



the pioneer

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NCR gasps, GRAP III invoked



Photo: Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

deteriorating air quality in Delhi and NCR regions. GRAP is announced when the Air Quality Index (AQI) reaches 'severe' category, implementing various limitations on activities that contribute to pollution in addition to the restrictions implemented under GRAP I and II.

Earlier, Delhi woke up to dangerously high levels of toxic smog covering several cities surrounding the National Capital Region for the second consecutive day on Thursday, disrupting flight operations and train schedules. Adding to the alarm, Delhi airport saw significant disruptions on Thursday, with 151 incoming flights delayed and one cancelled, while 282 departures faced delays averaging 45 minutes, according to the flight tracker website.

The AQI in Delhi's Anand Vihar was 466 ('severe plus'), IGI Airport (T3) 435, and ITO 421 at 10am on Thursday. The city's average AQI stood at 432. Ashok Vihar, Bawana, Dwarka, Jahangirpuri, Mundka, Najafgarh, Lajpat Nagar, Patparganj, Punjabi Bagh, RK Puram, Rohini, Vivek Vihar, and Wazirpur are among several areas in Delhi where the average AQI was recorded in the 'severe' category, exceeding 450, at 6 am. The air quality crosses over 400, which falls under the severe category. As the national capital faces this ongoing crisis, residents are left wondering whether the government will enforce more stringent measures, including Stage 3 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), to tackle the worsening air quality.

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RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's air quality has reached 'hazardous' levels, prompting the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to implement Stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) restrictions, effective from eight am on Friday. Under the third stage of the GRAP, all inter-state buses from National Capital Region (NCR) states, except electric vehicles, Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicles and BS-VI (Bharat Stage Emission Standards six), diesel buses, will be prohibited from entering Delhi, alongside a stringent ban on construction and demolition activities,

suspension of mining-related activities. Chief Minister Atishi said that all primary schools in Delhi will shift to online classes. "Due to rising pollution levels, all primary schools in Delhi will be shifting to online classes, until further directions," she tweeted. There will also be restrictions on the plying of BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel vehicles in Delhi and the districts of Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gautam Budh Nagar. The National Capital's Air Quality Index (AQI) has been categorised as 'severe', with a reading of 428, the worst in the country for the past two days. The decision to invoke the third stage of GRAP was announced by Commission for

Air Quality Management on Thursday, hours after Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai claimed that the stage III of Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) would not be imposed yet as the situation is expected to improve from Friday. As per its statement, CAQM Sub-Committee on GRAP imposes Stage-III of revised GRAP in the NCR, w.e.f. 8 am November, 15 (Friday). "In an effort to prevent further deterioration of the air quality, the Sub Committee decided that ALL actions as envisaged under Stage III of the GRAP - 'Severe' Air Quality (DELHI AQI ranging between 401-450) be implemented in right earnest by all the agencies concerned in the NCR, in addition to the Stage-I and II

actions already in force, from 8 am of 15th November, 2024 in the National Capital Region (NCR)," the statement read. The GRAP III restrictions also include road construction activities and major repairs; Transfer, loading / unloading of dust generating materials like cement, fly-ash, bricks, sand, murrum, pebbles, crushed stone etc. anywhere within / outside the project sites; Movement of vehicles carrying construction materials on unpaved roads; Laying of sewer line, water line, drainage and electric cabling etc. by open trench system, brick / masonry works and painting, polishing and varnishing works. The GRAP comprises specific measures to tackle



Arms and ammunition recovered during a cordon and search operation conducted by Manipur Police and Security forces in Jiribam district. PTI

AFSPA returns to Manipur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has re-imposed the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in Manipur's six police station areas, including the violence-hit Jiribam. An area or district is notified as 'disturbed' under AFSPA to facilitate the operations of the armed forces. The AFSPA gives Armed Forces operating in disturbed areas powers to search, arrest and open fire if they deem it necessary for the "maintenance of public order". In a notification, the Union Home Ministry said the decision was taken given the continuous volatile situation there due to the ongoing ethnic violence. The police station areas where AFSPA has been reimposed are Sekmai and Lamsang in Imphal West district, Lamlai in Imphal East district, Jiribam in Jiribam district, Leimakhong in Kangpokpi and Moirang in Bishnupur. The fresh order came after the Manipur government imposed AFSPA in the entire state on October 1, barring 19 police station areas that include these six.

The police stations excluded from the Manipur government's October 1 order were Imphal, Lamphal, City, Singjamei, Sekmai, Lamsang, Patsoi, Wangoi, Porompat, Heingang, Lamlai, Iriblung, Leimakhong, Thoubal, Bishnupur, Nambol, Moirang, Kakching, Jiribam. Eleven suspected militants were killed in a fierce gunfight with security forces on Monday after insurgents in camouflage uniforms and armed with sophisticated weapons fired indiscriminately at a police station and an adjacent Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) camp in Manipur's Jiribam district. A day later, six civilians, including women and children were abducted by armed militants from the same district. The ethnically diverse Jiribam, which was largely untouched by the clashes in Imphal Valley and the adjoining hills, witnessed violence after the mutilated body of a farmer was found in a field in June this year. The disturbed area declaration was in force in the entire Manipur (except the Imphal municipality area) from 2004 till early 2022.

In April 2022, the Manipur government issued a notification where it said the disturbed area tag will no longer be applicable in seven police station areas of Imphal West district, four police station areas under Imphal East district and one police station area each in the districts of Thoubal, Bishnupur, Kakching and Jiribam. There are 16 districts in Manipur. Meanwhile, Manipur Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Sharda Devi on Thursday called for the immediate release of the three women and three children allegedly abducted by militants in Jiribam district. She termed the alleged abduction of six members of a family from Borobekra and Jakuradorh in Jiribam as "unfortunate" and demanded their release on humanitarian grounds. "We demand the immediate release of the abducted six members of a family without any harm on humanitarian grounds. We from BJP appeal to them (armed miscreants) for their release," Sharda Devi told reporters at the BJP office in Imphal.

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Dominica Award of Honour for PM Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Commonwealth of Dominica will bestow its highest national award, the Dominica Award of Honour, upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi this month, the Dominica government said. The award is in recognition of PM Modi's contributions to Dominica during the COVID-19 pandemic and his dedication to strengthening the partnership between the two countries. In a statement, the office of the Dominican Prime Minister said President of the Commonwealth of Dominica Sylvanie Burton will confer the award during the upcoming India-CARICOM Summit scheduled to take place in Georgetown, Guyana, from November 19 to 21. "In February 2021, Prime Minister Modi supplied Dominica with 70,000 doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine - a generous gift which enabled Dominica to extend support to its Caribbean neighbours," it stated. The award also recognises India's support for Dominica in healthcare, education and information technology under PM Modi's leadership as well as his role in promoting climate resilience-building initiatives and sustainable development on a global level, the statement read. The statement quoted PM Roosevelt Skerit as saying that the award is an expression of Dominica's gratitude for Prime Minister Modi's solidarity with Dominica and the wider region. "Prime Minister Modi has been a true partner to Dominica, particularly during our time of need amid a global health crisis. It is an honour to present him with Dominica's highest national accolade as a symbol of our gratitude for his support and as a reflection of the strong ties between our countries. We look forward to building on this partnership and advancing our shared vision of progress and resilience," he said. In accepting the offer of the award, PM Modi emphasised the importance of collaboration in tackling global challenges such as climate change and geopolitical conflicts, and affirmed India's commitment to working alongside Dominica and the Caribbean in addressing these issues, the statement underlined. President Burton and Prime Minister Skerit will attend the India-CARICOM Summit, a forum to discuss shared priorities.

Wholesale price inflation to affect retail market

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Wholesale price inflation rose to a four month high of 2.36 per cent in October as prices of food items, especially vegetables, and manufactured goods turned dearer, showed the government data released on Thursday. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation was 1.84 per cent in September 2024. As per the data, inflation in food items shot up to 13.54 per cent in October, as against 11.53 per cent in September. This was led by

63.04 per cent inflation in vegetables, as against 48.73 per cent in September. Inflation in potato and onion remained high at 78.73 per cent and 39.25 per cent, respectively, in October. Fuel and power category witnessed deflation of 5.79 per cent in October, against a deflation of 4.05 per cent in September. In manufactured items, inflation was 1.50 per cent in October, as against one per cent in the previous month. October witnessed the second consecutive month of rise in WPI inflation. The WPI higher than



October's level was recorded last in June 2024, when it was 3.43 per cent. "Inflation in October 2024 is primarily due to increase in prices of food articles, manufacture of food products, other manufacturing, manufacture of machinery & equipment, manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers & semi-trailers, etc." the Ministry of Commerce & Industry said in a statement. According to ICRA Senior Economist Rahul Agrawal, food inflation alone pushed up the headline WPI print by 63 basis points between September and

October 2024. On a year-on-year (YoY) basis, the core WPI print rose to 0.3 per cent in October 2024 from 0.1 per cent in September 2024, while remaining muted. "Owing to the expected softening in food inflation, ICRA estimates the WPI inflation to ease to approximately 2 per cent in November 2024," Agrawal said. Looking ahead, the robust increase in Kharif output for most food items, and the healthy outlook for Rabi crops amid elevated reservoir levels augurs well for the WPI food inflation prints in the near term. However,

the outlook for the headline WPI inflation remains vulnerable to movements in global commodity and crude oil prices, Agrawal said. The consumer price index data released earlier this week showed retail inflation surged to a 14-month high of 6.21 per cent with a sharp rise in prices of food items. The level is higher than the upper tolerance limit of the Reserve bank of India (RBI), which may make cutting the benchmark interest rates difficult in the policy review meeting in December.

India will seek Arsh Dalla extradition

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India will seek extradition of Arsh Singh Gill alias Arsh Dalla, the de facto chief of the Khalistan Tiger Force, from Canada as he is a proclaimed offender here. He was reportedly arrested there recently and it is expected that he will be extradited or deported to face justice in India, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said here on Thursday. "We have seen media reports circulating since 10 November on the arrest in Canada of proclaimed offender Arsh Singh Gill alias Arsh Dalla, the de facto chief of the Khalistan Tiger Force. Canadian print and visual media have widely reported on the arrest. We understand that the Ontario Court has listed the case for hearing," MEA said. Arsh Dalla is a proclaimed offender in over 50 cases of murder, attempt to murder, extortion and terrorist acts including terror financing. In May 2022, a Red Corner Notice was issued against



him. He was designated in India as an individual terrorist in 2023. In July 2023, Government of India had requested the Canadian government for his provisional arrest. This was declined. Additional information was provided in this case, it said. A separate request was also sent to Canada under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) to verify Arsh Dalla's suspected residential address, his financial transactions to India, moveable/immovable properties, details of mobile numbers etc. all of which were provided to Canadian authorities in January 2023.

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Students win, PCS exams back to one shift

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

After four days of relentless protests by nearly 20,000 students, the Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC) has reversed its decision to conduct preliminary exams over two shifts agreeing to hold the PCS (Provincial Civil Services) preliminary exam in a single day as per the old pattern. The Review Officer/Assistant Review Officer (RO/ARO) exam, scheduled for December 22 and 23, has been postponed. A special committee will evaluate the best approach for conducting the RO-ARO exam fairly and transparently. In a bid to address student concerns, UPPSC Secretary Ashok Kumar addressed the crowd on Thursday. "The preliminary examination will be conducted in one shift. For the RO/ARO (Review Officer/Assistant Review Officer) Examination-2023,



a committee will review all aspects and submit a detailed report. The final decision on the RO/ARO exam will be taken based on this report," he announced, signifying that the proposed changes had been officially withdrawn. Consequently, the PCS prelims will occur on a single day, while the

RO/ARO exam, initially scheduled for December 22 and 23, has been postponed. According to Prayagraj District Magistrate Ravindra Kumar, the revised exam date will be announced soon. "The date for the PCS exam will be released by the UPPSC shortly," he confirmed.

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Congress scheming to restore Article 370: PM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ MUMBAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the Congress and its allies are hatching a scheme to have a separate Constitution for Kashmir, and making all efforts for restoration of Article 370. "Will the people of Maharashtra support the Congress and its allies who speak the language of Pakistan," PM Modi said, addressing a rally in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar for the November 20 state Assembly elections. "Congress and its colleagues have passed a resolution to restore Article 370," he said. "When we made Kashmir



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated by Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde and other leaders during a public meeting. PTI

free from Article 370, Congress opposed this in Parliament and court. Now they are again hatching a scheme to restore Article 370 and have a separate Constitution in Kashmir," PM Modi said. "Kashmir is an integral part of India.

Every Indian wants that there should be only Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's Constitution in Kashmir," Modi said. "The Congress used to say that reservations were against the country. It considered reservations were against merit. The

agenda of the Congress remains unchanged. Therefore, they can't come to terms with the fact that someone from OBC has been the PM of the country for the last 10 years," he said. "The Prince of Congress, while he is abroad, openly claims that his party will scrap reservations. To further their agenda, Congress and Maha Vikas Aghadi are conspiring to divide SCs, STs and OBCs into small castes," he said. PM Modi also said the BJP-led Mahayuti government renamed Aurangabad as Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, and fulfilled the wish of Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray.

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'Lottery King' Santiago Martin runs out of luck

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHENNAI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday conducted fresh searches in multiple states against Chennai-based 'lottery king' Santiago Martin, one of the biggest donors to political parties, with over Rs 1,300 crore in electoral bonds, as part of a money laundering investigation. The action comes after the Madras High Court recently allowed the ED to proceed against Martin as the Tamil Nadu Police had decided to close the predicate or primary FIR against him and a few others and a lower court accepted this police plea.

Santiago Martin donated Rs. 542 crore to Trinamool Congress (TMC), Rs. 509 crore to DMK, Rs.154 crore to YuvaJana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP), Rs.100 crore to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Rs. 50 crore to Congress under the controversial Electoral Bond Scheme banned by Supreme Court. Officials said at least 20 premises linked to Martin, his son-in-law Aadhar Arjun and associates in Chennai and Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu, Faridabad in Haryana, Ludhiana in Punjab and Kolkata in West Bengal were being searched as part of a "comprehensive" action against his business empire.

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After Jharkhand, Prime Minister Modi repeats Rohingya-Bangladeshi chorus in Maharashtra



■ MUMBAI

Accusing the Congress of playing vote bank politics and trying to push people back into poverty in the country, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi on Thursday alleged that the leaders of the grand old party were openly talking about giving free cylinders to Rohingyas and Bangladeshis. Addressing elections rallies at Kharghar in Navi Mumbai, Modi sharpened his attack against the Congress by bringing in Rohingyas and Bangladeshis in electoral debate in Maharashtra. Modi, who is still in the Jharkhand Assembly poll mode, said: "On one hand the Congress is questioning us on providing free ration to the poor, while on the other one of the Congress leaders from

Jharkhand has gone to town announcing to give free cylinders to Hindus, Muslims and infiltrators too. If anything, the Congress leaders are openly talking about giving free cylinders to Rohingyas and Bangladeshis". "By speaking about giving free cylinders to Rohingyas and Bangladeshis, the Congress is playing with the future of the country as well as your children to get votes. Don't forget that the Congress is the pioneer of vote bank politics and it is the enemy of the poor," Modi said. "The Congress asks why 25 crore people, who have come out of poverty, are getting free ration. That means that the Congress wants the expenditures of these people to go up so that they will go back into poverty. If the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) people

get a chance, they will do the same in Maharashtra," the Prime Minister said. Charging that the Congress governments did not want the poor to come forward, Modi said, "No wonder the Congress vehemently opposes every welfare scheme for the poor. That is why my poor man has not come out of the difficulties of life. Even after 70 years of independence, most of the people in the country are struggling to get food, clothing and shelter". Alluding to "garibi hatao" slogan coined by late Mrs Indira Gandhi in her 1971 election campaign, Modi said, "The Congress has always worked on the agenda of keeping the poor poor. These people (Congress) have - for generations after generations -- been mouthing the false slogan of eradicating poverty.

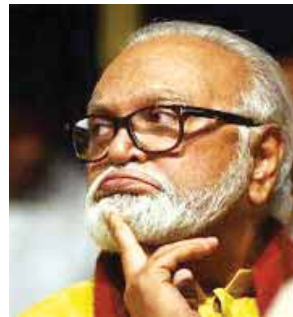
But actually in the name of the slogan of eradicating poverty, the Congress has been looting the poor". Talking about achievements of the BJP-led MahaYuti government, Modi said that Maharashtra would become the most important growth engine of developed India "Your entire belt of Panvel-Raigad is rich in marine wealth. We are empowering the coastal economy and working for our fisherman brothers and sisters. Our first priority is the development of the Maharashtra MahaYuti government. We are working towards ensuring a bright future for Maharashtra. We have done so many things that the previous governments had failed to do," Modi said, as he exhorted the people to re-elect the BJP-led MahaYuti government.

Earlier, speaking at a rally at Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar (erstwhile Aurangabad), Modi charged that the Congress and the MVA had failed to rename after Marath king Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj. "It was only after the MahaYuti government came to power in the state that we renamed Aurangabad as Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar... In this election, on one side there are patriots who are believers of Sambhaji Maharaj, while on the other, there are people heap praise on Aurangzeb". Modi said that by renaming Aurangabad as Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, the BJP-led MahaYuti government had fulfilled late Bal Thackeray's wish. "The Uddhav Thackeray-led MVA government was in power for 2.5 years. But, it did not have the courage to rename Aurangabad, all because it was under the Congress' pressure. On the other hand, the MahaYuti government renamed the city as soon as it came to power. We fulfilled your wish and also we fulfilled late Balasaheb Thackeray's wish," Modi said. Harping on how the Congress was opposed to ensuring the progress of Dalits, backward classes and tribals, Modi said: "The Congress stops Dalits, backward classes and tribals from progressing so that they can retain power from generation to generation. That is why Congress has been against reservations right from the day one". "The Congress leaders used to say that reservations were against the country. ...The mentality and agenda of the Congress has remained unchanged. They can never come to terms with the fact that an OBC has been the PM in the country for the last 10 years," Modi said.

Bhujbal faces tough fight on home ground

■ MUMBAI

Chhagan Bhujbal, senior Ajit Pawar-led NCP leader and five-time MLA, is struggling to retain his home seat of Yeola in Nashik district of north Maharashtra in the face of stiff resistance unleashed by his erstwhile mentor and NCP (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar. Seventy-seven year-old Bhujbal, who is the face of the OBCs in Maharashtra, has never had the going tough in his nearly five decade-long political career. Sharad Pawar, who considered Bhujbal his protégé and made him a deputy chief minister when the Congress-NCP government came to power in 1999, has made it a prestige issue to defeat Bhujbal in the Assembly polls. After serving a 2.5-year-term behind bars in an alleged money laundering case, Bhujbal has begun to face the heat in Yeola, a constituency from which he has been getting elected consistently to the State Assembly since 2004. Unlike in the past when he would have a cakewalk in Yeola, the odds are against him. This time, Bhujbal faces Manikrao Shinde, a Maratha pitted by Sharad Pawar. Shinde is son of former MLA Madhukarrao Shinde. What has made the contest difficult for Bhujbal is the fact that Sr Pawar has named him as "betrayer", after he junked him and went with Ajit Pawar to join the BJP-led MahaYuti government in July last year. So much so that the NCP (SP) chief went hammers and tongs against Bhujbal over the manner in which the latter betrayed him.



In his first rally that he addressed at Yeola after Bhujbal's exit from his party, Sharad Pawar said: "I erred in trusting some people, but won't repeat the mistake. I miscalculated and I apologise for it. You trusted me and voted for my party but my decision turned out to be wrong and hence I owe the apology." In an election rally that he addressed on Tuesday, Sr Pawar said: "He (Bhujbal) has no faith in ideology. He betrayed the party, leadership and the people, too. He defamed Yeola, which stood by him for years. So now, it's time to teach him a lesson. I will give you full support, and we will win, win, win." Apart from the stiff opposition from Maratha leader Sharad Pawar, what is working against Bhujbal is that he has taken an open stand against Maratha quota. Maratha quota crusader Manoj Jarange-Patil has exhorted the Maratha community to defeat Bhujbal. In his book '2024: The Election that Surprised India', Journalist Rajdeep Sardesai has quoted Bhujbal as saying that he left the Sharad Pawar camp and joined Rebel leader Ajit Pawar to become part of the BJP-led Maha Yuti (NDA) because of a fresh ED notice.

Chandigarh records worst AQI in the country

■ NEW DELHI

Chandigarh recorded the worst air quality in the country on Thursday, with its Air Quality Index (AQI) falling in the 'severe' category for the first time this season. The air quality in many parts of Haryana and Punjab was also recorded in the 'very poor' category and the 'poor' bracket. Chandigarh recorded its air quality index at 427 at 12 noon, according to the Central Pollution Control Board's Sameer app, which provides hourly updates. The AQI was 460 at the ambient air quality monitoring station at Sector 22, 365 at Sector 25 and 455 at Sector 53 in the city, the data showed. Chandigarh's air quality was worse than Delhi, which recorded its AQI at 424 at 12 noon, as per the data. For the past few days, the air quality of the union territory continued to remain in the 'very poor' bracket, becoming one of the few cities with the worst air quality in the country. In Haryana, the AQI was 323 in Gurugram, 299 in Panchkula, 293 in Bahadurgarh, 289 in Hisar, 269 in Sonapat, 246 in Kaithal, 223 in Kurukshetra and 228 in Yamunanagar. AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', 401 and 450 'severe' and above 450 'severe plus'. Stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana after harvesting the paddy crop in October and November is blamed for the rise in air pollution in Delhi. As the sowing window for Rabi crop is very short, farmers set their fields on fire to clear the crop residue.

Students win, PCS exams back to...

■ NEW DELHI

The announcement came after discussions at UPPSC, driven by widespread concerns over the normalisation process, which students feared could introduce scoring inconsistencies. Protesters camped outside the UPPSC office in Prayagraj for four days, demanding changes. In response, a government spokesperson explained that the state's initial decision to hold exams in multiple shifts stemmed from recent cases of paper leaks in various regions,

some involving organised networks. "To ensure purity and transparency in selection exams, the state government had initiated steps to conduct exams in multiple shifts," the spokesperson said, emphasising that the two-shift format aimed to minimise security risks and accommodate over 500,000 candidates in government centres alone. The PCS-Pre exam, scheduled for December 7-8 in 41 districts, was originally split over two days with a

normalisation process to adjust for varying exam conditions. UPPSC now confirms that the exam will be held in a single shift, with further details to follow soon. Earlier in the day, tensions escalated as plainclothes police attempted to disperse the crowd forcibly. When the police moved in, the students lay down in solidarity, blocking the removal efforts. Protesters accused the police of misbehaviour, including using abusive language and manhandling female students, fueling further anger. Within

an hour, over 10,000 additional students had gathered, pushing through barricades and advancing to the commission's gate. The issue had drawn national attention, with Congress Member of Parliament Rahul Gandhi condemning the UP Government's handling of the protests. In a post on X, he stated, "The treatment of competitive students in Prayagraj by the UP government and UPPSC is both insensitive and unfortunate. The non-

transparent normalisation process is unacceptable, and the demand for a single-shift exam is completely justified. Why should students bear the cost of an incompetent government that is dismantling the education system? These hardworking students, away from their families, are now forced to 'fight' on the streets, facing harassment by the police. We support the students' demands unequivocally. Their democratic rights cannot be stifled by authoritarian actions."

Saurabh Bharadwaj opens Delhi Pavilion at IITF

■ NEW DELHI

Saurabh Bharadwaj, Delhi industries minister, on Thursday afternoon inaugurated the Delhi Pavilion at the annual International Trade Fair held at Pragati Maidan. Stalls from various departments of the Delhi government have been set up in the pavilion, with officers from the respective departments present. At these stalls, visitors to the fair are informed about the work done by the department, future projects, government schemes, and other relevant information. Additionally, many stalls showcasing the art and culture of Delhi can also be found in the pavilion. Not only are there stalls from the government, but also stalls set up by traders and producers from Delhi in the pavilion, where they promote their goods and work to expand their businesses. While speaking to the media at the inauguration, Bharadwaj stated, "Like every year, this year's trade fair has been organised on a very large scale at Pragati Maidan. Traders from Delhi, the country, and abroad wait for this fair throughout the year."

BJP leader alleges threat to life, TMC rubbishes claim

■ KOLKATA

Arjun Singh, senior Bengal BJP leader and former MP, on Thursday claimed that he had reliable inputs about a conspiracy being hatched by the powers that be in the State to eliminate him and Suwendu Adhikari, the leader of Opposition in West Bengal. Moments after emerging from the Bhawani Bhawan, headquarters of the state Criminal Investigation Department (CID), where he was interrogated by top officers --- regarding a Rs 4.5 crore e-tender scam in Bhatpara Municipality, where he was a former chairman --- Singh said, "There is specific input that a conspiracy is being hatched to eliminate me and Suwendu Adhikari which is why the security ring around us has been tightened." Saying that he would make relevant points on his social media handle he said, "I have already said that if you find me dying of multi-organ failure in the coming six months then be sure that it has been the handiwork of the conspirators." Adding, not only him and Adhikari, but four other BJP leaders were also in the TMC's 'hit list'. He, however, did not name

them. Incidentally the security arrangement around Adhikari was recently upgraded by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to Z-category. "I have information from reliable sources that some chemical from Russia could be used to slow poison me ... even they can silently spray these on me without my notice" he said. When asked as to whether he would like to specify the names that were behind the "conspiracy to kill" him he said, "If you insist I must say it is the Agencies ... that is the state agencies who will have been deployed to eliminate me." When asked to comment on Singh's statements senior Bengal Minister and Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim said the BJP leader had gone berserk. "He has been a political worker but now it seems that he has become a mental patient. It is better he visits some psychologist," he said. Another senior party leader Kunal Ghosh said that the BJP leader was, "Making such statements out of fear and nervousness. He knows the truth behind the scam, so he is making ridiculous statements."

Lottery King' Santiago Martin...

■ CHENNAI

A clutch of police FIRs have been taken into cognisance by the ED to initiate the latest action against Martin and his business network for lottery "fraud" and "illegal" sale of lottery. The ED had last year attached assets worth about Rs 457 crore in a case against Martin linked to an alleged loss of over Rs 900 crore to the Sikkim government by fraudulent sale of the State lottery in Kerala. Martin's firm Future Gaming Solutions India Pvt. Ltd. Is the master distributor of Sikkim lotteries and the ED has been investigating Martin, known as 'lottery king' in Tamil

Nadu, since 2019. The Madras High Court last month allowed the ED case against Martin and his linked persons to go on as it set aside a lower court order which had accepted a closure report filed by the Chennai Police crime branch in a case related to the seizure of "unaccounted" Rs 7.2 crore from his Chennai home. His other companies include Martin Builders Pvt. Ltd, And Daison Land and Development Pvt. Ltd. The ED had said earlier that these firms "acquired" immovable properties worth Rs 19.59 crore from the loans and advances given by Martin and his family members.

India will seek Arsh Dalla's...

■ NEW DELHI

In December 2023, the Department of Justice of Canada sought additional information on the case. A reply to these queries was sent in March this year, MEA said. "In view of the recent arrest, our agencies will be following up on an extradition request. Given Arsh Dalla's criminal record in India and his involvement in similar illegal activities in Canada, it is expected that he will be extradited or deported to face justice in India," it said.

Congress scheming to restore Article 370: PM

■ NEW DELHI

"The whole Maharashtra knows that the demand to rename this city as Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar was raised by Balasaheb Thackeray," he said. The Congress party went to the court to overturn this decision, he added. The Maha Vikas Aghadi government was in power for two-and-a-half years but did not have the courage to rename the city under pressure from the Congress, he said. "This election in Maharashtra is not just an election to elect a new government. In this election, on one side there are patriots who believe in

Sambhaji Maharaj and on the other side there are people who praise Aurangzeb," Modi said. "BJP-Mahayuti ahe, rat gati ahe, Maharashtrachi pragati ahe (If there is Mahayuti there is progress in Maharashtra)," Modi said. The people of Maharashtra and Marathwada had been demanding for decades to give classical language status to Marathi, Modi said. This work related to Marathi pride was completed by the BJP, he added. "Maharashtra has attracted the maximum FDI after the formation of the Mahayuti government. The people have benefited due to the investment," he said.

NCR gasps, GRAP III invoked

■ NEW DELHI

In many parts of Delhi, roads, bridges, buildings, offices, and flyovers, were hardly visible as they were covered by a thick layer of smog. There was an average 20 minutes delay in arrivals and a significant 54-minute average delay in departures at the Indira Gandhi International Airport. Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport issued an advisory on Thursday, informing passengers that "low visibility procedures" are being implemented due to

the thick smog and rising air pollution in the city. The airport clarified that all flight operations are "currently normal" but urged passengers to contact their respective airlines for "updated flight information." The advisory said, "Low Visibility Procedures are in progress at Delhi Airport. All flight operations are presently normal. Passengers are requested to contact the airline concerned for updated flight information." Visibility at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) dropped to 400 metres down from 800

metres between 7 am to 9 am. Palam airport reported moderate fog with visibility of 300 metres from 07:00 am to 10 am. Airlines such as IndiGo have advised passengers of potential flight delays due to slower operations in the fog. Earlier in the morning, IndiGo urged passengers to keep a tab on their flight status as some flights might be delayed. "This morning, winter fog may impact flights to/from Amritsar, Varanasi & Delhi. Do keep a tab on your flight status before heading to the airport. Also, please allow

additional travel time as road traffic may move slower than usual due to low visibility. Thank you for your patience, and we wish you a smooth journey," IndiGo posted on X. The Delhi metro has announced that it will induct 20 extra trips (in addition to 40 already in place since GRAP-II was implemented) into service from Friday morning. "Thus, 60 extra trips will be performed by Delhi Metro on weekdays till GRAP-III remains in place," the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) stated.

AFSPA returns to Manipur

■ NEW DELHI

"We strongly condemn the violence on common people by armed miscreants. The violence which had renewed once again recently has left us devastated. The abduction of six members of a family is unfortunate. We met Governor (Lakshman Prasad Acharya) in Assam who in front of us instructed officials to take actions against miscreants who are responsible for violence", she added. Normal life was affected in Manipur's Imphal Valley on Wednesday due to a total shutdown called by 13 civil rights organisations to protest

the alleged abduction of three women and three children by militants in Jiribam district. Police said purported photographs of the six missing persons in captivity of militants doing the rounds on social media could not be confirmed and the rescue operations were on to trace them. School and college students across the Imphal valley formed multiple human chains outside their respective educational institutions to protest against the alleged abduction of three women and three children by armed tribal militants in Jiribam district. Holding black flags and wearing black badges, the

students raised slogans demanding immediate safe release of the six and called for action by the central and state governments. Organised by COCOMI Students Front, an organisation of the Meitei community, they carried placards with "Today is children's day, release the innocent children" and "Release our friends" written on them. More than 200 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kuki-Zo groups since May last year.

Delhi Police detains 1,224

■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police in a 24-hour long 'Operation Kawach 6.0' detained 1,224 people, allegedly involved in activities of possessing illegal firearms, thefts, banned drugs and illegal liquor across the city. All the units of the Delhi Police launched a 24-hour operation, which started from 5 pm on November 12 till 5 pm on November 13. A total of 150 police teams were constituted.

MCD polls: AAP councillor Mahesh Khichi elected Mayor

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After a long delay of seven months for the mayoral poll elections, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)'s Mahesh Khichi a councillor from the Dev Nagar ward in Karol Bagh (45) was elected as the first Mayor of Delhi on Thursday, defeating BJP's Kishan Lal from Shakurpur ward (47) with a slim margin amid a chaotic scene unfolded during the voting process. Khinchi received 133 votes, while Lal secured 130 votes. Two votes were declared invalid. The eight Congress councillors chose not to participate in the voting process. Ravindra Bhardwaj of AAP was elected unopposed for the post of Deputy Mayor. Bhardwaj is a councillor from Aman Vihar, Ward No. 41. His rival candidate, BJP councillor Neeta Bisht, withdrew her nomination. Bisht is a

councillor from Sadatpur, Ward No. 247.

The winning the Mayoral post will boost the AAP morale of the party workers ahead of the assembly polls next year. These elections, which had been delayed since April due to a prolonged battle of words between the AAP and BJP, saw the Congress boycott the voting, demanding a full term for the mayor instead of the shortened tenure now on offer. Khinchi's tenure will last only five months, as the election had been postponed since April.

AAP had a strength of 125 councillors while the BJP had 113 councillors. Votes were also cast by all the seven MPs of BJP while two MPs Sanjay Singh and ND Gupta also voted for the elections. AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal was a no show at the election. A total of 14 MLAs



Ranjan Dimri

casted their vote including 13 from AAP and one from BJP. It is noteworthy that this year was reserved for Dalit candidates. The elections began with a

chaotic scene which unfolded with the Congress councillors raising slogans and storming into the well of the House over the reduced tenure allotted for the upcoming Dalit

mayor. The uproar began as presiding officer Satya Sharma initiated the proceedings. The uproar began as presiding officer Satya Sharma initiated the pro-

ceedings. Congress Leader of Party (LOP) Nazia Dhanish immediately raised objections, criticising the truncated tenure set for the Dalit mayor. Earlier, the Congress has decided to boycott the elections for the mayor and deputy mayor in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), citing dissatisfaction over the limited tenure planned for the next Dalit mayor.

He accused the current sitting mayor of oversteering and infringing on the Dalit community's right to full representation. Dhanish, along with other Congress councillors, moved into the well of the House, demanding an explanation from the presiding officer.

In response, Sharma urged the Congress councillors to return to their seats, remarking, "You are spoiling their limited tenure as well." The

protest escalated as the Congress members targeting the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chanted "Dalit Virodhi Kejriwal Sarkar" slogan. In return, the AAP members countered with chants of "Kejriwal Zindabad". The standoff continued with both sides hurling slogans against each other followed by them staging a walk out.

However, in a later twist, one of the councillors from the party Sabila Begum resigned from the primary membership of the party saying she would vote for the AAP nominee. She had also previously defected to the AAP in 2022 before returning to the Congress fold.

The newly elected Mayor thanked everyone present in the house and expressed his gratitude to the former Chief Minister and AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal. He said, "Under his leadership, we all

will work together with full honesty for the development of Delhi."

Despite the loss, Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva said that Arvind Kejriwal's party lost the election for the post of Mayor and Arvind Kejriwal has lost the moral ground to continue as the Convener of AAP.

"At least eight councillors of AAP cast their votes in favour of BJP and two others deliberately got their votes invalid which is a big moral defeat for Arvind Kejriwal," he said. Every year in April, mayoral elections are held in accordance with MCD procedures, and each mayor is elected to a one-year term as part of a five-year cycle. Women are assigned to the first term, followed by the open category in the second, a reserved category in the third, and the open category once more in the last two terms.

DDA launches Phase-II of 2024 Sasta Ghar housing scheme

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Thursday launched Phase II of its 2024 Sasta Ghar housing scheme offering over 2,600 affordable flats across various locations, including Narela, Rohini, Manglapuri (Dwarka), Siraspur and Loknayakpuram.

According to a statement, the authority said that the scheme has seen a tremendous response, with more than 600 flats sold in just a few hours on the first day.

"In Manglapuri (Dwarka) alone, all 191 EWS flats were sold out in the first few hours. The flats in Rohini are also getting sold out rapidly, while more than 200 EWS flats have already been sold in Narela," it stated. This initiative is a strong step by the DDA to address the rising demand for affordable housing in Delhi, the state-



ment added. Earlier, the authority had launched three housing schemes offering a variety of flats located at different places across the city catering to all categories of income groups, which was approved at the

Authority meeting at Raj Niwas. According to proposals, DDA Sasta Ghar Housing Scheme 2024 will offer lower income group (LIG) and economically weaker sections (EWS) flats at discounted rates in

Ramgarh Colony, Siraspur, Loknayakpuram, Rohini, and Narela through first come first serve (FCFS) mode, making housing more accessible and enabling a common man to own a house in Delhi for low income group. Under the

scheme, around 34000 flats are to be offered, with starting price as low as approximately Rs. 11.5 lakh.

Under the General Housing scheme, flats of all categories including high income group (HIG), middle income group (MIG), LIG and EWS at different localities like Jasola, Loknayakpuram and Narela will be offered at 2023 prices without any price escalation. The starting price of flats is approximately Rs. 29 lakh and around 5400 flats to be offered under this scheme. DDA's Dwarka Housing Scheme will offer MIG, HIG and higher category flats in Sector 14, 16B and 19B of Dwarka through an e-auction process.

This will provide an opportunity to people to own a house in the upscale area of Dwarka. About 173 flats are being offered under the scheme, with starting price of Rs. 128 lakh.

LG accuses former CM Kejriwal of stonewalling his efforts to clean Yamuna

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Thursday accused former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal of stonewalling his efforts to clean the Yamuna, claiming the AAP supremo feared that he might get the credit for it.

Reacting to the allegations, AAP said Saxena was "misleading" the people and trying to take credit for projects initiated by the Delhi government. In a long post in Hindi on X, Saxena said the National Green Tribunal in January 2023 constituted a high-level committee under the chairmanship of the Delhi lieutenant governor to clean and revive the Yamuna. The high-level committee held five meetings and the work to clean the Yamuna was started on a war footing. The efforts started becoming visible and an 11-kilometre floodplain was



gradually cleaned with the removal of encroachments. The quality of water also started improving, he said.

These encouraging results led the then chief minister Kejriwal to feel that the lieutenant governor might get credit for cleaning the Yamuna, a promise he could not fulfil in nine years, Saxena alleged. He said the Kejriwal government filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court and in July 2023 obtained a stay on the

National Green Tribunal's order for formation of the high-level committee. "Consequently, the cleanliness work of five months came to a standstill. Although Kejriwal succeeded in stopping my efforts to clean the Yamuna, he did not do even a single work in the past 16 months for cleaning the river..." Saxena claimed. Sharing newspaper clippings of the Yamuna's pollution, he added that the river's poor condition was self-evident.

"...It's clear how polluted the thinking and intentions of the persons who obstructed my efforts to make the Yamuna pollution free were," Saxena claimed. Newspapers are full of reports of the plight of the Yamuna and the high court prohibited offering "arghya" in the river on Chhath due to the filth floating in it, Saxena added.

As air quality reaches hazardous levels, BJP demands Rai's resignation

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Thursday lashed out at Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai and demanded his resignation as the air quality in the city zoomed to hazardous levels.

Rai hit back at the BJP and accused the saffron party led governments in the neighbouring states of doing nothing to prevent air pollution.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva in a statement assailed Rai calling him an "unsuccessful" environment minister and said Delhiites want him to step down.

"Due to Atishi government's inaction, the pollution situation in Delhi is now worse than in surrounding areas, with the AQI even in clean areas like Rajpath exceeding 450," he claimed. Had the Delhi chief minister and her environment minister discussed the crop stubble problem with the AAP ruled Punjab and put a check on it, the pollution levels not only in Delhi but across the north India would be under



control, said Sachdeva.

"If excessive smoke from stubble burning in Punjab were not there, Delhi would not suffocate now," he added.

Rai citing a report claimed that Delhi's own sources contributed 30 per cent to the air pollution in the city while nearly 35 per cent contribution came from different NCR districts in BJP ruled Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

He said the Central government must collaborate with the neighbouring states to create a joint action plan. This plan must be strictly enforced, with everyone working together to

control their respective share of pollution, he added.

Rai said 45,172 incidents of stubble burning were reported in Punjab between October 14-November 13, 2022. After the Punjab government started addressing this problem, the number came down to 26,127 in the same period in 2023, he claimed. In 2024, the number further came down to just 7,492, he said.

However, in Uttar Pradesh, which borders Delhi, there were 1,271 stubble burning incidents in 2022 which increased to 2,167 in 2024, Rai added.

City court issues order for Amanatullah's release

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A city court on Thursday issued an order for the release of AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan in a money laundering case related to alleged irregularities in the Delhi Waqf Board case. Special Judge Jitendra Singh issued the order after accepting his bail bond of Rs 1 lakh and a surety of like amount.

Earlier in the day, Special Judge Jitendra Singh ordered Khan's release in the case while refusing to take cognisance of a chargesheet filed against him. The judge said while there was sufficient evidence against Khan to proceed against him, there was no requisite sanction to prosecute him. "Therefore, the cognisance is declined," the judge said.

"Thus, cognisance against A-6 (Khan) is declined for the offence defined under section 197 (1) 3 (money laundering) and punishable under section 4 of the PMLA for the lack of requisite sanction," the judge said while noting that Khan was a "public servant". He further said that in the case, "there is no legal ground to justify further



detention of the accused in custody".

"Keeping the accused in custody in these circumstances when the cognisance has been declined for the absence of sanction under section 197 (1) 3 CrPC, shall tantamount to illegal custody. Under these circumstances, the accused has to be immediately released," the judge said. Special Judge Singh further issued an order for the release of Khan in the case after accepting his bail bond of Rs 1

lakh and a surety of like amount, "for securing his presence in case the sanction is obtained and filed by the complainant (ED) in future".

The court also denied taking cognisance of the supplementary chargesheet filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against Khan in the case. Khan has been in judicial custody for two months. With his release, all AAP leaders will be out of jail. Addressing a press conference, AAP MP Sanjay Singh said that

Khan's bail in the Delhi Waqf matter has exposed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "false case". "The money-laundering case has become a drama and a weapon of the BJP. I repeatedly tell Prime Minister Modi that if he is so full of anger, resentment and hatred, then he should make us stand at a crossroads and have us shot," Singh said in a statement. He also claimed that the probe agencies had lost all credibility.

"Bail to Amanat. Once again, Modi's false case has been exposed. Modi ji tried all his tricks but could not eliminate Arvind Kejriwal and AAP," Singh had earlier said in Hindi on X. Echoing his colleague, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said this was bound to happen.

"All AAP leaders are out now. The truth cannot be defeated and we are going to contest the Delhi elections with full strength," he said.

Senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia has slammed the BJP for misusing the ED and CBI to falsely target AAP leaders, aiming to imprison them and disrupt elections.

The ED on October 29 filed a 110-page first supplementary prosecution complaint (ED's equivalent of a chargesheet), claiming Khan laundered money that was allegedly generated through corruption in the Delhi Waqf Board. The chargesheet had also named one Mariam Siddiqui, who was not arrested as an accused by the ED in the case. The court said there was no evidence to proceed against Siddiqui and discharged her.

Cops bust cow smugglers: One dead, six injured

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

A cow smuggler died, and six others were injured after the Gurugram police chased and stopped a gang illegally smuggling cows on Thursday, police said.

However, the six smugglers have been arrested after being discharged from the hospital, and the deceased cattle smuggler's body has been sent for an autopsy on Thursday. The accused have been identified as Munna, Mafik Ali, Mubarak alias Utavandia, Shaukin alias Sunda, and Irasad alias Langa all residents of Nuh district in Haryana, while Salman, a native of Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh.

Shahjad, who died in the incident, was also a native of Nuh district. According to the police, on Thursday, a Cow Protection Cell in Gurugram, while patrolling, saw some people loading cows in a pickup vehicle near the Manesar



Bus Stand on the Delhi-Jaipur Expressway. When they saw the police, the accused drove their pickup towards Panchgaon-Bilaspur, but the vehicle overturned after hitting the divider, and police

nabbed all the vehicle occupants. When the police team checked the pick-up a person was found dead, buried under the vehicle. Police recovered 04 cows tied in the vehicle and picked them

up for transporting the cows. In connection with the matter, a case was registered under the relevant sections at the Police Station Manesar, Gurugram. After observing the criminal records of the accused, it was

found that the deceased Shahjad was involved in 02 cases of attempt to murder and cow smuggling registered in Gurugram and 03 cases in district Nuh.

Shaoukin was involved in 18 cases that were registered against him in various police stations of Rewari, Nuh, Gurugram and Rohtak and in 02 cases, he has also been declared a proclaimed offender.

Irshad has a total of 03 cases registered against him in Gurugram and Nuh in connection with cow smuggling, assault and threat. Mafiq Ali and Mubarak have 01 cases each registered against them in Nuh.

"The police team is questioning the accused thoroughly. Further action will be taken in the case as per rules according to whatever facts will come out in the police interrogation. Investigation of the case is on," Sandeep Kumar, spokesperson of the Gurugram police said.

Special Cell arrests sharpshooter after brief exchange of fire in Rohini

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police's Special Cell arrested a 22-year-old sharpshooter of Tillu Tajpuriya - Davender Bamba gang in a murder case after a brief exchange of fire near Rohini.

According to the police on Thursday, Nihal, who is suspected to be a member of the Tillu gang, sustained bullet injuries in the exchange of fire. A firearm and a two-wheeler on which the suspect was travelling were recovered from the spot.

A senior police officer said, "On the night of Wednesday, police received a specific input regarding one of the shooters of Tillu Tajpuriya - Davender Bamba gang who is involved in Mundka Murder case and acting upon the information, team laid a trap near UER -II road adjacent to Kheda Canal, Shahbad



Dairy area."

The police spotted the suspect at around 9 pm riding a scooter and signaled him to stop. "However, upon seeing the police, the suspect attempted to flee, but the scooter slipped, bringing him to a halt.

They opened fire on the police team. In retaliation and self-defense, the police team fired upon him and in the process the suspect was

injured," it said.

Nihal was allegedly involved in the murder of one Amit Lakra, who had recently got bail in a case of robbery. Lakra was allegedly shot six times at a crowded market in Mundka on November 9.

According to another official, initial investigations suggested that Lakra was a member of the Gogi gang and was targeted by members of its rival, Tillu gang.

Coast guard evacuates critically ill from Lakshadweep

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) evacuated a critically-ill patient from Agatti, Lakshadweep late on Wednesday, the defence ministry said here on Thursday. The 68-year old patient was diagnosed with acute exacerbation of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and type 2 respiratory failure and was in need of immediate medical evacuation, it said. Giving details, officials said ICG District Headquarters at Kochi, in coordination with its Lakshadweep Headquarters and the Lakshadweep Administration, launched a Dornier aircraft and medically escorted the patient to the General Hospital Ernakulam, Kochi. The swift and successful medical evacuation is part of the consistent support extended by the ICG to the Lakshadweep administration and the Islanders towards ensuring safety of life and sustained connectivity with the mainland, upholding the ICG motto, 'Vayam Rakshamah' - We Protect.

Congress, BJP pay tributes to Nehru on birth anniversary



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi paid homage to Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first PM, on his birth anniversary on Thursday. Nehru was born on November

14, 1889 in Uttar Pradesh's Allahabad (now Prayagraj). He was one of the leading faces of the country's freedom struggle. He breathed his last on May 27, 1964. "On the occasion of his birth anniversary, I pay homage to our former Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru," PM

Modi wrote on social media post. The Congress paid rich tributes to Nehru. Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, said Nehru's democratic, progressive and inclusive values are the cornerstone of India and will always remain

so. Mallikarjun Kharge, president of the Congress, hailed Nehru as the architect of modern India and the one who took India from zero to the peak. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Congress general secretary, also paid tributes to Nehru at his memorial in Shantivan.

DRDO successfully concludes flight test of Pinaka Weapons System



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully completed the flight tests of Guided Pinaka Weapon System as part of Provisional Staff Qualitative Requirements (PSQR) validation trials. The flight tests have been conducted in three phases at different field firing ranges, the defence ministry said here on Thursday. During these tests, the PSQR parameters namely, ranging, accuracy, consistency and rate of fire for multiple target engagement in a salvo mode have been assessed by extensive testing of rockets. Twelve rock-

ets from each production agency from two in-service Pinaka launchers upgraded by the launcher production agencies have been tested, it said. The precision strike variant for Pinaka Multiple Launch Rocket System is a totally indigenous weapon system designed and developed by Armament Research and Development Establishment in association with Research Centre Imarat, Defence Research and Development Laboratory, High Energy Materials Research Laboratory and Proof and Experimental Establishment with Munitions India Limited and Economic Explosives Limited as production agencies for ammunition and Tata

Advanced Systems Limited and Larsen and Toubro for Pinaka launcher and Battery Command Post. Defence minister Rajnath Singh complimented the DRDO and the Indian Army for the successful PSQR validation trials of the system and stated that the induction of this Guided Pinaka Weapon System will further boost the artillery fire power of the Armed Forces. Dr Samir V Kamat, secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO, also congratulated the teams associated with the trials and said the rocket system has completed all pre-requisite flight trials before induction into the Indian Army.

MoD holds meeting on electronic warfare

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The annual meeting of the Joint Electromagnetic Board (JEMB), a subcommittee of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC), was held on Wednesday to review all aspects of electronic warfare and spectrum management besides other issues, the Ministry of Defence

announced on Thursday. Giving the details, officials from the ministry, said the meeting was held under the chairmanship of Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra, Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Operations). The event was attended by senior officers from the three Services, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Department of

Defence Production (DDP), and industry representatives. The meeting covered multiple agenda items on joint operations and integration in areas such as electronic warfare, signature management, emerging technologies, EMI/EMC, spectrum management and human resource management. The event also featured the launch of the AI-enabled e-Tarang system.

PM inaugurates Bodo festival

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi will inaugurate the first Bodoland Mahotsav on Friday at the SAI Indira Gandhi Sports Complex in Delhi and address a gathering on the occasion, Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said on Thursday. The two-day festival is a mega event on language, literature and culture to sustain peace and build a vibrant Bodo society, a statement from the PMO read. It aims to integrate the indigenous Bodo people residing not only in Bodoland but other parts of Assam, West Bengal, Nepal and international border areas of the Northeast. The theme for the festival is Peace and Harmony for Prosperous Bharat with a focus on the rich culture, language and education of the Bodo community along with other communities from the Bodoland Territorial Region. It aims to capitalise on the richness of cultural and linguistic heritage, ecological biodiversity and touristic potential of Bodoland. Significantly, the festival is also about celebrating the remarkable journey of recovery and resilience ever since the sign-

ing of the Bodo Peace Accord in 2020, the statement read. The peace agreement not only resolved decades of conflict, violence, and loss of life in Bodoland but also served as a catalyst for other peace settlements, it further read. The rich Bodo culture, tradition and literature contributing towards Indian heritage and traditions, will be the highlight of the festival and witness deliberations on the rich Bodo culture, traditions, language and literature. Another session on the Challenges and opportunities of mother tongue medium-of-instruction through National Education Policy, 2020, will also be held. A thematic discussion on Indigenous cultural meet and discussion on building vibrant Bodoland region through culture and tourism, will be organised with the objective of promoting tourism and culture of the Bodoland region. The gathering will include more than 5,000 cultural, linguistic and art enthusiasts attending the event from the Bodoland region, Assam, West Bengal, Tripura, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, other parts of India, and also from neighbouring Nepal and Bhutan, among others.

Rajnath to visit Laos for ASEAN ministers' meet



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Rajnath Singh, Union Minister of Defence, will pay a three-day visit to Laos next week to attend a meeting of a grouping comprising 10-nation ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and some of its dialogue partners, which is expected to deliberate on evolving regional security situation. He is likely to present India's position on dealing with major

security challenges facing the region at the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus), sources said. The defence minister will visit Laos from November 20 to 22, they said. ADMM-Plus is a platform comprising 10-nation ASEAN and its eight dialogue partners - India, China, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States. Laos is hosting the meeting in its capacity as the current chair of ADMM-Plus.

The meeting is likely to deliberate on the situation in the Indo-Pacific as well as ways to combat the threat of terrorism. Singh is likely to hold bilateral meetings with the defence ministers of a number of participating countries. India became the dialogue partner of the ASEAN in 1992 and the inaugural ADMM-Plus was convened in Hanoi in October 2010. Since 2017, the ADMM-Plus ministers have been meeting annually to bolster security cooperation.

Naval seminar concludes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Issues including cyber security, risks in aviation operations and challenges posed by unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) were discussed during the two-day Flight Safety Seminar (FSS) and Annual Naval Flight Safety Meeting (NFSM) ending Wednesday at INS Dega, Visakhapatnam, the defence ministry announced on Thursday. Giving details,

officials said the meeting was organised under the aegis of the Headquarters Eastern Naval Command. Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Eastern Naval Command, delivered the key note address. Centering on the theme Emerging Threats and Challenges - Naval Air Operations and Compliance with Flight Safety, the seminar focused on contemporary topics.

Panagariya argues for local bodies to self finance

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Rural and urban local bodies should look at raising their own resources as it will mobilise citizens in terms of their expectations and their demands from the local bodies, said Arvind Panagariya, chairman of the 16th Finance Commission, on Thursday. Speaking at a one-day conclave of the Finance Commissions themed Devolution to Development organised by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Panagariya also said that a convergence is being witnessed in the demands of the urban and rural local bodies. Among the topics in focus at the conclave were deliberations on addressing systemic challenges, ensuring timely constitution of the state finance commissions, implementation of recommendations and strengthening institutional mechanisms to ensure a smooth flow of funds to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), and fostering financial autonomy and self-reliance among the panchayats. The issue of panchayat finances, including devolution of funds, functions and functionalities, along with strategies to enhance local revenue sources were among the key issues. Panagariya said that local bodies should look at raising their own resources as well. "From the view point of service provision it is important to raise



some own resources also. When citizens pay taxes, they are also aware of services that ought to be rendered to them," he said. "It is also the logic of devolution of the functions at local levels. Locals know what they need and want. That knowledge will convert into a more activist kind of demand." Panagariya said it will also mobilise the citizens. "In some way efforts should be made by the panchayats and urban local bodies to raise at least some part of their revenues from their own jurisdiction. That is an important way to mobilise citizenry in terms of its expectations and demands," he said. Meanwhile, Vivek Bharadwaj, Secretary, Panchayati Raj said the conclave brings together stakeholders so that there is an integration in thought and

action. "For the 2.5 lakh panchayats and people, the Finance Commission is responsible for devolution of resources. We have been trying that there should be an integration of action and thought between the central and state finance commissions. Through this conclave, all stakeholders have come on one platform," he said. The conclave, organised by the Panchayati Raj Ministry, brings together key representatives from the 16th Finance Commission, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, as well as eminent experts and representatives from the State Finance Commissions and other relevant institutions.

How India is reshaping its relationship its tribal populations

RANI SINGH RAJPUT ■ NEW DELHI

For the first time in India's history, the nation's tribal communities are experiencing a wave of transformative initiatives that recognise and uplift them across all spheres. After years of systemic neglect, a newfound focus on tribal welfare is not only closing gaps but also celebrating their heritage, empowering their youth, improving healthcare access, and providing economic opportunities. Droupadi Murmu's election as India's first tribal President is also a monumental step for tribal representation, sending a powerful message of inclusion and breaking barriers at the highest level of government.

With these monumental steps, India is reshaping its relationship with its tribal citizens-bringing prosperity, dignity, and equality to communities long overlooked. Here is a look at these historic firsts that are building a brighter, more inclusive future. India has expanded its financial commitment to tribal welfare to record levels. Funds for Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (STs) have seen a five-fold increase, from less than Rs 24,600 crore in 2013-14 to an incredible Rs 1.23 lakh crore in 2024-25. This leap in funding is fueling initiatives across education, healthcare, housing, and more, marking a powerful commitment to empowering tribal communities.



Tribal students are finally receiving the educational opportunities they deserve, with enrollment soaring from 34,000 in 2013-14 to over 1.3 lakh in 2023-24. The growth of

Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) has been a cornerstone of this shift, with the number of schools nearly quadrupling, from 123 to 476 in just a decade. These schools

are not only educating but transforming prospects for tribal youth across the country. With the first-ever Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission, India is tackling a health issue

that disproportionately affects tribal communities. Already, over 4.6 crore people have been screened, with a goal to reach seven crore within three years. This mission to eradicate sickle cell disease isn't just about health; it is about creating a healthier, more resilient future for India's tribal populations. For the first time, tribal students are receiving extensive scholarship support. Scholarships now benefit over 30 lakh students annually, with a total disbursement of Rs 17,000 crore in last 10 years. These scholarships are more than financial aid; they're a pathway to empowerment for tribal youth. The contributions of tribal freedom fighters are now being

recognised on a national scale, with 10 museums established in their honor. The birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda has also been designated as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, paying tribute to his legacy and the resilience of India's tribal communities. For the first time, the stories of tribal heroes are celebrated, fostering pride and preserving cultural heritage. In a landmark push for tribal entrepreneurship, 3900 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras have been set up, providing resources to nearly 12 lakh tribal entrepreneurs. These centers are enabling tribals to transform traditional skills into profitable ventures, promoting economic self-reliance and innovation.

Under PM-JANMAN, essential services like housing, clean water, sanitation, and healthcare are reaching the most vulnerable tribal groups for the first time. With a budget of over Rs 24,000 crore dedicated to 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) and more than 45 lakh families, this initiative is a lifeline for remote tribal communities. Further, with the abrogation of Article 370, ST communities in Jammu & Kashmir now have expanded access to education and employment opportunities, opening doors to a brighter future and fostering inclusion for tribal groups in the region. Also, in a first, bamboo has been declassified as a tree, allowing tribal communities to harvest it freely.

By-election battle intensifies in Katehari where dalit votes hold the key

BISWAJEET BANERJEE
LUCKNOW

In the high-stakes Katehari by-election, political fervor is at an all-time high as the BJP, SP, and BSP gear up for a tight race in this constituency, historically linked with BJP's religious agenda due to its proximity to Ayodhya.

This election, scheduled for November 23, is particularly significant as it is the first at the assembly level following the construction of the Shri Ram temple in Ayodhya—a cornerstone achievement for BJP.

The BJP has invested substantial resources in this contest, aiming to break a 30-year drought in Katehari. Party

leaders hope the temple's completion and the popularity of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will rally voters in their favor. BJP candidate Dharmaraj Nishad, a seasoned politician who previously served as MLA here on a BSP ticket, faces Shobhavati Verma from SP, wife of sitting MP Lalji Verma, and BSP's Amit Verma.

The constituency's Dalit population will play a pivotal role in determining the outcome. As the community's influence rivals that of upper castes, candidates are vying to secure both Dalit and backward-caste support. "The candidate who manages to unite the Dalit and backward vote

will likely secure victory," said Ranjan Kumar, a local resident. Although BJP has not won this seat since 1992, the party has narrowed its losses in recent elections, falling short by less than 10,000 votes. Determined to claim victory, CM Yogi Adityanath has made multiple visits to rally support. In this election, caste dynamics have shifted. Where recent assembly polls saw a clash between OBC and Brahmin groups, this time it's OBC vs. OBC, with all three major parties fielding OBC candidates. For BJP, Nishad's previous BSP affiliation could sway votes from traditional BSP supporters, which, along with the Dalit vote, might be critical for BJP to make gains.



The SP is contending with internal discord. By nominating Shobhavati Verma, Lalji Verma's wife, the party faces accusations of nepotism. Prominent local SP leaders, like Pahadi Yadav and Shankhlal Yadav, have expressed displeasure over

the selection. "It has sparked a rift within SP, which BJP is trying to leverage to its advantage," commented a local analyst. The SP's PDA (Pichda, Dalit, Alpashankhyak) formula, often successful in uniting backward castes, Dalits, and minorities, appears less

effective in Katehari this time.

The Verma couple's history with BSP is also significant, as Lalji Verma was previously elected from Katehari under the BSP banner. This BSP legacy, along with Amit Verma's candidacy, introduces the possibility of vote division among SP and BSP supporters, potentially giving BJP an

edge. Despite BJP's efforts, the party grapples with internal issues. Some local leaders allege that key party cadres, essential to mobilizing voters, feel neglected. Rajesh Kumar Dubey, a former village head, expressed dissatisfaction with BJP's han-

dling of grassroots supporters. "Those who have supported BJP for decades are facing disrespect at local police stations," he claimed, adding that the actions of certain BJP leaders are tarnishing the party's image in Katehari. Voters are also concerned about issues of corruption at local administrative levels, such as the tehsil and police stations, which has reportedly soured public sentiment toward the ruling party. Nonetheless, there remains strong faith in CM Yogi's leadership among some factions of the electorate. Unlike typical assembly races, this by-election appears to focus more on the candidates' individual images than on broader political issues.

Development and employment, usually central to elections, are less prominent in the discourse this time.

"It's the candidate's personal appeal that matters. People may be angry with BJP, but Yogi Adityanath's influence remains strong," noted Ranjan Kumar.

Regardless of the outcome, the BSP's legacy in Katehari remains influential. SP candidate Shobhavati Verma's husband, Lalji Verma, previously held the seat as a BSP representative, and BJP's Dharmaraj Nishad served as a minister under the BSP government.

This history signals that, while the BSP may not hold the seat currently, its role in Katehari politics endures.

Government bans Meghalaya based insurgent group HNLC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

Meghalaya-based insurgent group Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLC) was on Thursday declared banned by the government for five years for its involvement in violent incidents and for carrying out activities prejudicial to India's sovereignty and integrity. In a notification, the Union Home Ministry said the Central government is of the opinion that the HNLC has declared objective for secession of areas in the Meghalaya, largely inhabited by Khasi and Jaintia tribes, and continued intimidation and bullying of the civilian population to extort funds for their organisation. It said the group is also maintaining links with other insurgent groups of the northeastern region for carrying out extortion and intimidation and indulging in 48 criminal cases, including that of explosion or planting of explosives in Meghalaya, from November 2019 to June 2024. During this period, 73 cadres of the outfit were also arrested by the secu-



rency forces. "The HNLC along with all its factions, wings and front organisations of Meghalaya has been involved in such activities which are prejudicial to the sovereignty and integrity of India," the notification said.

The Home Ministry said it is of the opinion that the activities of the HNLC are detrimental to the sovereignty and integrity of India.

If these are not immediately curbed and controlled, the HNLC may regroup and rearm itself, expand its cadres, procure sophisticated weapons,

cause loss of lives of civilians and security forces and properties and thereby accelerate its anti-national activities, the ministry said.

It is also of the opinion that for the reasons aforesaid, it is necessary to declare the HNLC together with its factions, wings and front organisations, as an unlawful association.

Considering all these facts, the Ministry of Home Affairs decided to declare HNLC outlawed under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967) with immediate effect for five years, the notification said.

Doctors across TN protest against brutal attack on oncologist

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Doctors across Tamil Nadu staged a protest on Thursday condemning the brutal attack on a government oncologist at a hospital here, and also demanded safety for medical professionals. The strike by the members of the Indian Medical Association and Tamil Nadu Government Doctors Association has not affected the medical services to the patients at the government facility, an official said and claimed that the senior oncologist Balaji, assaulted by the son of a patient in the outpatient room on Wednesday, was responding well to treatment. State Health Minister Ma Subramanian visited Balaji Jegannathan, associate professor, medical oncology, Kalaingar Centenary Super Speciality Hospital (KCSSH), Guindy, here, earlier in the day and enquired about his health condition. "There has been good progress in Dr Balaji's health. His vitals are good without any support. He had breakfast in the morning. He spoke to the Minister of Health saying he is doing well and sought to be shifted to ward," KCSSH director Dr L Parthasarathy said. When



reporters asked about Wednesday's violent attack on hospital premises, he replied, "one is bound to be emotionally upset if diagnosed with cancer. The patient was admitted after the doctors explained about the treatment options to her." On whether the strike affected the medical services to the patients, he said that there were sufficient numbers of doctors to attend to about 500 to 600 inpatients and those in ICU at KCSSH. "I hope the issue will be resolved amicably soon," Parthasarathy added. The 1,000 bedded Kalaingar Centenary Super Speciality

Hospital, where the crime occurred, was inaugurated a year ago. In addition to this facility, the National Centre of Aging (NCA), and the King Institute are functioning on the sprawling campus near the Guindy railway station. "There's an outpost near the NCA. Police officials said they would establish outposts in all the hospitals lacking such facility," the director said. The protest was announced to create awareness among the public and not intended to affect the patients. All medicare facilities were being provided to the patients without any let up, he

added. Subramanian later informed that Dr Balaji was recovering well and would be shifted to the ward today after tests. Speaking to reporters after visiting the recuperating doctor, the Minister said all government medical colleges, district headquarters hospitals and taluk hospitals would provide (temporary) identity tags to the patients' attendants. "The four-colour tag system for patients' attendants was introduced at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital in early October and it will be expanded to other government facilities," the Minister said.

He said the police have registered cases under seven sections of the BNS (Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita) including an attempt to murder on the attacker Vignesh, who was caught by the hospital staff and public and handed over to the police.

The assailant was allegedly frustrated over the treatment given to his mother who was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma in an advanced stage. "I am stable. They have checked my pacemaker. I am being given antibiotics for the sutures (to seven stab injuries)," Dr Balaji said. When the Health Minister asked him "How are you feeling Dr Balaji," immediately he replied, "I am recovering well" and demonstrated by eating breakfast. Balaji was stated to have expressed his desire to continue his service to the patients at KCSSH, in spite of the shocking attack on him.

According to the Dean of RGGGH Dr E Therani Rajan, the hospital has not compromised its OPD services on account of the strike. "Some doctors wanted to protest against the stabbing incident. We did not interfere. Otherwise everything is going on smoothly," he said.

CM Majhi holds previous BJD Govt responsible for miseries of farmers

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Holding the previous BJD government "responsible" for the "miseries" of farmers in Odisha, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Thursday said that the state government will now pay an additional Rs 800 per quintal of paddy to cultivators. Farmers will get the additional Rs 800 per quintal of paddy as input assistance as Odisha farmers are often affected by different calamities like floods, cyclones, drought, dry spells and pest attacks, Majhi said while addressing a function marking 'All India Cooperative Week 2024' celebration. The chief minister came down heavily on the previous BJD government and accused it of "betraying" the trust of Odisha farmers. "Former chief minister (Naveen Patnaik) at a farmers rally at Sohela in Bargarh district nine years ago had announced a bonus of Rs 100 per quintal of paddy. This could have been very helpful for poverty-stricken farmers.



But, the farmers did not get even Rs 1 as bonus from the government", Majhi said. Majhi alleged that some of the farmers in the state were forced to commit suicide under the debt burden during the BJD government. However, this situation will not occur in Odisha under the BJD government, he claimed, adding that now the farmers of Odisha will get Rs 3,100 per quintal of paddy. He said: "We will give Rs 800 per quintal to farmers on December 8 at the same place (Sohela) where former chief

minister Naveen Patnaik had unsuccessfully announced to give Rs 100 as bonus per quintal of paddy." "These Rs 3,100 per quintal of paddy comprise Rs 2,300 as the minimum support price (MSP) and an additional Rs 800 as input assistance. The BJP in its election manifesto had promised Rs 3,100 per quintal of paddy for Odisha farmers", Majhi said, and added that the BJD government in its first Cabinet meeting had approved this proposal. The chief minister also said

that the government will host a state-level farmers' convention on December 8 at Sohela in Bargarh district, where farmers will be assured an additional Rs 800 per quintal. This additional payment, along with the MSP, will be transferred directly to farmers' bank accounts within 48 hours via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), he said. Majhi said that the kharif paddy procurement will commence from Bargarh district on November 20 followed by Sambalpur on November 22, and then across all districts. From November 20 to December 7, farmers will receive a minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 2,300 per quintal for their paddy. Later from December 8, they will get the additional amount of Rs 800 after it was launched from Sohela in Bargarh district. This apart, the government has launched information and awareness programmes to inform small and marginal farmers about the paddy procurement process. Special measures, including deploy-

ment of grain analyzers, quality analysts, and mandi supervisors at procurement centres, have been implemented, an official release issued by the CMO said. According to officials, the government will start token distribution to farmers from November 15, with an option for District Collectors to extend the token period by up to seven days, if necessary. The chief minister asked district collectors to monitor areas bordering neighbouring states to prevent unauthorised entry of paddy from outside Odisha. For this, additional measures including enhanced patrolling have been introduced in border areas, officials said. "We will take stringent action against the people who create disturbance in the paddy procurement process. Jharpada jail is there for the disturbing elements in the cooperative societies. The government is keeping a close eye on these disturbing elements and it will not spare them," the chief minister said.

IMD introduces localised weather forecasting for Sabarimala pilgrimage

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In a first for the Sabarimala pilgrimage, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has introduced a localised weather forecasting system, similar to those for the Amarnath and Char Dham yatras. IMD officials announced on Thursday that its regional centre has installed three rain gauges at Sannidhanam, Pamba, and Nilakkal to issue three-day weather forecasts. These forecasts will soon be upgraded to real-time weather bulletins, known as "nowcasts," said IMD regional director Neetha K Gopal. Recognising the challenges posed by rising temperatures and high humidity during dry spells, the IMD also plans to install temperature gauges in the area. The initiative follows a request from the Pathanamthitta district administration, which sought

real-time weather updates for Sabarimala due to the region's susceptibility to extreme rainfall. Recent landslides in Wayanad have further emphasised the need for caution in sensitive areas. Authorities revealed that while the IMD initially considered setting up Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) at Sabarimala, they opted for rain gauges to expedite the process. Plans for a permanent weather monitoring facility in the area are under consideration. "This is the first time we are providing localised weather forecasts for Sabarimala, akin to our services for Amarnath and Char Dham yatras," Gopal said. She noted that the effort is a collaboration between the Pathanamthitta district administration and the IMD. The IMD staff have trained district administration personnel to collect data from the gauges, which are validated at

the IMD centre. However, Gopal emphasised that offering district-wide forecasts would require a "larger network and substantial manpower." Currently, the State Disaster Management Authority is disseminating the weather updates to the public. Additionally, efforts are underway to integrate the weather bulletins into the "Swamy AI Chat Bot" app, recently launched by the state government for Sabarimala pilgrims. This app, available in six languages, provides pilgrims with assistance and information. Once integrated, the weather updates will be easily accessible to users. The path to Sannidhanam from Pamba, featuring small streams and the Pamba River, remains a focus of safety measures. Severe flooding during the 2018 deluge devastated the area, washing away several pilgrim facilitation centres.

BJP reminds Opposition how corruption, favouritism in jobs flourished while Congress was in power

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

The BJP MLAs launched a fierce attack on the opposition Congress in the Haryana Assembly on Thursday reminding how corruption and favouritism in jobs flourished when they were in power whereas merit and transparency has been the sole criteria under the ruling dispensation. Participating in the discussion on the governor's address in the assembly on the second day of the ongoing Winter Session, Sohna MLA Tejpal Tanwar said all-round development took place under the BJP led government in the state for last ten years. The people gave us mandate for the third consecutive time when we delivered, said Tanwar while pointing to the Congress' benches. He said that jobs were given on merit and several schemes were brought for the welfare of var-

ious sections of the society. BJP's Rewari MLA Laxman Singh Yadav reminded the Congress that there was a time when the opposition party was in power and "people had to sell their land to procure jobs and then middlemen used to exploit them too." "But our government brought in transparency and we gave 1.70 lakh jobs during the past ten years...When the Congress was in power, there was regional bias in development while favouritism, corruption prevailed in giving jobs, but our government gave jobs without any 'kharchi and parchi' and merit has been sole criteria, undertook equitable development and brought in transparency," Yadav said. The discussion during the governor's address also saw verbal exchanges between the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress members on some issues. Congress' Rohtak MLA B B

Batra, while participating in the discussion on the governor's address, said, "Money power has also been used by the BJP in the polls. People raised questions on EVMs." Haryana Minister Arvind Sharma intervened and said the Congress has always been in the habit to put blame on EVMs whenever they lose an election. Batra said, "There are 120 countries where EVMs is not used. Why elections are not held in the country using ballot papers?" The Congress leader said the new data shows that 70 per cent of the population in the state falls below the poverty line (BPL). "Seventy per cent of population is below poverty line, we have to ponder on this," he said. Batra said it was ironic that while on one hand the per capita income is over Rs 3.25 lakh, but 70 per cent population was below poverty line.



He said there are two things - one is removing poverty and second is to provide food to the hungry. The Congress leader claimed the government is not focusing to remove poverty but working to meet only hunger needs. Senior Congress member Raghuvir Singh Kadian pointed to Governor Bandaru Dattatreya in his address to the newly elected Haryana MLAs on the opening day of session

on Wednesday, saying the government is committed to securing its legitimate share of water from the Ravi and Beas rivers and complete the Sutlej-Yamuna Link canal. Kadian said Haryana should get its share of SYL waters at the earliest and urged the chief minister to take an all-party delegation to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on SYL matter. He said the government is say-

ing there is no DAP fertiliser shortage, "but the reality is that there is a shortage". On law and order front, Kadian said that ransoms are being sought from the traders and crime is increasing. Congress MLA Nirmal Singh said the government should put out data stating how many out of total government jobs given during the past ten years have been given to those who are from outside the state. BJP's Bhiwani MLA Ghanshyam Saraf alleged that his constituency was neglected during the Congress' time, but it witnessed development during the saffron party led government. Intervening in a matter raised by Congress member Mohd Ilyas, the MLA from Punhana in Nuh district, Haryana Minister Rao Narbir Singh said the Mewat region witnessed development under the BJP rule. The minister said the Congress

should tell how much funds were given to Mewat when they were in power. Kanwar Singh, the BJP MLA from Mahendragarh, said that his party came to power for the third consecutive term on the basis of works done by the government. The government gave jobs to youth purely on merit basis...The government is procuring every single grain of the farmers and money is being credited into their bank accounts, he said. BJP MLA from Rai in Sonapat district, Krishna Gahlawat, said the government, has done works for various sections, including poor, farmers and women, during the last ten years. "1.70 lakh youth have got jobs on merit during past ten years," she said. BJP's Safidon MLA, Ram Kumar Gautam, said that he had said "the fight is between BJP and Hooda's party and not the Congress" even before the

assembly polls were held in Haryana. "When we used to go to villages and towns and ask people how many development works were undertaken during the Congress' time, they used to say all development took place under the BJP's rule," Gautam said. "After poll results were out, the Congress has once again blamed EVMs. Ten years ago, no one could even think people will get jobs on merit. Development used to be concentrated around Rohtak region...Country's prestige around the globe has risen under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's regime," he said. BJP's Kalka MLA, Shakti Rani Sharma, and another party legislator from Pataudi in Gurugram district, Bimla Chaudhary, said many youth from ordinary backgrounds have secured jobs on merit basis during the BJP rule.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Bulldozer justice quashed

The SC strikes down 'bulldozer justice,' mandating strict accountability for officials involved in illegal demolitions

The Supreme Court of India has delivered a landmark judgement against the practice of "bulldozer justice," emphasising that officials who engage in illegal demolitions will now be held personally liable to restore properties and pay damages. The judgement is a response to the growing concern over arbitrary demolitions used as punitive measures, often targeting properties associated with individuals accused of crimes. The judgement introduces strict procedural requirements and enforces personal accountability for officials. This liability includes covering the cost of restoring the demolished properties and compensating affected parties. This measure is designed to deter officials from disregarding due process and underscores the responsibility that comes with exercising state power. The Supreme Court has established mandatory procedural guidelines to prevent arbitrary demolitions— A 15-day prior show-cause notice is required, along with a personal hearing; a detailed final order justifying why demolition is the only viable action must be provided and a 15-day grace period post-final order allows the affected party to seek legal recourse or vacate the premises.



The Supreme Court has mandated real-time updates on a digital portal for all demolition notices and orders to prevent arbitrary actions and foster transparency. Additionally, the entire demolition process must be videographed, with a list of officials involved to ensure accountability and adherence to procedure. Officials violating these directives risk contempt proceedings and prosecution, underscoring the Court's commitment to upholding the rule of law. The judgement holds far-reaching implications for governance, rule of law and individual rights in India. By restricting demolitions carried out as a form of punishment, the Supreme Court reinforces the fundamental legal principle that the executive cannot act as judge and enforcer. The decision underscores the judiciary's role in protecting individuals' rights against arbitrary state action, affirming that everyone is entitled to due process before facing punitive measures. The decision is laudable because it is tough on arbitrary demolitions, which often infringe on the right to shelter, impacting families and communities and safeguards citizens' fundamental rights, emphasising that actions targeting individuals suspected of crimes must follow legal due process. The judgement must come as a relief to many families who dread the demolition as one of them might have been on the wrong side of the law. However, the judgement falls short of putting onus on the political masters of the bureaucrats on whose behest such actions are often taken. Nevertheless, it would rein in the erring officers who go out of way to please their political masters. It is a bold move that could reshape administrative conduct.

The judgement holds far-reaching implications for governance, rule of law and individual rights in India. By restricting demolitions carried out as a form of punishment, the Supreme Court reinforces the fundamental legal principle that the executive cannot act as judge and enforcer. The decision underscores the judiciary's role in protecting individuals' rights against arbitrary state action, affirming that everyone is entitled to due process before facing punitive measures. The decision is laudable because it is tough on arbitrary demolitions, which often infringe on the right to shelter, impacting families and communities and safeguards citizens' fundamental rights, emphasising that actions targeting individuals suspected of crimes must follow legal due process. The judgement must come as a relief to many families who dread the demolition as one of them might have been on the wrong side of the law. However, the judgement falls short of putting onus on the political masters of the bureaucrats on whose behest such actions are often taken. Nevertheless, it would rein in the erring officers who go out of way to please their political masters. It is a bold move that could reshape administrative conduct.

PICTALK



A crow quenches its thirst by drinking water from a fountain, in New Delhi

India's cricket boycott is a safety issue, not politics



BHOPINDER SINGH

As the deadliest year in Pakistan's recent history unfolds, calls for separating sports from safety concerns overlook the urgent realities facing the nation

Global Terrorism Index 2024 reports that Pakistan had the highest recorded terror attacks of any country in the world. 490 attacks were formally recorded with spiralling instances in the fourth successive year of increased deaths and terror incidents. The US Department of State currently maps the situation at "level 3" i.e., warning its citizens to "Reconsider Travel". Similarly, British authorities "advise against all travels to parts of Pakistan" and note bluntly, "No travel can be guaranteed safe".

There are two dedicated Pakistani Army Divisions deployed to secure Chinese personnel and assets of the various Chinese-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) imperatives in Pakistan, yet the same gets targeted with seeming impunity and deadly consequences. Even royals from various Arab sheikhdoms who used to descend into the Pakistani hinterland for the annual Houbara hunting season have desisted from the same, given the acute security concerns prevailing. Whereas India has rightfully slammed Pakistan for being the "world's terrorism factory" for its nefarious record in fanning religious extremism and armed insurgency on Indian soil, since independence. Stating that there is a grave security concern in Pakistan is not a political statement but a statement of fact. The fact that it was featured prominently in the Grey List of the global anti-terror watchdog agency, Financial Action Task Force (FATF) till very recently, is also a fact. Amidst this undeniable security landscape in Pakistan, Pakistani authorities pooh-pooh concerns of the Indian Cricket Board, i.e., BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India), to avoid sending the Indian Cricket Team to play in Pakistan owing to security concerns, is not political one-upmanship but the expected concern of any board towards the safety and welfare of its team. That several India-facing terror groups are thriving on Pakistani soil is a very old story that needs no reiteration, and that itself makes the threat to the Indian team especially severe. The official breakdown and



downgrading of diplomatic ties between Delhi and Islamabad since 2019, do not help mend popular mood or perceptions about India or Indians in Pakistan (or vice versa), either. While it is certainly true that sporting ties between the two restive nations were always given to political 'point-scoring' and even positive leverage in the form of 'cricket diplomacy' (to thaw bilateral freeze) — this time the security situation in Pakistan has deteriorated to such levels, that to suggest that it is the usual 'point-scoring' diplomacy is to live under a rock. The reality of the situation is even beyond the intellectual debate of allowing or disallowing sports between two 'enemy' countries. Sometime back, India did choose to conflate sports with other bilateral engagements owing to Pakistan's established role in sponsoring terrorism in India, but even if one were to delink the two, the security situation in Pakistan itself warrants a cautionary note from the Indian side.

Understandably the Pakistanis are miffed and embarrassed about what they perceive as a deliberate Indian affront, but deep down they know better given that 2024 has emerged as the deadliest year ever, from the perspective of terrorism in



PAKISTAN IS IN THE MIDST OF AN UNDENIABLE AND COMPLEX SECURITY CRISIS AND WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO RESUME EVENTS WITH INDIAN PARTICIPATION, ONCE THE GROUND SECURITY SITUATION CHANGES

Pakistan. However, coming from its imagined nemesis i.e., India, it is a bitter pill to swallow openly. Given that Pakistan's Interior Minister, Mohsin Naqvi, also double-hats as the Chairman of the Pakistani Cricket Board (PCB) — the Pakistani reaction to BCCI concern assumes a political reaction. He has cavalierly downplayed the 'Hybrid Option' (wherein India plays its matches in a neutral venue, while others can play in Pakistan) by countering, "one of the options the government is mull-ing is that of asking the PCB to ensure Pakistan don't participate in the Champions Trophy", as a political face-saving comeback. He also fumed that the PCB ought not to be expected to "carry on with their good gestures" of playing in India, as Pakistanis did earlier. This wounded statement misses the point of contrasting the security situation existing in India, vis-à-vis Pakistan, currently.

The Pakistani Government may be tempted to 'retaliate' optically and go as far as asking its team to desist from playing against India in any of the ICC or Asian Cricket Council tournaments, to negate the perceived sleight. Currently, the heavily invested narrative of a perennial 'enemy' in India leads to an instinctive ostrich-

like head in the soil, and denials by Pakistan. Situational irony is magnified by the chairing of the global body of cricketing governance i.e., the ICC, by the son of India's Home Minister (equivalent of Interior Minister in Pakistan), Jay Shah.

Pakistani social media is agog with memes of Kathik-calling-Karthik allusions and its questionable neutrality in handling the current situation. Fair as that concern might be from a Pakistani perspective in normal times, it still does not take away from the genuineness of security concerns in Pakistan. For Pakistan to give examples of the security cover afforded to India's Foreign Minister on a recent visit to Pakistan as an example of its preparedness to host matches with tens of thousands of spectators and other accompanying circumstances, is contrived and grossly stretched logic. Pakistan is in the midst of an undeniable and complex security crisis and will only be able to resume events with Indian participation, once the ground security situation changes. For now, it is clearly beyond political one-upmanship.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry; the views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CLIMATE CRISIS

Madam — The editorial, 'Deliver tangible results' (November 13), should sensitise all the concerned. The COP29 is seen more as a ritual congregation than as producing anything tangible in the interest of humanity. The present economic order, marked by rabid chasing of capital for instant profits with its predatory character, knows no sentiments. As capital has gained such power over the policies of a government or even changed the government itself to make its course further smooth. In this background, Trump regaining his political power grossly reduces the scope for any further positive developments in this affair. He is for outright support for faster exploitation for mines and oil wealth to enrich the rich at the cost of the very survival of the living beings.

The latest manifestations of climate change are serious signals to attend to the damages inflicted on the environment but have yet to be taken seriously by any country. COP 29 that meets periodically, discusses the issue, receives consents and commitments for its resolutions from members but utterly fails to put in practice to bring about any tangible improvements in the status. The Indian government is not different. The amendments brought in by the Forest Act last year will see more damage to forests and more men and material loss. Attaching more importance to money has its toll on living beings, which, under the present economic order, is very difficult to infuse a humane face to it.

A G Rajmohan | Anantpur

VISTARA MERGED WITH AIR INDIA

Madam — The Indian full-service airline called Vistara Airlines has finally reached its merger completion stage with Air India. With this, it is now only the Tata Group-owned Air India in the country to manage the full-service flight facility in India. The ten-year-old Vistara, which is a joint venture between Indian and Singaporean companies, has finally flown its last flight from Delhi to Singapore with the code name UK. The premium Club

Inflation on the rise



The inflation rate based on the consumer price index increased to 6.21 per cent in October, up from 5.49 per cent in September, according to the data released by

the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The increase was driven by the prices of food products, particularly the vegetables, especially tomatoes, onions and potatoes (TOP), rising above 42 per cent.

The food inflation rose sharply to 10.87 per cent in October from 9.2 per cent in the preceding month. There is a greater need for the government to implement additional supply-side measures to stabilise food prices. A weakening of the rupee to an all-time low (November 13, rupees 83.40 against one dollar) against the dollar has also raised the specter of India's oil import bill climbing, which could stoke inflation if retail fuel prices go up. Since this is man-made inflation, the government, which has virtually failed to check inflation, needs to make all-out efforts to check it to give a sigh of relief to the poor.

S K Khosla | Chandigarh

Vistara tickets and pre-booking orders of Vistara have already been shifted to the Maharaja Club of Air India.

Although this whole merger and amalgamation process of Vistara is quite heartening, as Vistara is renowned for its quality service, while Air India grapples with some service issues. Although Air India is in its process of transitioning, any comment with respect to its services quality and experience post merger with Vistara would be too early. Tata's are the trusted group of India, and let's not forget that their airline's contribution holds a long history. They have been in national service in India since 1932, with the visionary mentality of JRD Tata. The expansion of Air India with the merger of Vistara will surely improve the aviation operations of Air India and also help the Air India group to focus more on customer-centric service with a memorable quality experience in every flight.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

PROMISES AND POLITICS

Madam — The political scenario is getting hotter as the stakes are very high in the

Maharashtra state elections. Honours are even and fighting for supremacy is gearing up in a fancy mood. Allegations and counter-allegations are mounting up and a war of words is now in a now-or-never situation. Freebies funds find routes in a big way, finding routes from the household items and electronic items.

As the manifestos are out, the realities come to light in the electioneering. In the public view, election manifestos are issued solely to sway voters, who know they will hear about these promises again only when the next election comes. People will have to simply wait and watch as mute spectators. If parties truly believe in the validity of their manifestos, they should allow voters to judge these promises on their own merits, rather than muddying the waters with divisive or defamatory statements. The real lie lies in cheating voters. Lies lay low in a political flow of fight between EVMs and electorates.

C K Subramaniam | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Pathway to a knowledge rich, future-ready nation

By promoting multilingualism, skill development and character-building, NEP 2020 aims to empower students to tackle both national and global challenges

On July 29, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 completed four years, a transformative framework that has reshaped the country's educational landscape by connecting contemporary needs with its traditional roots. NEP 2020 stands as the first education policy since independence that genuinely aligns with Bharat's ancient traditions, advocating for accessible, quality education with an emphasis on relevance and inclusivity.

The policy introduces a host of progressive features, such as flexible study options, multiple entry and exit points, the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), credit transfer mechanisms, and a focus on online courses, aiming to create a seamless, adaptable educational journey for learners across the nation. A defining aspect of NEP 2020 is its commitment to the five foundational pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability. NEP 2020 brings traditional values, arts, languages and culture into the mainstream curriculum, underscoring



Bharat's ambition to reclaim its heritage as a knowledge superpower.

One of the most notable additions is the incorporation of the Indian Knowledge System (IKS), promoting the revival and research of traditional subjects such as Vedic mathematics, Ayurveda, environmental studies, linguistics, Yoga and other indigenous disciplines. This shift helps bridge the gap left by prior policies, which often neglected or excluded these areas under the influence of Western paradigms. The NEP also recommends a three-language formula, promoting multilingualism by including at least two Indian languages in school curricula. While this policy is intended to support India's linguistic diversity, it

faced resistance in some non-Hindi-speaking states, where concerns about linguistic hegemony and regional language preservation surfaced. The central government may need to address these concerns carefully, especially given education's status on the Concurrent List, to ensure a balanced approach that respects regional identities while achieving national integration. The policy's emphasis on Sanskrit, often regarded as a foundational element of Bharat's cultural heritage, is a major milestone. With Sanskrit included as an optional language under the three-language formula, both school and higher education institutions are encouraged to integrate it into their curricula. NEP serves as a turning point in Bharat's educational history, aiming to foster character development and national pride alongside academic excellence. NEP 2020 emphasises two overarching themes: nurturing Indian values and fostering character-building among students. This holistic approach is intended to develop responsible, ethical citizens ready to tackle both national and glob-

al challenges.

Despite allegations of "saffronisation," proponents argue that the NEP aims to realign the educational system with what benefits the nation and its people. Science and history, though based on facts, are often viewed through the lenses of time and place. A major thrust of NEP 2020 is skill development, with the objective of enhancing employability by integrating vocational training and practical learning into the curriculum. The inclusion of courses on data structures, programming, machine learning and artificial intelligence is intended to prepare students for a tech-driven future. NEP 2020 also encourages societal engagement through initiatives like internships and community visits, fostering creativity and real-world problem-solving skills. Institutions like NIT Uttarakhand have already embraced the NEP's multidisciplinary model, focusing on research and innovation to build a skilled and socially conscious workforce.

(The author is the BJP Councilor, New Delhi; views are personal)



UMANG BAJAJ

FIRST COLUMN

UNVEILING THE SHAKTIS

Shakti forms are central to authentic spiritual practice. Nature's energies are accessible but require dedication



ASHWINI GURUJI

The creation is governed by certain *Shaktis*. As you progress in your *sadhana*, you can experience their forms. Every day, each one of the 365 days, is governed (sanchalit) by a specific *shakti*. That is why the importance of *niyam* and daily practice is insisted upon in yoga. If one misses the *sadhana* for even a single day, the *shakti* of that day is left behind and the *sadhana* of an entire year goes to waste because in Brahmand, if a single thing goes missing then its effect is felt on everything — our body, the earth, as well as other planets and stars. Every *Shakti* has a day, but one need not perform rituals to access them. In yoga and *tantra*, there is no ritual, just the *sadhana* of *Shakti*. It is important to understand the *shakti* of each day and the *Swaroop* of that *shakti*. There is a name for every form of *Shakti*, but at the present moment, we will only be discussing their forms. The names are taken only after generating the capacity in the body, through specific *sadhanas*. At a basic level, when you do *dhyana* with your *guru*, you can see certain forms in him/her, like the sun or even the moon. Ever wondered where these forms come from and what they represent? There are many *sadhaks* who have reported seeing the form of the sun in *dhyana*. What is so special about the Sun? If you look at the Sun at the time of Sunrise and Sunset, keeping the awareness of *Manipoorak* and chanting the mantra 'Ram', you will find a certain glow starts coming into the body and just within a month you will start looking very different (A word of caution here, for any yogic practice it is important to have a Guru who guides you as per your capacity). Just like the sun, the moon too is an extremely interesting energy. The moon merely reflects the light of the Sun, but with that



light, it can attract the tides as well as the earth's surface on a full moon night. Have you ever thought about it- what is so special about the moon? Not just that, on a full moon night, animals become violent, the mentally unstable start behaving funnily and accidents and fights are on the rise. Right now I am only discussing the basic aspects, to give you a hint that there is something different about these forms. What that is, is a subject of experience and you will get that experience with the correct practice of *Sanatan Kriya*.

The speciality of the Moon is that it looks calm and peaceful but it is more volatile than even the Sun. When you look at the moon under the guidance of a *Guru*, you will be able to see all the mantras in its form because you cannot see the sun, which channelises that *Shakti*. There are certain *shaktis* which you cannot see and so there are certain other *shaktis* through which you can see and feel their effect, it becomes an experience for you. And till you have that experience, yoga is a waste for you, nothing can happen and nothing is possible. Experience is the basis of yoga. All the things that we see in the sky and on the earth, there are so many flowers of so many different kinds and colours, if you simply look at them without blinking your eyes under *Guru Sanidhya*, all the defects and imbalances in the body disappear. But there is a small problem... *niyam*. There should be no break in the practice, and the break will come if you do not have the capacity for that *Shakti* or if you don't have a *Guru*. Nature, everything that we see around us, has all the *swaroops* of *shaktis* hidden in it and all these *shaktis* are very easily accessible. If one makes him/herself stir on these *shaktis* and accesses them properly, then they start following that person. The nine days leading to Diwali are especially powerful because of the congregation of specific *shaktis* during these days. Our ancestors prescribed observing the *vrat* of *brahmacharya* during these days to make the body strong enough to accept these *Shaktis*.

(The writer is a spiritual guru; views are personal)

AI revolutionises the beauty and wellness industry

As global demand for unique beauty solutions surges, the sector's embrace of AI reflects a profound shift towards customisation, efficiency and consumer satisfaction



Innovative products and services utilising new technologies are beginning to disrupt the beauty and wellness sector. As a result, traditional skills need to be strengthened and combined with modern technological skills such as artificial intelligence (AI), app development, augmented reality for try-on services, data analytics and enhanced customer engagement strategies. AI has made significant advancements in the beauty and wellness sector, particularly as the demand for customisation and personalisation has increased.

This trend reflects diverse customer preferences, lifestyles, body types and genetic factors. Recent news about Maybelline's AI-powered 'makeup' filters for Microsoft teams has reignited discussions on AI's role in the beauty sector. It is crucial to explore how AI is transforming the industry and to stay updated on the latest developments. The global beauty industry market utilising AI was valued at \$216.12 million in 2020 and is projected to reach \$1.26 billion by 2027. An industry report indicates that the annual growth rate (CAGR) of AI in the beauty sector from 2021 to 2027 is expected to be 33.2 per cent. Several laboratories have developed AI-driven skin consultation tools that integrate augmented reality and artificial intelligence to analyse skin ageing. These tools can identify signs of ageing and assess skin strength, providing tailored skincare recommendations to prevent further deterioration. Their algorithms are based on 10,000 images and 15 years of dermatological expertise. Users can take a selfie and provide their age and skin type to receive an estimate of their skin condition along with a personalised analysis. They will then receive customised skincare prescriptions. AI assists in analysing skin conditions, recommending personalised skincare and wellness routines and even predicting trends, ultimately enhancing product development and customer satisfaction. Acne is a common concern worldwide, affecting 80 per cent of teenagers and 40 per cent of adults.

With AI, a database of 6,000 images representing various ethnic skin types



IN THE EVER-EVOLVING BEAUTY AND WELLNESS INDUSTRY, WHERE INNOVATION FOSTERS CONFIDENCE AND SELF-EXPRESSION, AI HAS BECOME A POWERFUL ALLY IN CREATING MORE EFFECTIVE AND PERSONALISED PRODUCT FORMULATIONS THAN EVER BEFORE

enables accurate analysis and personalised routine recommendations for those suffering from acne. This groundbreaking AI technology draws from a library of 10,000 authentic images evaluated by real dermatologists, achieving an accuracy rate of nearly 97 per cent across eight clinical parameters and a wide array of skin types.

In the ever-evolving beauty and wellness industry, where innovation fosters confidence and self-expression, AI has become a powerful ally in creating more effective and personalised product formulations than ever before. By leveraging its diverse applications and capabilities, AI is driving a revolution that is changing how beauty and wellness products are developed, personalised, and marketed.

From trend spotting to precise product formulation, AI is reshaping the beauty industry in exciting and groundbreaking ways. Integrating AI into the formulation process can also ensure product effectiveness. AI algorithms can simulate how ingredients are absorbed and metabolised by the skin, identifying potential unwanted interactions or side effects.

This approach minimises the risks associated with bringing new products to market and ensures consumers achieve optimal results without compromising their wellbeing. Traditionally, skincare products have been developed with one-size-fits-all approach, often failing to meet individual consumers' unique needs. AI changes this methodology by analysing various data points, including skin type, age, environmental factors and personal preferences.

By using AI-powered tools, brands can create customised skincare products tailored to each customer's specific requirements. For instance, AI algo-

ritms can assess a user's skin condition through photographs and questionnaires, recommending or formulating products with particular concentrations of active ingredients that address individual skin concerns. Additionally, AI can analyse molecular structures to predict how new compounds will interact with human skin, significantly reducing the time and cost of traditional trial-and-error methods.

The AI system recommends suitable ingredients, products and skincare routines tailored to each individual's needs. It can also suggest branded products that address specific conditions in the beauty and wellness industry, aiming to connect deeply with each customer's preferences. As technology continues to evolve, it promises solutions that will enhance both appearance and wellbeing in the future. Importantly, your data remains private; it is not stored and only you can view the results unless you choose to share your information with others. A personalised experience is crucial for success in the beauty and wellness industry. AI technology plays a significant role in identifying each customer's unique preferences and addressing their individual needs.

As technology advances, beauty companies are expected to introduce innovative services that enhance customer interaction and contribute to the global growth of the beauty market. Online services are evolving rapidly alongside these technological advancements. The importance of websites, engaging social media platforms and online marketplaces is increasing. The share of online revenue in the beauty and personal care sector, which was approximately 4.6 per cent in 2017, is projected to rise to 18.2 per cent by 2025. The

future of the beauty and wellness industry will depend on an omnichannel experience that seamlessly integrates online and offline interactions, utilising a range of digital tools to enhance the consumer experience. Virtual try-ons and consultations have become standard in beauty retail; however, replicating the human connection remains a challenge. Online influencers and "show me how" content are gaining popularity as consumers learn to master services that they previously sought from professionals.

Additionally, live streaming on platforms like Facebook Live and Instagram significantly engages younger consumers. In India, the beauty and wellness industry is growing rapidly, expanding twice as fast as that of the United States and Europe. Greater consumer awareness and aspiration have led to increased spending on beauty and wellness products and services.

Per capita spending on beauty and personal care products rose from Rs 450 per annum in 2017 to Rs 684 in 2022, with a further increase projected to Rs 772 by 2025. Today's consumers demand unique experiences, making traditional approaches less effective. There is a growing preference for convenience and on-demand services, which have become essential in the fast-paced lives of working professionals. As a result, there is an increasing need for transferable skills within the workforce in the beauty and wellness sector, as customer service expertise becomes more in demand.

(The writer is co-founder and MD of Orane International, a training partner of the National Skill Development Corporation and a network Member of India International Skills Centres, an initiative of GoI; the views expressed are personal)



DINESH SOOD

Cybersecurity: Safeguarding a digital future amid rising cyber threats

India must act swiftly to secure its digital future in an era where technological prowess is now essential for national security

Today, cyber-attacks impact every aspect of life, from government agencies and corporations to individuals' personal data and privacy. While the reach of cybercrime is vast, the underlying complexity remains poorly understood by many, with significant security consequences for nations that fail to address these threats adequately. Cyber-attacks threaten national security and underscore the vulnerabilities associated with our increasing dependence on digital infrastructure. Although the internet has revolutionised the world by providing incredible convenience, connection and comfort, these benefits come with the challenge of safeguarding critical data and



VINAY PATHAK

infrastructure. As cybersecurity becomes the essential defense for peace, prosperity, and privacy in the digital age, recent incidents such as the breach of 7.9 million customer records at India's stockbroking firm Angel demonstrate the necessity of strengthening digital protections. While the internet facilitates ease of access, it also introduces serious vulnerabilities that call for immediate,

concerted efforts.

The recent cyber-attack on Iran marks a chilling advance in digital warfare, illustrating that no nation is immune to the risks of a hyperconnected world. As countries, corporations, and citizens expand their online presence, the scope for potentially devastating cyber-attacks rises dramatically. This incident serves as a reminder of the need for nations to address cyberspace's complex, escalating risks. India, for example, is undergoing a digital revolution with over 936 million internet users as of December 2023. These "Digital Nagriks" fuel a dynamic digital economy, supporting critical sectors such as healthcare, education, finance and agricul-

ture. However, the rapid pace of digital adoption has outpaced India's cybersecurity measures, creating opportunities for cybercriminals to exploit these gaps.

According to the 2024 Cisco Cybersecurity Readiness Index, only 4 per cent of Indian companies are fully prepared to counter cyber threats, exposing significant vulnerabilities within the nation's digital framework. These threats arise not only from criminal organisations but also from state-sponsored entities targeting India's economic and strategic assets. Moreover, emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) enable more sophisticated cyber-attacks, including deepfake technology and disinformation cam-



paigns, adding complex layers to cyber defenses.

In today's world, technological prowess in fields such as AI and cybersecurity equates to national security, rivaling traditional military strength. However, India faces several challenges in coordinating an effective cyber defense. While initiatives like Cyber Surakshit Bharat have shown early progress, a comprehensive national cybersecurity

strategy is still missing, which limits effective threat response and assessment. A recent step forward has been the Prime Minister's Office's appointment of a cybersecurity oversight official, but gaps remain in the infrastructure needed to support comprehensive defence. Cyberspace's borderless nature complicates defence efforts, as attacks can target both military and civilian assets globally, bypassing traditional political and geographic constraints.

India has implemented several initiatives to tackle cyber threats. For instance, the Cyber Fraud Mitigation Centre (CFMC) at the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre in New Delhi unites major players—including

banks, telecom providers and law enforcement agencies—to combat online financial crimes. This initiative, exemplifying "Cooperative Federalism," enables swift responses to fraud. The government has also introduced the Samanvaya Platform, a centralised repository of cybercrime data to foster interagency cooperation. Despite these initiatives, further action is required to establish a comprehensive cybersecurity framework. Without unified regulatory standards, gaps remain in protecting the public and private sectors, especially for small businesses that may lack the resources for robust cybersecurity protocols. This vulnerability could undermine both national

security and public trust in India's digital infrastructure. Programs like Cyber Surakshit Bharat, the National Cybersecurity Coordination Centre (NCCC), and CERT-In have all aimed to strengthen India's defences, with additional measures such as the Information Security Education and Awareness Project (ISEA) helping to create a culture of security consciousness among citizens. The 2023 Digital Personal Data Protection Act reinforces this commitment by aligning with global data security standards to improve transparency and accountability among companies.

(The writer is an assistant professor, Indian Institute of Information Technology, Sonapat; views are personal)

Will have orderly, peaceful transition of power, says White House after Trump-Biden meeting

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The United States will see an orderly and peaceful transition of power, the White House said following a two-hour long meeting between President-elect Donald Trump and outgoing President Joe Biden on Wednesday. "Today, President Biden met with President-elect Trump for approximately two hours in the Oval Office. White House Chief of Staff Jeff Zients and incoming Chief of Staff Susie Wiles joined the meeting. It was substantive meeting and exchange of views,"

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters here. "They discussed important national security and domestic policy issues facing the nation and the world. President Biden also raised important items on Congress's to-do list for the lame-duck session, including funding the government and providing the disaster supplemental funding the president requested," she said.

"Finally, the president reiterated what he said to the president-elect the day after the election and to the American people in the Rose Garden just last week: We will have an orderly transition and a peaceful transition of power," Jean-Pierre said. US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan told reporters that transitions are uniquely consequential moments in geopolitics. "They're a time when competitors and adversaries can see possibly opportunity, because you have this change in government here," he said. Responding to a question, Jean-Pierre said the Biden administration wants to move forward. "We respect the will of the people. There was an election, as you know, last week, and the

American people spoke. And so, the president is going to make sure that he puts the American people first. He's going to make sure that we move forward in this process and this transition process in a way that is respectful to the American people and to lead by example," the White House press secretary said.

"I think the president has shown that in the past week of that leadership. So, that's what you're going to hear. That's what we're going to continue to do in the 68 days that we have left in this administration," she added.

months of public protests led to the fleeing of the then president Gotabaya Rajapaksa. Since assuming office, Dissanayake has stayed on course with his predecessor Ranil Wickremesinghe's International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout programme. The country is still in the process of recovering from its worst economic crisis in history as the Dissanayake government faces the challenge of meeting the IMF targets on revenue in the third review of the USD 2.9 billion programme. The western province district of Gampaha elects the highest number of Members of Parliament - 19 with the capital district of Colombo from the same province electing 18 MPs while the eastern province district of Trincomalee elects the lowest number - just 4 MPs. As many as 196 members are to be elected from the 22 districts based on the proportional representation system while 29 would be elected from the cumulative votes polled national list to provide a 225-member Parliament for a five-year term.

This was the first parliamentary election since Sri Lanka plunged into an economic crisis when the island nation declared sovereign default in mid-April of 2022, its first since gaining independence from Britain in 1948. Almost civil-war-like conditions and

Lanka votes for new parliament

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka on Thursday voted to select a new parliament, a first major test for the ruling National People's Power (NPP) party led by President Anura Kumara Dissanayake. The snap parliamentary polls are the first after the 2022 economic crisis. Dissanayake said he would be happy to finish short of an absolute majority of 150 seats in the 225-member Parliament. Polls monitoring groups said the voter turnout out was lower than the high 79 per cent recorded at the presidential election held in September. The election commission said it anticipated an overall turnout of 65 per cent in the polling concluded in a largely peaceful manner across the country. While the counting of postal ballots began soon after voting concluded at 4 pm local time, counting of votes cast on Thursday was set to begin immediately after all ballot boxes were received at the counting centres, and the first results were expected after midnight, the election officials said.

Ruling NPP is expected to win the contest by gaining a simple majority of 113 seats in the 225 member assembly, according to poll observers. Having failed to secure 50 per cent of the vote at the September 21 presidential election, Dissanayake is pleading for a stronger parliament with well over a simple majority of 113 seats to enable him to implement his anti-corruption accountability reformist programme. After casting his vote in Colombo, Dissanayake told reporters he was expecting a mandate for a very strong parliament. Stating that he would be happy to finish short of an absolute majority of 150 seats, Dissanayake said, "A strong parliament is sufficient for us. Because the bills that we bring are laws that are favorable for the common people."

"If we are introducing laws that benefit people, we can secure a vote that exceeds two thirds." Asked about the Tamil minority dominated north, Dissanayake said the Tamils have high hopes from his government. "A key point in the change is when there will be a government that is accepted by people in the north and south, in the east and west." Voting that started at 7 am local time took place at over 13,314 polling stations across the country. Over 17 million voters from the island's 21 million population were eligible to vote for the new 225-member Parliament for a five-year term. Nearly 90,000 security personnel from the police and the military were deployed to provide security at the election venues. Police spokesperson said that except for the arrest of three individuals involved in illegal election campaigning activities, no acts of violence were reported and the election remained peaceful overall, local media reported. This was the first parliamentary election since Sri Lanka plunged into an economic crisis when the island nation declared sovereign default in mid-April of 2022, its first since gaining independence from Britain in 1948. Almost civil-war-like conditions and

months of public protests led to the fleeing of the then president Gotabaya Rajapaksa. Since assuming office, Dissanayake has stayed on course with his predecessor Ranil Wickremesinghe's International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout programme. The country is still in the process of recovering from its worst economic crisis in history as the Dissanayake government faces the challenge of meeting the IMF targets on revenue in the third review of the USD 2.9 billion programme. The western province district of Gampaha elects the highest number of Members of Parliament - 19 with the capital district of Colombo from the same province electing 18 MPs while the eastern province district of Trincomalee elects the lowest number - just 4 MPs. As many as 196 members are to be elected from the 22 districts based on the proportional representation system while 29 would be elected from the cumulative votes polled national list to provide a 225-member Parliament for a five-year term.

This was the first parliamentary election since Sri Lanka plunged into an economic crisis when the island nation declared sovereign default in mid-April of 2022, its first since gaining independence from Britain in 1948. Almost civil-war-like conditions and

Pak court rejects Imran, Bushra plea

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

A court in Pakistan on Thursday rejected former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi's acquittal requests in the Toshakhana-II case. Special Judge of Central Islamabad, Shahrukh Arjumand, during the hearing at the Adiala Jail, rejecting the acquittal requests, announced that charges would be formally framed against them on Monday. Bushra Bibi was not present in court during the hearing. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) confirming the trial court's order said: "This case doesn't merit proceedings as the prosecution admitted that Imran Khan did not gain any personal benefit from the case, neither do the proceedings meet the law."

It said the case was originally filed by the National Accountability Bureau and unlawfully referred to the Federal Investigation Agency after amendments in the law.

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल
केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला (मैके. शाखा)
निविदा सूचना

क्र. 197/के.कर्म/2024
भोपाल, दिनांक 14.11.2024

नगर निगम भोपाल केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला के द्वारा 125 कुशल वाहन चालक से सेवाएं लिये जाने हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र.	निविदा क्र.	सामान का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत	घरोहर राशि	निविदा फार्म का मूल्य	प्रदाय अवधि
1.	2024_UAD_382045_1	Engagement of Agency For Deployment of Mobility Resources	32313288/-	161566/-	15000/-	माँग अनुसार

PRE BID MEETING DATE- 27.11.2024 TIME- 03:00 PM
BID SUBMISSION END DATE- 11.12.2024 TIME- 05:30 PM
BID OPENING DATE- 12.12.2024 TIME- 05:30 PM

निविदा से संबंधित अन्य विस्तृत जानकारी वेबसाईट mptenders.gov.in पर देखी एवं केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला (मैकेनिकल) से कार्यालयीन समय में प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

अपर आयुक्त
परिवहन शाखा, नगर निगम भोपाल
नि.क्र. 787/024/025

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Regd Office: A-104, Third floor, Okhla Industrial area Phase-II, New Delhi-110020
E-Mail: atul.addi@gmail.com; Telephone No. 011-45025459

Statement of Unaudited Standalone Financial Results for the Quarter and Half Year Ended September 30, 2024

Sr No.	Particulars	Standalone						Consolidated		
		Quarter Ended		Half Year Ended		Year Ended	Quarter Ended		Half Year Ended	Year Ended
		30-09-2024	30-06-2024	30-09-2023	30-09-2024	30-09-2023	31-03-2024	31-03-2023	31-03-2024	
1.	Total income from operations	135.04	132.28	134.24	268.32	254.12	726.89			
2.	Net Profit for the period (before Tax and exceptional items)	101.90	100.40	109.69	202.30	207.29	617.48			
3.	Net Profit for the period (before Tax, after exceptional items)	101.90	100.40	109.69	202.30	207.29	617.48			
4.	Net Profit for the period after Tax (after exceptional items)	77.42	75.71	81.29	153.13	157.60	453.32			
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit for the Period after Tax and Other Comprehensive Income after Tax)	(0.30)	(0.30)	(0.02)	(0.60)	(0.04)	(1.20)			
6.	Paid-up equity share capital (Face Value Rs.5/- each)	540.00	540.00	540.00	540.00	540.00	540.00			
7.	Earnings Per Share (of Rs.5/- each) (Not Annualised)									
	(a) Basic	0.72	0.70	0.15	1.42	0.29	4.20			
	(b) Diluted	0.72	0.70	0.15	1.42	0.29	4.20			

Statement of Unaudited Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter and Half Year Ended September 30, 2024

Sr No.	Particulars	Consolidated					
		Quarter Ended		Half Year Ended		Year Ended	
		30-09-2024	30-06-2024	30-09-2023	30-09-2024	30-09-2023	31-03-2024
1.	Total income from operations	140.21	136.41	138.15	276.62	261.89	742.64
2.	Net Profit for the period (before Tax and exceptional items)	105.01	104.49	113.57	210.50	214.99	632.97
3.	Net Profit for the period (before Tax, after exceptional items)	105.01	104.49	113.57	210.50	214.99	632.97
4.	Net Profit for the period after Tax (after exceptional items)	80.93	79.19	84.62	160.12	164.21	466.62
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit for the Period after Tax and Other Comprehensive Income after Tax)	(0.30)	(0.30)	(0.02)	(0.60)	(0.04)	(1.20)
6.	Paid-up equity share capital (Face Value Rs.5/- each)	540.00	540.00	540.00	540.00	540.00	540.00
7.	Earnings Per Share (of Rs.5/- each) (Not Annualised)						
	(a) Basic	0.75	0.73	0.78	1.48	1.52	4.32
	(b) Diluted	0.75	0.73	0.78	1.48	1.52	4.32

Notes:
1. The above results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and then approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on November 14, 2024. The financial results for the quarter and half year ended September 30, 2024 have been limited reviewed by the Statutory Auditors of the Company.
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly/annual financial results filed with the stock exchanges under regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015. The full format of the quarterly financial results is available on the stock exchange websites of BSE (www.bseindia.com) and NSE (www.nseindia.com) and Company's website at <http://www.addiindustries.com/>.
3. There is no change(s) in accounting policies which have impact on net profit / loss, total comprehensive income or any other relevant financial items.
4. Exceptional items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind-AS Rules.

For and on behalf of Board of Directors
Addi Industries Limited
Sd/-
Chaman Lal Jain
Managing Director, DIN: 00022903

Place : New Delhi
Date : November 14, 2024

SUNIL HEALTHCARE LIMITED
Registered Office 38E/252-A, Vijay Tower, Shahpurjat New Delhi-110049 Email: info@sunilhealthcare.com; website: www.sunilhealthcare.com
CIN No. L24302DL1973PLC189662

Extract of Unaudited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter and Half Year Ended 30th September 2024

S. No.	Particulars	Standalone						Consolidated					
		Quarter Ended		Half Year Ended		Year Ended	Quarter Ended		Half Year Ended		Year Ended		
		30th September 2024	30th June 2024	30th September 2023	30th September 2024	30th September 2023	31st March 2024	30th September 2024	30th June 2024	30th September 2023	30th September 2024	30th September 2023	31st March 2024
1	Total Income from Operations	2,045.10	2,159.94	2,390.79	4,205.04	4,685.62	9,438.38	2,043.42	2,163.69	2,392.13	4,207.11	4,761.89	9,541.24
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	6.75	5.64	(138.56)	12.39	(237.16)	(288.04)	(51.32)	(64.68)	(146.13)	(116.00)	(233.02)	(255.51)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	6.75	5.64	(138.56)	12.39	(237.16)	(288.04)	(51.32)	(64.68)	(146.13)	(116.00)	(233.02)	(255.51)
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	3.24	1.19	(102.01)	4.43	(177.62)	(210.78)	(54.83)	(69.13)	(109.89)	(123.96)	(174.06)	(178.85)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(9.48)	(11.53)	(102.01)	(21.01)	(177.62)	1,231.83	(32.38)	(39.06)	(107.60)	(71.44)	(192.03)	1,221.99
6	Paid-up equity share capital (Face value Rs. 10/- each)	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-	-	-	-	-	6,378.90	-	-	-	-	-	5,796.20
8	Earnings Per Share (after extraordinary items) (of Rs.10/- each)												
	(a) Basic (Rs.)	0.03	0.01	(0.99)	0.04	(1.73)	(2.06)	(0.53)	(0.67)	(1.07)	(1.21)	(1.70)	(1.74)
	(b) Diluted (Rs.)	0.03	0.01	(0.99)	0.04	(1.73)	(2.06)	(0.53)	(0.67)	(1.07)	(1.21)	(1.70)	(1.74)

Notes:
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Half Year ended 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 Quarterly/Half year ended Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites. (www.bseindia.com) and the Company's website (www.sunilhealthcare.com) .
2. The financials results have been prepared in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standards (Ind-AS) prescribed u/s 133 of the companies act, 2013 and other recognised accounting practises and policies to the extent applicable.
3. As the Company's business fall within a single primary business segment viz. sale of capsule, the disclosure requirement of Indian Accounting Standard (Ind AS-108) "Operating Segments" prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the relevant rules issued thereunder, is not applicable.
4. The above results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors in their respective meetings held on November 13, 2024 .

Place : New Delhi
Date : 13/11/2024

Harish Pal Kumar
Independent Director
DIN 01826010

PUBLIC NOTICE
Ground Floor without roof parts part of Property No.139, Block-B, Pocket-06, Sector-05, Rohini, Delhi

That our client Vikram Rawat, proposes to purchase the above said property from Amit Gupta & Geeta Gupta, who has assured our client that they are absolute owner in possession of the said property vide Sale deed No. 11678 dated 15.10.24 having purchased the same from Jai Bhagwan Gupta & Sarwan Kumar Gupta. The said property previously purchased by Murti Devi vide Sale Deed No.30401 dated 17.09.04, who died leaving behind a will dated 29.11.12 bequeathing the said property to Anand Saroop Gupta, who also died leaving behind a will dated 12.06.19 bequeathing the same in favour of Jai Bhagwan Gupta & Sarwan Kumar Gupta.

Under the circumstances, notice is hereby given to the General Public, Bank/Financial institutions or other person/s, organization/s, company/ies, government authority/ies, having any claim, rights, title, or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the said property, is hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing with documentary evidence by registered AD Post to the undersigned at the address mentioned hereinbelow within 14 days of the publication of this notice and in the event no response having been received to the notice, the title of Am: Gupta & Geeta Gupta to the said property shall be deemed to be clear of any claim, charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall not bind our client in any manner whatsoever.

Kumar Abhishek
Advocate
Legal Access
132A, Anarkali Complex, Jhandewalan Ext. New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
This is to declare that KEYSTONE WORLD PRIVATE LIMITED (Developer) Regd. Office: A-130, First floor, Neeti Bagh, New Delhi-110049 And Jan Priya Buildestate Pvt Ltd.(Licensee company) Regd. Office: Flat no. 41, Aurobindo Apartment, Adhchini, New Delhi-110016 has been accorded Environmental Clearance vide proposal number IA/HR/INFRA2/436421/2023 dated 13/02/2024 by MoEF&CC, EC Identification no. EC23B3812 HR5131429N, File no. 21-112/2024-IA.III dated 04-Nov-2024 for setting up of a Group Housing Project located at sector-77 Gurugram, Haryana. The copy of the Environmental Clearance letter is available on Parivesh portal of MoEF&CC via the following link: https://parivesh.nic.in/newup/grade/#/proposal-summary/proposal=6722381&proposal_no=IA%2FHR%2FINFRA2%2F436421%2F2023&proposal_id=6722380

Date: 15-Nov-2024

Keystone World Private Ltd.
504, MVL I-PARK, SECTOR 15 (II), GURUGRAM, HARYANA-122001
PHONE: 0124-4003999,
EMAIL: info@keystone.world

MODI RUBBER LIMITED
CIN: L25199UP1971PLC003392, Registered Office: Modinagar - 201204 Dist. Ghaziabad (U.P.), Corporate Office: 4-7C, DDA Shopping Centre, New Friends Colony, New Delhi 110025
Website: www.modirubberlimited.com Email: investors@modigroup.net Phone: +91-11-2684 8416

EXTRACT OF STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Sl. No.	Particulars	(Amount in Rs. Lacs)											
		QUARTER ENDED						HALF YEAR ENDED					
		STANDALONE		CONSOLIDATED		STANDALONE		CONSOLIDATED		STANDALONE		CONSOLIDATED	
		30-Sep-24	30-Jun-24	30-Sep-23	30-Sep-24	30-Jun-24	30-Sep-23	30-Sep-24	30-Sep-23	30-Sep-24	30-Sep-23	31-Mar-24	31-Mar-24
1	Total Income from operations (Net)	79.69	71.26	63.12	650.18	534.29	498.59	150.95	127.33	1,184.47	977.10	274.57	2,243.67
2	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	1,635.51	(236.15)	2,503.27	(4.55)	(109.89)	(128.18)	1,399.36	3,296.61	(114.45)	(300.00)	3,797.79	(656.87)
3	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	1,635.51	(236.15)	2,503.27	(4.55)	(109.89)	(128.18)	1,399.36	3,296.61	(114.45)	(300.00)	3,797.79	(656.87)
4	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	1,353.15	(307.16)	2,293.40	632.25	678.60	317.60	1,045.99	2,876.76	1,310.84	678.35	2,856.13	1,552.79
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (after tax)	2,863.94	630.91	2,485.67	2,653.59	1,707.30	662.90	3,494.85	3,040.72	4,360.88	866.34	2,896.63	1,654.94
6	Equity Share Capital (Face value of share is Rs. 10/- each)	2,504.05	2,504.05	2,504.05	2,499.55	2,499.55	2,499.55	2,504.05	2,504.05	2,499.55	2,499.55	2,504.05	2,499.55
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves as per Financial Statements of previous year)	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A
8	Earnings per share (EPS) (of Rs. 10/- each) (Not Annualised)												
	(a) Basic and Diluted EPS (before exceptional Items) (in Rs.)	5.40	(1.23)	9.16	2.53	2.71	1.27	4.18	11.49	5.24	2.71	11.41	6.21
	(b) Basic and Diluted EPS (after exceptional Items) (in Rs.)	5.40	(1.23)	9.16	2.53	2.71	1.27	4.18	11.49	5.24	2.71	11.41	6.21

Notes:
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/ Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulations 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/ Annual Financial Results are available on the stock exchange website, www.nseindia.com, www.bseindia.com and on the Company website www.modirubberlimited.com.
2. The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at their respective meeting held on November 14, 2024. The Statutory Auditors of the Company have carried out an audit of the aforesaid results.
3. Previous quarter/ year end figures have been rearranged and / or regrouped, wherever necessary, to make them comparable with those of the current quarter/ year end.

Place : New Delhi
Date : November 14, 2024

By order of the Board
Sd/-
Piya Modi
Whole Time Director
DIN- 03623417

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, KEONJHAR

A-557

NOTICE INVITING TENDER e-Procurement

Bid ID No. 08 SEMID (KJR/2024-2025) Dt. 08.11.2024

The Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Keonjhar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate tender through "e" procurement to be received in online mode for the works as detailed in the Annexure to this bid notice.

Name of work: Civil Construction works

No. of Works: 8 (Eight) Nos.

Estimated Cost: Rs. 172.55 Lakhs

Tender Paper Cost: Mentioned in Column No. 6 of Tender call notice

Period of completion: 03 (Three) calendar months

Availability of Bid Documents: From 16.11.2024 to 26.11.2024 during office hours in Website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)

Period of receipt of Bid through online: From 16.11.2024 to 26.11.2024 through online.

Date of Opening of Technical Bid Documents: At 11.00 A.M. on 27.11.2024 in the office chamber of the Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Keonjhar

Date of Lottery: At 11.00 A.M. on 04.12.2024 in the office chamber of the Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Keonjhar

Digital Signature Certificate of Bidder: The bidder must possess compatible digital signature certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III

Name and Address of the OIT: Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Keonjhar, Near Parkline Keonjhar, At/PO-Keonjhar, Dist. Keonjhar Pin-758001. E-Mail: D-semid@odisha.gov.in

Further Details can be seen from the web site: www.tendersodisha.gov.in

(Er. Sudhansu Sekhar Sahoo)
Superintending Engineer
M.I. Division, Keonjhar

OIPR-32123/11/0006/2425

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Brajesh Rana had acquired Plot area measuring 100 sq. yards out of Total area measuring 1600 sq. yards, out of Khazra No. 11/17 and 11/18, situated at Village Kamal Pur Majra, Barani, Delhi vide G.P.A. Dt. 26.12.2020 along with ATS executed by Mr. Sanjay Bhatia & Mr. Anil Kumar Bhatia and Now Mr. Brajesh Rana is the undisputed owner of the said property.

OR

Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance whatsoever or otherwise is hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client.

Ajay Kumar Giri (Advocate) H No. 26/161, Basement, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi -110024

LOST & FOUND

L.R. No. 2281213/2024
Date : 08/11/2024

I, Leela Mittal, S/D/W/O Kishan Lal Katri, A-4/217 Kalkaji Extn. New Delhi-110019 sams.nz@gmail.com. I hereby Missing/Lost Builder-Buyer agreement between M/s DFL Building and Services Pvt Ltd. and M/s. Maktoum Developers Pvt Ltd., dated approximately year 2011 for property no. SP-203, Richmond Park, DLF Phase 4, Gurugram from our residence.

If anybody find it please contact at this number - 9013538166 or address above.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the share certificates for the undermentioned equity shares of Grasim Industries Limited have been lost/misplaced/stolen and I am applying to the Company for issue of duplicate share certificates. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said equity shares should lodge the same with the company at its corporate office at Grasim Industries Limited, Aditya Birla Centre, A Wing, 2nd Floor, S K Ahire Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400030 Maharashtra within 15 days from this date. The company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificates to the aforesaid holder/claimant without any further intimation and no further claim would be entertained from any person.

Folio No. of Certificate Distinctive No. Share holder shares No. D. Deepak Rajpal 350 3095168 444839506 11835 44483955 11794 Deepak Rajpal 415 3095101 44482471 44482885

Place Delhi. Date 12.8.2024
Name of claimant : Geeta Rajpal

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR APPOINTMENT

TENDER NOTICE NO. CPM-MLG-HQ-GC-2024-01; Date: 10-11-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No.: CPM-MLG-HQ-GC-2024-01. Name of work : Request for Proposal (RFP) for appointment of General Consultant for N.F. Railway, Gati Shakti Unit. Approx. Value: ₹14,88,08,535.16/-.** E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 09-12-2024 and will be opened at 15:30 hrs. on 09-12-2024. For details please visit www.ireps.gov.in

CPM/GSU/Malligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

PROVISION OF BOGIE MODIFICATION FOR ANTI-FALLING TRACTION MOTORS

Tender Notice No.: DLS/MLDT/NFR/01A/2024-2025, Dated: 08-11-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Name of Work :** Provision of Bogie Modification for anti-falling of Traction Motors in 30 Locomotives, WAG-9HC at Diesel Shed, Malda Town. Estimated Value: ₹25,52,970/-; Earnest Money: ₹51,100/-; Date & time of closing of above tender at 11:00 hrs. on 09-12-2024 and opening on 09-12-2024 after closing. For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in the website www.nfr.indianrailways.gov.in

Sr. DME/DSL/MLDT
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers With A Smile"

COURT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF
Sh. Hari Kishan
Judicial Magistrate - Ist Class, Gurugram

MOHINDER SINGH BHARDWAJ
Vs.
NB FIRE PROTECTION
CNR No. HRGR03-108401-2019
Next Date:- 16-12-2024

PUBLICATION ISSUED TO:
NB FIRE PROTECTION
PROP ANIL KUMAR D-80
GANESH NAGAR PANDAV
NAGAR NEW DELHI

In above titled case, the accused could not be served. It is ordered that accused should appear in person or through counsel on 16-12-2024 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to <https://highcourtchd.gov.in/> Trs_district notice&district Gurugram
Judicial Magistrate - Ist Class Gurugram
Dated, this day 14-11-2024

STATEMENT OF STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED 30 SEPT 2024

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Particulars	3 months ended		Half Year ended		Standalone Previous Year Ended
		30-09-2024	30-06-2024	30-09-2024	30-09-2024	
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	
1	Total Income (Net)	4,778.65	5,301.92	10,080.56	6,485.08	13,605.26
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	866.56	613.42	1,479.96	540.67	970.65
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	866.56	611.67	1,478.21	540.67	972.00
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	681.10	465.34	1,146.42	394.14	743.56
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	681.10	465.34	1,146.42	394.14	743.56
6	Paid Up Equity Share Capital	1,593.23	1,593.23	1,593.23	1,274.58	1,274.58
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-	-	-	-	5,131.57
8	Securities Premium Account	558.65	558.65	558.65	240.00	240.00
9	Net Worth	8,148.55	7,510.58	8,148.55	6,056.74	6,406.15
10	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.17	0.17
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preferences Shares	-	-	-	-	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio	0.81	0.90	0.81	1.22	1.18
13	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (before and after extraordinary items)	1. Basic: 4.27	2.92	7.20	3.09	5.83
	2. Diluted: 4.27	2.92	7.20	3.09	5.83	
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
15	Debtenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	3.40	3.07	3.25	1.56	1.36
17	Interest Service coverage Ratio	9.64	6.56	8.03	3.03	2.83

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Bombay Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the websites of the Bombay Stock Exchange i.e. www.bseindia.in and on web site of the Company i.e. www.ashnoortext.com

By Order of the Board of Directors
For Ashnoor Textile Mills Limited
Sd/-
Suneel Gupta
Managing Director
DIN - 00052084

Place: Gurugram, Haryana
Date: 13-11-2024

ASHNOOR TEXTILE MILLS LIMITED

Registered Office : Behrampur Road, Khandsa Village, Gurugram, Haryana- 122001, India, Tel: +91 (0124) - 4809756
CIN: L17226HR1984PLC033384 | E-mail: atml delhi@yahoo.com | Website: www.ashnoortext.com

STATEMENT OF STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED 30 SEPT 2024

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Particulars	3 months ended		Half Year ended		Standalone Previous Year Ended
		30-09-2024	30-06-2024	30-09-2024	30-09-2024	
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	
1	Total Income (Net)	4,778.65	5,301.92	10,080.56	6,485.08	13,605.26
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	866.56	613.42	1,479.96	540.67	970.65
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	866.56	611.67	1,478.21	540.67	972.00
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	681.10	465.34	1,146.42	394.14	743.56
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	681.10	465.34	1,146.42	394.14	743.56
6	Paid Up Equity Share Capital	1,593.23	1,593.23	1,593.23	1,274.58	1,274.58
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-	-	-	-	5,131.57
8	Securities Premium Account	558.65	558.65	558.65	240.00	240.00
9	Net Worth	8,148.55	7,510.58	8,148.55	6,056.74	6,406.15
10	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.17	0.17
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preferences Shares	-	-	-	-	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio	0.81	0.90	0.81	1.22	1.18
13	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (before and after extraordinary items)	1. Basic: 4.27	2.92	7.20	3.09	5.83
	2. Diluted: 4.27	2.92	7.20	3.09	5.83	
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
15	Debtenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	3.40	3.07	3.25	1.56	1.36
17	Interest Service coverage Ratio	9.64	6.56	8.03	3.03	2.83

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Bombay Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the websites of the Bombay Stock Exchange i.e. www.bseindia.in and on web site of the Company i.e. www.ashnoortext.com

By Order of the Board of Directors
For Ashnoor Textile Mills Limited
Sd/-
Suneel Gupta
Managing Director
DIN - 00052084

Place: Gurugram, Haryana
Date: 13-11-2024

LOST & FOUND

I, Suraj Mourya (Owner) S/o Muneshwar Mourya, R/o A-215, Shastri nagar, Delhi-110052 hereby declare that I have lost the property chain documents of Shanti Devi, (2011 Owner) A-180 Upper Second Floor Shastri Nagar Delhi-110052. Anyone who finds the documents please contact at 9312335902

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that Mrs. Sushil Gupta and Mrs. Uma are the owners of the Residential Plot of area measuring 25-25-50 Sq. Yards, out of Khazra No. 22/ Min. Situated in the Village Sadaypur Pargana & Tehsil Dabra, Dist. Gurgaon, Haryana, U.P. by virtue of Sale Deed dated 26.09.2017, regd. at Doc. No. 6405, and Sale Deed dated 13.09.2018, regd. at Doc. No. 6275. The aforesaid property is to be transferred & merged with my client i.e. M/s. Tata Capital Housing Finance Ltd. and the Original Sale Deed dated 22.11.2019 regd. vide Doc. No. 4279, Sale Deed dated 15.05.2013 regd. vide Doc. No. 5115 and Sale Deed dated 12.05.2014, regd. vide Doc. No. 4523, pertaining to the aforesaid property have been lost and complaint L.A.R. No. 2024000091501 dated 14.11.2024, was registered with D.P. Police.

Any person found in possession of aforesaid original documents, then kindly contact the undersigned along with original property document within 7 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid sale deed shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

Rajesh Tiwari, Advocate
Ch. 830, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi-110001
Mob.: +91-9266768888

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that the Bank of Baroda, Bank of Baroda, S.S.I. Noida Branch, Sector-18, Noida, (U.P.) intends to accept the undermentioned property standing in the name of M/s Ajanta Gortex Processors Pvt Ltd., as a security for non-credit facility requested by it. If anyone has any right/interest/claims over the undermentioned property, they are advised to approach the Bank within 10 days along with necessary proof to substantiate the claim. If no response is received within 10 days, it is presumed that the property is free from any charge/claim/encumbrance, and the Bank shall proceed with the mortgage.

Details of the Property-1: Leasehold Industrial Property No. H-8, area 1805.73 sq.meters, situated at Sector D-1 (F), Industrial Area at Tonica City, Lon, Tensil Lon, District Ghazabad, (U.P.)

Boundaries: East: Plot No. H-10, West: Plot No. H-8, North: Industrial Area Boundary Wall, South: Plot No. 24, 24.2 meter road.

Details of the Property-2: Leasehold Industrial Property No. H-8, area 1548.59 sq.meters, situated at Sector D-1 (F), Industrial Area at Tonica City, Lon, Tensil Lon, District Ghazabad, (U.P.)

Boundaries: East: Plot No. H-9, West: Plot No. H-8, North: Industrial Area Boundary Wall, South: Plot No. 24, 24.2 meter road.

Branch Details/Contact No.: - Mr. Anurag Singh, Branch Head Contact: 91-9675178853
Bank of Baroda, S.S.I. Noida Branch, Sector-18, Noida, (U.P.)

Advocate Details/Contact: Deepak Singh, Delhi High Court Contact: 9999170096

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, M/s. Tulip Infratech Pvt. Ltd. (the Developer) is in the process of development of a Group Housing Colony over an additional area measuring 7.64375 acres (Licence No.34 of 2024 dated 07.03.2024) in Group Housing Colony area measuring 25.44 acres (Licence No. 78 of 2010 dated 15.10.2010) theyres total site area 33.08375 Acres in Sector 69&70, Gurugram. And whereas, several individuals have made bookings/ entered into flat/buy agreement for allotment of flat/property in the said colony (hereinafter referred as allottees). And, whereas, the building plans earlier approved for the said colony are now proposed to be revised. And whereas, the office of Director General, Town and Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh has required seeking of objection against the revision of said building plans. Accordingly, vide this public notice objections are hereby invited from all the allottees in said colony on the proposed revision of the building plan of said colony. A copy of the earlier building plan approved vide memo no. ZP-663/AD/RA/2021/8279, Dated 26.03.2021 and 8/279. Revised building plans approved in-principle vide Memo. No. ZP-663-II/PA(DK)/2024/134170 Dated 13.11.2024 is available for perusal on our website (www.tulipgroup.in) and at the office of undersigned at Tulip Infratech Pvt. Ltd 76-G, Sector-18, Gurugram as well as in the office of Senior Town Planner, Gurugram. Any allottee having any objection on revised building plans, may file his objection in the office of Senior Town Planner, Sector 14, Gurugram within 30 days of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the proposed revision in the building plans.

Sr. Manager- Commercial
M/s. Tulip Infratech Pvt. Ltd.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that Mr. Zahid S/o Mohd Hakim who is/are purchasing Part of Residential plot no. 80 & 81 area measuring 50 sq. yds Khazra no. 18/2 and 20 situated at Anar Vihar Khoda Colony Village Khoda Pargana, Tehsil & Distt. Ghazabad UP from Mr. Ramchandra S/O Heralia who was the owner of property by virtue of Regd. GPA dated 14.10.2019 (Doc. No. 3208) executed by Mrs. Anju Rani W/o Rakesh Kumar Inland to mortgage the same against the financial assistance from Shubhan Housing Development Finance Company Limited. Original Sale Deed of above mentioned property registered on dated 04.06.2001 (Doc. No. 3356) in favour of Mr. Ramchandra S/O Ram Lakhan is lost by Seller i.e. Mr. Ramchandra S/O Heralia. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC. To this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days at below address.

NCR LAW ASSOCIATES (Advocates) & Consultants A-96, Sector-9, New Vihar Nagar, Ghazabad, (U.P.)-201009. Mob. Nos. 9999721152/9999826427

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Reliance, Disney complete media assets merger to form ₹ 70,352 Crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Industries has completed the merger of its media assets with the India business of global media house Walt Disney to form a new joint venture worth Rs 70,352 crore.

The JV, in which Reliance Industries has invested Rs 11,500 crore (USD 1.4 billion) for its growth, will be headed by Nita Ambani as its Chairperson, according to a joint statement.

"The transaction values the JV at Rs 70,352 crore (USD 8.5 billion) on a post-money basis, excluding synergies," it said.

At the closing of the transactions, the said JV is controlled by RIL. Reliance Industries holds a



16.34 per cent stake in the JV, while its step-down unit Viacom18 holds 46.82 per

cent and Disney the rest 36.84 per cent. "Nita M. Ambani will be the Chairperson of the

JV, with Mr. Uday Shankar as Vice Chairperson providing strategic guidance to the JV,"

it said. Viacom 18 Media and The Walt Disney Company has already received necessary approvals required from authorities such as CCI, NCLT for the merger of the media and JioCinema businesses of media and JioCinema businesses of Viacom18 into Star India. The JV will be one of the largest media & entertainment companies in India with pro forma combined revenue of approximately Rs 26,000 crore (USD 3.1 billion) for the fiscal year ended in March 2024.

The JV operates over 100 TV channels and produces more than 30,000 hours of TV entertainment content annually. The JioCinema and Hotstar digital platforms have

an aggregate subscription base of over 50 million. The JV holds a portfolio of sports rights across cricket, football and other sports.

Commenting on the development RIL Chairman & Managing Director Mukesh Ambani said: "With the formation of this JV, the Indian media and entertainment industry is entering a transformational era. "Our deep creative expertise and relationship with Disney, along with our unmatched understanding of the Indian consumer will ensure unparalleled content choices at affordable prices for Indian viewers. I am very excited about the JV's future and wish it all the success," he said.

Rupee falls four paise, close at all-time low of 84.43 against US Dollar



PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee traded in a tight range and fell four paise to close at an all-time low of 84.43 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, weighed down by unabated foreign fund outflows and strong dollar demand from investors. Forex traders said the downward pressure on the USD/INR pair is largely driven by persistent inflation and significant foreign outflows. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.40 against the US dollar. During the session, the local currency touched a high of 84.39 and a low of 84.43. It finally settled at its fresh all-time low of 84.43 (provisional) against the greenback, 4 paise lower than its previous close.

On Wednesday, the rupee moved in a narrow range and settled flat at 84.39 against the US dollar. "The US dollar index has hit a fresh cycle high of 106.76 as it approaches the stiff resistance at 107.50," said Praveen Singh - Associate VP, Fundamental Currencies and Commodities, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. "There was no respite on the US inflation front as the data released yesterday showed that

the US core consumer price index increased 0.3 per cent for a third month.

It was up 3.3 per cent on a year-on-year basis," Singh said. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading higher by 0.30 per cent at 106.80. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.03 per cent to USD 72.30 per barrel in futures trade. Forex traders said the USD-INR pair may rise to Rs 85 level in near-term, though the intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may slow the pace. On the global front, China's recent 1.4 trillion yuan stimulus, coupled with expectations of more fiscal support, has strengthened Chinese markets and added downward pressure on Indian assets, traders said. Moreover, India's inflation surge is putting additional pressure on the currency. Wholesale price inflation rose to a 4-month high of 2.36 per cent in October as prices of food items, especially vegetables, and manufactured goods turned dearer, according to government data released on Thursday. Retail inflation breached the RBI's upper tolerance level, soaring to a 14-month high of 6.21 per cent in October mainly on account of rising food prices. In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 110.64 points, or 0.14 per cent, to close at 77,580.31 points, while Nifty fell 26.35 points, or 0.11 per cent, to settle at 23,532.70 points.

Indian economy sailing smoothly amid global headwinds: Reserve Bank Governor

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday said the Indian economy has been sailing "smoothly" amid the global headwinds.

Speaking at an event organised by CNBC-TV18 here, Das declined to comment on a suggestion by Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal for a rate cut, maintaining that the rate-setting panel will take an appropriate call on it at its

next meeting in December. In comments made days after headline inflation shot up beyond the 6 per cent tolerance band of RBI for October, Das said inflation is "expected to moderate despite periodic humps". The Governor said the domestic economy has sailed very well through the prolonged period of turbulence in the recent past exhibiting resilience, but added that there are a slew of headwinds prevailing in the global economy right now

like rising bond yields, commodity prices showing a divergence and a contradiction of financial markets showing resilience despite rising geopolitical risks. "The Indian economy is sailing smoothly, powered by buffers like strong macroeconomic fundamentals, a stable financial system and a resilient external sector," said the bureaucrat-turned-central banker, who will be completing six years at the helm at RBI soon. With the

rupee hitting new lows, Das said India's external sector has exhibited "strength and stability" in the recent period as seen in the current account deficit remaining at a manageable level, merchandise exports starting to grow, and service exports growth being strong. He reminded that the country has the fourth largest forex reserves in the world. The forex reserves, which stood at USD 682 billion as of October 31, are sufficient to cover the entire external debt

and a year's import payments, he added. The Governor also made it clear that the RBI does not target a rate for the rupee, and the fore interventions are for ensuring orderly movement and curbing volatility in the currency. "If the Indian rupee has remained relatively stable despite severe external shocks, including the largest and the steepest tightening by the US Fed in 2022 and 2023, it speaks volumes about the sea change in our

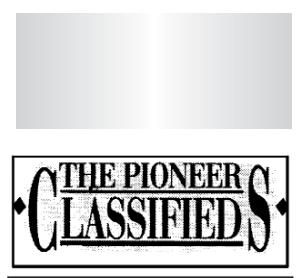
macro fundamentals from the days of the taper tantrum," Das said. On the issue of regulation, he said the RBI will be issuing a draft of the Expected Credit Loss (ECL) framework and the final guidelines will come out post public comments. Without giving a timeline for the introduction of the draft guidelines, Das said the RBI had issued a discussion paper on the subject in 2023 and also constituted a working group to study the comments received on it.

ReNew Akshay Urja Limited				
CIN : U40300DL2015PLC275651				
Regd. Office : 138, Ansal Chambers II, Bikaji Cama Place, Delhi-110066				
Corporate Office : ReNew.hub, Commercial Block-1, Zone-6, Golf Course Road, DLF City Phase-V, Gurugram, 122009, Haryana, Phone - 0124-4896 670/ 80				
Statement of Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended 30 September 2024				
Particulars	Quarter ended	Quarter ended	Quarter ended	Year ended
	30 September 2024	30 June 2024	30 September 2023	31 March 2024
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	Audited
Total Income from Operations	354	428	380	1,851
Net Profit for the year (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	128	204	124	902
Net Profit for the year before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	128	204	124	902
Net Profit for the year after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	96	152	93	650
Total Comprehensive Income for the year [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the year (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	96	152	93	650
Paid up Equity Share Capital	133	133	133	133
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	3,961	3,867	3,429	3,712
Equity component of compulsory convertible debentures	1,144	1,144	1,144	1,144
Net worth**	5,238	5,144	4,706	4,989
Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares*	NA	NA	NA	NA
Debt Equity Ratio *	2.10	2.18	2.03	2.18
Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)				
1. Basic :	4.21	6.63	4.08	28.46
2. Diluted :	4.21	6.63	4.08	28.46
Capital Redemption Reserve *	NA	NA	NA	NA
Debt Service Coverage Ratio *	3.05	3.14	2.99	3.03
Debt Service Coverage Ratio *	1.20	3.44	3.31	2.66
Interest Service Coverage Ratio	2.37	2.99	2.00	3.01
Current ratio*	4.46	4.57	3.10	4.33
Long Term Debt to Working Capital *	1.48	1.53	1.90	1.65
Total Debts to Total Assets Ratio *	0.45	0.43	0.44	0.43
Current Liability Ratio *	0.16	0.15	0.20	0.15
Debtor Turnover Ratio *	0.84	0.95	0.64	1.91

Disclosures pursuant to Regulations 52(4) and 52(8) Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. Credit Rating : IND AA+ (CE) Change in credit rating: No Debt Equity ratio : mentioned above Debt Service Coverage Ratio : mentioned above Interest Service Coverage Ratio : mentioned above Outstanding redeemable preference shares (Quantity and Value) : Not Applicable Net Worth ** (30 September, 2024) : INR 5238 (31 March, 2024) : INR 4,989 Net profit after tax : mentioned above Earning per share : mentioned above Debenture Redemption Reserve (30 September 2024) : INR 305 (31 March 2024) : INR 303 There are no material deviation in the use of proceeds of issue of Non Convertible Debentures from the objects stated in the offer document (Regulations 52(7A))

Notes : 1. Ratios have been computed as follows : - Earning per share (Basic & Diluted) = Profit after Tax / Weighted average number of equity shares - Debt Equity Ratio* = Debt (Amount due to Debenture Holders) / Equity (Equity share capital + share premium + quasi equity i.e. Short term borrowing but excluding unamortize fees) - Interest Service Coverage Ratio = Profit before interest, prior period items, tax, extraordinary items and depreciation / (Total Interest Expense). - Debt Service Coverage Ratio* = ((PAT based on Project Revenues realised (excluding non-cash adjustment, if any) + Depreciation + Interest (Interest, Guarantee Fees, other financing costs payable under Debenture and Project Documents)) / (Interest + Principal Repayment + Guarantee Fee). - Asset Coverage Ratio = (Total Assets) / Debt (Amount due to Debenture Holders) - Current ratio= Current Assets / Current Liabilities - Current Liability Ratio= Current Liabilities/ Total Liabilities - Long Term Debt to Working Capital = Non-Current borrowing including current maturities of Non-current borrowings/ (Current Assets - Current Liabilities (excluding current maturities of Non-Current borrowings)) - Total Debts to Total Assets Ratio = Total outstanding debts/ Total Assets - Debtors Turnover Ratio = Revenue from operations /Average Trade Receivables *As per Debenture Trust Deed dated 20 September, 2017. ** Networth represents issued subscribed and paid up capital plus reserves and surplus. Reserves and Surplus includes Capital reserve, General reserve, Debenture redemption reserve, Securities premium account and Profit and loss account balance. 2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly financial results filed with the National Stock Exchange under regulation 52 of the Listing Regulations. The full format of the quarterly financial results is available on the website of the Stock Exchange. 3. The company is in the business of development and operation of solar power. There is only one segment (business and/or geographical) in accordance with the requirements of IND AS - 108 'Operating Segments'. 4. For the other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the Listing Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to the National Stock Exchange and can be accessed on the URL - https://www.nseindia.com/companies-listing/corporate-filings-announcements 5. The above financial results of the Company for the quarter and half year ended 30 September 2024 have been approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at the meeting held on 13 November 2024. The statutory auditors of the company have carried the limited review for financial results of the Company for the quarter and half year ended 30 September 2024.

For and on behalf of ReNew Akshay Urja Limited (Sd/-) Parul Agrawal Managing Director, DIN : 08452687



CHANGE OF NAME

I, Piar Chand Rana, S/o Late Sh. Duni Chand, R/o Ward No 03, Hardon (579), Kangra, Himachal Pradesh-176096 declare that I have also been known by the name of Piar Chand in the past. I have changed my name from Piar Chand to Piar Chand Rana for all future purposes. PD(923)C

I, Guddu, S/o. Badari , B-1441, Jahangirpuri Delhi 33, my name Suresh wrongly written in bank passbook, actual name is Guddu for all purposes. PD(924)C

I, Madan Pal Singh, Father of- No.2704268N L/Hav Praveen Kumar, R/o- WZ - 1018 E, Nangal Raya, Delhi- 110046, have changed my name from Madan Pal Singh to Madan Pal, vide affidavit dated 14/11/2024 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(925)C

I, Bimla Devi, Mother of- No.16020385M HAV Rajender Singh, R/o- VPO- Kichhana, Dist- Kaithal, Haryana-136027, have changed my name from Bimla Devi to Bimla, vide affidavit dated 14/11/2024 before Notary Public Delhi PD(926)C

I, No.2897674M Hav Rohatas Kumar, R/o- Vill- Malasaray, Post- Govardhan, Dist- Mathura, U.P.- 281502, declare that in my Army records, my mother's name is wrongly written as Jaggo Devi whereas her correct name is Jagveeri Devi. It should be amended in Army Record. PD(927)C

I, No.2897674M Hav Rohatas Kumar, R/o- Vill- Malasaray, Post- Govardhan, Dist- Mathura, U.P.- 281502, declare that in my Army records, my father's name is wrongly written as Hira Singh whereas his correct name is Heera Singh, which may be amended accordingly. PD(928)C

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

DEMAND NOTICE U/S 13(2) OF THE SARFAESI ACT - 2002

You the below mentioned borrower has availed loan by mortgaging the schedule mentioned property and you the below mention has stood as borrower / Co - borrower /Mortgagor for the loan agreement. Consequent to the default committed by you, your loan account has been classified as NPA under the provisions of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (in short SARFAESI Act). We Aditya Birla Finance Limited has issued Demand Notice u/s 13(2) read with section 13(13) of the SARFAESI Act to the address furnished by you. The contents of the said notices are that you had committed default in payment of the various loans sanctioned to you. Therefore, the present publication carried out to serve the notice as per the provision of Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act and in terms of provision to the rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Loan Account No./ Name and Address of the account Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s)	Date of Demand Notice	Amount due as per Demand Notice
Loan Account No. - ABND_LAP00000616201 1.M/s Shubham Enterprises, Through its Proprietor, Plot No- F/33, At Industrial Area Kosi Kotwan Extension-1, Kosi Kalan, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh-281403. Also At- Flat No 4, Kh No 876/2, Third Floor, Lal Dora Village Burari, New Delhi-110084. Also At - H. No. 1831, 3rd Floor, Outer Lane Tegh Bahadur Nagar, GIB Nagar, Delhi-110009. Also At - Flat No. 584, Ground Floor GH 1, Sanskriti Apartment, Sector 28, Rohini, North West Delhi, Delhi- 110085. 2. Mr. Manmohan Kumar, Plot No- F/33, At Industrial Area Kosi Kotwan Extension-1, Kosi Kalan, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh-281403. Also At- Flat No. 4, Kh No 876/2, Third Floor, Lal Dora Village Burari, New Delhi-110084. Also At- H. No. 1831, 3rd Floor, Outer Lane Tegh Bahadur Nagar, GIB Nagar, Delhi- 110009. Also At- Flat No. 584, Ground Floor GH 1, Sanskriti Apartment, Sector 28, Rohini, North West Delhi, Delhi- 110085.	25.10.2024 NPA Date: 03rd Oct 24	Rs. 65,29,970.91/- (Rupees Sixty-Five Lakh Twenty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy and Ninety-One Paise Only) as on 04.10.24

"DETAILS OF SECURED ASSETS TO BE ENFORCED"
All that piece and parcel of : "Part of Plot No. 1 (OLD) and New Plot No. 1349, land area measuring 80 sq. yds.-66.88 sq. mtrs. Consisting of ground floor and first floor with its roof/terrace rights, part of KH. No. 94/23, situated in the village Burari, Abadi known as Baba Colony, Burari, Delhi- 110084, and which is bounded as under - EAST: Other's Property, WEST: Road 25 Ft. Wide, NORTH: Other's Property, SOUTH: Road 14.5 Ft. Wide"

You are hereby called upon to pay Aditya Birla Finance Limited within the period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice the aforesaid amount with interest and cost falling which Aditya Birla Finance Limited will take necessary action under the Provisions of the said Act against all or any one or more of the secured assets including taking possession of secured assets of the borrower / Co - borrower / Mortgagor. The power available to the Aditya Birla Finance Limited under the said act include (1) Power to take possession of the secured assets of the borrower / Co - borrower / Mortgagor including the rights to transfer by way of lease, assignment of sale for releasing secured assets (2) Take over management of the secured assets including rights to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale and realize the secured assets and any transfer as of secured assets by Aditya Birla Finance Limited shall vest in all the rights and relation to the secured assets transferred as if the transfer has been made by you. In terms of the Provisions of the Section 13(13) of the said act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the normal course of your business), any of the secured assets as referred to above and hypothecated / mortgaged to the Aditya Birla Finance Limited without prior written consent of the Aditya Birla Finance Limited.

Date : 15.11.2024, Place : Delhi
Authorised Officer, Aditya Birla Finance Limited



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STATEMENT OF STANDALONE UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER, 2024

Sr. No.	PARTICULARS	(Amount in Rs. Lakhs)					
		QUARTER ENDED			HALF YEAR ENDED		
		30.09.2024	30.06.2024	30.09.2023	30.09.2024	30.09.2023	31.03.2024
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	
1.	Total Income from Operations	2899.76	2933.17	2688.45	5832.93	5155.25	10381.31
2.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before tax Exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	60.03	64.12	240.02	124.15	290.87	151.04
3.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	60.03	64.12	240.02	124.15	290.87	151.04
4.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	50.66	54.12	204.05	104.78	245.50	100.60
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	50.66	54.12	204.05	104.78	245.50	100.60
6.	Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Rs. 10/-)	329	329	329	329	329	329
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of previous year	1055.45	1004.78	836.94	1055.45	836.94	950.67
8.	Earnings per share (of Rs.10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)	1.54	1.64	6.20	3.18	7.46	3.06
	1. Basic 2. Diluted						

NOTES :-
1. The above results were reviewed by an Audit Committee and thereafter taken on record by the Board of Directors in their meeting on 14.11.2024 after review by an Audit Committee.
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly & year to date financial results filed with the stock exchange under Regulation 133 of the SEBI (Listing and other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly & year to date financial results are available on the Stock Exchange website (www.mseil.in) and the Company's website (www.parijatpapermills.com)

For Parijat Paper Mills Limited
Sd/-
Amit Mittal
Whole Time Director
DIN: 00754471

Date : 14th November 2024
Place: Muzaffarnagar

Goa Pavilion inaugurated at 43rd India International Trade Fair

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PANAJI

Goa Pavilion at the much-awaited 43rd India International Trade Fair, an initiative of India Trade Promotion Organisation (A Government of India Enterprise), based on the theme "Viksit Bharat @2047" a mega event was inaugurated by Shri Dipak Bandekar, Director of Information and Publicity today. Assistant Information Officer, DIP, Shri Shanto Naik; Information Assistant, Shri Siddhesh Samant; Administrative Officer, IPB, Shri Sadashiv Pandit; Manager, Goa Tourism Development Corporation, Shri Sahadev Gaonkar; Deputy Manager, Goa Waste Management Corporation, Shri Rohan Ghadi; Engineer, Shri Krupesh Desai; Project Scientist, Goa State Council for Science and Technology, Shri Deepak Parab; Mentor, Department of Science and Technology, Shri Shivraj Naik; Project Assistant, Goa State Biodiversity Board, Shri Rupesh Velip and Shri Arvind Naik were amongst those present on the occasion. A brochure titled Atmanirbhar Bharat

Swayampurna Goa was also released at the hands of Shri Bandekar on the occasion.

IITF is the largest integrated trade fair which has a wide spectrum of Business, Social, Cultural and Educational Dimensions that are weaved together where visitors and exhibitors, media persons, marketing professional, social activists, NGOs etc. visit to source their needs and objectives. Government Organisations use this platform to spread awareness about their programmes and policies among the public. The fair is set up on a space admeasuring 203 Sq. mts. earmarked by ITPO in Hall No. 3 (New Hall) designed in line with this year theme with emphasis on projecting rich Goan Cuisine with courteous hospitality of Goan people and Goa's developmental achievements through Audio Visuals, Small Hoardings and Photographic display. A lively celebration of Goa's rich cultural legacy will take place during IITF 2024 in the Goa Pavilion. The pavilion, which aims to provide visitors with an immersive experience, showcases Goa's cultural heritage and local handicrafts. Alongside a variety of indigenous handicrafts, the Goa Pavilion is pleased to present the rich legacy of Kaavi Art for the first time at the IITF 2024. Inspired by architectural elements and temple walls, this distinctive art form is renowned for its elaborate red and white murals, which celebrate Goa's coastal culture.

DAEWOO India appoints CM Singh as Joint MD

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

DAEWOO India has appointed veteran industry leader C M Singh as Joint Managing Director, marking a significant step in the company's entry into the consumer durables market. With over three decades of experience in electronics, Singh brings strategic insight and proven leadership that is expected to accelerate DAEWOO India's growth. Singh's career spans notable roles, including COO at Videocon. His expertise in market expansion and operations is anticipated to support DAEWOO's expansion, particularly into India's Tier II and Tier III markets.



THE MYSTICAL WORLD OF THEYYAM

In a world that often favours the new, 'Theyyam: Indian Folk Ritual Theatre - An Insider's Vision' by KK Gopalakrishnan remains a symbol of the resilience of India's folk traditions. The author takes us on a journey through history, explaining how this centuries-old ritual has survived and flourished despite the pressures of modernisation and outside influences, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

In the dance of Theyyam, the gods do not watch; they come to life through the performer, bridging the human and the divine. This powerful insight into *Theyyam* offers a glimpse into the essence of the ritual, where the lines between the spiritual and the earthly are beautifully blurred. In *Theyyam: Indian Folk Ritual Theatre - An Insider's Vision*, K.K. Gopalakrishnan guides us through this captivating tradition, revealing its deep-rooted significance and the vibrant performances that bring the divine to the stage.

Theyyam: Indian Folk Ritual Theatre is an extraordinary exploration of one of India's most vibrant and spiritually rich traditions. This insightful book takes readers deep into the heart of *Theyyam*, a ritualistic folk theatre from the northern regions of Kerala. *Theyyam* is not just a performance; it is a sacred and living art form that combines the sacred with the theatrical, where performers embody gods, spirits, and heroes, giving voice to centuries of social, religious and cultural narratives. Through his book, the author offers both a scholarly analysis and an intimate visual journey into the world of *Theyyam*.

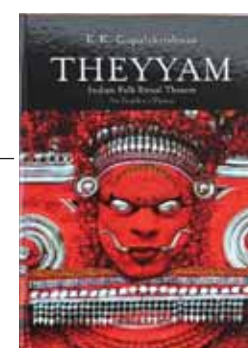
Theyyam, which translates to "god's form," is a fusion of dance, drama, music and ritual and has been a central part of Kerala's spiritual and cultural life for centuries. The book captures the essence of this tradition, from the rituals performed by humble labourers to the spiritual elevation of these individuals who take on divine personas. Gopalakrishnan's perspective as an insider, with his extensive experience and deep connection to the tradition, provides a rare and valuable lens into *Theyyam*'s intricate and multifaceted nature. As Gopalakrishnan eloquently puts it, "At a time when the entire world, ignoring contextual relevance, is lavishly vocal on political correctness, here is an ancient art form called *Theyyam* that places the subaltern community in God's shoes." It is this transformative aspect of the art form that makes *Theyyam* such a powerful symbol of social rebellion and spiritual empowerment.

One of the most captivating aspects of *Theyyam* is the way in which the book intertwines detailed descriptions of the rituals with stunning, full-colour photographs. These images allow the reader to experience the vivid colours, intricate costumes, elaborate headgear, and the striking body paint that define

Theyyam performances. The photographs help to bring to life the dazzling transformation of the performers into supernatural beings, who, in the course of the ritual, take on divine attributes.

The central theme of *Theyyam*, as presented by Gopalakrishnan, is the juxtaposition of the sacred and the social. At its core, *Theyyam* serves as a spiritual act, honouring various deities, ancestors and natural forces such as animals and spirits. The performance is an offering of devotion and the powerful figures created in the ritual allow the worshippers to interact directly with the gods. Interestingly, despite the predominantly male performance tradition, the majority of the deities honoured in *Theyyam* are female figures, revered as Mother Goddesses. This gender aspect adds another layer of richness to the tradition, reflecting the reverence for feminine power in Kerala's religious and social landscape.

The ritual of *Theyyam* has a unique social dimension, which Gopalakrishnan is careful to highlight. In a striking reversal of traditional power dynamics, the humble performers, often daily-wage labourers, become gods and goddesses during the ritual. This transformation challenges social hierarchies and elevates the performers above the very people they serve. Gopalakrishnan reflects on this dynamic, noting that, for a moment, even the wealthy landowners and patrons bow before the performers as they embody divine figures. This inversion of power allows the performers to address social injustice and in some cases, the *Theyyam* may directly criticise those who financially support the ritual. Gopalakrishnan



ABOUT THE BOOK
Book: THEYYAM - Indian Folk Ritual Theatre
by KK GOPALAKRISHNAN
Publication: Niyogi Books
Price: ₹6000.00
Pages: 352

captures this paradox and the way it highlights the intersection of religion, art and social critique.

The author's intimate knowledge of the *Theyyam* tradition is evident not just in his writing, but in the depth of the research and the perspective he brings to his subject. He outlines the origins of *Theyyam* and its evolution, acknowledging the challenges it has faced over the years, from the influence of colonial rule to the more modern pressures of contemporary life. He traces how *Theyyam*, as a practice deeply linked to local communities and their traditions, has been able to persist despite these external challenges. This persistence is rooted in the unbroken spiritual and cultural connections that the art form maintains with the past, even as it adapts to present circumstances.

The Author also delves into the community structure surrounding *Theyyam*. While the performance itself is central, the social context of the tradition is crucial to understanding its full significance. The book provides detailed insights into the various communities that perform *Theyyam*, including the Vannans and Malayans, who are the main performers. These communities play a critical role in preserving the tradition, and Gopalakrishnan offers a nuanced examination of their place in Kerala's social fabric. He explores the significance of lineage, clan and caste in *Theyyam* performances, highlighting how these factors influence the performance and how social boundaries are both reinforced and challenged within the context of the ritual.

The book is not just a documentary of a particular art form but also a reflection on the role of art in shaping and critiquing society. Through this lens, Gopalakrishnan invites the reader to consider the deeper meanings behind *Theyyam*'s rituals, from its role in spiritual devotion to its capacity to question societal norms and power structures. It is a book that encourages reflection on the role of performance in both personal and collective transformation.

For anyone interested in Indian folk traditions, spirituality, or cultural history, *Theyyam: Indian Folk Ritual Theatre - An Insider's Vision* is an enlightening read. It provides a window into the world of *Theyyam* with all its colours, sounds and meaning. This book is not just a study, it's an invitation to witness a tradition that, despite the odds, continues to be a source of strength, expression and divine connection for the people of Kerala. Gopalakrishnan's work ensures that readers come away with a deep appreciation for *Theyyam*, its performers and the community spirit that keeps it alive.

Theyyam: Indian Folk Ritual Theatre - An Insider's Vision is a compelling and richly detailed exploration of one of India's most distinctive and awe-inspiring artistic traditions. Through Gopalakrishnan's work, readers are not only given access to the visual spectacle of *Theyyam* but are also invited to engage with its spiritual, social and historical dimensions. This book serves as both a scholarly resource and a visual celebration of *Theyyam*, shedding light on an art form that continues to thrive in the heart of Kerala's cultural identity.

November
Reads!

By Aleph Book Company



Middle Class India: Driving Change in the 21st Century

By MANISHA PANDE (PRICE: ₹899, PAGES: 360)

Middle Class India delves into the rise, evolution, and complexities of India's middle class, projected to comprise 60% of the population by 2047. Author Manisha Pande offers a detailed study of how this group has developed since colonial times, significantly shaped by the 1991 economic liberalisation. The book explores the influence of the middle class on education, politics, family life, and consumer habits, while highlighting its ambitions and growing consumerism. Pande also discusses recent challenges, including communal tensions and the financial strains post-pandemic, examining how these factors might be impacting the middle class's trajectory. Insightful and meticulously researched, the book provides a nuanced analysis of the middle class's role in driving economic growth, social cohesion, and the future of India.

How the Cobra Got His Spectacles

By STEPHEN ALTER (Price: ₹250, Pages: 32)

In *How the Cobra Got His Spectacles*, acclaimed wildlife writer Stephen Alter presents a delightful tale of a young naga (cobra) and an elderly hermit who live peacefully by a river. When a mischievous monkey steals the hermit's spectacles, the naga embarks on a quest to recover them. Guided only by his forked tongue, the naga encounters various woodland creatures, learning about the different ways animals experience the world. Elegantly illustrated, this book is a perfect read for young wildlife enthusiasts, offering a captivating exploration of friendship, nature, and the wonders of the animal kingdom.

From Curious Girl to Royal Heroine

Royal-ish, by Amrita Gandhi, is a whimsical kingdom quest with a dash of royal mischief, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**

Amrita Gandhi's charming fusion of contemporary royal charm and youthful adventure in *Royal-ish: Lily's Adventures in Bagradoo* offers a novel take on the children's adventure genre.

Giving its readers a reason to not keep the novel down, *Royal-ish - Lily's Adventures in Bagradoo* is a fun story about Lily Ray. Lily Ray is a seventh-grade vlogger, a lover of gumboots, and a girl who vlogs nature and is enthusiastic about the same.

A very young girl's passion is unleashed in Amrita Gandhi's novel *Royal-ish: Lily's Adventures in Bagradoo* when she learns of her link to the Bagradoo royal dynasty through a DNA test she conducted in her mother's lab with her scientist mother.

The story is a fun, light, and gentle one to begin with and catches the attention of the readers.

The story leaps when Lily writes to the King Khair of Bagradoo spitting the fact that she might be connected to his royal family.

The book gets boring between the sections which feels unnecessary to the story but the most interesting parts and the ones that are awaited in each chapter are the parts of Lily's dialogues where she is vlogging. These parts are fun and anticipated parts of the book.

The exciting part of the book starts from the start when Lily enters the Bagradoo palace and unexpected things start to happen with her. The book is a kid's book and is described with scenes in the best way possible. The scenes of Lily struggling for the perfect outfit at the Bagradoo events to

her being friends with Princess Pashmina and DJ have a quirky side to them. The scenes of friendship between the DJ and Lily have a cute side to them.

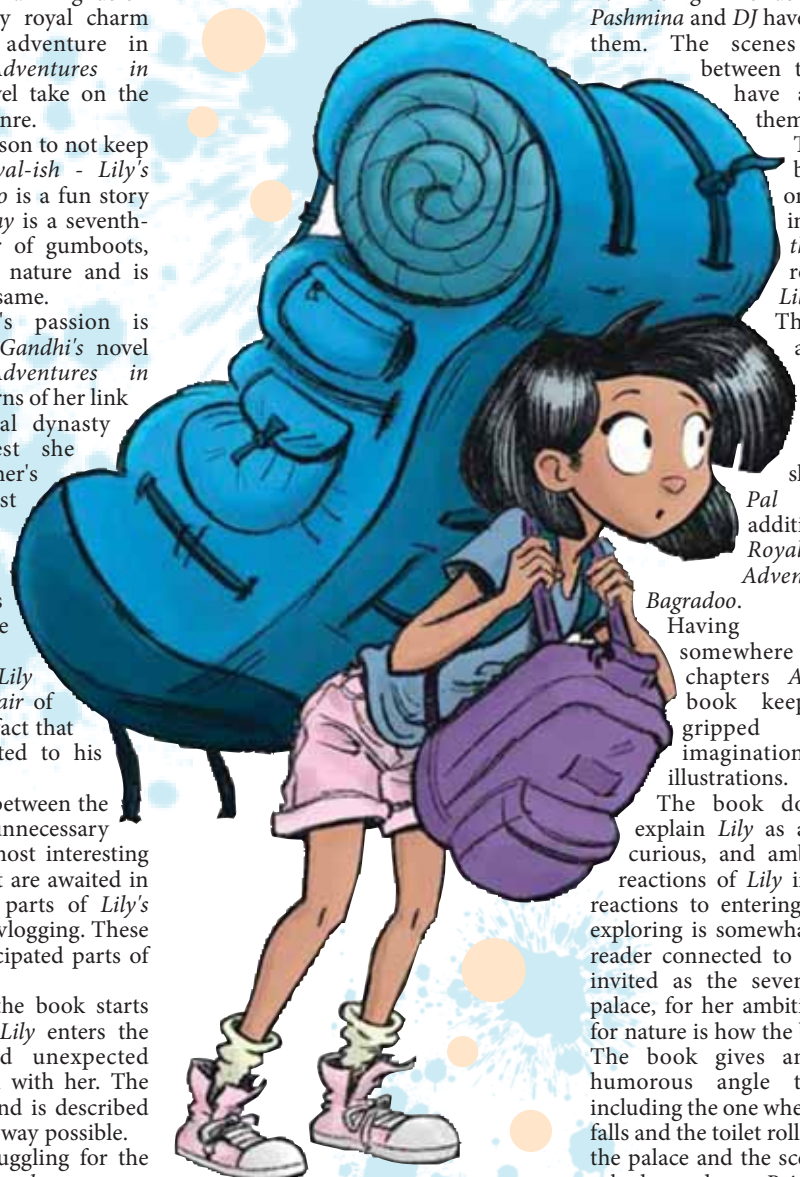
The fiction is beautifully put on paper with the introduction of *Al the Pal*, a daily robotic diary of Lily.

The robotic diary accompanies Lily everywhere giving her answers to all the questions she needs. *Al the Pal* is a quirky addition to the novel *Royal-ish - Lily's Adventures in Bagradoo*.

Having illustrations somewhere between the chapters Amrita Gandhi's book keeps the reader gripped giving them imagination from the illustrations.

The book does its best to explain Lily as a simple, happy, curious, and ambitious kid. The reactions of Lily in situations, her reactions to entering the palace and exploring is somewhat that keeps the reader connected to the book. Being invited as the seventh grader to a palace, for her ambition and her love for nature is how the book opens.

The book gives an amazing and humorous angle to the scenes, including the one when Lily's backpack falls and the toilet roll expands open in the palace and the scene where Lily is asked to dress Princess Pashmina.



ABOUT THE BOOK
Book: Royal-ish : Lily's Adventures in Bagradoo
by Amrita Gandhi
Publication: HARPERCOLLINS CHILDREN'S BOOKS
Pages: 168
Price: ₹299.00

Some hilarious scenes give you a reason to continue reading.

The elements like the island's sea wonders, 'the ponypups', the walking crocodiles, and the blue illuminated pinecones keep the readers surprised and smiling while reading the book.

Among *Royal-ish*'s appealing features is its creative world-building. Gandhi meticulously created Bagradoo, depicting a unique realm that blends aspects of conventional royalty with a whimsical, fun touch.

Lily's encounters with the kingdom's residents, each with a unique personality, are full of humour and insightful life lessons that both kids and adults can relate to.

Overall the book, *Royal-ish: Lily's Adventures in Bagradoo* is a delightful, enjoyable trip that provides a blend of amusement and education.

Though its deft storytelling and subtle cultural references can enthrall readers of all ages, it is ideal for young readers. Anyone wishing to immerse themselves in a realm of royal fantasy featuring a brave young heroine should read this book.

India thrash Thailand 13-0 in women's ACT hockey

PTI ■ RAJGIR (BIHAR)
Young striker Deepika slammed five goals as defending champions India thrashed minnows Thailand 13-0 to virtually assure a semifinal berth at the women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on Thursday. It was a completely one-sided match as the Indians found the net at will, with Thailand failing to take a single shot at the opposition goal. Deepika (3rd, 19th, 43rd, 45th, 45th minutes) found the net five times, while Preeti Dubey (9th, 40th), Lalremsiami (12, 56th) and Manisha Chauhan (55th, 58th) scored a brace each. Beauty Dung (30th) and Navneet Kaur (53rd) were the other goal getters for India who registered their third consecutive win in the round-robin league stage. India had earlier defeated Malaysia 4-0 before eking

out a close 3-2 win over South Korea. The Indians will next play Olympic silver medallists China on Saturday. India are now in the second spot in the standings with nine points, the same as China who, however, are on the top on the basis of a better goal difference. China have a goal difference of +21 as against +18 of India. The top four teams out of six at the end of round-robin league stage will qualify for the semifinals. It was complete domination from India from start to finish as they continuously toyed with the Thai defence, which looked clueless against the home team's relentless attacks. The Indians also improved on the penalty corner front, converting five out of 12 PCs they secured in the match. It took India just three minutes to take the lead through a fine field goal by Deepika. She beautifully controlled a defence spitting



pass from Neha and to find the back of the net Minutes later, Manisha Chauhan got a free shot inside the circle but she couldn't connect the ball

properly. In the ninth minute, Preeti doubled India's lead, tapping in Sangita Kumari's pass from close range. Three minutes later, Lalremsiami scored from a rebound after skipper Salima Tete's initial try was saved by Thai goalkeeper Siraya Yimkrajang. India continued to mount raids and secured their first penalty corner in the 17th minute but the Thai custodian made a triple save. In the 19th minute, Deepika scored her second goal of the day, again with a fine shot from the top of the circle. The Indians then wasted three penalty corners before scoring from the next set piece just at the stroke of half-time through Beauty, who found the net from a goal-mouth melee as the hosts went into the breather with a comfortable 5-0 lead. An unmarked Preeti beat the onrushing Thai goalie neatly and found the net in

the 40th minute for her second goal of the match. Minutes later, Deepika converted a penalty corner with a flick to the top right corner of Thai goal. Within a span of two minutes, Deepika scored two more goals -- one from field play and the next from penalty corner -- to hand India a comprehensive 9-0 lead at the end of the third quarter. After resumption, Navneet scored with a reverse hit after receiving a pass from Sushila Delvi. Five minutes from the final hooter, Manisha converted India's 10th penalty corner before Lalremsiami deflected in Udit's slap shot from another set piece in the next minute. Manisha registered her name again in the scoresheet two minutes from full time from field play. In other matches of the day, Malaysia beat Korea 2-1 while China continued their unbeaten run by defeating Japan by the same margin.

Surya gave me chance to bat at No. three after I asked, had to repay faith: Tilak Varma

PTI ■ CENTURION
Tilak Varma did not want to become a source of chagrin for his skipper Suryakumar Yadav after requesting him for the number three slot in the batting order in the third T20I against South Africa. And he didn't. Varma had batted at number four in Durban and Gqeberha, scoring 33 and 20. Surya, who himself batted at number three, after giving it a thought, obliged his young teammate. "In Gqeberha, he (Tilak) came to my room and said, 'Give me the opportunity to bat at No. 3. Let me express myself,' said Surya. Now it was for Varma to make the most of the opportunity and responded with a match-winning century. After reaching his 51-ball-century, second fifty coming in just 19 balls, Varma pointed towards the dug-out and blew a flying kiss to acknowledge his captain. "It was for 'SKY', our skipper because he gave me a chance to bat at number three," Varma told reporters after India's 11-run win on Wednesday night. "I love batting at number three, but in last two matches, I played at number four. Last night he came to my room



and said that 'You will bat No. 3' and he said it's a good opportunity. Go and express yourself. "I told him, 'You have given me an opportunity, I will show you on the ground,'" said the second youngest Indian centurion in T20 Internationals. His innings of 107 off 56 balls had seven sixes apart from eight fours including a straight and a flicked six off opposition's fastest bowler and his former Mumbai Indians teammate Gerald Coetzee. Varma added 107 runs with another

youngster Abhishek Sharma, who scored a half-century after a string of failures. "The team backed us even when we flopped. They told us to play the brand of cricket Indian team is known for and the skipper and the management (interim head coach VVS Laxman) said, 'Bindaas khelna Agar wicket gire tab bhi (Play freely even if you lose a wicket).'" The stylish Hyderabad batter spoke about missing out on international tours of Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka due to finger injury but said he always knew that he would score when his time comes. "During the last IPL game, I had a finger dislocation and was ruled out for two months. Then during nets post recovery, I sustained another fracture. So I missed two back-to-back series -- Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka. "I was feeling bad that I missed out on two series and good opportunities. But I had to remain patient, focus on the process and keep working hard. I knew my time would come and when right time comes, I will score runs." The team management chose to persist with Varma when the chips were down and the youngster is reaping rewards for that. "I was waiting for this opportunity and unfortunately in the last match it didn't happen but captain and management also supported a lot, and the results I am getting now is because of their complete backing." He is a handy off-spinner and feels that he has worked hard on his bowling as he wants to be seen as an all-rounder. "The ball is really coming out well and I have worked hard on my bowling. I want to contribute as an all-rounder."



Mendis and Fernando tons earn Sri Lanka comfortable win over New Zealand in first ODI

AP ■ DAMBULLA (SRI LANKA)
Kusal Mendis and Avishka Fernando smashed centuries against a new-look New Zealand as Sri Lanka cruised to a 45-run win under the DLS method in a rain-hit first ODI. Mendis smashed a career-best 143 off 128 balls and Fernando made 100 off 115 in Sri Lanka's imposing total of 324-5 in 49.2 overs before rain came and reduced New Zealand's target to 221 off 27 overs. Will Young and Tim Robinson, one of the three New Zealand debutants, combined in an 88-run opening stand but Sri Lanka derailed the Black Caps' chase through its spinners and restricted the reply to a total of 175-9. Slow bowlers Maheesh Theekshana (2-32), captain Charith Asalanka (2-15), and Jeffrey Vandersar (1-40), in place of injured Wanindu Hasaranga, all left their mark before left-arm fast bowler Dilshan Madushanka grabbed 3-39 to give Sri Lanka a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. Earlier, Mendis and Fernando combined in a 206-run second-wicket stand after debutant Nathan Smith took a well judged running catch at

mid-on, who smashed Mendis, who smashed Bracewell for two sixes and a boundary in his last over, tried to accelerate further in the death overs but sliced a regulation catch to extra cover in Duffy's return spell. Mendis struck 17 fours and two sixes in a dominant display of strokeplay after struggling in the drawn T20 series against the Black Caps last week at the same venue. New Zealand's top-order slipped against the spinners despite Young (48) and Robinson (35) combining in a decent start of 88 off 80 balls. The visitors lost five wickets for 22 runs -- going from 88-0 to 110-5 -- after Maheesh Theekshana removed both openers in one over. Theekshana had Robinson stumped by Mendis at the second attempt and then went through the defenses of Young with a straight delivery. Asalanka picked up two wickets in successive overs with Theekshana grabbing a stunning catch at short mid-wicket to dismiss Mark Chapman as Sri Lanka deflated Black Caps' run-chase. Pallekele will host the remaining two matches of the series on Sunday and Tuesday.

third man to dismiss Pathum Nissanka (12) in Jacob Duffy's second over after Asalanka won the toss and elected to bat. Duffy could not hold onto a sharp low return catch from Mendis when the batter was on 11 in the only chance the pair gave before raising Sri Lanka's highest second-wicket stand in a one-day international against New Zealand. The double-century stand bettered the previous Sri Lanka record of 170 between Sanath Jayasuriya and Hashan Tillakaratne during the 2003 World Cup. Both batters were solid against pace and spin as New Zealand's slow bowlers couldn't extract much turn from the wicket. Mitchell Santner returned 0-53 in his 10 overs while Ish Sodhi (1-62) and Michael Bracewell (1-73) were also expensive as both batters swept the spinners with ease. Mendis raised his fourth ODI hundred in the 37th over off 102 balls and Fernando struck his first ODI century after three years in the next over. Fernando, who hit nine fours and two sixes, got dismissed soon after completing his fourth ODI hundred when he couldn't get enough elevation against Sodhi and was caught

McSweeney doesn't need to copy Warner, he has his own game: Khawaja

PTI ■ PERTH
Veteran Australian opener Usman Khawaja backed his new opening partner Nathan McSweeney, urging him to play his own game against India in Perth rather than trying to ape David Warner, who was a "special player" in his own right. Approaching his 38th birthday, Khawaja, a veteran of 73 Tests with nearly five and half thousand runs and 15 tons, also believed that needing to score runs at a quick clip is nothing but an urban myth, and advised McSweeney to just "repeat the process" which has worked for him till date. "I don't know where this myth started that you needed someone to score really fast. As an opener you're trying to score runs and you've got five



days to do it. We didn't have one Test match go for five days, last year. Opening is as much about scoring runs and just being able to absorb that time," Khawaja was quoted as saying by news.Com.Au. Talking about Warner, Khawaja said that not

everyone is as gifted as his former opening partner, who could switch gears at ease in the traditional format. "Davey (Warner) was special. He could score runs while absorbing. He could sometimes score 100 of 100 balls but he didn't

do it every time. Sometimes it took him 170, 180 balls to get that 100. "He was consistent, he was out there, he was setting a platform for guys later to come in and score runs. Those two are both very important things," Khawaja said. Khawaja is confident that besides scoring runs at a fair clip, McSweeney also has the ability to bat time. "I think Nathan does that really well. He can score runs, but he can also bat time. They're really important facets to have in Test cricket if you want to set games up." Khawaja warned McSweeney that there were "no guarantees in cricket" but said that the 25-year-old batter didn't "have to do anything different" in the

Test arena. "You just try to repeat the process. The only thing that really changes is that you have a few more people watching. Not many people watch Shield cricket." Khawaja seems confident that McSweeney can handle the demands of an extremely high-skilled format like Tests. "You always go through ups and downs in cricket, but when you look at Nathan, you look at his demeanour, you look at the way he plays, you feel that over a longer period of time that, yes, this guy will be able to handle the scrutiny of Test cricket and the pressure of Test cricket." "Even though there are no guarantees, I'm sure the selectors have made a calculated decision with him," Khawaja concluded.

Focus on Rinku's form and batting position as India aim series win

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG
Rinku Singh's batting slot and circumspect approach must be a cause of concern for the India team going into the deciding fourth T20I against South Africa as the side aims for another bilateral series victory here Friday. Centuries by Sanju Samson and Tilak Varma on either side of an inept batting performance has kept India's nose ahead in the series and team would want a more collective batting effort to clinch it 3-1. The Wanderers 'Bull Ring' has always been a happy hunting ground for India, where they won the 2007 T20 World Cup final against Pakistan.

Even during the previous T20I series a year back, skipper Suryakumar Yadav's last international hundred till date came at this very stadium and that too in a winning cause. The Indian captain, who enjoys a staggering victory percentage of 81.25, having come up trumps in 13 out of the 16 matches, would like to do one better compared to the last series in the Rainbow Nation which had ended in a 1-1 draw with one game being washed out. Curious case of Rinku Singh Rinku, one of the finest exponents of T20 cricket has suddenly gone off the boil in the past few months, reasons of which aren't exactly clear and it

wouldn't be lost on the skipper and interim head coach VVS Laxman. On the face of it, it seems that his batting position and use as a floater at number six and seven isn't helping the Aligarh man's cause. The next T20 World Cup in India is still some distance away in 2026 and Surya, as a skipper, has enough time to dissect and put things back on track for the man, who is too precious to be lost due to lack of clarity. In the current series, Rinku came in at number six in two games and number seven in another and has managed just 28 runs. The scores 11, 9 and 8 shouldn't be taken in isolation looking at



where he is coming in to bat but when the number of balls (34) he has taken to the score runs is taken into consideration, it becomes worrisome. Even during the last IPL Rinku got to play a total of 113 balls in

15 games for KKR: roughly 7.5 deliveries per game. Being seen strictly as a specialist "finisher" Rinku, on an average, would get to face 10 balls in an innings. The strategy would have been devised to help the India team but of late it has eroded some of southpaw's confidence as he seems to be caught between attacking and playing second fiddle. Most of Rinku's better efforts have come when he has batted at number five but in a line-up where Sanju Samson is settling as an opener and Tilak Varma has staked claim as a No. 3, it might be difficult for Rinku to be promoted ahead of Hardik Pandya. It is an issue that team think-tank would do

better to solve at earliest. Team Combination India have used 12 out of their 15 players in the first three games and it would be interesting to see if one among the two uncapped pacers Yash Dayal or Vysakh Vijaykumar gets a debut cap in case the pitch warrants an extra specialist speedster. For Samson, he would like to forget that he is turning into Marco Jansen's "bunny" after back-to-back failures. In the final game, it wouldn't be a bad option for skipper Surya to check on Ramandeep Singh's steady medium pace as he can be an asset with multiple skills, including ability to field at all positions save keeping.

Squads: India: Suryakumar Yadav (c), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (WK), Rinku Singh, Tilak Varma, Jitesh Sharma (WK), Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Ramandeep Singh, Varun Chakaravarthy, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Avesh Khan, Yash Dayal. South Africa: Aiden Markram (c), Otneil Baartman, Gerald Coetzee, Donovan Ferreira, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen, Patrick Kruger, Keshav Maharaj, David Miller, Mithali Pongwana, Nqaba Peter, Ryan Rickelton. Andile Simelane. Lutho Sipamla, Tristan Stubbs.