zomato to promote financial literacy and investor awareness programmes among the gig economy workers. This partnership aims to launch an extensive financial literacy and investor awareness drive, specifically designed for Zomato's delivery partners, impacting the lives of over 50,000 gig workers across the country, NSE said in a statement. As a part of the pact, fundamental aspects of personal finance management and the basics of investing will be covered. Topics will include budgeting, saving, investing, debt management, and insurance, among others. To ensure accessibility and inclusivity, the programme will be conducted in multiple regional languages, catering to a diverse audience among the gig workforce. "This partnership with Zomato is a significant step in expanding our outreach to a



critical segment of the workforce that drives the digital economy. By equipping delivery partners with financial skills, we aim to contribute to their financial independence and overall financial well-being," Sriram Krishnan, Chief Business Development Officer, NSE, said. Rakesh Ranjan, CEO, Food Delivery, Zomato, said, this programme has been curated to suit delivery partners' needs to equip them with the right knowledge and skill-set to become financially independent. "Over 2,000 delivery partners have already taken a step toward financial literacy, and we're looking forward to scaling this further in the next few months."

Rupee closes all-time low against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee fell 1 paisa to a new lifetime low of 84.39 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday as persistent foreign fund outflows and a strengthening greenback against major crosses overseas dented investor sentiments. Forex traders said the rupee is likely to trade between 83.80 and 84.50 in the medium term, with the Reserve Bank of India likely limiting any significant downside, aided by its robust foreign exchange reserves. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.39 against the US dollar. During the session, the local currency touched a high of 84.39 and a low of 84.41. It finally settled at 84.40 (provisional), a decline of just 1 paisa against the US currency, registering a loss for the fifth straight session. On Monday, the rupee dropped 1 paisa to hit a new lifetime low of 84.38 against the US dollar. In the last five sessions, the local unit has lost 32 paise against the greenback. "The rupee traded weaker as foreign funds continued their selling spree in the Indian market. However, the rupee received some relief from



falling crude and gold prices, as the reduced pace of decline could potentially improve India's import bill in the coming months," said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities. Despite this, the dollar index's continued strength above 105 is expected to maintain pressure on the rupee, limiting any significant recovery in the near term. "With resistance near the 84.25-84.30 zone and support is seen lower at 84.55. This week's focus will be on the US CPI data release, which could influence the dollar's trajectory. Additionally, US Fed Chairperson Jerome Powell's upcoming speech is expected to provide insights

that may drive price action in the dollar, currently trading at a four-month high of 105.75," Trivedi said. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.06 per cent higher at 105.60. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.60 per cent to USD 72.26 per barrel in futures trade. In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 820.97 points, or 1.03 per cent, to close at 78,675.18 points, while Nifty fell 257.85 points, or 1.07 per cent, to settle at 23,883.45 points. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Monday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 2,306.88 crore, according to exchange data. Meanwhile, an SBI research report on Monday said that the rupee may depreciate 8-10 per cent against the US dollar during the Trump 2.0 regime. The report, titled US Presidential Election 2024: How Trump 2.0 Impacts India's and Global Economy, emphasised that the rupee can have a brief spell of depreciation against the US dollar, followed by appreciation.

Sensex, Nifty slump one per cent



Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty slumped 1 per cent each on Tuesday due to widespread selling pressure amid uninterrupted foreign fund outflows and sluggish global trends. The BSE benchmark Sensex tumbled 820.97 points or 1.03 per cent to settle at 78,675.18. During the day, it plunged 948.31 points or 1.19 per cent to 78,547.84. Falling for the third day running, the NSE Nifty tanked 257.85 points or 1.07 per cent to 23,883.45. From the 30-share Sensex pack, NTPC, Asian Paints, HDFC Bank, State Bank of India, Tata Motors, JSW Steel, Maruti and Power Grid were among the major laggards. On the other hand, Sun Pharma, Infosys and ICICI Bank were the gainers. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,306.88 crore on Monday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) infused Rs 2,026.63 crore in shares, according to exchange data. "Two strong factors have been at play in this consolidating market. One, the relentless selling by FIIs has been favouring the bears and pulling the market down. Two, the sustained buying by DIIs has been supporting the market preventing a crash in the market. How the market will trend in the coming days will depend on the relative strength of these two factors," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the negative territory. European equity markets were also trading in the red. Wall Street ended higher on Monday.

SEBI extends deadline for comments on proposed specified digital platform

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday extended the deadline for public comments till November 26 on the proposal concerning requirements for recognition as specified digital platforms (SDPs). Earlier, the comments from the public were sought till November 12. "Based on the representations received by Sebi from some of the entities/organisations, it has been decided to extend the timeline to submit the public comments on the consultation paper till November 26, 2024," the regulator said in a statement. In its consultation paper, Sebi proposed requirements for recognition as specified digital platforms whereby such platforms should proactively prevent fraud, impersonation, unauthorised claims, and unregistered



entities from operating. The regulator suggested that specified digital platforms use artificial intelligence or machine learning (AI/ML) tools to identify content or ads related to securities, ensuring the entity is Sebi-registered or permitted, no unauthorised advice, recommendations, or performance claims are made. The platform should ensure that genuine investor education content is allowed and content does not redirect users to other media such as WhatsApp or Telegram for unauthorised activities, Sebi stated. Also, the platform should share data with the regulator when requested and act on its inputs. It should provide badges to

Sebi-registered entities to help users identify authorised participants. The regulator proposed that only Sebi-registered entities, permitted advertisers, or educational content providers can post securities-related content on the platform. Additionally, such platforms can remove fraudulent or non-compliant content and

penalise offenders. On October 22, Sebi provided a three-month window to entities registered with it, and their agents, to terminate their existing contracts with unregistered financial advisors. This was part of Sebi's move to curb unauthorised financial advice and performance claims in the securities market. The rule restrains intermediaries, their agents, or associated persons from having direct or indirect ties with any entity that provides investment advice or recommendations without being registered or permitted by Sebi or makes performance or return-related claims unless specifically authorised by the regulator to do so. However, if these interactions occur through specified digital platforms, they will not be subject to these restrictions.



Industrial output up in September: Government data

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's industrial production expanded by 3.1 per cent in September, mainly due to improvement in the manufacturing sector, according to official data released on Tuesday. The factory output, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), witnessed a growth of 6.4 per cent in September 2023. However, it was in the negative territory in August 2024 at (-) 0.1 per cent. "The IIP growth rate for the

month of September 2024 is 3.1 per cent which was (-) 0.1 per cent in the month of August 2024," an official statement said. The data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) showed that the growth in mining, manufacturing and electricity for September 2024 stood at 0.2 per cent, 3.9 per cent and 0.5 per cent, respectively. In April-September this fiscal, the IIP grew 4 per cent against 6.2 per cent in the year-ago period.

month of September 2024 is 3.1 per cent which was (-) 0.1 per cent in the month of August 2024," an official statement said. The data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) showed that the growth in mining, manufacturing and electricity for September 2024 stood at 0.2 per cent, 3.9 per cent and 0.5 per cent, respectively. In April-September this fiscal, the IIP grew 4 per cent against 6.2 per cent in the year-ago period.

Deepika's brace hands India 3-2 win over South Korea

PTI ■ RAJGIR (BIHAR)

Striker Deepika converted a penalty stroke three minutes from the final hooter to lead India to a tense 3-2 win over South Korea in the women's Asian Champions Trophy, here Tuesday.

India raced to a 2-0 lead in the first half through goals from Sangita Kumari (3rd minute) and Deepika (20th, 57th) before Korea mounted a strong comeback in the third quarter and drew parity with goals from Yuri Lee (34th) and skipper Eunbi Cheon (38th).

The match headed for an exciting finish with both teams pushing for that deciding goal and it was Deepika, who scored from the spot to seal India's second consecutive victory in the tournament.

India had defeated Malaysia 4-0 in their tournament-opener on Monday. The hosts will next play Thailand on Thursday.

In the first match of the day, minnows Thailand held Japan to a 1-1 draw, while reigning Olympic silver medalist China defeated Malaysia 5-0 to register their second consecutive win.

The Indians started from where they left on Monday and continued to play attacking hockey from the onset.

India's dominance can be gauged by the fact that the Koreans didn't have a single shot at the Indian goal in the first two quarters.

India, on the other hand, attacked the Korean defence relentlessly and created chances which resulted in two field goals.

It didn't take long for the Indians to surge ahead as they opened the scoring in the third minute through Sangita.



Neha Goyal initiated the move and passed it on to Navneet Kaur, who found Sangita inside the circle. The striker beautifully received the ball, sidestepped her marker and then found the back of the net with a fine reverse hit. India kept up the pressure on the Korean defence and their efforts bore

fruit in the 20th minute when Deepika slammed one home from close range from Beauty Dung Dung's pass from the right flank.

A minute later Preeti Dubey's reverse hit was saved by an outstretched right leg of Korean goalkeeper Seoyeon Lee.

In the 24th minute, Sangita came tantalisingly close to scoring her second goal of the day, but her push from a Deepika pass went just wide of the post.

If the first half belonged to India, Korea came out all guns blazing after the change of ends and secured back-to-back penalty corners in the 34th minute and Lee pulled one back for her side from a rebound.

Motivated by the goal, the Koreans put pressure on the Indian defence and four minutes later secured a penalty stroke after an Indian defender unnecessarily brought a Korean striker inside the circle. Skipper Cheon stepped up and made no mistake to level the scores. Penalty corner conversion continued to haunt the Indians as they failed to make use of the eight set pieces they secured in the match -- four consecutively in the 39th minute. In the last match also India earned as many as 11 penalty corners but converted just three.

Held to a 2-2 draw, the Indians decided to throw numbers upfront and mounted raids after raids on the Korean citadel and in the process secured penalty corners in quick succession but they lacked variation from the set pieces and the efforts were mostly one dimensional.

But the Indians got a chance in the 57th minute in the form of a penalty stroke, which Deepika converted with ease.



World's first high-altitude parasports centre to come up in Leh ahead of 2028 Paralympics

PTI ■ LEH (LADAKH)

The world's first high-altitude para sports centre will be established in Leh, Ladakh, aiming to advance the skills and confidence of athletes ahead of the 2028 Paralympics.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to this effect was signed by the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, and the Aditya Mehta Foundation (AMF).

"It is a very proud feeling for us that Leh will be establishing the world's first-ever high-altitude centre for para sports. Indian para-athletes have won 29 medals, including seven gold, in the 2024 Paralympics in Paris and it is a testament of the talent we have in our country," said Advocate Tashi Gyalson, Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of LAHDC.

Till the time the centre is getting completed, the AMF

will identify 15 Children with Special Needs (CWSN) from the Leh-Ladakh UT region and they will undergo screening, counselling and training at their Infinity Parasports Academy and Rehabilitation Centre in Hyderabad.

"The opening of Leh Ladakh as a hub for para sports marks a new era not just for the region, but for India's future in international competitions," said Aditya Mehta, Founder, AMF.

List of Sports to be included: Para Sports: Archery; Athletics; Badminton; Blind Football; Boccia; Canoeing; Cycling; Equestrian; Goalball; Judo; Powerlifting; Rowing; Shooting; Volleyball; Swimming; Table Tennis, Taekwondo; Triathlon; Wheelchair Basketball; Wheelchair Fencing; Wheelchair Rugby and Wheelchair Tennis.

Winter Games: Para Alpine Skiing; Para Biathlon; Para Cross-Country Skiing; Para Ice Hockey; Para Snowboard and Wheelchair Curling.

Alcaraz struggles with stomach issue in loss to Ruud at ATP Finals



AP ■ TURIN (ITALY)

Carlos Alcaraz struggled with a stomach issue and looked far from the player who won two Grand Slams this year while losing to Casper Ruud 6-1, 7-5 at the ATP Finals.

It marked Ruud's first victory over Alcaraz in five career meetings, and the result could make it difficult for Alcaraz to advance from the round-robin stage at the season-ending event for the top eight players.

"I didn't feel well on court," Alcaraz said. "A few days before coming here, I got sick at home. ... This morning, I feel uncomfortable in the stomach."

In the same group, Alexander Zverev began his bid for a third ATP Finals title by beating Andrey

Rublev 6-4, 6-4.

The top two finishers from each group advance to the semifinals.

On Sunday, top-ranked Jannik Sinner and U.S. Open finalist Taylor Fritz beat Alex de Minaur and Daniil Medvedev, respectively, in the other group.

Alcaraz won the French Open and Wimbledon to boost his career total to four Grand Slam titles. But he also struggled at the Paris Masters recently and dropped behind Zverev to No. 3 in the rankings this week.

"I have no experience playing on indoor courts," Alcaraz said. "I'll be a really good player on indoor courts, I'm sure about it. But I think it's about time, about getting experience. ... A lot of players are better than me on indoor court."

Ruud reached the 2021 semifinals and 2022 final in his first two appearances at the finals. But he has struggled recently, too, losing his first or second match in his last seven events.

"I'm not full of confidence," Ruud said. "A match like today might be able to change it."

Alcaraz was broken when he served for the second set at 5-4. Alcaraz led 25-16 in winners but committed 26 unforced errors to Ruud's 10. Ruud converted all four of his break points while Alcaraz was just one of six in that category.

"I'm tired mentally," Alcaraz said. "Obviously a lot of matches, really tight schedule, really demanding year with not too many days off."

ZVEREV ROLLING AFTER

PARIS MASTERS TITLE

Zverev, who won the finals in 2018 in London and 2021 in Turin, extended his winning streak to six matches following a title run at the Paris Masters.

Rublev is making his fifth consecutive appearance at the finals but hasn't won a match at the event since 2022.

Zverev served nine aces and dropped only 10 points on his serve in 10 service games.

"He served wide 220 (kph) on the deuce side," Rublev said. "Normally everybody serves slice and it's 190. He find(s) a way to serve 220 wide on the deuce side. It's not easy."

"Even if you catch the direction, when the flat serve comes 227, slice serve comes 219, 215, it's tough to just see the ball."

SINNER RECEIVES NO. 1 TROPHY

Before the Zverev-Rublev match, Sinner received the trophy for finishing the year at No. 1 in the rankings.

"There's no place better to celebrate this trophy," Sinner said as his mom, Siglinde, looked on in tears. "Thanks for all of your support."

Sinner is playing at home for the first time since it was announced before his U.S. Open title that he tested positive in two separate drug tests this year.

A decision to clear Sinner of wrongdoing was appealed by the World Anti-Doping Agency in September.



Sinner awarded trophy for finishing year at No. one in the ATP rankings

AP ■ TURIN (ITALY)

Jannik Sinner was awarded the trophy for finishing the year at No. 1 in the rankings before his home fans at the ATP Finals.

Sinner beat Alex de Minaur in his opening match on Sunday at the year-ending event for the top eight players and meets Taylor Fritz on Tuesday in a rematch of the U.S. Open final.

Sinner is playing at home for the first time since it was announced before his U.S. Open title that he tested positive in two separate drug tests this year.

A decision to clear Sinner of wrongdoing was appealed by the World Anti-Doping Agency in September.

Manassero looks to cap career revival in Dubai as McIlroy eyes season-ending title

AP ■ DUBAI

Matteo Manassero quit golf five years ago at the age of 26, tormented by a sport that gave him so many highs but was no longer making him feel happy.

On Sunday, he could punch a ticket to play across the Atlantic on the lucrative PGA Tour and be back in the big time, where so many think his game belongs.

The 31-year-old Italian will look to cap his career revival this week by becoming one of 10 players from the European tour to be eligible to claim dual membership and a PGA Tour card for the 2025 season.

The season-ending World Tour Championship starts on Thursday in Dubai and only an unlikely turn of events will deny Rory McIlroy from being crowned as the European tour's best player for a sixth time, leaving him two off Colin Montgomerie's record haul.

There will be more suspense elsewhere, though, notably in that race for those PGA Tour cards — a structural tweak created in 2022 in the wake of the so-called strategic alliance between the European tour and PGA Tour in the face of mounting pressure from the breakaway LIV Golf series.

The presence of Manassero in the 10-man list, as it stands, only elevates the interest levels.

Blessed with a smooth swing and a deft touch, Manassero was a golfing prodigy, winning the British Amateur in 2009, the silver medal at the British Open for low amateur the same year, and also becoming the No. 1 amateur in the world.

By 2013, he'd won four events on the European tour — including the BMW PGA Championship, the flagship event on the tour, to move into the world's top 25.

Then came the career dip, which plunged him into self-

doubt and ultimately retirement — albeit for only a few months while he assessed where to go with his life.

He eventually decided to give golf another go, beginning his rebuild on the lowly Nordic Golf League and the Alps Tour, which is on the third tier of European golf.

His talent shone through and last year he sealed a return to the European tour with a win at the Jonsson Workwear Open in March being universally celebrated in the golf fraternity.

That helped to put him in a strong position to claim the end-of-season bonus of a PGA Tour card, and he headed to Dubai in fifth place among non-exempt players, behind Thriston Lawrence, Rasmus Hojgaard, Paul Waring — the winner in Abu Dhabi last week — and Niklas Norgaard.

Jesper Svensson, Thorbjørn Olesen, Rikuya Hoshino, Sebastian Söderberg and



Jordan Smith make up the list, though the tour says any non-exempt player in the 50-man field can, statistically, break into the top 10.

Robert MacIntyre is living proof of how life-changing that can be. He was one of the 10 to claim a PGA Tour card after last year's World Tour Championship and he has blossomed, winning two big PGA events — the Canadian Open and the Scottish Open — and rising to a career-high

15th in the world in August. He is No. 16.

"Career-changing, 100%," MacIntyre said on Tuesday. "I've now got to the top level of professional golf, the top 25% of professional golfers."

"You can then pick your schedule and you're in all the major events and you're in all the top events you can play in and you can pick and choose, and that's where you want to be."

"I think," MacIntyre added, "the majority of golfers out here have got that dream, as well."

If Hojgaard secures his PGA Tour card, he will join his twin brother Nicolai in the United States.

McIlroy on brink

Lawrence leads that list of PGA Tour hopefuls but has other things on his mind. The South African is the only player who can prevent McIlroy from winning the Race to Dubai title — formerly the Order of Merit — and join the late Seve Ballesteros on six.

Lawrence has to win — nothing less is good enough — and then needs McIlroy to finish tied for 11th or lower.

"Rory has been an idol for me since growing up as a youngster," the 27-year-old Lawrence said, "and being able to clinch it this week would be the cherry on the cake for myself."

The smart money, however, is on McIlroy, who has shown extraordinary consistency in collecting a win — at the Dubai Desert Classic in January — as well as four runner-up finishes and three more top fives in his 12 European tour events this season.

"Rory is held to a higher standard than pretty much everybody else in the world of golf," Tommy Fleetwood said. "But, I think he's shown amazing golf again this year, and he's shown why he's one of the best to ever do it."

3rd T20I: India eye batting revival against SA at Centurion

PTI ■ CENTURION
Indian batting line-up needs to get its mojo back against a resurgent South Africa to regain the lost ground on rather unfamiliar SuperSport Park conditions when the two teams clash the third T20I here Wednesday. Since 2009, India have played only one T20I at this venue, which they lost by six wickets in 2018 and have only one survivor from that squad in this side -- Hardik Pandya. Along with that unfamiliarity factor, India will also grapple with the ordinary form of their batters, particularly when the pitch here is touted to be similar to the one at Qeberha -- quick and bouncy. In the second T20I, India batters struggled against South African pacers upfront, getting restricted to 124 for six, and Centurion has similar characteristics. The problem starts from the top -- more precisely with Abhishek Sharma, whose extended lean run with the bat has now snowballed

into a serious concern. He is in desperate need of a good outing here before the management thinks of juggling the combination. Even now, they can think of giving the job of partnering Sanju Samson at the top to Tilak Varma and bring in Ramandeep Singh in the middle to add more muscle to the unit. However, the senior batters like skipper Suryakumar Yadav, Pandya and Rinku Singh too cannot absolve themselves of the blame entirely for India's struggles. Both Suryakumar and Rinku have shown only fleeting images of their prowess here while Pandya made 39 in the second match but he consumed 45 balls for it. In fact, the power-hitter took 28 balls to find his first boundary and, again, could not find the ropes between balls 39 and 45. So, these three batters will have to chip in more to support in the in-form Samson or to carry India to a strong total even when the Kerala man has a vapid day.



Similarly, pacers Arshdeep Singh and Avesh Khan had two contrasting games. Arshdeep returned with figures of 1 for 25 at Durban, but in the second game he had stats of 1 for 41. The left-arm pacer's third and fourth overs which went for 28 runs -- including four fours in an over against Tristan Stubbs -- made a deep impact on the low-scoring match. So, they will be eager to change the script here, unless the management looks at other options such as Yash Dayal or Vysakh Vijaykumar. However, the efforts of Varun Chakravarthy, who bagged a maiden wicket in the previous match, and Ravi Bishnoi over the last two matches have been outstanding and the spinners will be looking for an encore in the third match to hand back the advantage to India. The expected bounce and pace on the pitch here will be an encouraging factor as well for the Indian duo. From a batting perspective, South Africa too face a similar issue as

senior pros skipper Aiden Markram, David Miller and Heinrich Klaasen are yet to fire in this series. They required runs from less-pedigreed batters Tristan Stubbs and Gerald Coetzee to get over the line in the second contest, and the Proteas will certainly cherish a hefty contribution from their veterans, especially against Indian spinners. Teams (from): India: Suryakumar Yadav (c), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (WK), Rinku Singh, Tilak Varma, Jitesh Sharma (WK), Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Ramandeep Singh, Varun Chakravarthy, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Avesh Khan, Yash Dayal. South Africa: Aiden Markram (c), Ottneil Baartman, Gerald Coetzee, Donovan Ferreira, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen, Patrick Kruger, Keshav Maharaj, David Miller, Mhlangeni Mpongwana, Nqaba Peter, Ryan Rickelton, Andile Simelane. Lutho Sipamla, Tristan Stubbs.

Perth pitch to have really good pace and bounce: Curator cautions India

PTI ■ PERTH
India will be accorded a tough welcome to Australia as the Optus Stadium pitch for the opening Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy has been prepared to offer "good bounce and pace" true to the tradition of the fiery tracks in Perth. India will enter the Perth Test, beginning from November 22, without playing any practice match as the visitors had cancelled an intra-squad side game that was scheduled to be played behind closed doors from November 15 to 17. Now, India will focus on centre-wicket training at the nearby WACA stadium, where Australia will also polish their skills. "This is Australia, this is Perth... I'm setting ourselves up for really good pace, really good bounce and really good carry," Western Australia Cricket head curator Isaac McDonald told 'ESPNews'. McDonald is trying to prepare a pitch that has similar traits of the one that he readied for the



first Test against Pakistan in December last year. In that match, Pakistan were bundled out for 89 in the second innings as the Aussies celebrated a massive 360-run victory. The pitch too had developed cracks as that match wore on and batters like Marnus Labuschagne copped blows on their hands. Overall, the three Aussie pacers -- Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc -- grabbed 12 of the 20 Pakistan wickets. More recently, Pakistan pacers Shaheen Shah Afridi, Naseem Shah and Haris Rauf tore

Australian opener McSweeney braces for 'unique' Bumrah challenge

PTI ■ ADELAIDE
Australia opener Nathan McSweeney, who is set to debut against India in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, said he has been preparing for the "unique" challenge of facing star pacer Jasprit Bumrah. McSweeney was drafted into the Australia squad after a slew of impressive performances in the Sheffield Shield tournament and in the recent 'A' series against India. The 25-year-old South Australian will partner Usman Khawaja at the top in the series opener in Perth and during the upcoming five-Test series. "There's probably not (much) I can do to replicate how Bumrah bowls. Obviously, he's got a unique action. He's one of the best bowlers in the world." So, it's going to be hard to mimic that. I'm just looking forward to all of that and I can't wait," McSweeney



told SEN. McSweeney, who captained the Australia A side in the 2-0 series win against India A, said he has been watching the bowling clips of Indian quicks including Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj to be mentally ready for the task. "I'll definitely dive a lot deeper into it when I get to Perth. I've looked at a few

clips of what they're bowling attack stacks up like. I'm just trying to visualise how I'm going to go about it. Facing a new bowler can be a slight challenge to just pick up their action," he said. "I've got a whole week before I head off to Perth, so I can get mentally ready and I guess it starts now in preparation to hopefully start

really well," he added. However, a quiet confidence runs through the young batter ahead of the important series. "In the last month or so I really feel like I'm batting the best I ever have. I think I'm the best I've ever been prepared to take this opportunity, so hopefully I can do that.

"No doubt there's plenty of learning and experiences that I haven't experienced yet and I'm looking forward to learning all about the challenges of Test cricket and challenging my game against the very best," he said. McSweeney will step into the shoes of David Warner, who retired from international cricket after the home Test series against Pakistan in January this year, and the Adelaide man realises the enormity of the job. The right-hander has a plan for it. Being an opening batter, it's making sure I'm leaving the ball well and making the bowlers easy to bowl to me. Then being ready and positive to score when they miss is as simple as I want to make it. "If I'm reacting well and doing those things well, hopefully, it equates to me spending time in the middle and chipping away at the scoreboard," he said.

Blind T20 WC: Indian team eyes clearance from MHA, MEA; Sports Ministry clears travel to Pakistan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI/KARACHI
The Sports Ministry has given NOC, with no cost to the government, to a 17-member Indian cricket team to travel to Pakistan to participate in the T20 World Cup for the Blind, and the side now awaits clearance from Home and External Affairs ministries. The fourth edition of the Blind World Cup, in which India are the reigning champions, is scheduled to be played at Lahore and Multan from November 22 to December 3. Upon receiving the clearance from the ministries concerned, the squad is scheduled to travel to Pakistan via the Wagah Border on November 21. The development came in the backdrop of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) informing its Pakistan counterpart that the Men in Blue will not travel to the neighbouring nation for next year's Champions Trophy. The BCCI sent a mail to the International Cricket Council to that

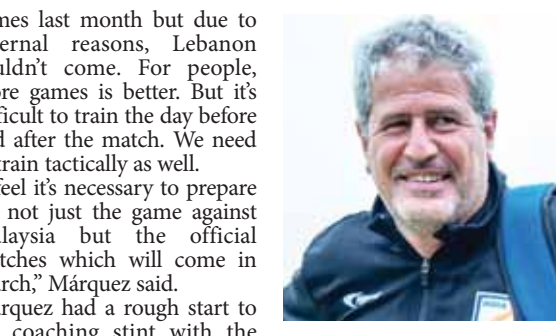


effect, leaving the future of the marquee event in limbo. Meanwhile, Shailender Yadav, General Secretary of the Cricket Association for Blind in India (CABI) said the 17-member Indian squad for the T20 WC was picked after 26 players underwent a 12-day selection trials in Gurugram. "The team has been training in

Pakistan twice and Bangladesh once. Tournament as scheduled: PBCC The Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC) said the tournament will go ahead on schedule irrespective of India's participation. "Pakistan will be hosting the event on schedule and it makes no difference whether the Indian team comes or not," PBCC chairman Syed Sultan Shah said. Shah said arrangements for hosting the World Cup had been completed by the PBCC. "All the other teams in the event have also sent confirmation that they have no issues playing in Pakistan," he said. Indian team for T20 Blind WC: Ajay Kumar Reddy, Debaraj Behera, Nareshbhai Tumda, Nilesh Yadav, Sanjay Kumar Shah, Praveen Kumar Sharma, Venkateswara Rao, Pankaj Bhue, Lokesh, Rambir Singh, Irfan Diwan, Durga Rao Tompaki, Sunil Ramesh, Sukhran Majhi, Ravi Amiti, Dineshbhai Rathva, Dhingar Gopu.

Players believing in our style of play is the key, says Manolo Márquez

PTI ■ HYDERABAD
Indian football team head coach Manolo Márquez on Tuesday said it is critical for his players to follow a synchronised approach while representing the country, in order to start getting results in the international arena. The Indian senior men's national team began its training camp ahead of the friendly match against Malaysia on November 18 in Hyderabad. With the Indian Super League going into a break with the start of the November FIFA international window, the Blue Tigers checked into the city on Monday and will have a total of six days of training sessions before the match. "We were supposed to play two



games last month but due to external reasons, Lebanon couldn't come. For people, more games is better. But it's difficult to train the day before and after the match. We need to train tactically as well. "I feel it's necessary to prepare for not just the game against Malaysia but the official matches which will come in March," Márquez said. Márquez had a rough start to his coaching stint with the national team as India were held 0-0 by Mauritius in September and beaten 0-3 by Syria in the Intercontinental Cup, also in Hyderabad. His boys put up an improved showing, especially in the second half, against Vietnam in a 1-1 draw last month in Nam D'nh. The Spaniard has continued

the trend of calling up new players in each FIFA window so far. This time, Hmingthammawia Ralte, Vibin Mohanan, Irfan Yadwad and Thoiba Singh Moirangthem earned their first national team call-ups. The latter was a last-minute arrival after Anirudh Thapa suffered an injury during the match between Mohan Bagan Super Giant and Odisha FC on Sunday. Since taking charge in July, Márquez's priority has been to utilise the friendly matches and training sessions to find the best group of players for the 2027 AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers, scheduled to start in March 2025. "It's true that we want to check some new players. But obviously it's impossible to change the whole group and call 40 players in March. It's true that we are finding the group. It means that we have maybe 14, 15, 16 players who will be there, but we don't know exactly. And there are a lot of players who can get there," the coach said. "Obviously, it's still four months, and the situation can change with a lot of things unfortunately with injuries and the players' domestic form. But, I repeat again, as a coach you need to find the group which can play the style that we want. "I am fully focussed on the Malaysia match at the moment. In a way, it's a dangerous game because the players are in the middle of the fight for the ISL and this is just one friendly game in November, and the next camp will be in four months. "But I am very confident in this group and I feel we will have a good performance next Monday," said Márquez. Still awaiting his first win with India, Márquez remains patient. For now, the key is to find the groove with the right bunch and get results where they matter the most.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, BALASORE
e-procurement Notice for Roads works
Bid Identification No e-procurement Notice No.02/ SERW-II/BLS/ 2024-25

1. Name of the work	:-	Road works
2. Total no. of works	:-	3 Nos.
3. Estimated Cost	:-	As Specified in column 3 of Annexure
4. Cost of Tender Paper through online	:-	As specified in column 6 of Annexure
5. Time of Completion	:-	As specified in column 7 of Annexure
6. Class of Contractor	:-	As specified in column 8 of Annexure
7. Other Details:-	:-	As per DTCN

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding		Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/o Superintending Engineer, R.W.Divn-II, Balasore
		From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Superintending Engineer, R.W.Division-II, Balasore	E-TCN No.02 of 2024-25	14.11.2024 at 05.00 P.M.	26.11.2024 up to 5.00 PM	25.11.2024 up to 02.00 PM	27.11.2024 at 11.00 AM

Further details can be seen from the web site www.tendersorissa.gov.in
OIPR-25052/11/0002/2425 Additional Chief Engineer R.W.Division-II, Balasore.

PANCHAYAT SAMITI BARIPADA
TENDER CALL NOTICE
BDO, Baripada invites sealed tender on behalf of Govt. of Odisha for the following work in conformity with the DTCN.
BID Identification No.12-2024-25/ BDO, BARIPADA, 13-2024-25 BDO, BARIPADA, 14/2024-25/BDO, BARIPADA, 15/2024-25/BDO, BARIPADA & 16/2024-25/BDO, BARIPADA
Name of the work : Construction of Additional Class Room at Birsamunda High School, Betna under Betna GP
"Construction of Additional Class Room at Damodarpur Govt. UPS under Betna G.P"
"Construction of Additional Class Room at Barjupur UPS under Betna G.P"
"Construction of Office Building of Rajabasa LAMPMS under Baripada Block."
"Construction of one 50 MT Godown of LAMPMS at Rajabasa under Baripada Block"
Date of Receipt of Tender: 12.11.2024 10.30 AM to 21.11.2024 up to 5 PM via Drop Box at Block Office
Date of Opening of Tender: 22.11.2024, 11 AM in the Conference Hall of BDO, Baripada
Terms and Conditions : Details of the Bid documents can be downloaded from the official website of the district (<https://mayurbhanj.odisha.gov.in>) from 12.11.2024 to 21.11.2024. All the terms and conditions can be seen from the above website.
Block Development Officer Baripada
OIPR-19109/11/0003/2425

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI KAKATPUR, PURI
Email- ori-kakatpur@nic.in
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No.: - 01/2024-25/KAKATPUR BLOCK

The OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI KAKATPUR, Puri, Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate Bids through e-Procurement in Single Bid System from eligible Class of Contractors for execution of Civil Works as per NIT and DTCN on Percentage Rate Bids. Bid documents consisting Names of Work, Estimated Cost, Cost of Tender Paper, EMD, Time of Completion, Class of Contractor, the set of Terms and Conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. The bid should be submitted on-line only in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in by eligible class of contractors.

1	Name of the Works: -	a) CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL CLASS ROOM AT SRICHANDANPUR PUPS. b) CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM AT TELIKUDA PUPS. c) CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL CLASS ROOM AT KAKATPUR NODAL HIGH SCHOOL. d) CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL CLASS ROOM FOR PRADHANSAHI PROJECT PRIMARY SCHOOL. e) CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM FOR SAMIA PROJECT PRIMARY SCHOOL.
2	No. of Works: -	05 (Five) Nos.
3	Estimated Cost (in Rs.): -	Varies from 9.3 Lakhs to 12.81 Lakhs (Approximately).
4	Period of Completion: -	4 (Four) Calendar Months
5	Date and Time of availability of Bid Documents in the Portal: -	From Dt. 14.11.2024 at 10.00 AM to Dt. 2.12.2024 up to 5.00 PM.
6	Last Date/Time of receipt of Bids in the Portal: -	Dt. 02.12.2024 up to 5.00 PM.
7	Date of Opening of Bids: -	Dt. 03.12.2024 11:00 AM onwards
8	Name and Address of the OIT: -	Office of The Panchayat Samiti, KAKATPUR, Odisha.

OIPR-19392/11/0002/2425 BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER KAKATPUR, PURI