

Cultural performances mesmerize audiences at Rajyotsava fest

STAFF REPORTER NAVA RAIPUR

Mesmerizing cultural presentations are catching the eyeballs at the Chhattisgarh Rajyotsava underway at the Mela Ground in Nava Raipur. The performances celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Chhattisgarh. Bollywood artists also displayed their talent. Visitors witnessed the vibrant presentation of traditional music, dance and artistic expressions, making the event a memorable experience. The fair site has been decorated in a magnificent manner for the three-day event. Thousands throng the place to enjoy the cultural programmes and to see the



The main attraction on Tuesday was Bollywood exhibition. The songs by singer Niti Mohan. Chhattisgarhi folk artist Late Laxman Masturia also filled the atmosphere with great energy.

Rikki Kshatriya's team gave a wonderful presentation of festivals and folk festival-based programmes organized in different months in Chhattisgarh state through dialogue, song and dance. His team mesmerized the audience with a presentation of Tej-Pora, Janwara, Hareli, Gauri-Gaura Puja as well as Suva dance and Karma dance. The audience applauded all the presentations. Earlier, the presentation of folk tale presentation of Dhola-Maru by Rajni Rajak, the story depiction of Revaperva Jaduani in singing form and the presentation of Advirindam and Chandrabhushan Verma presented by Mahendra Chauhan and companions were highly appreciated by the audience.

36 eminent personalities to be conferred Rajya Alankaran

Vice President Dhankhar to felicitate them at Rajyotsava

STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh government on Tuesday announced names of eminent persons to be awarded the Rajya Alankaran Puruskar. Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao on Tuesday announced the names of individuals who will be honoured. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar will felicitate them on Wednesday at the Rajyotsava venue in Nava Raipur. Governor Raman Deka will preside over the ceremony, with Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and Assembly Speaker Dr. Raman Singh attending as special guests. On the occasion, Butlu Ram Mathra will be awarded Shaheed Veernarayan Singh Award by the Tribal Welfare Department for uplifting the tribal and backward communities. The Yati Yatanlal Award from the Department of General Administration will be given to Manohar Gausala from Khairagarh for its work in the field of non-violence and cow protection. The Gundadhar Award by the Department of Sports and Youth Welfare will be awarded to Chhoti Mehra for excellence in sports while the Maharaja Praveerchand Bhanj Dev Award will be given to Vikas Kumar for excellence in archery. For women's welfare, the Minimata Award of Women and Child Development Department will be presented to Parvati Didihi for her work in women's empowerment. The Veerangana Rani Avantii Bai Lodhi Memorial Award will go to Aditi Kashyap for inspiring bravery and courage among women, and the Mata Bahadur Kalarin Award will be presented to Chitralekha Sinha for her work in fighting against women's oppression. The Guru Ghasidas Award of Tribal Welfare Department for social awareness and Dalit upliftment will be presented to Rajendra Rangila (Gilhare) while the Thakur Pyarelal Award of Department of Cooperation will be awarded to Shashikant Dwivedi for

contributions to the cooperative movement. Other awards include the Pt. Ravishankar Shukla Award by the General Administration Department to Umesh Kachhap for significant contributions in social, economic and educational fields, and Pt. Sunderlal Sharma Award by the Department of Culture to Dr. Satyabhama Adil for contributions to Hindi literature. The Chakradhar Award for achievements in music and the arts will go to Pt. Sudhakar Rambhau Shevalikar while the Dau Mandaraji Award for contributions to folk arts and crafts will be presented to Pandiram Mandavi. The Lakshman Masturiya Award for Chhattisgarhi folk songs will go to Nirmala Thakur (Belchandan) while the Khuman Sao Award for Chhattisgarhi folk music will go to Dushyant Kumar Harmukh. The Dr. Khubchand Baghel Award for contributions to agriculture will be awarded jointly to Shivkumar Chandravanshi and Khemraj Patel. The Maharaja Agrasen Award by the Department of General Administration will go to Siyaram Agrawal for his work in social harmony, and the Danveer Bhamashah Award by the Department of Social Welfare will honour Subhash Chandra Agrawal for his philanthropy, goodwill and exemplary service. The Bilasabai Kevatin Matsya Vikas Puraskar by the Department of Fisheries for excellence in fish farming will be awarded to Vinod Das. The Bhanwar Singh Porte Award for tribal welfare will be given to Sonu Ram Netam by the Tribal Welfare Department. The Maharaja Ramanuj Pratap Singhdev Award by the Labour Department for contributions in the labour sector will be jointly awarded to Surendra Kumar Rathore, Shobha Singh and Lalit Kumar Nayak. The Pt. Laxhan Lal Mishra Award of Home (Police) Department for crime research will be awarded to Ramnaresh Yadav, and the Bisahudas Mahant Award by the Department of Rural Industries for contributions to weaving

will be jointly presented to Pannalal Dewangan and Bahori Lal Dewangan. The Rajrajeshwari Karunamata Handloom Promotion Award for weaving will go jointly to Satyanarayan Dewangan and Arun Mehar. The Devdas Banjare Memorial Award for excellence in performing folk arts will be awarded to Bhagat Guleri, while the Devdas Smriti Panthi Dance Award for folk dance will go to Sadhelal Ratre. The Kishore Sahu Award for contributions to Hindi-Chhattisgarhi cinema will be presented to Prakash Awasthi while the Kishore Sahu National Award for Direction in Hindi-Chhattisgarhi cinema will go to Satish Jain. The Dhanvantari Award of Health Department for contributions to Ayurveda education, research and studies will be presented to Dr. Manohar Lal Laheja. The Barrister Thakur Chhedilal Award of Law and Legislative Affairs Department will be jointly awarded to Surendra Tiwari and Prakash Chandra Pant for their work in the field of law. The Chhattisgarh Overseas Indian Honour by the Department of Culture for contributions outside India in social welfare, human resource development, arts, literature, or economy will be awarded to Anand Kumar Pandey. The Lala Jagdalpur Literary Award for literature will go to Dr. P.C. Lal Yadav. The Chhattisgarh Government's Chandulal Chandrakar Smriti Patrakarita Award for print journalism in Hindi will be awarded to Bholaram Sinha. The award for electronic journalism will go to Mohan Tiwari. The Madhukar Kher Smriti Patrakarita Award for print journalism in English will be presented to Mukesh S. Singh. The Pt. Madhavrao Sapre National Creativity Award for creative writing and contributions to the Hindi language will be presented to Atul Jain. These awards recognize the invaluable contributions of individuals across various fields, reflecting Chhattisgarh's rich cultural heritage and its commitment to promoting talent and dedication across society.

District-level Rajotsava celebrations marked with zeal



STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

The district-level Rajotsava celebrations held across the state to commemorate the 24th anniversary of Chhattisgarh's foundation day were marked with zeal on Tuesday. Ministers, MLAs, and public representatives attended. They distributed aid to

development efforts. On this occasion, people also enjoyed songs, music and dance performances. Renowned artists, students and children delivered impressive performances on local tribal culture and the culture of other states. Social Welfare Minister Laxmi Rajwade presided over the event in Balrampur district. She said that Chhattisgarh was touching new heights in every field. Revenue Minister Tank Ram Verma said in Saranghar-Bilagarh that the formation of Chhattisgarh had given opportunities to all sections of the society here to progress. MLA Chaitram Atami said Chhattisgarh was getting stronger after becoming a state; its reflection was visible even in remote districts like Dantewada. the beneficiaries of various welfare programmes including PMAY, Ayushman cards and aid under the Unorganised Workers Death and Disabled Assistance Scheme. Government departments set up stalls to make people aware of their respective welfare schemes. The government also held exhibitions to showcase the results of its

Elderly woman killed, one injured in robbery bid



STAFF REPORTER JASHPUR

A 65-year-old woman was killed and her grandson injured on Tuesday when two masked men opened fire in an attempt to rob a customer service kiosk of a bank in Jashpur district in Chhattisgarh. The incident took place in Bataikela village, Jashpur Superintendent of Police Shashimohan Singh said. The injured man, Sanju Gupta, runs a customer service kiosk of a bank.

Two masked men arrived at the facility on a motorcycle and attacked Gupta with the butt of a gun. When Gupta's grandmother Urmila intervened and tried to grab the weapon from the accused, they opened fire and killed her on the spot. Some people rushed to the scene after hearing the gunshot, forcing the assailants to flee, leaving their motorcycle behind. Gupta was hospitalized and efforts are on to nab the assailants.

AXIS BANK LTD. Retail Lending and Payment Group (Local Office/Branch): Asset Sales Centre, 2nd Floor, Chawla chambers, Opp. New Bus Stand, Jeevan Bima Marg, Pandri, Raipur 492004

Fire erupts at Ambedkar hospital

STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

A fire broke out on Tuesday at the government-run Bhim Rao Ambedkar Hospital (BRAMH) in the Chhattisgarh capital. No casualties were reported in the incident. The blaze erupted around 3.00 pm at the new trauma unit's operation theatre on the third floor of the building, BRAMH spokesperson Shubhra Singh Thakur said. Doctors, para-medical staff and a patient were rescued by cutting the iron grills of the operation theatre's windows by the other staff. They were kept under observation in the hospital as they had difficulty in breathing due to smoke. All of them were said to be in



stable condition. Three fire tenders doused the flames. The exact cause for the fire is yet to be determined. But it is suspected that a short circuit in the air purifier and air conditioner may have led to the blaze. Health Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal, who visited the hospital, sought a report over the fire incident within three days.

South East Central Railway E-TENDER NOTICE (1) Tender Notice No.: E-R-T-79-24-25, Date: 30.10.2024 Name of Work: Execution of zonal works for Staff quarters associated service building in WRS Colony under the jurisdiction of SSE (Works)/WRS/Raipur for the period ending 30.06.2025. Tender Value: Rs. 1,55,26,951/- EMD: Rs. 2,27,600/-

न्यायालय कलेक्टर, दुर्ग जिला-दुर्ग (छत्तीसगढ़) ब्यक्तिगत उपस्थिति समन रा. क्र. 163/व-121/वर्ष 2023-24

बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा Bank of Baroda Regional Office, Jeevan Prakash.L.I.C. Building, Pandri, Raipur (C.G.) PH: 0771-4222611, 4222612, E-mail: recovery.raipur@bankofbaroda.com

VACATION NOTICE ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, Landmark Building, 4th Floor, 228A, A/C Bose Road, Kolkata-700020

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Congress accuses PM Modi of lowering discourse, claims BJP losing in Maharashtra and Jharkhand

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress on Tuesday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of lowering the level of discourse during the election campaign and claimed it showed that the BJP was losing assembly elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand.



After alleging that the INDIA bloc will snatch the 'magalsutra' in his Lok Sabha campaign speeches, Modi has stooped to calling the opposition alliance 'ghuspathiya bandhan' (an alliance of infiltrators) and claiming it will 'snatch daughters and food' in Maharashtra and Jharkhand, the party said.

leader claimed the BJP's prospects are even worse in Jharkhand and Maharashtra and "they know they are losing". "He is now again talking of 'ghuspathiya' sarkar, that it will snatch your daughters and food. But, border security is under them as he has been in government for over 10 years. Who is giving this certificate to the BSF, the Home Minister, Rajnath Singh or are you criticising your foreign policy," Khera alleged.

improve upon your language," he said. Accusing the prime minister of having "lost personal respect", Khera said, "At least maintain the respect and reputation of the position you hold". "Please maintain this 'maryada' (decorum) in the leftover time you have, please keep that in mind," the chairman of the media and publicity department of the Congress said.

India to launch European Space Agency's Proba-3 mission in December

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



India will launch the European Space Agency's Proba-3 mission early next month from the spaceport at Sriharikota, Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh said here on Tuesday. He said the two satellites that are part of the Proba-3 mission to study the Sun were brought to Sriharikota on Tuesday morning for integration with ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).

before coming as low as just 600 km. This high orbit is required because the pair of spacecraft will perform their active formation flying for a planned six hours at a time around their maximum altitude, where Earth's gravitational pull will be diminished, as will the amount of propellant needed to fine-tune their positions.

visible for a few brief moments during solar eclipses viewed from the Earth. To achieve this the shadow being cast between the spacecraft must remain in a precise position, which means they must fly autonomously in formation to an accuracy of a single millimetre - about the thickness of an average fingernail.

SC junks plea against quashing of LOC issued to ex-house help of Sushant Singh Rajput

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed the Centre's appeal against an order that quashed a look out circular (LOC) issued to the former house help of late actor Sushant Singh Rajput.



the April 10 Bombay High Court order quashing the LOC issued by the CBI against one Samuel Miranda. The high court had observed the LOC had been issued on the basis of the registration of the FIR and said there was no apprehension of the

petitioner evading arrest or being unavailable for the trial. "Nothing was brought to our notice in the LOC, reflecting the 'reason' for issuing of the LOC, except registration of an FIR and setting out the gist of the FIR. Neither has anything been brought on record for continuance of the LOC not has the respondent number one, the CBI, placed before us any subsequent request for continuation/renewal of the LOC, after the expiry of one year," the high court noted.

operated with the same," said the high court. Miranda, before the high court, claimed that the LOC was issued as against him in 2020 and the police were yet to file a report. He said the look our circular couldn't be issued indefinitely, particularly when he had co-operated with the investigation and attended the CBI office when summoned.



President Droupadi Murmu, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Union Minister of Law & Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal and Justice BR Gavai release of three publications of the Supreme Court, at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre (RBCC) PTI

Centre releases 15th Finance Commission grants for rural local bodies in Haryana, Tripura and Mizoram

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has disbursed the first installment of the 15th Finance Commission grants for 2024-25 to rural local bodies in Haryana, Tripura, and Mizoram, as per the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj.



have been released for all 1,260 rural local bodies (RLBs), including traditional local bodies, 40 block advisory committees and 587 village committees. Mizoram received untied and tied grants of Rs 14.20 crore and Rs 21.30 crore, respectively. These funds have been disbursed to all 834 village councils, including those in Autonomous District Council areas, it said.

vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas', this initiative supports inclusive growth and participatory democracy, vital for the development of the country," it added.

Assam CM questions Sonia Gandhi's nationality amid citizenship row



Hitting out at the Congress for questioning the legitimacy of the citizenship of a BJP by-poll candidate in Assam, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday claimed that questions can also be raised on the nationality of the opposition party's top leader Sonia Gandhi.

Union Minister launches 'Tulip' digital platform to empower marginalised artisans

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Virendra Kumar, on Tuesday inaugurated a new digital platform 'Tulip' aimed at improving market access for artisans from marginalised communities, including Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), safai karmacharis, persons with disabilities, and minority groups.

handicrafts, skill demonstrations and an opportunity to support artisan communities directly. Speaking at the launch of Tulip, the Union minister emphasised the government's commitment to fostering financial independence among India's traditional craft workers. It seeks to connect India's skilled artisans with both domestic and global markets, promoting financial independence and empowering traditional craft workers.

Kumar highlighted the inclusive intent behind Tulip, describing it as "a step in line with 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas, Sabka Vishwas', an inclusive development model. Kumar also announced plans to expand the initiative further, aiming to identify artisans in "every corner" of the country and link them to the digital marketplace.

NITI Aayog launches 'Jal Utsav' festival to promote water conservation and sustainability

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Government's premier think tank, NITI Aayog will be launching a fortnight long 'Jal Utsav' festival starting Wednesday to create awareness and sensitivity towards water management, conservation and sustainability. Jal Utsav which comes amid an ongoing global and national water crisis will be implemented in 20 Aspirational Districts/Blocks between November 6-24, 2024 in partnership with National Jal Jeevan Mission, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Union Ministry of Jal Shakti.



and agencies. In this initiative, school students are being enrolled in water management activities, empowering them to act as catalysts for change within their families and communities," said a Government statement here. The event will be launched with 'Jal Bandhan' - the symbolic tying of sacred thread on water assets by eminent personalities and local leaders. They would also launch 'Fact Sheets on Jal Sampada (water assets)' of

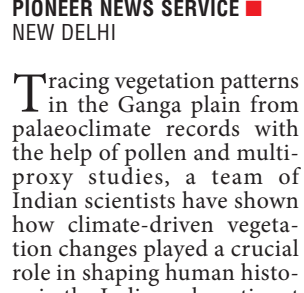
their respective blocks and districts. Besides, discussing the plan for the departmental activities in the fortnight, people would also take the 'Jal Utsav Oath' resolving to maintain and protect the water resources ensuring judicious and sustainable use. Through this pledge, communities are being encouraged to abide by the 5Rs: Respect, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recharge while using water.

for greater awareness about water management; organizing Jal Utsav Run or marathon; planting of trees under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' at Jal Sampada premises are also the activities planned for the fortnight. People for skill development under 'Nal Jal Mitra' initiative of Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation will also be enrolled during the Jal Utsav.

Climate driven changes in Ganga plains: DST Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Tracing vegetation patterns in the Ganga plain from paleoclimate records with the help of pollen and multiproxy studies, a team of Indian scientists have shown how climate-driven vegetation changes played a crucial role in shaping human history in the Indian subcontinent over the last 2000 years.



Roman Warm Period, Dark Ages Cold Period, Medieval Warm Period, and Little Ice Age, significantly influenced vegetation and climate. These shifts in climate likely played a role in shaping human migrations, as well as the rise and fall of major Indian dynasties like the Guptas, Gurjar Pratihars, and Cholas.

explored paleoclimatic clues to better understand historical climate dynamics, particularly in relation to the Indian Summer Monsoon (ISM). The study has been published in the journal Catena. By identifying crops more suited to the changing climate, agricultural practices can be adapted to maintain productivity and ensure the stability of the GDP.



FIRST COLUMN LIFE BEYOND THE GRAVE

Rebirth is not only a source of spiritual continuity but also a foundation for the pursuit of higher consciousness



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJJI

Every time we see death or attend a funeral, we experience something like cemetery-induced reclusion which makes our mind & body numb. This makes us question the very purpose of our life. We start thinking that if death is the be-all and end-all of it-all, and it can kill anyone, anytime, then why should we bother about doing good deeds and fear punishment for our sins? There are mainly two kinds of people who have two different beliefs in this regard.

The first kind of people believe in the rebirth of human beings and strongly feel that the account of our good and bad deeds will be settled on the day of judgment when the dead rise from their graves, and then there are the second kinds of people who not only believe that human souls are reborn, but they also feel that humans transmigrate into 8.4 million species before getting a human birth again. However, there is very little knowledge about the third kind of people who believe that human souls take rebirth and are always in the human body.

Let us suppose that humans are not reborn. In that case what reason would there be to perform good deeds and desist from bad ones? Also, if there were no rebirth there would be no fear of punishment for one's bad deeds either, and little to stop people from doing as they pleased as long as they could evade the law. We should understand that if there is no future after death, people would also not amass wealth right up to their death, or build houses in their old age.

These efforts would be futile, in the absence of rebirth. Thus, our hopes



of eternal prosperity and happiness, desire to earn merit by performing good deeds, fear of punishment in future births and feelings of eternal love and patriotism, would not arise at all if rebirth were not a reality. According to Hindu Mythology, a soul never dies, it is the body that dies & immediately after death, the soul changes body as we change clothes. With modern techniques like Past Life Regression, there are lots of cases around us where we see a child claiming to be experiencing visions of his/her previous births. Many of these cases have been verified by experts and psychologists who have recorded the testimonies of people recalling their previous birth and then cross-checked the facts with official records and the people mentioned by them.

Another simple fact that points to the reality of rebirth is that a soul cannot function without a body. If there were no rebirth, where does the soul go after a person has died? As human beings, nearly all our interactions are with fellow humans. Thus, we create karmic accounts with humans, to which we have to take birth in human form again. The analogy of the seed also illustrates this point. Just as a mango seed brings forth a mango tree, which then produces mangoes, which again provide mango seeds, the human soul possesses human qualities, feelings and experiences, and is the seed of human life. Hence it cannot function in any other living creature's body. Scepticism about the existence of souls and facts like rebirth is widespread because of the lack of an experience of soul consciousness. Such an experience requires spiritual effort for which one has to focus the mind and the intellect inward and then contemplate on it in silence. Slowly one begins to sense the existence of a sentient entity within, which is the soul. Such an experience, repeated over time, brings soul-consciousness, or the belief that one is a soul. It is this experience of reality that removes the shroud of ignorance from all other facts of the subtle world of souls, which we usually dismiss in disbelief for lack of material proof. So let us practice remaining in soul consciousness and enjoy being an enlightened soul without any botheration.

(Writer is a spiritual educator & a popular columnist; views are personal)

Punjab's MSMEs: Poised to compete on the global stage



A S MITTAL

With tailored state-specific export policies and enhanced trade routes, Punjab's MSMEs are poised to overcome geographical disadvantages and harness lucrative global markets

In a decisive step to enhance industrial growth in Punjab, the NITI Aayog in partnership with the Punjab Government, has sought feedback from stakeholders to explore the potential of MSMEs as a driver of export growth. This initiative is essential for identifying and promptly resolving industry challenges. To meet the objective of boosting Punjab's exports, MSMEs must be equipped with a comprehensive State Export Promotion Policy, linking them to sustainable growth and significant employment generation.

Exports are a fundamental pillar of a state's development, and a strategic geographical location is vital for ensuring global competitiveness and job creation factors for robust economic growth. For instance, Haryana once a barren expanse, has emerged as one of the top five states for export value, thanks to its advantageous proximity to the National Capital Region (NCR). Currently, Haryana outpaces Punjab with five times more exports. Coastal states with access to seaports are a step ahead in engaging in international trade, while landlocked regions like Punjab endure higher trade costs and transit challenges. It is unacceptable that policymakers have not prioritised Punjab's geographical disadvantages as a landlocked border state. The remoteness from seaports, inadequate connectivity, and frequent protests have created significant barriers to investment, resulting in a concerning decline in the industrial sector—a crisis that Punjab can no longer afford to ignore. The non-competitive environment for Punjab's MSMEs, stemming from their distance from seaports, must be addressed head-on.

These challenges are surmountable, and it is crucial to focus on empowering Punjab's vital MSMEs, which have the potential to become an "Export Engine" and deserve a fair platform to compete on equal terms. According to NITI Aayog's latest Export Preparedness Index (EPI), Punjab ranks a disappointing 10th with a score of 58.95, while Haryana leads in 5th place with a score of 63.65. Notably, Gujarat has the highest number of districts among the top 25 in the country for export share (54 per cent), followed by Maharashtra with five districts, Haryana with one, and Punjab with none—only a meagre 2 per cent of the country's exports.

Therefore, it is essential for Punjab to actively engage in export promotion initiatives for every potential MSME to dramatically increase its export figures. Why a State-Specific Policy Needed: The Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) for 2023-2028 has set an ambitious target of achieving \$2 trillion in exports by 2030. However, with 766 districts across the country, it is unacceptable that only 43 cities designated as centres of export excellence receive crucial financial incentives for global market surveys, brand promotions, warehouse establishment, and zero customs duty on capital goods for export-oriented production.

This glaring disparity in the distribution of incentives underscores the urgent need for a more inclusive, state-specific policy. The current focus on a handful of 'Towns of Export Excellence' severely undermines the principles of 'One District, One Product' and 'Sabka Saath,



WHILE INDIA CURRENTLY LAGS BEHIND CHINA IN BICYCLE EXPORTS, WE HAVE A CLEAR AND COMPELLING OPPORTUNITY TO ELEVATE OUR GLOBAL EXPORT TARGETS BY AT LEAST 10 PER CENT OVER THE NEXT TWO TO THREE YEARS, PARTICULARLY IN UNTAPPED MARKETS IN THE US, EUROPE, AND AFRICA

Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas.' Punjab must decisively shift towards 'Industries of Export Excellence' (IEE). This strategy will empower the identification and promotion of key sectors, such as textiles and apparel, bicycles, auto parts, tractors, engineering goods, hand and machine tools, sports goods, footwear, and leather products.

Furthermore, the Foreign Trade Policy is resolutely committed to enhancing decentralised export promotion. The introduction of districts as export hubs is a non-negotiable strategy within the MSMEs Export Promotion Policy. This initiative will systematically identify potential export products and services in every district, establishing institutional mechanisms for their promotion—a critical step toward realising the policy's objectives. Every district in Punjab possesses significant untapped potential.

It is essential to identify additional districts for bolstering export operations, aligning with the imperative 'Vocal for Local' and 'Make in India' initiatives. India's vision of transforming each district into an export hub demands the active engagement of MSMEs from all districts. The time for action is now. MSMEs Export Potential: Punjab boasts an impressive 14.65 lakh MSMEs, which are the backbone of the state's industrial growth and are primed for global expansion.

These MSMEs are powerful hubs, existing in industries such as textiles and apparel, bicycles, hosiery, tractors, automobile components, hand tools, machine tools, sports goods, engineering goods, footwear, and leather goods. They constitute a staggering 99.7 per cent of all MSMEs in the region, employing 65 per cent of the industrial workforce and generating 78 per cent of the state's total industrial output. These industrial clusters possess immense poten-

tial and can be fostered further. Ludhiana stands as a powerhouse, ranking first (Rs 20,140 Crore export business) among the top ten exporting districts with an export business valued at Rs 55,844 Crore for 2023-24. It leads the nation by producing 92 per cent of India's bicycle parts and 75 per cent of all bicycles, commanding an 80 per cent share in bicycle exports from India.

While India currently lags behind China in bicycle exports, we have a clear and compelling opportunity to elevate our global export targets by at least 10 per cent over the next two to three years, particularly in untapped markets in the US, Europe, and Africa. As the foremost producer of blended yarn and hosiery, Ludhiana holds its ground as the second-largest producer of polyester silk, fibre, and cotton yarn. It dominates woollen knitwear (95 per cent) and hosiery (65 per cent) exports, showcasing unparalleled strength in the global market. While China captures a commanding 37 per cent share in textiles apparel and hosiery, India needs to aggressively increase its mere 5% share in the worldwide market. The opportunity for growth is vast, particularly in lucrative export markets such as the USA, UAE, UK, Germany, France, and Australia.

In the farm equipment sector, Punjab is a force to be reckoned with, hosting one-third of the total original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and standing as the leading tractor manufacturer. With a commanding 34.3 per cent share in exports, Sonalika IITL stands as the largest tractor exporter (Rs 3000 Cr) in 2023-24. Despite India's current 2.2 per cent share in the global market, the potential for over 2 lakh tractors to be exported in the next 2-3 years to burgeoning markets such as Brazil, Argentina, Turkey, SAARC, and African nations is undeniable. Jalandhar dominates the sports goods sector,

producing 45 per cent of the nation's total and contributing to 75 per cent of the country's sports goods exports. While China currently leads with a 42.2 per cent share, India's scant 0.56 per cent share of global exports highlights the tremendous untapped potential for growth. The time is ripe for Punjab to seize lucrative opportunities in markets like the USA, UK, Brazil, Germany, Mexico, South Africa, Colombia, and Argentina, and make a formidable mark on the global stage. The Way Forward: To enhance the competitive edge of MSMEs in foreign trade, it's crucial to allow the flow of bilateral trade from Punjab through the Wagah Border of Pakistan to Middle Eastern countries, CIS nations, Europe, and the US. Establishing a Directorate of Exports in the state is vital for aligning the state and central government's export promotion policies.

One of the most pressing issues is the high borrowing cost of 10-12 per cent. It is essential to introduce interest subvention to create a level playing field for MSMEs, especially when compared to leading global players like China (3.1 per cent), Vietnam (4.5 per cent), Malaysia (3 per cent), and Thailand (3 per cent). Competitive and efficient logistics are foundational for export growth. Therefore, policy-backed support for state-owned wagons in landlocked border states like Punjab is essential. This will help alleviate the burden of over-freight and provide a more equitable environment for driving export growth.

The Author is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika IITL Group, Vice-Chairman of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council and President of Tractor and Mechanization Association (TMA); Views expressed are personal.

How mobile video conferencing is bridging the digital divide in Bihar

The Bihar Government has taken a bold step toward real-time governance with the launch of a mobile outdoor video conferencing system

In a time when digital communication is essential for efficient government, resolving infrastructural and geographic obstacles is vital to making decisions in real time. This need is especially acute in large states like Bihar, where there are major connectivity challenges due to the expansive rural environment.

To narrow this gap, a major project was started by Bihar State Electronics Development Corporation (BELTRON) along with Millenium Automation as a system integrator, to establish a mobile outdoor video conferencing system that would improve communication challenges and enhance the state's governance. Because of this initiative, the administra-



VARINDER SINGH JAWANDA

tion can now function smoothly throughout Bihar by introducing an inventive, stronger video conferencing system.

Improving Governance With the use of the new outdoor video conferencing technology, authorities in Bihar can now hold virtual meetings and communicate with other officials directly from almost anywhere in the

state. This technology allows government officials to communicate in real-time, independent of their actual location, providing a much-needed degree of flexibility. This solution's robust, continuous connectivity and high-quality video streaming facilitate quicker decision-making, effective governance, and a more open line of contact with rural residents.

Recognising the Challenge In places remote from urban networks, ensuring reliable, fast communication was crucial but challenging. To prevent interruptions, a smooth interface between the new mobile video conferencing system and the Bihar State Wide Area Network (BSWAN) was required.

Sustaining steady uptime was essential since government communications are so vital. To maintain system functionality and quickly address any technological problems, comprehensive maintenance assistance was also necessary, guaranteeing dependability and continuity throughout the state.

A Comprehensive Solution With portable video conferencing devices that have high-quality audio and video components in cases that are easy to move, a specially designed solution was developed to meet these demands. Even in remote locations, the system's smooth integration with the current Bihar State Wide Area Network (BSWAN) guaranteed reliable service quality.



Advanced networking equipment allowed for seamless data transfer, particularly in areas with limited bandwidth. Disruptions during crucial meetings were minimised by optimising bandwidth in locations far away. Prompt technical assistance, and on-site maintenance guaranteed continuous strong system operation across the state. Key Outcomes of the Project

This initiative empowered Bihar's government to conduct mobile, outdoor video conferences statewide, enabling officials to make real-time decisions from any location, thus streamlining operations and improving emergency response.

As a technological advancement, it highlights how mobile technology can bridge the digital divide, aligning with the "Digital India" vision by enhancing transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement.

With scalability for future needs, the system can expand into public services and disaster management, offering a sustainable, resilient model for evolving governance demands, and setting an inspiring precedent for other

states. Future Prospects and Potential for Growth. This outdoor video conferencing solution has the potential to revolutionise governance in Bihar and other similar states. As Bihar continues to advance, the system can be further expanded to incorporate additional features and applications, including new e-governance initiatives. Emerging technologies like IoT, advanced bandwidth optimisation, and real-time analytics are being explored to enhance communication efficiency even further.

The success of this project opens doors for expansion into other government sectors, allowing more departments to benefit from mobile video conferencing. In conclusion, this outdoor video

conferencing initiative has enabled the Bihar government to communicate and make decisions effectively, regardless of officials' physical locations.

It has solved an immediate challenge while laying the foundation for future technological advancements in government communication.

By bridging the digital divide, this solution is enhancing governance in Bihar, helping to build a more inclusive, connected, and prosperous state. The collaboration with BELTRON demonstrates that strategic digital initiatives can empower state governments to deliver on the promise of accessible, efficient governance for all.

(The writer is CEO at MAPL World; views are personal)

Project taken up to restore 4,500 hectares of degraded mangroves in Sundarbans

PTI ■ KOLKATA

A private sector-supported project has been taken up to restore 4,500 hectares of degraded mangroves in West Bengal's Sundarbans, an official said on Tuesday. The programme also seeks to create sustainable economic opportunities for villages in the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove ecosystem. Senior officials of project partners EcoAct and Meensou India are currently on a visit to the restoration sites and engaging with communities in the South 24 Parganas district of the state. The project is being implemented under the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) programme which is the world's most widely used greenhouse gas (GHG) crediting scheme. "The Sundari Mangroves Project to restore 4,500 hectares of degraded mangroves in India's Sundarbans and it demonstrates how carbon finance can drive effective climate action when it genuinely empowers local communities. By ensuring benefits flow directly to communities, we are seeing how private sector support can create real



opportunities for those who depend on these ecosystems," Stephane Tromilin, Head of Project Development at EcoAct, said. Other companies should also consider investing in this project as part of their sustainability strategies, Tromilin said. "For generations, our families are dependent on these mangroves for our survival - for fishing, for protection from storms, for our daily needs. But we have watched them disappear year after year," said Swapan Maity, member of Dhablat Panchayat and Secretary of Chemaguri

Byabsaik Samity. He expressed hope that this project would help them restore what they are losing, create jobs and protect their homes. The project is expected to create local employment opportunities over its 20-year duration. While the restoration is guided by scientific protocols, community members are involved in implementation and monitoring, with equal opportunities for men and women in the region. Communities also retain decision-making power over

reinvested in their local development priorities, officials said. "Our role has been limited to support local communities in realizing their vision for mangrove restoration. Their traditional knowledge and daily engagement with these ecosystems make them the most qualified stewards of this project," said Soumya Darshan Pradhan, CEO & MD of Meensou India. Meensou develops carbon offset and credit projects focusing on social capacity building, economic growth, equitable wealth distribution, and environmental protection.

The restoration effort will help revitalise crucial habitats for the iconic Royal Bengal Tiger and protect over 1,400 other species that call the Sundarbans their home. Through the planting of 19 native mangrove species, the project aims to strengthen the ecosystem's natural resilience, protecting thousands of homes from erosion and extreme weather events, officials said. "The recent cyclone (Dana) in West Bengal is a stark reminder of our region's vulnerability to climate-related disasters," said Rajkumar Jana, a teacher at Chowrahee Jana Kalyan High School. A global assessment by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) found that half of the world's mangrove ecosystems are at risk of collapse. There is nearly 20 per cent classified as "Endangered" or "Critically Endangered." The India State of Forest Report 2021, revealed that the very dense mangrove cover in the Sundarbans has shrunk to 994 sq km in 2021, down from 1,038 sq km in 2011, a 4.23 per cent decrease over a decade, which the report described as worrying.

Government launches Phase-II of subsidised wheat flour, rice sale under 'Bharat brand'



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Tuesday launched phase-II retail sales of wheat flour and rice under the Bharat brand at subsidised rates to provide relief to consumers from high prices. Wheat flour (atta) will be sold at Rs 30 per kg and rice at Rs 34 per kg in 5kg and 10kg packets through cooperatives NCCF, Nafed and Kendriya Bhandar and e-commerce platforms. "This is a temporary intervention to provide relief to consumers," Food Minister Pralhad Joshi said after flagging off the mobile vans of these cooperatives. The government has allocated 3.69 lakh tonne of wheat and 2.91 lakh tonne of rice from the Food

Corporation of India (FCI) for the phase-2 retail intervention under the Price Stabilisation Fund. "This intervention will continue till the allocated stock gets exhausted. If more (is) required, we have enough stock and will allocate again," Joshi said. Under the new pricing structure, wheat flour will be available in 5kg and 10kg packs at Rs 30 per kg, while rice will be sold at Rs 34 per kg -- a slight increase from Phase-I rates of Rs 27.5 and Rs 29 per kg, respectively. Addressing concerns over lower rice sales in Phase I, Joshi emphasised that the government's objective wasn't business-oriented. "Our motto is to give relief to consumers and control prices in the market," he said,

adding that the government would consider introducing smaller pack sizes if demanded. The minister also called for a study to understand price firmness despite surplus rice stocks, though maintaining those prices were "largely under control", with only slight fluctuations in normal quality varieties. The previous phase, from October 2023 to June 30, 2024, saw the distribution of 15.20 lakh tonne of wheat flour and 14.58 lakh tonne of rice. On future allocations, Joshi assured adequate stocks for continued intervention if required. Minister of State for Food BL Verma and Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra were also present at the event.

Finance ministry initiates 4th phase of consolidation of RRBs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to achieve operational efficiency and cost rationalisation, the Finance Ministry has initiated the fourth round of consolidation for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and the number of such banks is likely to come down to 28 from 43 at present. As per the roadmap prepared by the Finance Ministry, 15 RRBs operating in various states would be merged. Among states that will see consolidation of RRBs include Andhra Pradesh, which has the maximum number of RRBs (4), Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal (3 each), and Bihar, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan (2 each). In the case of Telangana, the amalgamation of RRBs will be subject to bifurcation of assets and liabilities of Andhra Pradesh Gramena Vikas Bank (APGVB) between APGVB and Telangana Gramena Bank. "Given the rural expansion of RRBs and agro-climatic or geographical ethos and in order to retain the USP of RRBs viz the closeness to communities, it is the felt need to embark on further consolidation of RRBs towards the goal of 'One State-One RRB' so as to derive the benefit of scale efficiency and cost rationalisation," Department of Financial Services said in a communication to head of



state-owned banks. A road map has been prepared in consultation with NABARD for further consolidation which will bring down the number of RRBs to 28 from 43, it said. The Department of Financial Services has sought comments from the chiefs of sponsor banks of RRBs by November 20. The Centre had initiated structural consolidation of RRBs in 2004-05 which resulted in reduction of such institutions from 196 to 43 till 2020-21 through 3 phases of amalgamation. These banks were formed under the RRB Act, 1976, with an objective to provide credit and other facilities to small farmers, agricultural labourers and artisans in rural areas. The Act was amended in 2015 whereby such banks were permitted to raise capital from sources other than the Centre, states and

sponsor banks. Currently, the Centre holds 50 per cent in RRBs, while 35 per cent and 15 per cent are with the concerned sponsor banks and state governments, respectively. Even after stake dilution, the shareholding of the Centre and the sponsor public sector banks together cannot fall below 51 per cent, according to the amended Act. Earlier in June, two bank unions -- AIBOC and AIBEA -- had demanded the merger of RRBs with their respective Sponsor Banks to ensure overall efficiency and viability of the banking sector. The merger of RRBs with their sponsor banks will be a seamless technological transition, the All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC) and All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA) said in a letter addressed to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Swiggy seeks valuation of USD 11.3 Billion; IPO to open on Wednesday

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Food delivery and quick-commerce major Swiggy, which is coming out with its initial public offering (IPO) on Wednesday, is seeking a valuation of about USD 11.3 billion. The Bengaluru-based company is aiming to garner Rs 11,327 crore from the IPO, which will comprise a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 4,499 crore along with an offer for sale (OFS) of Rs 6,828 crore. Swiggy has set a price band of Rs 371 to Rs 390 per share for its maiden public issue. The issue will open for public subscription on November 6 and conclude on November 8. Speaking about the pricing, Swiggy Food Marketplace CEO Rohit Kapoor said, "We feel we have priced it right and we are looking forward to the next few days."



The valuation of Swiggy has been pegged at about USD 11.3 billion (about Rs 95,000 crore) at the upper price band. Rival Zomato, which went public in July 2021, has a market valuation of Rs 2.13 lakh crore. "Our pricing is in the range of Rs 371-390 which corresponds to a value of about USD 11.3 billion roughly. It is not exact because it depends on where the issue actually clears at the end of the day," Kapoor told PTI in an interview. Asked about media reports regarding slashing the valuation of Swiggy, Kapoor

clarified that there has been no lowering of valuation as the real value of the company is determined when the transaction actually happens. "This is all speculation in the media on what the value is. So the fact of the matter is, the value has not gone up or down. The value is exactly where it is supposed to be... I just want to set clearly on record that there has been no lowering of valuation per se. There was a discovery process and at the end of it, this is the price that we collectively feel very good about," he added. The issue comes amid a series of IPOs in the recent past, including South Korean car maker Hyundai's mega Rs 28,000-crore issue. Swiggy, founded in 2014, posted a loss of Rs 611 crore in the quarter ended June 2024, narrowing from Rs 564 crore in the same period last year.

Tenders floated to buy organic cow dung in Himachal

PTI ■ SHIMLA

Tenders have been floated for buying organic cow dung at Rs 3 per kg, and the successful bidders will also provide bags, transportation and stocking facilities, State Agriculture Minister Chander Kumar said on Tuesday. With a thrust on organic farming, hi-tech techniques will be used in agriculture to increase farmers' income, he said, adding that the monthly income of a farm family should be between Rs 20,000 to Rs 25,000 to sustain agriculture. The Congress party had promised to buy cow dung at Rs 2 per kg before the last assembly polls, but we do not wish to buy raw cow dung and would purchase organic cow dung for Rs 3 per Kg, he told PTI. Organic cow dung is a natural and nutrient-rich fertiliser



that can be used to improve soil health and plant growth. "Tenders have been floated for buying organic cow dung for Rs 3 per kg, and the company entrusted with the task would provide bags, fill and seal them besides providing transportation and stocking facility and would be paid Rs 4-5 per kg," he noted. The stocking of cow dung will also be done in Himachal Pradesh State Co-operative Marketing & Consumers Federation Ltd (HIMFED) godowns, and the deputy directors in all districts have been directed to bring in use the defunct agri farms, the minister said.

Will discuss impact of delayed paddy procurement with Agriculture Minister: Pralhad Joshi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Food Minister Pralhad Joshi on Tuesday said he will discuss with his agriculture counterpart the likely impact of delayed paddy procurement in Punjab on wheat sowing even as he assured farmers that the government will purchase "every single grain" brought to mandis. As the delay raises concerns about increased stubble burning by farmers rushing to clear fields before mid-November wheat sowing, Joshi said procurement remains the immediate



priority. "Now our priority is procurement. Stubble burning and wheat sowing is looked after by the ministry of agriculture," Joshi told reporters at the launch of Phase-II of wheat flour and rice under Bharat brand at a subsidised rate. "We will look into that aspect also. At present our priority is procurement. My major concern is farmers should not be worried at this moment," the minister said. On whether delayed wheat sowing could affect production, Joshi said: "I don't have details. In next

two-three days, I will meet agriculture minister. It is equally concerned to me as we distribute wheat through PDS." The minister said paddy procurement in Punjab has gathered pace, with single-day lifting reaching 6.29 lakh tonne on November 4 compared to 5.34 lakh tonne in the year-ago period. Total procurement has touched 98.42 lakh tonne so far against 119 lakh tonne last year. The shortfall of 20-28 lakh tonne was due to rains, he explained. The Centre remains committed to procuring the targeted 184 lakh tonne in the

ongoing 2024-25 marketing season, he added. "We will procure every single grain brought to mandis by the farmers," Joshi asserted. The government is purchasing 'A' grade paddy at the minimum support price of Rs 2,320 per quintal. It has already transferred Rs 20,557 crore as MSP payment through DBT to 5.38 lakh farmers. Asked about industry's demand to raise sugar's minimum support price, the minister said: "Their request is with the ministry. We will take a decision at an appropriate time."

IRFC records its highest-ever quarterly revenue at ₹6,900.20 Crore

PNs ■ NEW DELHI



Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited ("IRFC" or the "Company"), 'Mini-Ratna' Schedule-A Public sector enterprise under the administrative control of the Ministry of Railways, Government of India, holds a prominent position as the dedicated financing arm of the Indian Railways. IRFC registered with RBI as non-deposit taking Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC), and Infrastructure Financing Company (IFC), has reported its unaudited financial results (standalone) for the 2nd Quarter and Half Year ended 30th September 2024. During the period ending 30th September 2024, Company reported PAT at Rs. 3189.47 crore vis-a-vis Rs.

3095.86 crore reported in corresponding period in the previous year. The company posted profit growth of 4.41% for Q2 FY 2024-25 at Rs. 1612.65 crore vis-a-vis Rs. 1544.58 crore reported in Q2 FY 2023-24. The total income for the six-month ended 30th September 2024 grew by 1.70% and stands at Rs 13666.22 Crore as against Rs. 13437.91 Crore reported in corresponding period of the previous year. The total income for Q2 FY 2024-25 also grew by 2.04% and stands at Rs. 6900.20

September 2024 and your Company is consistently paying dividends and declared Rs 0.80 /share (at dividend rate 8%) Interim dividend for FY 24-25. Manoj Kumar Dubey, Chairman & Managing Director, IRFC, stated that IRFC will not only strengthen the financial ecosystem for Railway Infrastructure projects but is also making all efforts to diversify its lending portfolio as per current mandate into sectors with backward and forward linkage with Indian Railways. Further, IRFC has Sanctioned Rs 700 Crore funding under finance lease model to NTPC Limited (National Thermal Power Corporation) for 20 BOBR Rakes under the General-Purpose Wagon Investment Scheme (GPWIS) of the Ministry of Railways.

Paras Health recognised among India's top hospitals

PNs ■ NEW DELHI



Paras Health has received prominent recognition in the Times Lifestyle Survey 2024. Paras Hospitals in Gurugram ranked 4th nationally in Orthopedics among hospitals across India, a significant endorsement of Paras Health's commitment to delivering specialised, patient-centered care. Within the North Region, the Gurugram facility also earned the 3rd rank in Orthopedics and the top position in Faridabad & Gurugram City—a testament to the trust and reputation it has built in the field of musculoskeletal health. This national survey, conducted by Avance Insights Pvt Ltd, independently evaluated hospitals and clinics across

India in various lifestyle specialties, reaffirming Paras Health's prominent role in delivering exceptional, specialized care across Northern India. In the IVF and Fertility category, Paras Hospitals, Gurugram ranked 2nd in the North Region for multi-specialty hospitals, while securing the 1st position in Faridabad & Gurugram. This recognition reflects

Paras Health's dedication to providing reliable, quality gynaecology care and helping families on their journeys with compassionate medical support. In the category of Plastic Surgery: National Hospitals, Paras Hospitals, Sector-22, Panchkula, proudly secured the 6th rank, positioning it among the country's top healthcare institutions in this specialty.

IDFC FIRST Bank offer a real-time tracking service

PNs ■ NEW DELHI

IDFC FIRST Bank has become the first Indian bank to offer a real-time tracking service, in association with Swift, for money sent abroad. This is available on the bank's award winning Mobile Application and Internet Banking platforms. This marks a significant milestone in the Indian banking industry, demonstrating the Bank's commitment to delivering seamless and efficient banking solutions, reiterating its "Customer First" approach. Customers in India are used to digital payments through UPI or IMPS with real-time status updates and traceability on digital platforms.

TOP RANKED ERIGAI SI TO FACE GUJARATHI IN OPENING ROUND

PTI ■ CHENNAI

World No. 4 Indian chess grandmaster and top seed Arjun Erigaisi will open his Chennai Masters campaign against compatriot Vidit Gujarathi, starting here on Tuesday. Erigaisi will play for the first time in India after crossing the historic 2800 ELO ranking mark when he takes the board. The eight-player strong classical event will see Aravindh Chithambaram take on Iranian Amin Tabatabaei, Vachier-Lagrave Maxime will face Maghsoodloo Parham and American Grandmaster Levon Aronian will play Alexey Sarana in the opening round. The second edition of the seven round competition will also feature a Challengers event featuring female players for the first time. Organised by MGD1 with ChessBase India, and sponsored by the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu, the tournament will be held at the 1,100-seat Anna Centenary Library. The event will also feature two Indian women — Harika Dronavalli and Vaishali Rameshbabu. The Challengers participants,

CHENNAI GRAND MASTERS



will fight for a prize pool of Rs 20 lakh, with the winner taking home Rs six lakh and a direct berth in the Masters next year. In the Challenger category, Vaishali will take on Mendonca Leon Luke while Harika will play Pranav V. In the other two matches, Raunak Sadhwani will face off against Karthikeyan Murali while Pranesh M will play Abhimanyu Puranik. The Challengers event, which is introduced for this year, will give Indian prodigies the chance to compete in top-level tournaments. D Gukesh had won the inaugural edition last year but will miss this year's competition as he is preparing for the world championships title against Ding Liren of China.



Paris Olympics displaced nearly 20,000 people, local associations say

AP ■ PARIS

The report also notes that over 4,500 minors were among those displaced. French officials did not immediately respond to the group's estimate. The city imposed exceptionally strict security measures for the Games and notably the unprecedented opening ceremony all along the Seine River, which required a double-checked process and a QR code to attend. In August, Marc Guillaume, the prefect for the Ile-de-France region, which encompasses Paris, stated in a radio interview that eviction rates had not increased due to the Olympics and that every displaced individual was offered alternative housing. French President Emmanuel Macron also addressed the issue in August, claiming that France had successfully created a social legacy linked to the Olympics. "I'm not forgetting that we have succeeded in creating a social legacy for the Olympic Games, with more than 200 marginalised people who used to live on the streets around the venues now having a permanent home," Macron said at a conference on Aug 12, the day following the Olympics closing ceremony. In its report, the coalition is now advocating for a reevaluation of the Olympic hosting model, proposing a permanent site for future editions and more sustainable practices to mitigate the risk of displacements. Nearly 20,000 people were forcibly displaced in the Paris region, a coalition of more than 100 community groups said Monday. In its report, the group Le Revers de la Médaille, which translates as "the other side of the medal", claimed that 19,526 people were displaced from informal housing between April 2023 and September 2024 as part of what it calls "social cleansing" by authorities. The report notes that some people were evicted multiple times and, as a result, may be counted more than once. As the city prepared to host millions of spectators for the Games, facilities and infrastructure underwent significant renovation, which the report alleges included the eviction of migrants and squatters from visible locations near event venues. Paul Alauzy, spokesperson for Le Revers de la Médaille, claimed that there is direct evidence linking these displacements to Olympic preparations. "There are images, internal government documents, and eviction orders explicitly referencing the Olympics as justification," Alauzy said on Monday. The group's data highlights a surge in eviction operations - 260 between April 2023 and Sept 2024 - up 41% from the same period in 2021-2022.



Harry Wilson scores twice in injury time to give Fulham 2-1 win over Brentford

AP ■ LONDON

Substitute Harry Wilson scored twice in added time as Fulham rallied for a 2-1 home win over Brentford in the Premier League. Wilson came on in the 82nd minute and equalized in the second minute of injury time by meeting a cross from Adama Traore and, with his back toward the goal, flicking the ball inside the far post. He then netted the winner four minutes later with a stooping header from another cross from Antonee Robinson as Fulham was finally rewarded for its attacking play. Fulham had only been behind for 113 minutes in the league all season and controlled most of the early action, only for Brentford to take the lead in the 24th against the run of play. Sloppy play in midfield by Fulham gave the visitors possession and German midfielder Vitaly Janelt let fly with a shot from almost 30 meters out that flew inside Bernd Leno's left-hand post. Marco Silva's Fulham side pushed forward but never looked like scoring until Wilson's late double. The win lifts Fulham into ninth place in the league table while Brentford remains in 13th. "It's emotionally very tough right now," said Brentford coach Thomas Frank. "When you're leading in the 92nd minute, it's tough for us to even have a draw - and then we lose it. "On the day, Fulham were better but we showed a lot of resilience and defending. I thought that could give us the win but then there was an unbelievable touch from Wilson where 99 times out of 100 it doesn't go in.

Neymar picks up another injury in second game back from ACL tear

AP ■ RIYADH

Neymar picked up another injury in just his second game since returning from a 12-month absence as Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal defeated Esteghlal of Iran 3-0 in the AFC Champions League Elite. The Brazilian has only recently recovered from a torn ACL and came off the bench in Riyadh after 58 minutes. However, the 32 year-old forward had to come off with three minutes remaining, having seemed to pull up after stretching his leg out for the ball in the penalty area. Neymar has time to recover before his next game, however,



as he is not registered for the team's matches in the Saudi Pro League and the next fixture in the AFC competition is on Nov. 25. Aleksandar Mitrovic scored a hat trick for Al-Hilal, the four-time Asian champion which has now won all four games in the group stage. All three goals from the Serbian came from close range.

He opened the scoring after 15 minutes, added a second just after the half-hour mark and then completed his hat trick with 16 minutes remaining. Al-Hilal remains top of the 12-team group, where the top eight will advance to the Round of 16. It is above Saudi Arabian rival Al-Ahli on goal difference after the team from Jeddah thrashed Al-Shorta of Iraq 5-1 with former Liverpool forward Roberto Firmino scoring twice in the first half. Earlier, Al-Wasl of the United Arab Emirates drew 1-1 with Qatar's Al-Sadd and the game between Persepolis of Iran and Al-Gharafa of Qatar ended in the same scoreline.

ISL: FC Goa look to carry forward new-found confidence against in-form Punjab FC

PTI ■ MARGAO

Back to winning ways, hosts FC Goa will look to carry forward their new-found confidence and scale up the ladder when they take on Punjab FC in an Indian Super League match here on Wednesday. Both the teams are confident following their recent results. While FC Goa defeated Bengaluru FC 3-0 in their previous outing, PFC have won five of their last six matches. The Punjab side is placed third on the points table with 12 points from five fixtures, while FC Goa are ranked seventh, having accumulated nine points from seven games.

The Gaurs have found the back of the net on 12 occasions from inside the 18-yard box this season — most such strikes by any side this season — with Armando Sadiku (6) and Borja Herrera (4) scoring most of the goals. For Punjab FC, they should be wary of their backline, which has not been entirely sturdy this season. Against BFC, FC Goa forced 16 high turnovers (winning the ball back within 40 metres of the opposition's goal) — the most by any side in the ISL this season. Consequently, Punjab FC will have to be a well-oiled machine and fast-paced when it comes to passing, besides also



ensuring that the Goans don't dominate possession. Punjab FC have been on a tremendous run lately, with their only loss so far this season coming last month

against The Blues. While their vibrant forward line has played a prominent role to their success lately, they also need a well-coordinated performance from other departments. Punjab FC have had three big chances per game — the highest by any side in the ISL — with eight of their nine goals this season coming from these opportunities, exhibiting the swiftness of the forward line. The Gaurs have been dominant against Punjab FC in ISL, remaining unbeaten with one win and a draw in their last two face-offs. FC Goa head coach Manolo Marquez affirmed that his players must stay positive regardless of the result. "In my experience as a coach, you cannot be too negative or pessimistic if the team doesn't do well. Obviously, you can be angry, but I don't see much difference between the top teams and the teams below (in the table)," Marquez said. On the other hand, Punjab FC head coach Panagiotis Dilmperis admitted that he is wary of FC Goa's style of play, but was confident of his team's performance. "We will not adapt to them (FC Goa's playing style). We will play them to adapt to us. We don't care how they play other teams. We only care how other teams play against us," Dilmperis said.

Jhingan returns, Yadwad earns maiden call-up in India probables for Malaysia football friendly



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Seasoned defender Sandesh Jhingan, sidelined with a knee injury since January, is set for a comeback as he was on Tuesday named in a 26-member probables list for India's friendly match against Malaysia on November 18 in Hyderabad. Jhingan, who missed the Asian Cup and the remainder of the ISL season due to the injury, has been named in a

26-member probables list for India's home friendly against Malaysia, scheduled for November 18 in Hyderabad. The FC Goa center-back sustained an injury to his right knee during the first half of India's game against Syria in the Asian Cup, forcing him out of the tournament. Now fully recovered, his return is expected to strengthen India's defence. Mohun Bagan captain and defender Subhasish Bose was left out while Rahul

Bheke, who led the side against Mauritius in the Intercontinental Cup in September, retained his place. India head coach Manolo Marquez, still searching for his first win since taking over from Igor Stimac in July, has also given a maiden national call-up to promising forward Irfan Yadwad of Chennaiyin FC. The 23-year-old Goa-born forward has caught the attention of Marquez with a goal and two assists in seven

appearances for Chennaiyin FC in the ISL. He was roped in by Chennaiyin FC last year after a standout performance for FC Bengaluru United in the 2022-23 I-League 2, where he scored 13 goals from 11 matches. Farukh Choudhary, Yadwad's senior teammate, has also retained his spot in the squad. Additionally, Mohun Bagan's Anirudh Thapa and Lalengmawia Ralte (Apulia) made it to the probables list after missing out of the 23-member squad that travelled to Vietnam for an international friendly on October 12. In their last match on October 12, India managed a 1-1 draw against Vietnam. **INDIA PROBABLES**
Goalkeepers: Amrinder Singh, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and Vishal Kaith.
Defenders: Aakash Sangwan, Anwar Ali, Asish Rai, Chinglensana Singh Konsham, Hmingthanmawia Ralte, Mehtab Singh, Rahul Bheke, Roshan Singh Naorem and Sandesh Jhingan.
Midfielders: Anirudh Thapa, Brandon Fernandes, Jeakson Singh Thounaojam, Jithin MS, Lalengmawia Ralte, Liston Colaco, Suresh Singh Wangjam and Vbin Mohanan.
Forwards: Edmund Lalrindika, Irfan Yadwad, Farukh Choudhary, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Manvir Singh and Vikram Partap Singh.



Delhi, Karnataka, Bengal earn wins in Senior Men's National Hockey Championship

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Delhi, Karnataka, Bengal and Andhra Pradesh registered dominating wins on the second day of the Senior Men's National Hockey Championship here on Tuesday. Delhi hammered Jammu & Kashmir 6-0 in a Pool F match, thanks to goals from Nitesh (34th, 58th), Bharat (3rd), Govind Singh Bisht (14th), Mukul Sharma (21st) and Vikas Upadhyay (23rd). In Pool D, Karnataka ran over Chandigarh 5-1. For Karnataka, Mohammed Raheel Mousen (41st, 48th)

struck a brace while Surya NM (10th), Bharat Mahalingappa Kurtakoti (19th) and Manjeet (59th) scored a goal each. In another Pool D match, Uttarakhand secured a 5-0 win over Tripura following a walkover. In Pool H, Bengal routed Assam 10-0 with Raushan Kumar (10th, 12th, 30th) scoring a hat-trick. Captain Rajendra Oram (4th, 58th), Avoy Ekka (19th), Asem Lakra (20th), Milan Saha (31st), Sunil Jojo (41st) and Nitish Neupane (48th) are the other goal scorers. Andhra Pradesh decimated Andaman & Nicobar 13-0 in Pool C, with Lekalla Hitesh Rao (13th, 15th, 21st, 41st, 48th, 55th, 56th) scoring seven times. Rayudu Veera (5th), Harsha Kamal Teja (6th), Galla Siva Pramod (30th), Tatiparthi Aron Saroj (33rd), Maddimeni Rajesh (38th) and Venu Gorela Gopal (49th) scored a goal each. Meanwhile, hosts Tamil Nadu managed a 2-2 draw against Madhya Pradesh in their Pool C game. Love Kumar Kanojiya (35th) and Akshay Dubey (42nd) scored for MP, while Selvaraj Kanagaraj (42nd) and Shanmugavel S (53rd) found the net for TN.



श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी
माननीय प्रधानमंत्री



श्री विष्णु देव साय
माननीय मुख्यमंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़

राज्य अलंकरण एवं राज्योत्सव समापन समारोह

06 नवम्बर, 2024

राज्योत्सव स्थल, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, छत्तीसगढ़



मुख्य अतिथि
श्री जगदीप धनखड़
माननीय उप राष्ट्रपति

अध्यक्ष
श्री रमेन डेका
माननीय राज्यपाल, छत्तीसगढ़

अतिविशिष्ट अतिथि
श्री विष्णु देव साय
माननीय मुख्यमंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़

अतिविशिष्ट अतिथि
डॉ. रमन सिंह
माननीय अध्यक्ष, विधानसभा, छत्तीसगढ़



विशिष्ट अतिथि

श्री अरूण साव
माननीय उप मुख्यमंत्री
छत्तीसगढ़

श्री विजय शर्मा
माननीय उप मुख्यमंत्री
छत्तीसगढ़

श्री रामविचार नेताम, माननीय मंत्री
श्री दयाल दास बघेल, माननीय मंत्री
श्री केदार कश्यप, माननीय मंत्री
श्री लखन लाल देवांगन, माननीय मंत्री
श्री श्याम बिहारी जायसवाल, माननीय मंत्री
श्री ओ.पी. चौधरी, माननीय मंत्री
श्रीमती लक्ष्मी राजवाड़े, माननीय मंत्री
श्री टंकराम वर्मा, माननीय मंत्री
डॉ. चरणदास महंत, माननीय नेता प्रतिपक्ष
श्री बृजमोहन अग्रवाल, माननीय सांसद
श्री राजेश मणत, माननीय विधायक
श्री पुरन्दर मिश्रा, माननीय विधायक
श्री मोती लाल साहू, माननीय विधायक
श्री अनुज शर्मा, माननीय विधायक
श्री गुरू खुशवंत साहेब, माननीय विधायक
श्री इंद्र कुमार साहू, माननीय विधायक

एवं

समस्त माननीय सांसद, विधायक, निगम, मंडल, आयोग, जिला पंचायत के माननीय अध्यक्ष, उपाध्यक्ष एवं सदस्यगण, माननीय महापौर की गरिमामयी उपस्थिति में आयोजित है।

आप सादर आमंत्रित हैं...

हमने बनाया है, हम ही सँवारेंगे



सुसंवादी विष्णु देव साय से
सुख के लिए QR कोड स्कैन करें