



the pioneer

Established 1865
DEHRADUN, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3



INSIDE

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



www.dailypioneer.com

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

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

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.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/RANCHI/WAYANAD

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

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



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 "PUC" 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-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.

LET IT SNOW...



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

Band, baaja, baraat and... traffic jams

Around 50,000 weddings were celebrated on Tuesday, in Delhi

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

Be ready to encounter loud music, people dancing on the streets, and a general euphoria amongst the masses as wedding season officially began on Tuesday, which marked the auspicious occasion of Dev Uthani Ekadashi, when around 50,000 weddings were celebrated in the National Capital. However, what is 'party mode' for some will be a major headache for the commuters traversing through the roads of Delhi, especially through South Delhi and East Delhi. The sounds of celebration will continue until December 16 with the city witnessing around 4.5 lakh weddings across the different venues in Delhi in a

span of 18 days. The day is also seeing a surge in weddings since the day also marks 'Tulsi Vivah', which is considered a highly auspicious day to get married as Goddess Tulsi married Shaligram, a form of Lord Vishnu. As 'baraats', which are the procession a groom takes out via reaching the venue where the marriage is taking place, the commuters faced hardships as the processions led to traffic woes in the city. Areas like Mahipalpur, Mehrauli, Karnal, and Rohini among others saw congestions due to wedding related activities. It took hours to cross even small stretches, as the weddings added to the already existing problem of persistent traffic congestion in different areas across the Capital.



Many a time vehicles parked around these wedding venues also leave the roads narrower, and normal traffic has to wade through the cramped spaces. Shopping related to wedding events will also create a jam around key market areas. According to Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT)

estimates, this wedding season is expected to generate over Rs 6 lakh Crore in trade. In light of these issues, Special Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Ajay Chaudhary spoke about the special arrangements made to avoid any hassles, and keep the load off of the city roads. He said that in addition to the already existing force of about 4,500 traffic personnel, the police department has deployed an additional staff of 250. Addl/CP (Traffic) Satyaveer Singh Katara added that with a special focus on the traffic congestion resulting from the extra flow due to the ceremonies, they have adjusted the duty timings of the staff in a way that the maximum number of police is on the ground, and managing

the flow at the hours when these celebrations usually take place across the city. Highlighting the issue of unmanaged parking around these venues, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Shashank Jaiswal shared that the police has held several meetings with wedding organisers to ensure there is ample place to park the vehicles of the attendees and doesn't lead to cramping the roads. "We are doing our best including motorcycling patrolling and deployment of cranes to remove vehicles amid the festive season. We understand that this traffic can also choke important highways, hence the traffic department is fully ready to tackle it."



SNCU ward opens at Gandhi Shatabdi Eye Hospital

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

With the goal of improving patient facilities, the Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) or Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) ward was officially inaugurated by the Health minister Dhan Singh Rawat on Tuesday at Gandhi Shatabdi Eye Hospital.

Speaking on the occasion, Rawat said that improvements in the healthcare sector are ongoing, with plans to address the shortage of specialist doctors by 2027. All vacant positions for ANM, nursing staff, paramedical and pharmacists have been filled in the State. He also announced the opening of Haridwar Medical College, with plans for additional medical colleges in Rudrapur, Bageshwar and Pithoragarh. He further added that Uttarakhand is set to become the first state to provide 200 specialist doctors annually to other states.

Further, the hospital's medical superintendent, Dr VS Chauhan informed that the ward is now open with six beds and will undergo upgrades in the future. Currently, in order to ensure the smooth operation of the NICU ward, the hospital has recruited two medical doctors holding MBBS degrees and ten nurses through the National Health Mission (NHM). Further, a pediatrician has been brought on board specifically for the ward. In addition, six security guards and six medical attendants have been hired to support the ward's operations. He informed that upon the commencement of the SNCU ward's activities, four children were admitted on the same



day. Both the Deen Dayal Upadhyay district hospital and Gandhi Shatabdi Eye Hospital have been lacking a NICU ward for a significant period of time, posing challenges for numerous patients. Due to limited space at these hospitals, the hospital administration had to refer patients to the NICU ward at Government Doon Medical College hospital. Despite initial difficulties in establishing the ward, recent guidance from the State administration has prompted the hospital administration and officials to make efforts to establish the NICU ward at Gandhi Shatabdi hospital.

GDMC hospital witnesses surge of patients post UPNL workers strike

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A day after Uttarakhand Purva Sainik Kalyan Nigam Limited (UPNL) workers boycotted work on Monday, the OPD at the Government Doon Medical College hospital witnessed a surge in patients on Tuesday. Many patients claimed that due to the UPNL workers' strike on Monday, they were unable to properly access services at the OPD, leading them to return the next day. They have urged the hospital administration to prepare an action plan to ensure smooth service delivery under such circumstances in the future. Notably, UPNL employees staged a protest march towards the secretariat on Monday. These workers, who are employed through UPNL, organised the protest to highlight their long-standing demands for salary allowances and appointment-related issues. As a result, around 450 GDMC hospital workers, also employed through UPNL, participated in the protest. In light of this situation, a patient Manju Negi said that she had visited the OPD on Monday to visit the physician. However, the disruption caused by the workers' strike led to long queues and delays at the billing and registration counters, due to which she had to visit the hospital again on Tuesday. She emphasised the need for the hospital administration to devise an effective plan for such circumstances. Another patient Vishnu Dixit said that due to the public holiday on Tuesday, the GDMC OPD opened 12 PM instead of 2 PM. Nevertheless, he observed a high number of patients in the registration queue for the OPD due to the impact of Monday's workers' strike, prompting many patients to revisit the hospital on Tuesday. This resulted in overcrowding and difficulty for other patients to see the doctor promptly. He explained that he had waited in the OPD registration queue for over an hour and had not received his service number. Numerous other patients and their attendees have raised the same issue regarding the increase in visitors following the return of hospital workers after the strike.

Thapliyal made Nature Testing Movement State coordinator

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The drive to make the country's traditional treatment win over an international identity is in progress. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is publicising the nation's Nature Testing Movement in the whole country. Under this movement, coordinators have been appointed in various States as part of the Nature Testing Movement. In Uttarakhand, Dr Anil Thapliyal has been made the State coordinator under this movement. Indian Treatment Method (Bhartiya Chikitsa Paddhati) Commission has chosen him as the State coordinator for Uttarakhand. Shri Guru Ram Rai University's president, Mahant Devendra Das, vice chancellor and other officials of the university have congratulated Thapliyal on his appointment.



It should be mentioned here that Thapliyal has been providing his services in the discipline of Yoga and natural treatment for the past 20 years. Presently, he is employed as an assistant professor at School of Yogic Science and Naturopathy of Shri Guru Ram Rai University. The nature testing movement aims at ensuring the reach of India's traditional treatment methods in each and every household of India for public welfare. Thapliyal said that Shri Guru Ram Rai University's

School of Yogic Science and Naturopathy is working on various projects related to traditional treatment. He said that their aim is to ensure that traditional treatment must reach even far flung remote villages of Uttarakhand.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is informed that I have changed my name from Priya Goswami to Priyanka Goswami and in future I should be known as Priyanka Goswami W/o Devendra Goswami. Address: E-1, Jagdurg Road, Aryan Apartment, Roorkee, Haridwar, UK

The general public is informed that I have changed my name from SANT SINGH to SUTIKSHAN MUNI and in future I should be known as Sutikshan Muni s/o Surendra Singh address: H No.- 10, Sri Avdhoot Jagat Ram Udasin Ashram, Shankracharya Chowk Kankhal Road, Haridwar, UK

My son's name has been wrongly mentioned as Virbhadr in the documents/birth certificate. Whereas the correct name is Trijal Vir. Sh. Ishank Vir S/o Sh. Virendra Kumar, Address: 109F/3K/1, P.O. Dhumanganj, Anant Nagar, Abubkarpur, Jhalwa, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh-210012

In my husband's army records, my incorrect name Babita Aswal has been mentioned mistakenly whereas correct name is BABITA. W/o Army No.4092101K Rank Hav Sandeep Singh Aswal Unit 5 Garhwal Rif R/o tunalka Naugaon Uttarkashi

मेरे पिता के सैन्य रिकॉर्ड में, मेरा गलत नाम निशा के रूप में दर्ज है, सही नाम निशा बघेल आधार सं. 606628364482 D/o आर्मी नं. 14436213H बीएचएम देवेंद्र कुमार, गांव- नगला खेता, पोस्ट- एका, तह- जससरा, जिला-फिरोजाबाद, उत्तर प्रदेश- 205135 है।

मेरे पुत्र के सैन्य अभिलेखोंनुसार, मेरा गलत नाम वेदवती दर्ज है, सही नाम शकुंतला आधार नं. 300783342161 M/o आर्मी नं. 15349785K हवलदार जयपाल सिंह, ग्राम-ब्रजपुर, पोस्ट- शकरोली, जिला-एटा, यूपी- 207302 है।

I, Gita Devi (Existing Name of spouse as per change of Next of kin records/ service docu), spouse of Mukesh Kumar resident of VIII- Bhetsem PO- Narayan Koti Teh- Ukhimath Distt- Rudrapur State- Uttarakhand Pin- 246439 have changed my Name from Gita Devi (Existing Name of spouse as per change of next of kin record/ service docu) to Geeta Devi (proposed new name) as per Adhaar Card, PAN card & Voter Id vide Affidavit/ Self Declaration dated 9 Nov 2023

Disclaimer
The Pioneer does not take responsibility for the content for the advertisement (Display/Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own.

For advertisement booking
9045057787, 8909212518
Email: pioneerdoon@gmail.com

IN BRIEF

CM makes slew of announcements for Yamuna Valley

UTTARKASHI: The chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama while participating in the Yamuna Valley sports and cultural development fair being held at Damta in Uttarkashi district here on Tuesday announced that the Danda Devrana fair of Rudreshwar Maharaj- the deity of 65 villages of Mugharsanti Patti- will be included in the calendar of State fairs, adding that decision would be taken soon on constructing a polytechnic institute in Damta after assessing its need. He further said that decks were being cleared for the enactment of a stringent land law to protect the agricultural land of the natives from outsiders' acquisition.

CM attends Ganga Deep Mahotsav in Haridwar

HARIDWAR: The chief minister participated in the Ganga Deep Mahotsav held at Har Ki Paudi ghat in Haridwar on Monday. Significantly, a total of 3, 51,000 diyas were lit along the ghats to mark the occasion. While addressing the gathering, he spoke of the developmental initiatives his government had taken under the inspiration of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Also, he mentioned the Rishikesh-Haridwar corridor being built to ensure swift development of these two places. Among others present was the former Union Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'.

Bhatt lays foundation stone of PMJSY road

NAINITAL: The former Union Minister and MP from Nainital -Udham Singh Nagar Parliamentary constituency Ajay Bhatt laid the foundation stone of a 25 km-long motor road to be built under PMJSY at Aghora Dugri under the development block Okhla Kanda on Tuesday. He said that the road was being built to meet the longstanding demand of the locals. He stressed on the quality of the construction work and announced Rs 5 lakh from his MPLAD Fund to be given to the school Rajkiya Inter College Aghora for purchasing furniture and building its playground's boundary wall. He also said that science classes would be introduced at the school soon.

Pritam asks why Bobby so obsessed with UPCL MD

DEHRADUN: The Chakrata MLA and senior State Congress leader Pritam Singh trained his gun on the politician-activist Bobby Panwar, who had recently courted controversy following threat allegedly given by him to the State's Power department secretary R Meenakshi Sundaram, and said that the State government should constitute a probe to know why he had been so fiercely critical of UPCL managing director's service extension with extension having been given to a host of senior officers, including the chief secretary. Observing that extension given to anyone in the government service was wrong in view of the spiralling unemployment among the youth, Singh said that the motive behind Panwar remaining so stubborn on the MD's dismissal demand should be investigated to learn whether he had any axe to grind. According to Singh, a non-technical UPCL officer had been trying to become the MD replacing the current officer. "This angle needs to be probed. It is intriguing why Panwar is singling out an officer," the Congress leader said.

2-day Plant Science Researchers' Meet concludes

NAINITAL: The seventh two-day Plant Science Researchers' Meet organised under the joint aegis of the Faculty of Agriculture and Agroforestry of Kumaun University Nainital and Plantica Foundation concluded. The scientists from various institutions of the country and abroad as well as researchers and experts working on agricultural science participated. In the inaugural session of the conference, the vice- chancellor of GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Prof Manmohan Singh Chauhan participated. In his address, he highlighted the new research being done in the field of plant science and its importance and said that scientific understanding of plants was the key to prosperity through agriculture. The KU's VC Prof Diwan Singh Rawat in his address said that research in plant science was not only important for environmental protection but could prove helpful in improving the productivity of the farmers and their quality of life.

Igas celebrated in traditional manner at CM residence

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The festival of Igas was celebrated in a simple and traditional manner at the chief minister's residence here on Tuesday. Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama participated in special prayers and Sundarkand recitation while praying for peace and prosperity in the State. Dhama participated in the Bhelo

traditions forward. At a time when the entire State is celebrating the festival with enthusiasm, he said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also wished the people on the occasion. Stating that PM Modi has special affection for Uttarakhand, the CM said that he too had participated in Igas celebrations in the national capital.

been declaring a public holiday on this occasion in recent years. During the Pravasi Uttarakhandi Sammelan held recently, the migrant Uttarakhand natives were also requested to celebrate such festivals in their native villages," the CM said. He recalled that PM Modi in his message on Uttarakhand's founda-



worship and also played Bhelo- swinging the lit resinous bark from a string. The chief minister also played the traditional drums of the State on the occasion.

Wishing the people of the State on the festive occasion, the chief minister stressed on the need for all the people to take their culture and

The PM always encourages the folk festivals and the culture of Uttarakhand, Dhama said.

"The folk culture and traditions are an integral part of Uttarakhand's identity. The festival of Igas is especially important for all of us. To ensure that the festivities are enjoyed by all, we have

tion day, had also stressed on the need to conserve the State's regional languages and ensuring that the people retain their connection to their villages. Cabinet minister Prem Chand Agrawal, Union minister of State Ajay Tamta and folk singer Pritam Bhartwan were also present on the occasion.

DSO to organise selection trials today for Khelo India Judo Centre training camp

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Dehradun District Sports Office (DSO) is set to host a selection trial for boys and girls on Wednesday at the Multi Purpose Hall in Parade Ground for the Khelo India Judo Centre training camp. As per the officials of the DSO, the training camp was recently organised by the district sports office, leading to the upcoming selection tri-



als for boys and girls. It is essential for interested players to be between the age of 12 and 18 years. Additionally, participants must bring their Aadhaar card and a colour passport size photo during the selection trial, they added.

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (Formerly IDFC Bank Limited)

CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792
Registered Office: KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai - 600031. TEL: +91 44 4564 4000 | FAX: +91 44 4564 4022.

APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)& 9 (1)]

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 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), Co-Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) as per column (iii) that the below described immovable properties as per column (iv) mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as described hereunder, for the recovery of amount due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd) from Borrower (s) and Co-Borrower (s) as per column (i). For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on IDFC FIRST Bank website i.e. www.idfcfirstbank.com.

S. NO	(i) Demand Notice Amount	(ii) Agreement Id	(iii) Name of Borrower (s), Co-Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s)	(iv) MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS	(v) Reserve Price Amount	(vi) EMD Amount	(vii) Date and Time of Auction	(viii) Date and Time EMD of Auction	(ix) Date and Time of Inspection	(x) Authorized Officer Name & Contact Number
1	INR 11557463.50/- Demand Notice dated: 03-Jul-2019	3376630	M/S. Headquarters Hair And Beauty World Proprietor Prashant Chauhan, Prashant Chauhan & Indu Chauhan	All That Piece And Parcel Of Property Bearing Of Shop No 18, 19, 20, 21 Block-F, 1St Floor, Meedo Plaza, Plot No- 26, 26-A, Rajpur Road, Dehradun, Dehradun, Uttarakhand- 248001.	5000000.00/-	500000.00/-	30-Nov-2024 11.00 AM TO 1.00 PM	29-Nov-2024 10.00 AM TO 5.00 PM	22-Nov-2024 10.00 AM TO 4.00 PM	Name-Anshul Gupta Contact Number- 7017538158 Name- Sagar Juneja Contact Number- 962586882

Disclaimer: Please note that the said notice is issued for sale of immovable property only and IDFC FIRST Bank Limited has no right to sale of the movable assets, if any, present at the immovable property. **Authorized Officer IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd)**
Date: 13.11.2024 Place: Dehradun



Accident in Doon claims six young lives, one sustains serious injuries

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Six youths were killed and one sustained serious injury in a road accident near ONGC intersection in Dehradun in the wee hours of Tuesday. Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami also expressed deep sorrow over the tragic accident. The superintendent of police (City) Pramod Kumar said that the police received a report of a collision between a container truck and an Innova car at 1:33 AM. Police arrived at the scene to find the Innova car severely damaged after colliding with the rear of the container truck. The car, carrying seven people, was completely wrecked. Kumar informed that six of the passengers died on the spot, while one person was critically injured and taken to Synergy Hospital for urgent medical attention. The bodies of the deceased were taken to the morgues of Deen Dayal Upadhyay Coronation hospital, Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) hospital and Indresh hospital. He informed that according to the preliminary investigation, the container was approaching from Kishan Nagar Chowk, while the Innova was coming from Ballapur Chowk. During the container's crossing, it seems that the Innova driver possibly misjudged the speed and distance of the truck, and attempted to cross the road. In a



rushed attempt, the vehicle collided with the back of the container that resulted in the fatal crash. Initial investigations suggest overspeeding as a likely cause of the accident, the SP city said. The deceased have been identified as Gunet (19), a resident of GMS Road, Navya Goyal (23), resident of Tilak

Road, Rishabh Jain (24), resident of Rajpur Road, Kamakshi (20), a resident of Kanwali Road, Rishabh Jain (24), a resident of Rajpur Road, Atul Agarwal (24), a resident of Kalidas Road and Kunal Kukreja (23), a resident of Rajendra Nagar but originally from Chamba, Himachal Pradesh. Siddhesh Agarwal (25), a resident of Rajpur Road, sustained serious injuries and was admitted to hospital and is currently getting treatment. He also informed that one victim's head was severed and another's body was severely mutilated. Kumar stated that the truck driver is currently absconding but clarified that as per the preliminary investigation, he was not responsible for the accident.

ing treatment. He also informed that one victim's head was severed and another's body was severely mutilated. Kumar stated that the truck driver is currently absconding but clarified that as per the preliminary investigation, he was not responsible for the accident.

Ignoring traffic rules at night can lead to fatal consequences: SSP

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Following a tragic accident near ONGC intersection that claimed six young lives in the wee hours of Tuesday, the Dehradun senior superintendent of police Ajai Singh has appealed to all citizens to abide by traffic rules irrespective of the time of the day. He raised serious concerns about the dangers of neglecting traffic rules at night. The accident, believed to have been caused by overspeeding, is a grim reminder of the risks involved in night time driving when many people mistakenly assume that fewer vehicles on the road means no need for caution. According to the SSP, a common issue is that drivers tend to drive at high speeds, fail to follow lane discipline, and even take shortcuts by driving on the wrong side of the road, all in the belief that roads are empty and there is no one to monitor them. He said that drivers should remember that fewer vehicles do not mean no vehicles. This misconception often leads to

overspeeding and reckless manoeuvres, which can quickly turn deadly. The Dehradun superintendent of police (City) Pramod Kumar said that one of the most overlooked aspects is the frequent operation of heavy vehicles like trucks on the road at night. The recent accident, where an Innova collided with the rear of a container truck, highlights the severe consequences that can arise when drivers fail to accurately judge the speed and position of other vehicles. In this case, overspeeding and misjudgment during a crossing attempt are believed to have been contributing factors. He emphasised the need for drivers to stay vigilant and strictly adhere to traffic rules, regardless of the time of day. He urged everyone, particularly young drivers, to avoid overspeeding and prioritise safety over haste. Every life is valuable, and responsible driving can prevent such heart-breaking incidents, he added.

Bobby Panwar summoned by court for violating bail conditions

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The court of the chief judicial magistrate (CJM) in Dehradun has summoned the president of the Uttarakhand Berogzar Sangh (UBS) Bobby Panwar on November 14 stating that he has reportedly violated the terms of his bail after participating in the protest held on November 9, as per the officials. They informed that Panwar was previously granted conditional bail

Panwar and his associates must not tamper with evidence, cooperate with the investigation, refrain from participating in violent protests and avoid any activity that damages public property. They were also barred from participating in any protests without prior approval and warned against engaging in any intimidating behaviour. However, Panwar allegedly led another protest on



FILE PIC

Congress spreading rumours on Char Dham Yatra, stooping to comical low: Dhami Opposition can't fool people who have benefitted from development, says CM

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that the Congress is spreading a rumour about the possibility of the Char Dham Yatra's operation being shifted to out of the State. Terming this a sign of the opposition's narrow mindedness and comical, the CM said that the State government will work towards fulfilling the previous MLA Shaila Rani

such plans succeed," the CM said.

Dhami said that those claiming to have improved the conditions in Kedarnath cannot fool the people as the public knows the reality. Following the 2013 disaster, many were affected by mismanagement and then there were scams, he said. "The Congress also spread the

ed area within 24 hours to oversee the disaster management work which saw more than 16,000 people being rescued without delay. We will all work together to build a new Kedarnath," Dhami said. He further said that the government had taken concrete action against love Jihad, land Jihad and spit Jihad, also freeing about 500 acre land from encroach-



CM Pushkar Singh Dhami and BJP candidate Asha Nautiyal being welcomed by traditional drummers at a party event in Agastyamuni on Tuesday

Rawat's dreams. Dhami was speaking at the Bharatiya Janata Party Anusuchit Jati Swabhiman Sammelan at Agastyamuni on Tuesday.

Targeting the Congress, he said that the opposition is crossing all limits when it comes to spreading rumours. "Any devotee undertaking the Char Dham Yatra doesn't decide the exact destination within a day. Pilgrims discuss their plan with family members in advance. The rumour being spread by the Congress is a sign of an inferior mentality and also laughable. An attempt is being made to bring about regionalism into Sanatan and the land of Lord Kedarnath. However, the manner in which all the people united in time of disaster, they will not let

rumour about a shila (rock) from Kedarnath being taken to Delhi. I swear by Lord Kedarnath that I have never done anything which might affect the dignity and sanctity of Kedarnath Dham. Since the Congress does not have any concrete issue, it is playing with the sentiments of the people. During my three years in office so far, the maximum number of people undertook the Char Dham Yatra. Despite the pilgrimage to Kedarnath being lessened by 56 days and being affected by disaster this year, more than 16 lakh devotees paid their obeisance at Kedarnath. The government promptly acted after the July disaster this year and ensured all necessary assistance to the affected people. I myself and our ministers reached the affect-

ment. Referring to the Congress, he said that those who had encouraged land Jihad and now posing to be Sanatanis. The Congress government had facilitated the construction of Badrinath Mandir in Mumbai in 2015 and is now accusing the BJP of being like it whereas the BJP government has brought a law to ensure that replicas of the Char Dham are not built anywhere.

Union minister of State Ajay Tamta and the BJP candidate in Kedarnath Assembly bypoll Asha Nautiyal also addressed the gathering. The late MLA Shaila Rani Rawat's daughter Aishwarya Rawat and others were also present on the occasion.

Warm clothing sales drop in Dehradun

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The delay in the onset of winter chill this year has caused a decline in sales for shopkeepers selling winter clothing in Dehradun's main markets such as Paltan Bazaar, Jhanda Bazaar and others. The delay in the arrival of the winter chill is causing people to avoid warm clothing which they generally start wearing in November. In past years, the cold weather typically began to set in by the end of October, prompting residents to start wearing warmer clothing. However, due to the delayed onset of the chilly weather with temperatures remaining above normal in Dehradun and other parts of the State this year, local shopkeepers in Dehradun have experienced a 50 per cent decrease in sale of

winter clothes.

A shopkeeper at Paltan Bazaar Aditya Kumar noted that the sale of winter clothes has been impacted this year due to the delayed start of the winter season. Typically, people shop for winter clothes in November to prepare for the cold weather, but this year, the comparatively warmer temperatures have caused a delay in the purchase of winter clothing. As a result, shopkeepers like him have stocked fewer winter clothes than usual, he added.

"I have been selling winter merchandise for five years at Paltan Bazaar. In past years, the month of November saw a high demand for winter cloth-

ing. However, this year, the delay in the onset of the winter chill in November has resulted in a 50 per cent decrease in sales compared to the previous year," shopkeeper Mohan Negi said.

He further added that consequently, due to this decline in sales, he had made the decision not to increase the stock of winter items in the months ahead, as it is anticipated that winter sales will remain low this year.

Many other shopkeepers selling winter items, including socks and woollen caps, have expressed the same concern over the decrease in the sales of winter clothing this year due to the delay in the winter chill.

Reel making trend causes public nuisance, congestion at Paltan Bazaar

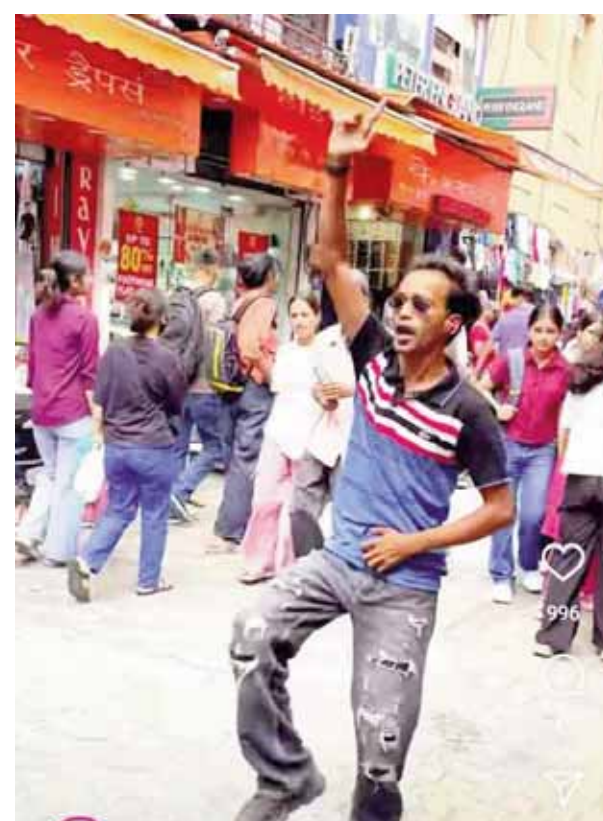
PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Both commuters and customers have expressed concern about individuals creating social media reels at Paltan Bazaar, which leads to traffic congestion causing inconvenience to the public. The popularity of creating reels among people has been noticed lately, especially at the Dehradun's major markets like Paltan Bazaar. As a result, commuters and customers are worried about the traffic jams caused by this trend. Such actions also hinder the shopping experience at the market.

A regular commuter, Suraj Baluni said that he passes through Paltan Bazaar on his way from office to home regularly. He has observed individuals blocking the way to make social media reels, as well as causing noise pollution with speakers. He said that such persons regularly making reels cause considerable inconvenience to the public. He further emphasised that the act of individuals regularly making reels at Paltan Bazaar has become quite common, causing traffic congestion and disrupting customers' shopping experiences.

Another customer, Priyanka Verma also shared similar concerns about individuals creating reels at Paltan Bazaar, affecting her shopping experience. She added that she witnessed individuals with speakers approaching commuters and customers, requesting them to pause for a few minutes to participate in making a reel. This ongoing activity has been disturbing customers, leading to traffic congestion and other disruptions. It is important for the authorities to address this issue, she added.

Many other commuters and customers have also



voiced their concerns about the practice of making reels at Paltan Bazaar.

Further, the president of the Doon Valley Mahanagar Udyog Vyapar Mandal (DVMUVM) Pankaj Mason stated that he was not aware of the reel making activity taking place at the Paltan Bazaar. He added that no complaints had been brought to his attention by any shopkeepers so far. In an effort to address this issue, he expressed his intention to personally gather feedback from the shopkeepers and some customers at the market regarding the reel making operations at the Paltan Bazaar. Should any inconveniences be reported by the shopkeepers and customers, actions will be taken against the reel mak-

ing. However, this year, the delay in the onset of the winter chill in November has resulted in a 50 per cent decrease in sales compared to the previous year," shopkeeper Mohan Negi said.

November 9, 2024, demanding an extension of the age limit for the State's police constable recruitment and additional positions for women candidates. The protest reportedly led to blocked roads and clashes with police forces. The protest escalated, with around 85 unemployed men and women blocking the Hathibadkala barrier and attempting to march towards the Chief Minister's residence. Following this, another case was filed against Panwar and his associates at the Dalanwala Kotwali. The officials said that Panwar now has a total of eight cases registered against him. They informed that the court has issued a notice to Panwar to appear on November 14 to present his defense.

Winter chill yet to set in, weather to remain dry in State today

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The first fortnight of November approaching its completion, the winter chill is yet to approach Dehradun and other parts of the State. According to meteorologists, the lack of rain and snowfall in the post-monsoon season is responsible for temperatures remaining above normal in many places in Uttarakhand. The State meteorological centre has forecast that dry weather is likely to prevail in all the districts of the State on Wednesday. The provisional State capital Dehradun is likely to witness a mainly clear sky with mist/haze likely to occur during the morning hours. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be about 28 degrees Celsius and 15 degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun today.

normal in Dehradun and other parts of the State on Tuesday. The maximum and minimum temperatures were 28.2 degrees Celsius and 14.8 degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun, 28.5 degrees Celsius and 15.6 degrees Celsius in Pantnagar, 20 degrees Celsius and 7.3 degrees Celsius in Mukteshwar and 19.6 degrees Celsius and 9.2 degrees Celsius in New Tehri. The maximum and minimum temperatures were each three degrees Celsius above normal in Dehradun. The maximum was a degree above normal and the minimum was five degrees above normal in Pantnagar. Similarly, the maximum was three degrees above normal and the minimum was a degree above normal in Mukteshwar while the minimum was two degrees above normal in New Tehri.

Meanwhile, the maximum and minimum temperatures remained above

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., Plot No. 23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi- 110005

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Julie Rao/ Rajendra Rao/ LBHWR0000559982	Plot No. 335, Part of Khasra No 595, Situated At Anandika City, Mauza Badhedi Rajputana, Pargana And Tehsil Roorkee, District Haridwar, Uttarakhand 247667/ November 08, 2024	November 18,2023 Rs. 10,05,242/-	Haridwar
2.	Abhishek Kumar Jha/ Bhavna Jha/ LBHWR00004922961/ LBHWR00004922962	Plot No. 43, Khasra No. 39/2, Village Begampur, Pargana Roorkee, Tehsil and District Haridwar, Uttarakhand / November 08, 2024	October 13,2021 Rs. 17,11,316/-	Haridwar

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: November 13, 2024
Place: Haridwar

Sincerely Authorised Signatory
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

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

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

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.

PICTALK



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

Domestic tensions add to Oli's predicament

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



ASHOK K MEHTA

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 advan-

tages 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

PTI ■ WASHINGTON
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 strengthen-

ing 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

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

PTI ■ BAKU
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-fueled 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 out-



lined 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 abstractions 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 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. Jyoti Shri. Akash Atri 2) Mrs. Laxmi Devi the Reserve Price will be Rs. 7,60,000/- 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 thereof, Situated at Khata No. 164, Khadra No. 501 & 500K, Main Dadi Surajpur Road (Noida Dadi Road), Village Devla, Pargana & Tehsil Dadi, 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

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 Right of Way measuring 50 Sq. Yards, i.e. 41.80 Sq. Mtrs out of Khadra No. 47 & 48 situated in the Abadi of F-Block, Pandav Nagar in the area of Village Gharonda, Neem Ka Bangar alias Patpar Ganj, Hlaqa, Shahdara, Delhi-110019 (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 howsoever, 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 Kant Gupta (Advocate)
Unit No. FF-2, First Floor, Mahalaxmi Metro Tower
Sec-1, Vashi, Dist. U.P., Mch. 9310963951

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, Khadra 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-4, 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

MANIBHAVNAM HOME FINANCE INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
REGISTERED OFFICE:- Farm No. 10, Tropical Drive, Ghitorni, M.G Road, New Delhi - 110030
Mob-9310100001, Email: customercare@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 of Closing Branch +919910705878
vipin.gupta@manibhavnam.com

Tentative Date of Closing 20th February, 2025

It is clarified that due care is being taken by the Company to ensure that no inconvenience whatsoever is caused to the Company's customers during the process of closing. The loan accounts of all the valued customers shall continue with another branch from new address (i.e., Office no-309, Horizon Apartment, Nath Mandir Road, South Tuko Ganj, Indore-452003) Customers are hereby requested to kindly take note of the aforesaid change, which will be effective tentatively from 20th February 2025.

In case any further clarification is required and/or in case of any difficulty, the customer may contact the officials of Manibhavnam Home Finance India Private Limited (+91 9910705878, Mr. Vipin Gupta).
Date : 13.11.2024 Place: Dewas

Emaar India Limited
Regd. Office: 306-308, Square One, C-2, District Centre, Saket, New Delhi - 110017
CIN - U45201DL200PLC133161
Email ID - bharat.garg@emaar.ae Website - www.in.emaar.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		
		September 30, 2024	30 June 2024	31 March 2024	September 30, 2024	September 30, 2023	31 March 2024
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)
13	Capital Redemption Reserve	(6.85)	(6.57)	(9.17)	(13.43)	(40.36)	(14.08)
14	Debture Redemption Reserve	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 format of financial results are available on the website of the stock exchange www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website www.in.emaar.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
Emaar India Limited
Sd/-
Jamal Majed Khalifa Bin Taniyah
Director
DIN - 07534810

Place : Gurugram
Date : November 11, 2024

KOVALAM INVESTMENT AND TRADING CO. LIMITED
Regd. Office: Premises Oswal Woolen Mills Limited G.T. Road, Shergur, Ludhiana-141003 PB
CIN:L65910PB1981PLC023055 Ph. +91-161-5066605

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

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

Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Half Year Ended		Year Ended
		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.ovmahar.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

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@rotogridia.com Website: www.rotogridia.com

Extract of Statement of Standalone Un-audited 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 (30/09/2023)	Previous Year Ended (31/03/2024)
	30/09/2024 (Unaudited)	30/06/2024 (Unaudited)	30/09/2024 (Unaudited)	30/06/2024 (Unaudited)		
1. Total Income from Operations	1.27	2.54	1.27	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		
3. Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extra Ordinary Items)	-3.88	-4.26	-2.14	-6.83		
4. Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	-3.89	-5.00	-2.14	-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. Equity Share Capital	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	0.17		
8. Earning Per Share (of Rs.10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)	(0.11)	(0.14)	(0.06)	(0.17)		
1. Basic	(0.11)	(0.14)	(0.06)	(0.17)		
2. Diluted	(0.11)	(0.14)	(0.06)	(0.17)		

Notes:
1. The above results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and reviewed by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on 11th November, 2024.
2. These financial results have been prepared in accordance with recognition and measurement principles laid down in the Indian Accounting Standards 34 Interim Financial Reporting (Ind AS-34) prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant rules issued thereunder and other accounting principles generally accepted in India.
3. The Statutory Auditors have carried out a Limited Review of the unaudited standalone Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended 30th September, 2024.
4. The company is primarily engaged in Single Business segment V. Trading, there is no other reportable segment in terms of Ind AS-102 'Operating Segments'.
5. Previous period figures have been regrouped/ reclassified wherever necessary, to conform to this period's classification.

For ROTOGRAPHICS (INDIA) LIMITED
Sd/-
Manish Kumar Kori
Whole Time Director Cum CEO
DIN : 10428839

Date : 11.11.2024

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. Soniya Bhatia, Loan Account No. ABND_LAPO000604092 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 Dump Scheme, M.M. Road, Rani Jhansi Road, Delhi- 110055

PLACE: New Delhi, DATE: 11.11.2024 Authorised Officer, (Aditya Birla Finance Limited)

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@sartelevature.com

EXTRACT OF STATEMENT OF CONSOLIDATE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED 30.09.2024
(Rs. in Lacs)

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	3251.63
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or extraordinary Items#)	1635.64	419.03	1187.57	1606.6	427.32
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or extraordinary Items#)	1635.64	419.03	1187.57	1606.6	427.32
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or extraordinary Items#)	1599.01	405.88	1160.29	1566.16	388.36
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	388.36
6	Equity Share capital	742.85	210	300	300	65.29
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	53068.71	2673.14	823.13	6880.43	1115.09
8	Earning per Share (face Value of Rs. 10/- each) (not annualised)	4.31	5.09	11.94	16.12	91.08
1. Basic	4.31	5.09	11.94	16.12	91.08	
2. Diluted	4.31	5.09	11.94	16.12	91.08	

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.sartelevature.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

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@sartelevature.com

EXTRACT OF STATEMENT OF STANDALONE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED 30.09.2024
(Rs. in Lacs)

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	538.46	321.94	320.74	640.97	642.99
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or extraordinary Items#)	178.72	54.23	92.81	147.04	117.73
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or extraordinary Items#)	178.72	54.23	92.81	147.04	117.73
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or extraordinary Items#)	142.09	41.08	60.17	106.61	78.78
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	142.09	41.08			

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.

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.

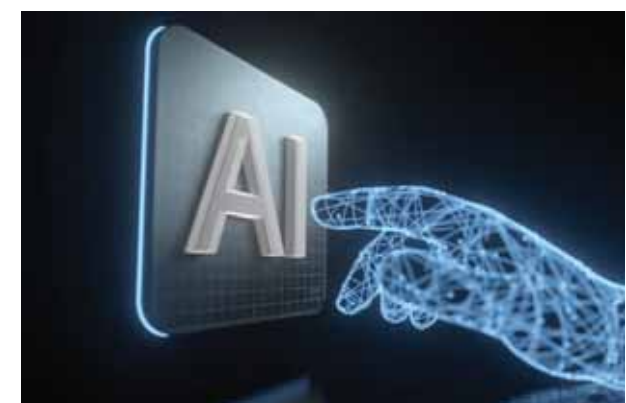
The Council may also take up some rationalisation exercise and reduce tax rates on a host

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.

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 paise 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 paise against the US currency, registering a loss for the fifth straight session.

On Monday, the rupee dropped 1 paise 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



PTI ■ MUMBAI

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.

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.

"I think he's the man to beat for a long time," said former No. 1 Boris Becker, who took part in the trophy presentation.

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 Qqberha -- 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 rapid 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 fiver 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 heftier contribution from their veterans, especially against Indian spinners. Teams (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, Mhlabi 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 ESPNcricinfo. 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 through Australian line-up, bowling the hosts out for 140 in the third ODI here. McDonald said he is looking to leave some grass on the pitch to make it a bit spicier. "It's (10 mm) a good starting point. Ten millimetres was pretty comfortable with the conditions that we had (last year) and that held the conditions together nicely for the first few days. Live grass on the pitch is speed. "Both bowling units (Australia and Pakistan) were pretty rapid last year and hoping for much the same this year (for India match)," he added.

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 hard to mimic that. I'm just looking forward to all of that and I can't wait," McSweeney told SEN. McSweeney, who captained

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 are bowling 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

Gurugram. The players now await an NOC from the Ministry of External Affairs and remain hopeful for a positive response," said Yadav. Apart from India and Pakistan, the T20 World Cup features teams from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, South Africa, Nepal and Sri Lanka. India won the three previous events, defeating

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, Loksha, Rambir Singh, Irfan Diwan, Durga Rao Tompaki, Sunil Ramesh, Sukhrum Majhi, Ravi Amitti, Dineshbhai Rathva, Dhingar Gopu.

Mohammad Nabi to retire from ODIs after 2025 Champions Trophy

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Afghanistan all-rounder Mohammad Nabi has announced that he will retire from One-Day Internationals after next year's Champions Trophy in Pakistan. After Afghanistan's 2-1 series win over Bangladesh here on Monday, the 39-year-old said he had been pondering about quitting the format since last year's ODI World Cup. "In my mind, from the last World Cup, I was retired. But then, we qualified for the Champions Trophy, and I felt if I could play that, it would be great," he told the official broadcaster after being adjudged the Player-of-the-Series.



Nabi has featured in 167 ODIs since 2009, scoring 3,600 runs in 147 innings at an average of 27.48 and a strike rate of 86.99, including two centuries and 17 fifties, with a top score of 136. With the ball in hand, he has bagged 172 wickets in 161 innings at an average of 32.47 and an economy of 4.27, including four four-

wicket hauls and a fiver (5/17). Afghanistan qualified for the Champions Trophy, thanks to their sixth-place finish during last year's World Cup. It would also be Afghanistan's first-ever appearance in the eight-team competition scheduled to be held in Pakistan in February next year.

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 Đ?nh. The Spaniard has continued the trend of calling up new players in each FIFA window so far. This time, Hmingthanmawia 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 Mohun 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. "Obviously everyone wants to win every game. But the feeling we got after the draw with Vietnam was completely different from what we got after drawing with Mauritius or losing to Syria. "In some moments, we played superb. The one key thing is that the players have to believe in our style of play. I want to win every game and even every training session. The Malaysia game is the last friendly window before the official games."