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चौ. चरण सिंह अमर रहें

लोकदल जिन्दाबाद



चौ. सुनील सिंह
राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष



लोकदल

पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री एवं लोकदल संस्थापक किसानों के मसीहा

स्व. चौ. चरण सिंह जी

को सर्वोच्च सम्मान

'भारत रत्न'

मिलने पर सभी देशवासियों को

बहुत-बहुत बधाई एवं

प्रधानमंत्री

श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी

का बहुत-बहुत आभार

दिल्ली में किसान घाट पर जन
सेलाब लेकर पहुंचे चौधरी विजेन्द्र



किसानों का हक दिलाने की
लड़ेंगे लड़ाई: चौ. विजेन्द्र सिंह



मावे से बना केके काटकर लोकदल
ने मनाई चौ. चरण सिंह की जयंती



चौधरी चरण सिंह को शरण रख राममान की मांग के
लिए किसान घाट पर उमड़ा जन सेलाब



लोकदल के राष्ट्रीय महासचिव ने की चौधरी
चरण सिंह को भारत रत्न दिलाने की मांग



स्वर्गीय चौधरी चरण सिंह
को भारत रत्न की मांग



मैरे खुद का एक-एक कदम किसानों को समर्पित : विजेन्द्र सिंह



चौ. विजेन्द्र सिंह

राष्ट्रीय महासचिव-लोकदल

लोकदल से जुड़ने के लिए कॉल करें: 9760 693 127

Lokdalvijender vijendersinghlokdaL vijenderlokdaL Vijender Singh - Lokdal

निवेदक: प्रदेश कार्यकारणी लोकदल

Five confirmed dead in Haldwani riots, authorities confirm

CM takes stock of situation on ground, directs strict action against culprits

PNS ■ HALDWANI

The situation in Haldwani remained tense but under control on Friday, a day after riots by members of a particular community which left five dead and several injured. The Nainital district administration confirmed the death toll on Friday. Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami also reached Haldwani a day after the violence and took stock of the situation. Dhami also enquired about the condition of the police personnel, government and municipal corporation employees and the media persons who were injured in the violence which took place in the Vanbhulpura area on Thursday evening.

The chief minister said that all the video footage and clues related to those who have broken the law and damaged government property are available. The process of identifying all the miscreants involved in this riot is underway and strict legal action will be taken against them, he stressed. Earlier in Dehradun, the CM held a high-level meeting with the senior officials of the State administration and police. In order to ensure peace and law and order in Vanbhulpura area of Haldwani, the CM instructed the additional



director general of police (Law and Order) AP Anshuman to camp in the affected area. Taking strict cognisance of the violence and attack on the government employees, the CM has also given instructions to take strict action against the culprits. Dhami also appealed to the local people to maintain peace.

He stressed that no one will be allowed to tamper with the

law and order in the State. He said that the officials of the administration and police should remain alert at all times to maintain law and order in the area and strive to maintain peace and law and order in every situation.

Earlier, the district magistrate Vandana Singh informed the media that five persons had died in the violence which broke out after the authorities

started demolishing an illegally constructed Madarsa and Namaz site in the Vanbhulpura area. She said that the rioters had also attempted to burn the police personnel alive in the police station. Strict action was taken by the authorities to clamp down on the rioters. The situation is under control in Haldwani. Meanwhile, internet services, road and rail services were affected in the Haldwani area on Friday.

Bhatt terms Haldwani incident unfortunate, appeals all to maintain peace

Those supporting encroachments for political gains need to change view in State's interests

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Terming the Haldwani riot unfortunate, the Bharatiya Janata Party State president Mahendra Bhatt has appealed to all to main-

tain peace. He said that those who intend to mar the atmosphere with encroachment and illegal constructions will not be tolerated. Those who indulge in politics of supporting such illegal actions need to change their view in the interests of the State, he said.



them directly or indirectly. The people of Uttarakhand trust that the State government under chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami will

teach a lesson to each of the culprits involved in this incident so that nobody can dare to indulge in such acts in the future," he said.

He further said that the BJP has been clear on its stand that such encroachments and illegal constructions are part of the conspiracy to mar the atmosphere of the State and change its demography.

The opposition parties encouraged such activities for their vote bank politics and facilitated illegal settlements of a large number of people from outside the State. However, the BJP is committed to maintain the cultural identity of Uttarakhand and remove illegal encroachments from its lands. "This is why action against encroachment is being taken under the guidance of the court and the public is fully supporting the government in this. The riot in Haldwani has clearly shown how dangerous such encroachments can be for the law and order situation and demographic balance. All political parties should now support the government in the interests of the State," Bhatt said.

The manner in which the personnel of the administration, police and media were attacked in Vanbhulpura is highly deplorable. The strictest legal action should be taken against the accused culprits and those who supported

Haldwani violence: INDI Alliance demands removal of DM, SSP

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The INDI Alliance has demanded the immediate removal and suspension of the district magistrate and Senior Superintendent of Police of Nainital for their failure to prevent the Haldwani riot. The alliance has termed the Haldwani violence as highly deplorable and a distressing incident. A meeting of the alliance was held in the state headquarters of Congress party on Friday in which its leaders made an appeal to maintain communal harmony and peace. The leaders claimed that the unfortunate incident has occurred because of the laxity of the administration, apathetic attitude of the government and the failure of the local intelligence. The INDI bloc also demanded immediate suspension of the DM and SSP of Nainital. The alliance will organise a prayer meeting in front of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi on February 10.

The speakers in the meeting said that the Haldwani incident is an administrative failure. They said that the administration and the government deliberately created such a situation which resulted in the

incident. The leaders said that the general public, journalists and police personnel have been injured in the incident. The leaders were of the view that no one should be allowed to tamper with the law and the administration should take necessary steps to prevent repetition of such incidents in future. The leaders also criticised the BJP for engaging in petty politics on the issue. The leaders demanded that the government should order a judicial probe in the incident and take punitive action on those responsible for the incident. The alliance leaders said that hearing on a petition in the Malik farm case is scheduled on February 14 and the action taken by the administration on February 8 was done in haste and raises questions.

The vice president (organisation) Mathura Dutt Joshi, chief spokesperson Garima Dasuani, Communist Party of India (CPI) leader Samar Bhandari, CPI M leader RS Negi, CPI ML leader Indresh Maikhuri, AAP leader Uma Sisodia, Nirmala Bisht from Mahila Manch and others attended the meeting.

Police in high alert mode after Haldwani violence

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The police raised the level of alertness across the State following the violence in Haldwani on Thursday. Checks were stepped up in the border areas. In Dehradun, the senior superintendent of police Ajai Singh ordered all

visited the sensitive areas on Thursday night and issued necessary instructions to officials regarding security. On the directions of the SSP, the police force appointed in the office have also been ordered to remain in a high alert



the police stations in-charge to ensure security arrangements and intensive checking in the sensitive locations in their respective areas. He also

mode along with lathis and helmets round the clock in order to deal with any emergency situation.

Chief secretary reaches Haldwani, inspects affected area, instructs officials to maintain peace

PNS ■ HALDWANI

Chief secretary Radha Raturi reached the violence affected areas of Haldwani on Friday to take stock of the situation after riots broke out in the Vanbhulpura area of the city. She also visited the Vanbhulpura police station which was also attacked by rioters who attempted to burn the building when police personnel were in it. She issued strict instructions to the district administration and police officers to maintain law and order by taking the safety and peace of the general public as the top priority.



Raturi also visited the Sushila Tiwari hospital and met the injured and inquired about their health. The chief secretary also held a high level meeting with the deputy inspector general of police (Kumaon), Nainital district magistrate, the senior superintendent of police and other senior officials to review the

situation. Talking to media persons during her Haldwani visit, the chief secretary said that the situation is under control and normal. Strict action will be taken against the culprits, she said. Apart from the affected area of Vanbhulpura, teams of the district administration and

police have been deployed to ensure that such incidents do not happen in other areas. She praised the general public for maintaining peace in the area. Stating that the chief minister is also constantly monitoring the situation, Raturi appealed to the public to avoid rumours and

maintain peace. The officiating director general of police Abhinav Kumar, Nainital district magistrate Vandana, DIG Yogendra Rawat, SSP PN Meena and other officials were also present along with the chief secretary.

Haldwani violence affects tourist numbers in Nainital

Popular tourist spots wear deserted look

PNS ■ NAINITAL

The violence in Haldwani and the curfew imposed in the city since Thursday affected the tourist inflow in Nainital city on Friday. Those in the tourism related busi-

nesses in Nainital were hoping for good business from tourists on the weekend. However, the violence in Haldwani and restrictions imposed by the authority to maintain law and order also resulted in a drop in the number of tourists arriving here on Friday.



The number of tourists here were considerably less compared to the crowds that gather in the lake city for the weekend. Many of the popular tourist spots in Nainital and nearby areas wore a deserted look on Friday. Those in the tourism and hospitality business state that the number of tourists visiting Nainital had started to rise on the last weekend. They were expecting that the number of tourists would rise further on this weekend. However, the violence which left five dead and several injured in Haldwani also resulted in a drop in tourist numbers here. Even as tourist numbers remained low in Nainital city, the other popular tourist destinations nearby including Pangot, Khurpatal, Sattal, Ramgarh and Mukteshwar also witnessed a considerable drop in tourist traffic on Friday.

changed their plans to visit the lake city following the riot and restrictions imposed by the authorities in some parts of the district to maintain law and order. Meanwhile, the police were in an alert mode in the city. Police presence was seen near the local mosque and in some other areas of the city.

Temperatures remain below normal in Doon

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The maximum and minimum temperatures in the provisional State capital Dehradun remained a few notches lower than normal on Friday. However, sunny conditions provided relief from the cold during the daytime while the level of mercury dropped sharply after sunset. Similar conditions were experienced in some other parts of the State. The State meteorological centre has forecast that dry weather is likely to prevail in the districts of the State on Saturday. Dehradun is likely to witness a mainly clear sky with mist likely to occur in some parts during the morning hours. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be about 22 degrees Celsius and six degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun today. The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in various parts of the State on Friday were 21 degrees Celsius and 5.8 degrees

Celsius respectively in Dehradun, 20.6 degrees Celsius and 3.2 degrees Celsius in Pantnagar, 15.9 degrees Celsius and 4.5 degrees Celsius in Mukteshwar and 16.6 degrees Celsius and 4.5 degrees Celsius in New Tehri. The maximum temperature was one degree below normal while the minimum temperature was three degrees below normal in Dehradun. In Pantnagar, the maximum and minimum temperatures were two degrees and four degrees below normal respectively.

FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA
FCI RO Dehradun invites Online e-tender through GeM for appointment of HC Pithoragarh of Uttarakhand Region for a period of 02 years. The detailed NIT, MTF can be downloaded from GeM Portal (<https://gem.gov.in>) and <http://fci.gov.in/tender.php>. Date of floating of tender: 09.02.2024. Last date of Bid submission: 01.03.2024 upto 01:00 PM. General Manager (Uttarakhand)

Registration No: MSCS/CR/803/2013
Regd. Office: 604 A, Pearls Business Park, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034
Ph. No: 011-27355609, Email: info@kisanagrotech@gmail.com
Notice is hereby given that Annual General Meeting of the Members of M/s Kisan Agro-Tech Cooperative Society Limited will be held on Wednesday the 20th day of March 2024 at 11:00 am. at 604 A, Pearls Business Park, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034. We would further like to state that the email ID of the Society has been changed. Kindly take note of the updated email ID of the Society, i.e., info@kisanagrotech@gmail.com. You are requested to make it convenient to attend the meeting.
For Kisan Agro-Tech Cooperative Society Limited
Sd/-
Pawan Kumar Kaushik
Vice Chairman
Date : 07.02.2024
Place : New Delhi
NOTE: • A member is not entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of himself/ herself.
• Members are requested to immediately intimate any change in their address registered with the society.
• All the Statutory Registers can be inspected at the Registered Office of the society during the Business hours i.e. 09:30 AM to 05:30 PM.
Area's of Operations: Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)
Corporate Identity No. UA40109UP2015GG025867/2358, V.C.V. Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun-248001, Telephone: 0135-2763672-75, tender website : www.uktenders.gov.in

E-TENDER NOTICE
Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd. Dehradun invites e-tender of following works, as detailed below:-

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Tender Specification No.	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Cost of tender document including tax (In Rs.)	Last Date & Time of online request for Tender and Submission of tender in online & offline mode	Due Date of opening of Technical bid	Due Date of opening of Financial bid
1	Construction of Second floor above office block building at V.C.V. Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Dehradun	12/EE(CM)/2023-24	66000.00 In favour of Executive Engineer (HQ), UPCL, Dehradun	2360/- In favour of Executive Engineer (HQ), UPCL, Dehradun	23.02.2024 upto 17.00 hrs	24.02.2024 at 11.30 hrs	To be notified later

For further details please visit website www.uktenders.gov.in or contact on 9410393084.
No.: 82/EE(CM)/UPCL/A-2 Date : 09.02.2024 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (HQ)
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(For information on Electricity Theft, Informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 180 4185 / Fax No. 0135-2760911)

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
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Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Kanchan Lata Arya/ Manoj Kumar/ LBRUD00004838189	Plot No 30 Khasra No 91 Min, Village Matkota Rudrapur Distt Udham Singh Nagar Tehsil Rudrapur Uttarakhand- 263153/ February 08, 2024	September 02, 2023 Rs.32,27,852/-	Nainital/ Rudrapur

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgage properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date: February 09, 2024
Place: Nainital & Rudrapur
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited



OPINION 6
THE KILLING OF A PUPPY:
MURDER MOST FOUL

WORLD 9
MALAYSIA'S TOP COURT
INVALIDATES SHARIA LAWS

MONEY 10
UNCHARACTERISTIC OF NBFCs TO
SEEK BANK LICENCES: RBI

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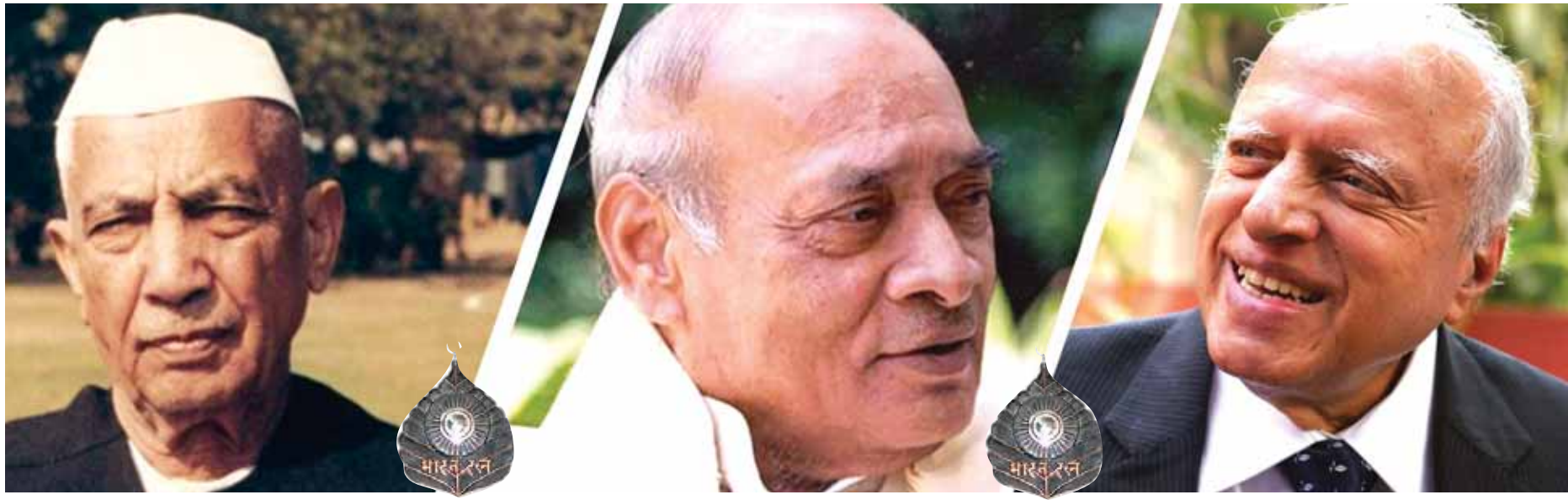
AYER UNLIKELY TO
BE PICKED FOR
LAST THREE TESTS
12 SPORTS

BHARAT HONOURS ITS RATNAS

After Advani, now former PMs Charan Singh and PV Narasimha Rao, Science legend MS Swaminathan

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Narendra Modi Government on Friday added three other national luminaries — former Prime Ministers PV Narasimha Rao, Chaudhary Charan Singh, and agriculture scientist MS Swaminathan — to the list of recipients of the Bharat Ratna awards, bringing the total number of announcements for the nation's highest civilian honour to five within a span of 15 days. The awards have been conferred upon distinguished personalities, including LK Advani and Karpoori Thakur, which has also changed political alignments ahead of the Lok Sabha polls as the NDA Government is betting on for a hat-trick. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that former Prime Ministers PV Narasimha Rao and Chaudhary Charan Singh, as well as agriculture scientist MS Swaminathan, will be honoured with the Bharat Ratna. Modi, who took to microblogging platform X to make the announcement, lauded the contributions made by the three awardees. Later, the Rashtrapati Bhavan in a press communique said the President has been



pleased to award Bharat Ratna to the three eminent persons. The Modi Government's move to recognise two stalwart politicians who came from non-BJP backgrounds is resonant with political and social messaging. It is expected to boost the BJP's efforts to present itself as a party that represents pan-India interests and aspirations and recognises leading people in different fields. Making the announcements for Rao, whose liberalisation

policies revolutionised the economy, Singh, a champion of farmer causes, and Swaminathan, a globally renowned agricultural scientist, Modi lauded their contributions to the country. The conferring of the highest civilian award to Singh, Rao, and Swaminathan is likely to make a big impact in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, particularly among farmers and Telangana. Today, the politically powerful Jats have the potential of influencing

results in nearly 40 Lok Sabha seats and around 160 Assembly seats, spread across UP, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Delhi. Rao was the Prime Minister from 1991 to 1996 and is known to be the man who heralded the economic liberalisation of India. Singh, a champion of workers and farmers' rights, briefly served as the Prime Minister in 1979. Swaminathan, a renowned scientist, is known as the architect of India's green revolution.

The decision stirred a range of reactions from political figures across party lines, including former Congress president Sonia Gandhi, who said she "welcomes" the announcement of giving the Bharat Ratna to Rao. The Government had earlier named former Bihar Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur, a champion of backward empowerment, and LK Advani, a founding BJP member credited with charting the course of its rise through the 1990s, for the

country's highest civilian honour. Modi has also sought to send the message that the ruling BJP, unlike its predecessors at the helm, is not guided by parochial politics in recognising contributions in public life, as the party looks to break new ground during the polls. At five, one more than the four announced in 1999, this is the maximum number of Bharat Ratnas announced for a year. Four of the five awards this year are posthumous.

Advani, 96, is the only one alive. "Narasimha Rao steered India through critical transformations and also enriched its cultural and intellectual heritage," Modi said in his social media posts. Rao's visionary leadership, Modi said, was instrumental in making India economically advanced and laid a solid foundation for its prosperity and growth. "Bharat Ratna to Charan Singh is dedicated to his incomparable contribution to

the country," the Prime Minister said. "Swaminathan made monumental contributions to the country in agriculture and farmers' welfare," Modi said. He played a pivotal role in helping India achieve self-reliance in agriculture and made outstanding efforts in modernising it, the Prime Minister said. Singh, a Jat leader from western Uttar Pradesh who was Prime Minister in 1979-80, was one of the pioneers of anti-Congress politics at a time when the party was a hegemonic political force. Congress leader Rao, a Telugu, who was Prime Minister for a full five-year term during 1991-96, is widely recognised for ushering in economic reforms. "It is our Government's fortune that Singh is being honoured with the Bharat Ratna, and it is dedicated to his incomparable contributions to the country," Modi said. Be it as an MLA, as Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, or the country's Home Minister, he always sped up the nation-building exercise and also stood strongly against the Emergency, he added. Then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had imposed the Emergency in 1975.

Haldwani remains tense

PTI ■ HALDWANI/NEW DELHI

Six rioters were killed in the violence that broke out over the demolition of an illegally built madrasa, officials said Friday as curfew remained enforced in Uttarakhand's Haldwani town. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami visited Haldwani, meeting some of the injured. He termed the violence a "planned attack", and said the stockpiling of arms, stones and petrol bombs suggested this. More than 60 people were hurt Thursday as local residents hurled stones and petrol bombs at municipal workers and the police, forcing many police personnel to seek refuge in a police station which the mob then set on fire. Seven people, including a journalist, were under treatment Friday at three different hospitals. Three of them were said to be in a serious condition. Others had been discharged. Altogether, six "rioters" were killed, Superintendent of Police (City) Harbans Singh told PTI. Uttarakhand DGP Abhinav Kumar on Friday said action under the stringent National Security Act will be taken against those who attacked police personnel and indulged in arson and vandalism in Haldwani. Haldwani's Banbhoolpura area looked deserted even on Friday.

Global record of voters in Lok Sabha 2024



RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Three times the population of the United States, which means 96.88 crore Indians, are enrolled to exercise their franchise to choose the next government at the Centre in the forthcoming general election. "The largest electorate in the world 96.88 crore are registered to vote for the forthcoming general elections in India," the Election Commission (EC) said. Over 2.63 crore new electors have been included in the electoral roll, with about 1.41 crore being women, surpassing the newly-enrolled male voters (1.22 crore) by over 15 per cent, according to the EC. There has been a six per cent increase in registered voters since 2019, when the last Lok Sabha polls were held. According to data shared by the EC, 1.85 crore voters have been identified as above 80 years of age, while the total number of "centenarians" stood at 2.38 lakh. The poll body considers those who are 80 years and above as senior citizens. As of February 8,

Uttar Pradesh has the maximum number of voters at 15.30 crore, while Lakshadweep has over 57,000 registered voters. Of the total voters, 49.72 crore are male and 47.15 crore are female. Over 10.64 lakh advance applications were received from those above 17 years of age for enrollment in the voters' list. People who are not yet 18 will automatically receive their voter identity cards once they attain the age of voting if they apply in advance. The poll body reported that the gender ratio also increased from 940 in 2023 to 948 in 2024. The number of third-gender voters increased from 39.68 thousand in 2014 to a little over 48,000. Simultaneously, more than two crore young electors, spanning the 18-19 and 20-29 year age groups, have been added to the electoral roll. The number of third-gender voters is 48,044. According to EC data, during the verification process, names of 1,65,76,654 deceased, permanently shifted, and duplicate electors

have been deleted from the voters' list. This includes 67,82,642 deceased voters, 75,11,128 permanently shifted or absent voters, and 22,05,685 duplicate voters. After months of intensive Special Summary Revision 2024 (SSR 2024) exercises and in preparation for the General Elections 2024, the Election Commission of India has published the electoral rolls in all States/UTs across the country, with January 1, 2024, as the qualifying date. This also includes the successful completion of the revision of electoral rolls in Jammu & Kashmir and Assam, following the delimitation of constituencies. "Over 2.63 crore new electors have been included in the electoral roll, out of which around 1.41 crore are female electors, surpassing the newly enrolled male voters (1.22 crore) by over 15 per cent. The Electoral Roll gender ratio has surged positively, indicating the growing role of women in shaping the democratic fabric of the nation," said the EC. "Special Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) were appointed at the constituency level to facilitate youth enrollment directly from educational institutions, fostering greater civic engagement among the younger populace," it said. "A commendable effort has been made to support Persons with Disabilities (PwD) by flagging around 88.35 lakh PwD electors in the electoral roll database, ensuring accessibility and inclusivity on polling day," it added.

Murder in Mumbai

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Hours after Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Abhishek Ghosalkar was shot dead during a Facebook live interaction with people in north Mumbai, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) targeted the BJP-led Government on Friday by going to town with the photographs of the alleged

killer Mauris Noronha alias Mauris Bhai with top leaders, including Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and former Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari. Amid appeals by Government not to politicise the murder of Abhishek Ghosalkar, the Opposition MVA charged that there was a breakdown of law and order in the State.

Pakistan in turmoil

PTI ■ LAHORE

Pakistan former premier Nawaz Sharif on Friday urged rival political parties to join hands to form a stable coalition Government to rebuild Pakistan, saying all institutions should together play a positive role in bringing the cash-strapped country out of its

difficulties. Addressing the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supporters at the party's central secretariat here, 74-year-old Sharif said his party respects the mandate of all parties, including the independent candidates backed by jailed former premier Imran Khan's party.

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CM bats for expediting execution of externally aided projects

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has said that the process of implementation of the externally aided projects (EAPs) should be expedited. He took a review meeting of the EAPs at the state secretariat on Friday. The CM said that better advocacy at the level of centre should be done of the projects pending there and their proposals should be sent to the resident commissioner. He said that the schemes having 90 per cent share of the centre and 10 per cent of the state should be taken up on priority. Dhami directed that the department concerned should coordinate with their corresponding department in the centre for their projects and for this the department secretaries should take up responsibility. In the meeting the CM reviewed the progress of EAP in the power, disaster management, rural development and finance departments and directed the secretaries to take regular review of the projects. The CM said that the effective imple-

mentation of Rs 274 crore world bank funded projects of the Central Water Commission for strengthening the dams and barrages in the State will help in improvement in management, control and monitoring mechanism of the Dams and barrages in the State. The power production will also increase from these projects. While reviewing the Uttarakhand Public Financial Management Strengthening (UKPFMS) project, the CM stressed the need for timely preparation of financial reports, making the internal audit system better, transparency in the budget and purchase process and preparation of annual financial statements. He said that coordinated efforts are needed for increasing tax collections. The UKPFMS project accounts for about Rs 274.5 crore which includes strengthening revenue management practices in the urban local bodies and the PSUs owned by the state.

The CM also stressed on

simplifying the financial assistance process at the level of procurement process and funding agency so that the projects are easily implemented. In the review of the Rural Enterprise Acceleration Project (REAP) the CM opined that the project will help in doubling the income of rural families and preventing migration from villages.

He said that the six year long and Rs 1,640 crore project will help in reducing the impact of environment change and disaster in the State. This project will also help in checking forest fires, strengthening of disaster management centres and development of infrastructure facilities in the State.

Secretaries R Meenakshi Sundaram, Radhika Jha, Dilip Jawalkar, Ranjit Sinha, Neeraj Khairwal, additional secretary Manuj Goyal and the managing directors of the three power corporations were present in the meeting.

U'khand to send 10 students to UK varsities under Chevening scholarship

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State government will select 10 students from the colleges of the state and send them to the universities of the United Kingdom under the prestigious Chevening international scholarship programme. Under the programme five girls and five boys would be selected from the colleges for post graduation in the UK. The head of Chevening India, Supriya Chawala held separate meetings with the chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and Education minister Dhan Singh Rawat here on Friday. She said that Chevening has been working in 16 countries for the last four decades and it helps students in getting admission in any university of the UK for higher studies. The cost of the study is about Rs 40 lakh per year. The State government bears 50 per cent of

this cost while the remaining 50 per cent is given by Chevening India. The students are selected on the basis of their leadership qualities and educational excellence. She claimed that the Chevening International has prepared many leaders and torch bearers of change in the world. Dhami said that the State government is making efforts to encourage the talented students. For promoting higher education, the State government has started a chief minister meritorious scholarship programme. Education minister Dhan Singh Rawat said that the scholarship is a good opportunity for the students to fulfil their educational and professional targets. He said Uttarakhand will take part in the scholarship programme of the Chevening International.

Health Excellence Award-2024 presented to SVIMS chairman

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Noted academicians and the chairman of the Shri Venkateshwara Institute of Medical Sciences and Multispecialty Hospital, Sudhir Giri was presented the Health Excellence Award-2024 in recognition of his outstanding work in the realm of medical treatment and health services on Friday. At a function held at Bharat Mandapam in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Mansukh L Mandaviya felicitated Giri with the award.



Lauding the work being done by him in providing free treatment and health services to the rural people from western Uttar Pradesh, Mandaviya said that robust health service for the rural people of the country is the keystone of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of developed India by 2047. Addressing the gathering, Giri said that his institution will always be found at the forefront of materialising the lofty vision of the Prime Minister in its entirety. Among the dignitaries present on the occasion was the pro-chancellor of Meerut-based Shri Venkateshwara University Ravej Tyagi.

Veterans celebrate golden jubilee reunion at IMA

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The army veterans belonging to the 33 Regular (24 NDA), 3 OTG, SSRC, Emergency Commission Course celebrated their golden jubilee reunion at the Indian Military Academy (IMA) on Friday. Twenty veterans accompanied by their spouses are attending the two day programme at IMA Dehradun. On February 9, 1964, a total 1,192 cadets passed out from IMA and became officers of the Indian Army. The ceremony began with wreath laying at the war memorial which is a mark of solidarity towards officers of the tri services. Air Commodore Peter Pinto laid the wreath on the war memorial on behalf of the course to pay respect to their brave comrades who have laid down their lives during the two wars of 1965 and 1974 and in various other battles against enemy forces in Kargil, Nathu La and Cho La. The officers came from all corners of the country and recalled the days spent in IMA that inculcated the finest qualities of leadership in them. The course has numerous achievements, honours and awards for bravery and distinguished service to its credit. Lieutenant general (ret'd) TS Shergil who was posted as commandant of IMA from 2001 to 2003 was also commissioned with this course and was present in the reunion event. He said that this was one of the rare courses to have passed out in the month of February and it was his privilege to command the passing out parade of 1,192 officers on February 9, 1964. The IMA commandant lieutenant general Sandeep Jain met the veterans over tea, where he and other officers posted at IMA got an opportunity to interact with the veterans and listen to their war episodes and stories.

Marengo Asia Hospitals & QAI to jointly set up CoE in quality & patient safety in stroke care

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Marengo Asia Hospitals and the Quality and Accreditation Institute (QAI) have joined forces to establish a centre of excellence in Quality and Patient Safety in Stroke Care at Marengo CIMS Hospital, Ahmedabad. The memorandum of understanding (MoU) for this collaboration was signed by MD and group CEO of Marengo Asia Hospitals Dr Raajiv Singhal and CEO of QAI BK Rana. The initiative involves collaborating with and benefiting nursing homes and clinics, incorporating them into the programme to position themselves as local hubs for primary stroke care management, linked with Marengo CIMS Hospital and QAI. Singhal



said, "In the critical domain of stroke management, the pursuit of excellence is a dedicated responsibility. We are actively engaged in building the capacity of stroke teams in these centres by providing training in clinical management of stroke patients and ensuring compliance with accreditation standards." Rana stated, "This one of its kind collaboration between the accreditation body and the healthcare service provider would set benchmarks and encourage more collaborations to support the government's policy on non-communicable diseases. This initiative is aimed towards achieving better clinical outcomes in stroke, capacity building, and establishing a network of competent stroke centres."

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-AUCTION NOTICE

The bids are invited from the registered entities on IREPS by Sr. DCM/Chg./MB(ACO) through e-auction on 23.02.2024 for the allotment of contracts for Rail Coach Restaurant, ATM, Pay & Use Toilet and parking at Railway Stations of Moradabad Division. The catalogues have already been published on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in and the complete details of e-auction are available at website www.ireps.gov.in.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 424/2024

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DEN/HQ/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against following tenders Nos. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Tender No. Date	281-DRM-MB-23-24	Date: 07.02.2024
Name of work	Construction of boundary wall near Station HQ/MB and its approaches as measure to safeguard track and establishment avoiding encroachment under DEN-HQ, Chargeable to Estimate no. 66/2019 (RRSK)	
Tender Closing Date & Time	04.03.2024	Tender Cost(₹)
Advertised Value(₹)	₹2,99,99,961.90	Earnest Money(₹)
Period of Completion	08 Months	Bidding Start Date
No. 75-W/23/MA/Publication	Dated: 07.02.2024	430/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

INDIAN AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE SPORTS CONTROL BOARD
RECRUITMENT OF OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FROM OUTSTANDING UNMARRIED MALE SPORTSMEN TO JOIN INDIAN AIR FORCE AS AGNIVEERVAYU (SPORTS) INTAKE 01/2024

DETAILED ADVERTISEMENT AVAILABLE ON [HTTPS://AGNIPATHVAYU.CDAC.IN](https://agnipathvayu.cdac.in)

ONLINE APPLICATIONS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED AT [HTTPS://AGNIPATHVAYU.CDAC.IN/CASBSPM](https://agnipathvayu.cdac.in/casbspm)

FROM 1000H ON 13 FEBRUARY 2024 TO 1700H ON 22 FEBRUARY 2024

CBC 10803/11/0011/2324

NORTHERN RAILWAY
(Moradabad Division)
Tender Notice

S N	Name of work with its location	App. Cost of the work (In Rs.)	Address of the office from where the tender form has been issued	Bid Security to be deposited (In Rs.)	Completion period of the work	Date & Time for submission of tender & opening of tender	Website particulars & Address of office
1	01/Sr.DEE/G/MB/2024/II Call:- Electrical work for provision of wiring as per new scale of fittings with other associated electrical works over Moradabad division	18462807.24 (Including GST)	Electrical Branch, Divisional Railway Manager's office, Northern Railway, Moradabad	242300.00	6 (Six) Months	Tender will be received upto 15.00 hrs and opened at 15.00 hrs on 04.03.2024	Website www.ireps.gov.in Divisional Railway Manager's office Northern Railway Moradabad.

Tender Notice No.: 06/2024 Dated : 09.02.2024 449/2024

Serving Customers With A Smile

Chola
E-AUCTION NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Mortgagee (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited the same shall be referred herein after as Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited. The Secured Assets will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis through E-Auction. It is hereby informed to General public that we are going to conduct public E-Auction through website <https://chola-lap.procure247.com>

Account No. and Name of Borrower, Co-Borrower, Mortgagees	Date & Amount as per Demand Notice U/s 13(2)	Descriptions of the Property/Properties	Reserve Price, Earnest Money Deposit & Bid Increment Amount (In Rs.)	E-Auction Date & Time, EMD Submission Last Date, Inspection Date
Loan No. X0HEHRA00001822267 Borrower and Co-borrower 1. VISHAL SHARMA 2. RAJESH KUMAR SHARMA 3. RASHEEM RANI R/O: House No. E-373/2, Subhash Nagar, Roorkee, 247667	10-06-2021, Rs. 40,59,218.92/- AS ON 09/06/2021 With Further Interest And Charges Thereon.	A Residential Property / Plot of Land Having Land Measuring In East -30 Feet, West-30 Feet, North 53 Feet And South 56 Feet Having Total Area Of 1635 Sq.Ft. i.e. 151.95 Sq.mtrs, Bounded In East-Property Of Gram Samaj West By Way 12 Feet Wide North By Property Of Shri Palah Singh South By Street 5 Feet Wide Belonging To Kharsa No. 27 M, Situated In Village Shafipur (now Within Limits Of Nagar Nigam Roorkee) Pargana & Tehsil Roorkee Distt. Haridwar.	Rs. 46,00,000/- Rs. 4,60,000/- Rs. 50,000/-	29-02-2024 at 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. 28-02-2024 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. As Per Appointment

THIS IS ALSO A STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 9(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

1. All interested participants / bidders are requested to visit the website <https://chola-lap.procure247.com/> & <https://www.cholamandalam.com/auction-notices>. For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact (Muhammed Rahees - 812240 00030), Ms.Procure247.; Contact Mr. Karan Modi, Apurva Patel Mr. Alpesh Borisa Cell No. 7016716557/ 9106196864, Email:- karan@procure247.com, apurva@procure247.com & alpesh@procure247.com

2. For further details on terms and conditions please visit <https://chola-lap.procure247.com/> & <https://cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notices> to take part in e-auction.

Date: 10-02-2024, Place: DEHRADUN, HARIDWAR M/S Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

Punjab & Sind Bank POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable property)

(Under rule 8(1) of security interest (Enforcement) rule, 2002)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised officer of the Punjab & Sind Bank, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under section 13 (1) read with rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagee and also owner of the property/surety to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rule. The borrowers/Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Punjab & Sind Bank, Ghat Road, Rishikesh (R0225), Branch for notice amount and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Sl. No.	Branch & Name of the Borrower/Guarantor	Description of the Immovable Property	Date of Demand Notice	Outstanding Amount
1.	Branch: Ghat Road, Rishikesh (R0225) Borrower: 1. Smt. Jasmine Rawal W/o Hemant Rawal, R/o 85 Rishikul New Basti Pargana Jwalapur Distt Haridwar Uttarakhand -249001 2. Co-Borrower: Sh. Hemant Rawal S/o late Shri Leela Dhar Rawal, R/o 85 Rishikul New Basti Pargana Jwalapur Distt Haridwar Uttarakhand -249001, and 3. Guarantor: Ram Kumar Verma S/o Prem Chand Verma R/o Sushila Bhawan Dev Pura Rishikul New Basti Jwalapur Distt- Haridwar Uttarakhand-249001	A) Details of the Immovable Property: Equitable mortgage of Immovable property i.e. Flat at 1st Floor F-4, Constructed on Part of plot no. 15 Kharsa no-164 having area 987.13 Sq.ft covered area 1058 sq. ft. situated at Prushatam Vihar Colony Phase-2, Shekhpura Kankhal Pargana Jwalapur Distt. Haridwar belonging to addressee No. 1. B) Details of Title deed(s): Title deed no-8786 Bahi No. 1, Zild no. 2836 page no. 233 to 250 dated 18 November 2013 in the name of Smt. Jasmine Rawal, Registered at Tehsil & Distt. Haridwar. C) Property Bounded as: North: Plot No-16, West: Plot no. 11, East: Rasta 20 ft wd., South: Plots No. 12, 13, & 14	25.08.2023	Rs. 13,19,250.20/- and interest thereon costs etc. w.e.f. 01.08.2023

Date: 09.02.2024 Place : Rishikesh Authorised Officer, Punjab & Sind Bank

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS) STN HQ, JOSHIMATH
PHONE NO - 9760360304, e-mail - stnhqjoshimath2023@gmail.com

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

1. ECHS invites applications to engage following Medical, Para Medical & Non-Medical staff on contractual basis in ECHS Polyclinic Karanprayag, Rudraprayag, Uttarkashi & Joshimath, for a period of one-year renewable for additional period of one year/till attaining the maximum age subject to performance of candidates/other conditions according to the criteria as mentioned against each post: -

Appointment	Min Qualification	Vacancy in ECHS Polyclinics				Fixed Remuneration
		Karan-prayag	Rudra-prayag	Uttar-kashi	Joshi-math	
Officer-in-Charge	Graduate, Min 5 yrs work experience in Health care institutions or Managerial Positions.	01	-	-	-	75,000/-
Medical Officer	MBBS, Min 5 yrs work experience after internship, Preferable addl Qualification in medicine/surgery	-	01	01	-	75,000/-
Nursing Assistant	GNM Diploma/Class 1 Nursing Assist Course (Armed Forces), Min 5 Yrs work experience	-	-	-	01	28,100/-
Clerk	Graduate/Class I Clerical Trade (Armed Forces), Min 5 Yrs experience	-	01	-	-	16800/-
Driver	8 th Class, Class I MT driver (Armed Forces) Posses a civil driving license. Min 5 yrs of experience.	-	01	01	-	19,700/-
Chowkidar	8 th Class/GD Trade for Armed Forces personnel	-	01	-	-	16800/-

2. For Terms & conditions, Application Form and Remuneration - Kindly see our website www.echs.gov.in. For additional details please contact, Stn HQ Joshimath (ECHS Cell) Mob No 9760360304 & e-mail ID stnhqjoshimath2023@gmail.com. Also approach concerned ECHS Polyclinic for details. Preference will be given to Ex-servicemen.

3. Last date of receipt of application as per format given in website - Application as per requisite format alongwith self-attested photocopies of testimonials in sport of Educational Qualifications and Work Experiences will be submitted to OIC, Stn HQs (ECHS Cell) Joshimath by 12 Mar 2024 by 1700 hrs in duplicate. Any application received after 02 Mar 2024 will not be accepted.

4. Interview Date, Timing & Venue. The interview will be conducted online on 12 Mar 2024 commencing at 1000hrs. Candidates must submit original certificates/Mark Sheets/Degree of 10/Matric, 10+2 & Graduation/Post Graduation/Diploma/Course, Work Experience and Discharge Book, PPO, Service Records and 02 PP size colours photographs. No TA/DA is admissible. Only candidate meeting the Qualitative Requirements may apply.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS PUBLIC NOTICE

To Whomsoever it may concern This is hereby informed to all that I have changed my name from Meera Chaudhary (old name) to Chaudhary Meera Singh (New Name). In future, I shall be known by my new name i.e. Chaudhary Meera Singh D/o Mr Siddhartha Chaudhary, Address: 227, Rajpur Road, Kishanpur, Dehradun.

I, DURGA DEVI W/o Army No.2806669W, NK ATUL KUMAR SHARMA, Vill- Mukundpur, Post-Mukundpur, Teh.-Amarpatan, Dist.-Satna, Madhya Pradesh-485775. I have changed my name DURGA DEVI to DURGA VATI SHARMA inclusion of the middle and last name, as per my Aadhar No.21292779733 vide affidavit sworn before notary and advocate Sanjeev Kumar dated 09.02.2024 UK.GOI

I, KAVITA W/o Army No.2804351A, HAV TEMKAR BALASAHEB NAMDEO, Vill-B H O S E, Post -Vaiju Babulgaon, Teh.-Pathardi, Dist.-Ahmednagar, Maharashtra-414106. I have changed my name KAVITA to KAVITA BALASAHEB TEMKAR inclusion of the middle and last name, as per my Aadhar No.738182768676 vide affidavit sworn before notary and advocate Sanjeev Kumar dated 09.02.2024 UK.GOI

The general public is informed that I have changed my name from Afroz Jahan Ansari to AFROZ JAHAN. In future I should be known and recognised as Afroz Jahan, address: 6 Suman Nagar Rajpur, Dehradun.

The general public is informed that I have changed my name from Rohan (old name) to Rohan Sappal (new name). Let me be known as Rohan Sappal (new name) S/O Girish Sappal in future. Address Ward No. 07, Pandit Devdutt Marg, Vikasnagar, Tehsil Vikasnagar, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मैंने अपना नाम MANMEET SINGH (पुराना नाम) से बदलकर MANMEET SINGH KHANUJA (नया नाम) कर लिया है। भविष्य में मुझे MANMEET SINGH KHANUJA (नया नाम) S/O BHARPOOR SINGH के नाम से जाना पहचाना जाए। पता : Wing-4, Hno. 10/2, Premnagar, DehraDun, 248007

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मैंने अपना नाम पुनम मनमोहन सकलानी से बदलकर पुनम सकलानी (PUNAM SAKLANI) कर लिया है। भविष्य में मुझे पुनम सकलानी (PUNAM SAKLANI) पुनो मनमोहन सकलानी के नाम से जाना पहचाना जाये, पता बच्च राहुल कोठीयाल अवर राजीव नगर (धर्मपुर डाडा) P. O. नेहरू ग्राम देहरादून 248001उत्तराखण्ड

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sh. Bishwajit Sen alias Bishwajit Sengupta son of late Ranjeet Sen alias Baljeet Sen resident of 53-F, Rajpur Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. A registered Sale deed of land situated at village Jakhna, Dehradun dated 17.06.1970 in the name of my father late Ranjeet Sen alias Baljeet Sen son of Sh. Rajendra Nath Sengupta which is duly registered in the office of Sub-Registrar, Dehradun in Book No.1, at pages 204 to 205 as serial No.3372 dated 08.07.1970. This original sale deed has been lost somewhere and could not be traced after due search. If some finds it, this should not be misused and be informed at my contact No.931314151.

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सावधानता के साथ सूचित है कि श्री भूमि खाला स.-497 (फसली वर्ष 1394 से 1399) के खररा नं.-122 मि. रकबा 150.55 वर्गमीटर मौजा-से.सो.टा. पारना पञ्चानन्द, नहलील विकासनगर, जिला देहरादून उत्तराखण्ड, में स्थित है, जिसका इन्द्राज उप-निबन्धक विकासनगर प्रथम, के कार्यालय में बही नं.-1 जिल्द 1763 के पृष्ठ 167-192 क्रमांक 2697 पर दिनांक 11.04.2016 को विधिवत दर्ज व अंकित है। उक्त भूमि प्राथिनी ने बजारिये पंजीकृत विक्रय पत्र श्रीमती नीलम सिंह पत्नी श्री विवेन्द्र सिंह से क्रय की थी जिसके बाद से प्राथिनी इस भूमि को एकमात्र मालिक, स्वामिनी, काबिज अधिकारी है। श्रीमती नीलम सिंह ने उक्त भूमि इससे पूर्व श्रीमती भार्गवी देवी पत्नी स्व. मदन लाल द्वारा मुक्ताराम 1. श्री केशिराम व 2. श्री किशन लाल पुत्राग्राम स्व. मदन लाल से दिनांक 09.04.2013 को पंजीकृत विक्रय पत्र द्वारा क्रय की थी, जिसका इन्द्राज श्रीमान उप-निबन्धक विकासनगर प्रथम, के कार्यालय में बही नं.-1 जिल्द 2487 के पृष्ठ 249-268 क्रमांक 2860 पर दिनांक 09.04.2013, को विधिवत दर्ज व अंकित है, वास्तव में कहीं पर खो गया है। उक्त विक्रय पत्र को किसी भी प्रकार का अनाधिकृतिक विक्रय नहीं रखा है। जिस किसी को आपतित हो वह प्रकाशन के बाद 7 दिनों के भीतर सम्पर्क करें। शम्मी टंडन (अधिकृत) सिकिल कोर्ट कम्पाउंड, देहरादून मो: 9897006975

Disclaimer

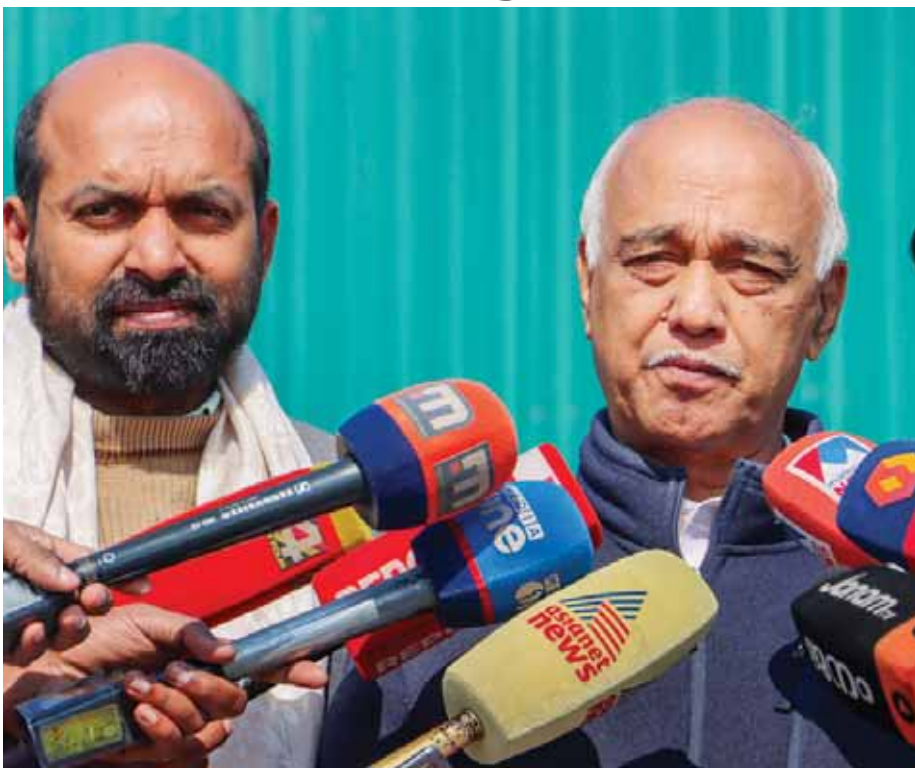
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Protest in Delhi not against Centre: CPM

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Within 24 hours of staging a "massive demonstration" at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi against the Centre, the CPI (M) made a turn-around by Friday and said the agitation was not against the BJP Government but was to highlight the plight of Kerala's financial position. Saji Cherian, the CPI(M) minister for culture and youth affairs, who is described as the loud speaker of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, told media persons at Thiruvananthapuram that the Jantar Mantar sit-in was to protest against the discrimination shown by the Centre towards Kerala. "The Kerala economy is in ruins as the Centre is throttling the avenues of the State's financial resources. It was not at all a political agitation," said Cherian. He said the Kerala Government was finding it impossible to disburse welfare pension to the aged and infirm due to shortage of funds. "There are many people staging sit-in demonstrations across the State because they are not getting their pension. All I could tell them is to stop this gimmick and go home. When we get the funds, we will disburse the pension," said the minister. Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition V D Satheshan



CPI(M) MPs address a Press conference in New Delhi on Friday

PTI

and senior Congress Leader Ramesh Chennithala termed Thursday's Jantar Mantar sit-in by Vijayan and his ministers as an attempt to trick the people. "You cannot dump all the blame for the State's financial position on the Centre and escape from the charges of poor financial management. Corruption, nepotism and showering

party cadres with cash and kind are the reasons for the current economic ills of Kerala," said Satheshan. But Cherian said that Satheshan does not know anything about economy and financial management. "You need not give any importance to his allegations," said Cherian. The minister reiterated that there was no

politics behind the demonstration. But Pinarayi Vijayan, in his speech at New Delhi had said that only a collective of opposition parties could dislodge the BJP Government at the Centre. "All of us should come together and fight unitedly against the Modi administration to save

federalism and pluralism," the chief minister had said. Saji Cherian also lambasted finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman for her statement in Rajya Sabha on Thursday. "She does not know economics and is telling wrong details," charged Cherian. The finance minister has said in the House that the BJP Government at the Centre had disbursed 224 per cent more than what was given to Kerala by the previous UPA Government (2004-2024). While the UPA Government had reimbursed to Kerala Rs 46,303 crore as tax revenue during its decade long regime, the BJP Government reimbursed Rs 1,50, 140 crore during 2014-2024," Sitharaman had said while speaking on the union budget 2024-2025. Former Central GST Superintendent J Somasekharan Pillai, an authority on taxation related laws, told The Pioneer that the current financial woes of Kerala is a result of wanton wastage of public money by holding Loka Malayali sabha, Nava Kerala Sadass and Keraleeyam, which are of no values and significance. Corruption and misuse of power has reached at its zenith during the last seven years of CPI (M) rule," said Pillai who added that he could not find out any wayward expenditure made by the Central Government since 2014.

Panel suggests ways to improve CGHS for better medical facilities

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a country where equitable healthcare access is vital, the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) set-ups across the country face a daunting challenge: Staffing shortages and operational hurdles as revealed by a Parliamentary panel in its report which was tabled in Parliament on Thursday. Led by MP Bhubaneswar Kalita, it has suggested an array of recommendations to improve functioning of the CGHS for better medical facilities to the beneficiaries which include government staff and serving/retired Central Government employees, their dependents, sitting and former Members of Parliament, freedom fighters, and such other beneficiaries as notified by the Government. The panel noted that due to the deficit of doctors, paramedics, and administrative staff was leading to long waits and compromised care at the CGHS centres, "the Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry expedite the recruitment process and fill up all vacant positions. To ensure an adequate doctor-to-patient ratio in all CGHS wellness centres, the



recommendations of SIU may be implemented expeditiously." "Based on the total number of beneficiaries being served by a Wellness centre, minimum criteria for doctors to see the patients per day may be fixed and strictly adhered to," said the panel. It also pointed out that the distribution of wellness centers (340 in total) is heavily skewed, with the Delhi NCR region claiming a disproportionate share at 26 per cent. Further, only six states (excluding the Delhi NCR region) have more than 10 CGHS centres while Arunachal Pradesh and the UTs of Ladakh, Andaman and Nicobar islands and Lakshadweep have no CGHS wellness centres. The panel also flagged delays in medicine procurement and lapses in supplier contracts compounding beneficiaries'

woes. It has advocated for streamlined procedures and local procurement to ensure uninterrupted supply. Revealing that it has received several complaints regarding the quality of the drugs, the panel has called for setting up a mechanism ensuring rigorous testing of medicines through any third independent NABL accredited laboratory. It also suggested steps to ensure ambulance service at all the Wellness Centres so that the patient can be taken to the higher medical centre promptly for emergency treatment. "The Ministry should also prepare a model list of essential services and equipment that all CGHS wellness centres should have available," the panel said and also stressed the need to empanel good hospitals in CGHS and at least 2-3 hospitals in each district. The report also delved on supply of medicines, noting that these were often not procured promptly, causing inconvenience to the beneficiaries. In many cases, the bid/contract of the suppliers is not renewed well in time, and the dispensary is not in a position to supply the medicines, it said and called for probing into the matter.



Nagaland to hold consultative meeting on India, Myanmar border fencing

PTI ■ KOHIMA

The Nagaland government has decided to hold a meeting with tribal bodies and civil society organisations on the Centre's decision to fence the Indo-Myanmar border and abolish the Free Movement Regime (FRM) between the two countries. Interacting with media persons on the sidelines of a programme in Phek district on Friday, Deputy Chief Minister Y Patton said that the state cabinet took the decision on February 8. Asked about the date of the meeting, Patton said it would be held at the earliest. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio had recently said that consultations with civil society organisations are required before implementation of the Centre's decision, as many Naga people of the state have properties on the other side of the international border. Union Home Minister Amit

Shah on Tuesday announced that the Central government decided to fence the over 1600 km stretch of the Indo-Myanmar border falling in the North East, ending the Free Movement Regime up to 16 km. Four northeastern states — Arunachal, Manipur, Meghalaya and Nagaland — share a border with Myanmar. The NSCN-IM which is negotiating with the Centre on the Naga political issue has stated that the decision cannot be accepted. Various other Naga civil societies, tribal organisations, Naga political groups and also Chief Angh (King) of Longwa Village in Mon district, whose house has been divided into two nations, have also objected to the decision. The Naga Students' Federation (NSF), a major student body in the state, on Thursday appealed to the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to intervene on the matter.

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Assam Health Minister Akshab Mahanta on Friday said that the state has registered an increase in the number of HIV-AIDS cases, with injecting of drugs being the main cause. He affirmed in the assembly that the government, with help from NGOs, has been working with HIV-positive persons. However, the details were not disclosed to maintain the anonymity of the patients. Congress MLA Sibamoni Bora raised the matter of the prevalence of HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) patients in the state during Question Hour, claiming that there has been a spike in fresh infections. She claimed that around 50 per cent of the drug peddlers are themselves infected.

Rise in HIV infections in Assam due to injecting of drugs: Minister

Bora alleged that the government has been less focused on spreading awareness of HIV since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mahanta, in his reply, said that 31,729 HIV-AIDS cases were detected in the state from 89,84,519 tests conducted between 2002 and 2023. "In 2023, till December, 9,90,372 tests were conducted, of which 5,791 were found positive. Yes, there has been an increase and we are working to check it," he added. The minister said the government was working in close coordination with NGOs also, especially in providing care to infected people, and



creating awareness among vulnerable sections. "But we cannot specify the work being done, we can only give you figures," he added, indicating the need to maintain confidentially in

dealing with HIV-AIDS cases. He said transmission of the virus through injecting drugs accounts for the highest number of new cases currently. "The state government has

already launched a drive against illegal drugs. But we have more to achieve to stop it altogether," he said. Mahanta maintained that the state's position as a transit point for the rest of the Northeast also makes its populace more vulnerable, while treatment of patients from other states in Assam further leads to an increase in the state's overall tally. He said the state government has been providing all facilities for testing, counselling and treatment at different government-run and other health centres as well as in vulnerable places such as prisons. BJP legislator Rupak Sharma, also participating in the discussion, maintained that the number of HIV-AIDS cases in the state could record a further increase if more tests are conducted.



Bilkis case convict out on 5 days parole

PTI ■ DAHOD (GUJARAT)

Days after convicts in the Bilkis Bano case surrendered before jail authorities on Supreme Court orders, one of them has been given a five-day parole by the Gujarat High Court due to the death of his father-in-law, a police official said on Friday. Convict Pradip Modhiya, a resident of Dahod district, has been released from Godhra district jail on parole. The Supreme Court had last month quashed the remission of sentence of all 11 convicts in the 2002 post-Godhra riot case of gangrape of Gujarat woman Bilkis Bano and murder of her seven relatives. "The Gujarat High Court has given a five-day parole to one convict Pradip Modhiya due to the death of his father-in-law. This is between the court and jail as they are in judicial custody," Deputy Superintendent of Police of Dahod district Visakha Jain said. "He does not have to report to the police," she said. Sources in Godhra district jail, where the convicts are lodged, said they have released Modhiya on parole on the High Court orders. Judge M R Mengdey allowed a five-day parole for Modhiya instead of one month sought by him in his application filed before the HC citing the death of his father-in-law. In August 2022, the 11 convicts, serving a life sentence, were granted premature release from jail after the Gujarat government accepted their remission applications in accordance with its 1992 policy, citing their 'good conduct' during imprisonment. The convicts hail from Singvad and Randhikpur villages under Singvad taluka of Dahod district neighbouring Panchmahal district, where Godhra is located. The top court had on January 8 annulled the remission the Gujarat government had granted to the convicts while slamming the state for being "complicit" with an accused and abusing its discretion. The SC then ordered the convicts, who were released from Godhra district jail on Independence Day in 2022 after being in prison for 14 years, to go back to jail within two weeks. They surrendered before Godhra jail authorities on January 21.

Chhattisgarh to rename mega religious congregation at Rajim town as Rajim Kumbh (Kalp) Mela

PTI ■ RAIPUR

The BJP government in Chhattisgarh on Friday decided to rename the mega religious congregation held in Rajim town during Mahashivratri as 'Rajim Kumbh (Kalp) Mela', which had acquired the name 'Rajim Maghi Punni Mela' during the previous Congress regime, officials said. The decision was taken at a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai here on the Chhattisgarh Assembly premises. Rajim is a popular historical pilgrim site located on the bank of

Mahanadi river in Gariaband district adjoining Raipur district. People visit the place to take a holy dip in the river on different occasions. A mega congregation, attended by lakhs, is held there during Mahashivratri every year. The cabinet has decided to restart the Rajim Kumbh (Kalp) Mela to restore the glory of Rajim, a town of historical and cultural importance in the state. Rajim Kumbh (Kalp) Mela will be organised in place of Rajim Maghi Punni Mela, an official statement said. The cabinet has approved the draft of 'Chhattisgarh Rajim



Maghi Punni Mela (Amendment Bill 2024) to amend the Chhattisgarh Rajim Maghi Punni Mela Act, 2006, it said. With the resumption of the Rajim Kumbh (Kalp) Mela, the fair will gain attraction at the

national and international levels. Besides, cultural and religious tourism will get a boost in the state, the release said. In 2019, the then Congress government in the state changed the name of the religious fair to

Rajim Maghi Punni Mela from Rajim Kumbh on the grounds that its ancient name was Rajim Maghi Punni Mela, which was changed by the BJP government in 2006. The BJP returned to power in the state after the recent Assembly elections. To prevent and control water pollution in the state and maintain the purity of water, the cabinet has also decided to bring a resolution in the Assembly in connection with the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill, 2023, brought by the Government of India, it added.

Bihar BJP MLAs to attend two days training camp

PTI ■ PATNA

Bihar BJP legislators will attend a two-day workshop at Bodh Gaya where training will be imparted for the crucial assembly session commencing with the trust vote for the NDA government in the state. Bihar BJP president Samrat Choudhary confirmed that MLAs and MLCs have been asked to attend the two-day workshop at Bodh Gaya which will conclude on February 11, a day ahead of the commencement of the much-awaited budget session. Choudhary, who is also a Deputy Chief Minister, did not divulge much details about the workshop. However, party sources speaking on condition of anonymity said the workshop has been "necessitated by an unprecedented situation in the state, where a newly formed alliance will be facing general elections". "Yes, it's a two-day (February 10 and 11) workshop which will be attended by party legislators in Bodh Gaya. Party's central leaders will brief our legislators during the two-day event", Choudhary told PTI. Commenting on the development, a party legislator, on condition of



anonymity, said, "There will be different sessions during the two-day workshop. All 78 party MLAs will be provided political tips by our Central leaders keeping the crucial assembly session in mind. It is just like two days of training of party MLAs ahead of the trust vote". The BJP found itself back in power in Bihar last month when old ally Nitish Kumar quit the opposition bloc INDIA and returned to the NDA. The newly formed NDA government will seek trust vote on February 12, when the state assembly's budget session commences. The Nitish Kumar-led government has a majority with 128 members supporting the BJP-JD(U) led

combine. The magic figure for the majority is 122 in the 243-member Bihar Assembly. After the exodus of JD(U), the strength of the Grand Alliance has been reduced to 114. Meanwhile, commenting on BJP's two days training camp for its MLAs in Bodh Gaya, Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee Spokesperson Asit Nath Tiwari said, "This exercise of the BJP is simply to save the newly formed NDA government in Bihar by keeping its MLAs intact ahead of the crucial trust vote. This is basically 'operation save the lotus' ". "Since a section of BJP MLAs are not happy with the party joining hands with Nitish Kumar's JD(U) this time, top saffron leaders want to convince those legislators ahead of the crucial trust vote. They (BJP MLAs) will be virtually held captive during two days camp", said Tiwari. Reacting to the Congress leader's comment, Bihar BJP Spokesperson Manoj Sharma, told PTI, "The training camp has nothing to do with the trust vote at all. The NDA government will easily win the vote of confidence on February 12. It's quite simple. The training camp for party MLAs is being organised keeping the parliamentary polls in mind. "The new NDA government in Bihar was formed only in January, which has left very small time for making preparations for the parliamentary polls. Issues related to Lok Sabha polls will be discussed during the two-day session".

Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project to finish by December 2027: Minister

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Minister M B Patil on Friday said the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project is expected to be completed by December 2027. The Minister was speaking to reporters here at the signing of the MoU between the Karnataka government and the KfW Development Bank of Germany for funding the BSRP project. The bank will lend Rs 4,561 crore at an annual interest rate of four per cent interest for 20 years. N Manjula, Managing Director of K-RIDE (Rail Infrastructure Development Company-Karnataka), which is the nodal agency to complete the project, and Wolf Muth, Country Director, KfW Development Bank signed and exchanged the documents in the presence of Patil, who holds the infrastructure development portfolio. This is the supplementary agreement between Germany's KfW Development Bank and K-RIDE followed by the primary agreement on December 15, 2023 between the Department of Economic Affairs of the Government of India and KfW for the disbursement of Rs 4,561 Crore. "We intend to complete all the four corridors by December 2027," the Minister said. According to him, the funding is for Corridor-1 from Bengaluru City Railway Station to Devanahalli and Corridor-3 from Kengeri to Whitefield.



"We have not yet started Corridor-1 and Corridor-3 for want of funds. Now that we have got funds we will take up the project," the minister explained. Phase one of Corridor-2 from Chikkabanavara to Yeshwantpur will be completed by June 2025 and phase two from Yeshwantpur to Benniganahalli will be finished by June 2026. From Benniganahalli to Rajanukunte stretch under Corridor-4 will be completed in December 2026, Patil said. Corridor-1 has been split into two parts. The first part from Yelahanka to Devanahalli will be finished by December 2026 while Bengaluru City to Yelahanka will be completed by December 2027. The Minister also underlined that the BSRP will not compete with the Metro Rail project but complement it. He also promised to resolve the land acquisition issue pertaining to the Corridor-1 and Corridor-3.

"Separate Agreement Signing Ceremony for Facilitating the Loan for Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project" between the Government of Karnataka and KfW Development Bank of Germany.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

In black and white

The Centre's White Paper calls the UPA regime a 'lost decade' over its economic mismanagement

As promised, the Modi Government is out with a White Paper on the fiscal mismanagement in the UPA era, labelling it a "lost decade". It points to various policy lapses, including economic imprudence, red tape and sluggish reforms, which purportedly stunted economic growth and left a legacy of unresolved structural challenges. With statistical analyses and historical comparisons, the paper paints a picture of the contrast between the perceived stagnation under the UPA rule and the strides made under the current administration. Indeed, the incumbent Government has done well on many counts. The Modi Government's economic achievements include significant reforms such as the implementation of GST, initiatives to improve ease of doing business, and financial inclusion programmes like Jan Dhan Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana. Infrastructure development schemes like Bharatmala and Sagarmala, along with digital initiatives under Digital India, have aimed to modernise and connect the nation. Efforts



to attract foreign investment, promote startups and focus on rural development through schemes like PMAY and PMKSY have also been notable. These measures collectively reflect the Government's commitment to fostering inclusive economic growth, innovation and development, although challenges such as unemployment and agrarian distress persist. However, the Opposition Congress swiftly responded with a 'black paper', countering the Government's claims and highlighting what it deems as the failures of the incumbent regime. The 'black paper' accuses the Government of exacerbating economic inequalities, neglecting social welfare programmes and presiding over a period of

economic downturn characterised by job losses, agrarian distress and inflationary pressures. It seeks to challenge the narrative of economic prosperity propagated by the ruling party, emphasising instead the lived hardships of ordinary citizens. Indeed, economic distress has been palpable across various segments of society during the Modi regime. While the Government touts ambitious initiatives such as 'Make in India' and 'Digital India', the ground reality for many remains one of job scarcity, underemployment and wage stagnation. The agrarian sector, often hailed as the backbone of the Indian economy, continues to face challenges ranging from being rain-dependent to mounting debt burdens, driving many farmers to despair and destitution. Despite the Government stimulus packages, the impact of the recent pandemic lingers, with many struggling to rebuild their livelihoods. This being an election year, such allegations and counter-allegations were expected and, in fact, would become more scathing in the coming weeks. The sad part is that each side would amplify the other's follies while overstating one's achievements. In this cacophony, it is imperative for policymakers to listen to people's concerns, address their grievances and chart a path towards inclusive and sustainable development. Meanwhile, the voters are well advised to use their discretion.

PICTALK



Devotees take a holy dip in the Ganga river during the annual religious 'Magh Mela' festival, in Prayagraj

The killing of a puppy: Murder most foul



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

The heartless and brutal killing of a puppy by a child in Greater NOIDA must cause serious concern and introspection

The Pioneer reported on February 5, 2024, a shocking act of cruelty in which a child living in a high-rise building in Gaur City in Greater NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh, threw a puppy down from a height, killing it. Neither the adult who was allegedly with him, nor any of the passers-by, stopped him. A People for Animals (PFA) volunteer, Surabhi Rawat, has filed a FIR against unknown persons perpetrating the horrendous act. Registered by the Greater NOIDA police, it calls for the child's appearance before a juvenile court and an assessment of his mental state.

The Pioneer report quotes PFA trustee, Ambika Shukla, expressing concern about the child's lack of feeling, and saying, "It reveals a psychopathic tendency that must be dealt with urgently lest we find a monster in our midst. Those who hurt and abuse animals set a dangerous example that can lead to tragic consequences..." She is right, and it is not just a dangerous example but a very dangerous indication.

In their paper titled "Childhood Cruelty to Animals and Subsequent Violence against Humans," published in The International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology in 2001, Linda Merz-Perez, Kathleen M Heide and Ira Silverman, who had interviewed 45 violent and 45 non-violent offenders in a maximum-security facility in Sumter County, Florida, in the United States, wrote, "The overall results of the [their] study support previous research efforts indicating a relationship between cruelty to animals committed during childhood and later violence perpetuated against humans. The findings indicate that offenders who committed violent crimes as adults were significantly more likely than adult nonviolent offenders as children to have committed acts of cruelty against animals in general and pet and stray animals in particular."

In their paper, "From Animal Cruelty to Serial Murder: Applying the Gradation Hypothesis" in the same journal in 2003, Jeremy Wright and



Christopher Hensley write, "Since the late 1970s, the FBI has considered animal cruelty to be a possible indicator of future serial murder. The FBI documented the connection between cruelty to animals and serial murder following a study of 35 imprisoned serial murderers. The convicted murderers were asked questions regarding their childhood cruelty toward animals. More than half of the serial murderers admitted to hurting or torturing animals as children or adolescents."

One tortures or hurts animals or humans out of cruelty, the primary cause of which is hatred, conscious or subconscious. Hatred can be directed against individual human beings or animals, the latter in general or particular species thereof. Hatred can target groups of people because of their ethnicity, religion, ideological or political beliefs or caste. Hatred causes not only crimes like murder or assault against individuals but rioting against groups of people or, in the worst instance, genocide, as by Pakistan in Bangladesh during the latter's struggle for liberation from Islamabad's colonial rule in 1971.

The child, who murdered the puppy, seems to be growing up in an environment awash with hatred. The Pioneer report



A SOCIETY, WHERE HATRED AND ANGER ARE WIDESPREAD, CAN BE THE SEEDBED OF A SINISTER IDEOLOGY LIKE NAZISM BESIDES PRODUCING A LEADER LIKE HITLER AND A PEOPLE READY TO RESPOND TO HIS FULMINATIONS

quotes Surabhi Rawat as saying, "In the same society, just days ago, a person intentionally crushed a puppy under his vehicle. Another puppy was found dead in suspicious circumstances, possibly poisoned. An autopsy will be conducted. The reason for such brutal actions against puppies is the hatred spewed on the society's WhatsApp group. Kids nowadays have phones and get easily influenced by adults who indulge in fear-mongering and spread hatred towards stray animals throughout the day."

The child here may not turn into a serial killer or a criminal of any other kind. It is, however, not just a question of what he becomes. The conduct of the passers-by, who did nothing to stop him or perhaps even tacitly approved of his action, is worrying. It reflects an insensitivity to cruelty and a disinclination to face the consequences of intervening or even undergoing the exertion involved in the process. All this is a part of a mindset that has prevented action that, at global and national levels, might have aborted the rise of dictators like Hitler and Mussolini. It would be worthwhile here to recall pastor Martin Neimoller's famous words, "First they came for the Communists/ And I did not speak out/

Because I was not a Communist.

"Then they came for the Socialists/ And I did not speak out/ Because I was not a Socialist

"Then they came for the trade unionists/ And I did not speak out/ Because I was not a trade unionist.

"Then they came for the Jews/ And I did not speak out/ Because I was not a Jew

"Then they came for me/ And there was no one left/ To speak out for me."

One needs to speak out against cruelty to animals which is rooted in hatred. A society, where hatred and anger are widespread, can be the seedbed of a sinister ideology like Nazism besides producing a leader like Hitler and a people ready to respond to his fulminations. The result in Germany was a political order like the Third Reich marked by concentration camps and genocide of Jews. Hence, one needs to remember the words of the German philosopher Theodor Adorno, "Auschwitz begins wherever someone looks at a slaughterhouse and thinks: they're only animals."

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Report on malnourished children



As per the report, more than 5.70 lakh children in Gujarat are malnourished, the Gujarat assembly was informed on Wednesday, by the government. In the set of questions raised by Congress MLAs during question hour, women and child development

minister Bhanuben Babariya said of the 5.70 lakh malnourished children in the state, nearly 4.38 lakh children are underweight, while 1.31 lakh fell in the 'severely underweight' category. The highly urbanised district of Ahmedabad accounted for the highest number of malnourished children (56,941), followed by tribal-dominated Dahod (51,321), Banaskantha (48,866), Panchmahal (31,512), Kheda (28,800), Surat (26,682) and Bhavnagar (26,128). Babariya stated in written replies, providing data until end-2023. In one year, as many as 9,634 malnourished children were added in Kheda district, which was the highest in Gujarat. Kheda was followed by Ahmedabad (3,516 children), Bharuch (1,584) and Valsad (1,335). With this Gujarat government has failed to save its children who are dying of hunger.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

possible which can mitigate the terrorism in the union territory of India. SK Khosla | Chandigarh

POWER SHORTAGE IN MAHARASHTRA

Sir — This year the seasonal rainfall in Maharashtra is less than the average, and many dams and lakes in Maharashtra have not been able to fill their full capacity. The capacity of the Koyana dam is 105 TMC, but only 90 TMC of water was stored in that dam, out of which 67.50 TMC of water is used for power generation. This year, due to the lack of water in the dam, 9 to 10 TMC of water will be reduced for power generation, as a result of which, there are signs of a reduction in power generation of about 250 to 300 Megawatts. In other parts of the state, there are hydropower plants also, due to lack of water, power generation will be reduced.

The total electricity generation in the state is 13 thousand 152 MW, of which 9540 MW is thermal, 3688 MW is hydroelectric, and 672 MW is wind energy, considering the electricity demand of

the state, it is 17 to 23 thousand Megawatts. The state gets about 4 to 10 thousand megawatts of electricity from other states or the National Grid. Looking at all these statistics, there is still a huge scope for solar energy. You get this electricity from the heat of the sun. But to achieve this, a large amount of expenditure is required, even today, solar energy is being used on a large scale in many hospitals, hotels, schools, offices, municipal corporations and municipalities, and village panchayats. If it is manufactured at a low cost, it is likely to be used on a large scale. At present, a large amount of electricity is generated on coal in the country. But this stock also has limits day by day. Therefore, when its use will not be permanent, emphasis should be placed on increasing the use of solar energy in the future. For this, there is a need to reduce its production cost at the government level.

Shantaram Wagh | Pune

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

I-T Act clause triggers a row in MSME sector

The recent addition of clause 'h' to Section 43B of the Income Tax Act has stirred up considerable debate within India's MSME sector

The latest insertion of the new clause 'h' to Section 43B of the Income Tax Act is making quite some feathers in the MSME sector in India. According to this clause, an MSME enterprise needs to be paid for the goods bought from it within 15-45 days of the purchase to claim a deduction in the assessment year 2024-25.

This means that the rule of Section 43B of allowing certain deductions on actual payments has been extended to payments due to MSMEs and the period for these MSME payments is as specified in Section 15 of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006 (MSME Act). As of now, the applicability of this new clause will be effective from April 1st, 2024. In case of non-payment by 31st March 2023, the unpaid sum will be added to the income of FY 2023-24. The MSME sector has metamorphosed itself into a prominent sector contributing significantly to the country's economic growth in many ways including, employment generation and



integrating itself into the overall industrial development by associating with large industries as their auxiliary partners. According to the 73rd round of the National Sample Survey conducted by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation during 2015-16, India has 633.88 lakh MSMEs involved in various economic activities and generating a sizable 11.10 crore jobs.

One of the long-plaguing problems of MSMEs has been untimely payments leading to choked cashflows. With the insertion of this new clause, the Government hopes to resolve this perplexing problem. One estimation suggests that the annual total delayed payments to the MSME sector stand somewhere between Rs. 10.5 - 11.0 lakh crore.

Applicability
Type of enterprises - Section

43B(h) applies only to enterprises, i.e., to entities engaged in either Manufacturing or Service sector.

Period - This section is applicable from the FY 2023-24 or the assessment year 2024-25 onwards. It is, however, not applicable to any payment outstanding to MSMEs as of 31.03.2023.

Type of expenses - Section 43B(h) is not applicable for the outstanding payments to suppliers of raw materials as the purchase of raw materials is not considered as a business expenditure for this section.

Deductions - By incorporating the new clause 'h' in Section 43B, business expenses will be allowed as deductions only in the year of payment.

This is a departure from this section where the expenses are allowed as deductions on payment on or before the filing of the income tax return. So as long as the payments are made to MSME suppliers within the financial year, i.e., before 31st March, the deductions will be allowed in that financial year.

Impact on Business
This will surely make their

cash flow healthier. However, there may be adverse impacts as well. Companies may not want to be in an unavoidable situation of adhering to the 15-45 days payment cycle and may start switching from MSMEs to medium to large corporations as their suppliers. There is still a large grey area as to how these transactions would work.

The way forward

The government may want to consider allowing time to buyers to make payments to MSMEs till the time of filing returns as it is permitted in other clauses of Section 43B. Extension of the payment time from 15 or 45 days to at least 60 days will give a breath of relief to a lot of businesses.

Additionally, it would be a tedious task for both business owners and auditors to identify MSME suppliers and scrutinise the actual payment dates. The Government should consider extending the implementation date by one year to facilitate better understanding and smoother implementation.

(The writer is a business consultant; views are personal)



HIMA BINDU KOTA

AYURVEDA IN JAN AUSHADHI SCHEME

Sir — The Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana has benefitted millions of people in search of quality alternative medicines at a reasonably low price. However, these generic medicines available at the Jan Aushadhi stores belong only to the Allopathic group and the patients opting for Ayurvedic treatment have to purchase the medicines from retail outlets mostly at a high price which either costs heavily or the patient shifts to allopathy unwillingly.

The Union Government which has shown its intent to promote Ayurveda must add Ayurvedic medicines to the ambit of the Jan Aushadhi scheme. The medicines manufactured may also be consumed at Government Hospitals and dispensaries in addition to their availability at Jan Aushadhi stores. The Ayurvedic consultants at the Ministry of AYUSH can suggest a list of commonly used medicines which can be produced under strict quality control and cover all important classical formulations.

Jai Prakash Gupta | Ambala

TARGET KILLING IN KASHMIR

Sir — Two migrant workers from Amritsar were shot dead in Srinagar on 7 February despite the claim by the ruling dispensation that there is a marvelous improvement in the terrorist activities in the state. As usual, political leaders condemned the killings calling it 'barbaric' and a 'dastardly attack'. The government has been making tall claims daily that peace, progress and development prevailed in J&K as also in the Naxalite-affected areas of Chhattisgarh where three CRPF personnel were killed and 15 injured in an encounter with Maoists in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh on 30 January. Besides, Manipur has still been boiling since May 2023.

The government should urgently enforce confidence-building measures and start a political process in J&K through dialogue with all stakeholders as soon as



FIRST COLUMN

CONFLUENCE OF SOCIAL SERVICE WITH SPIRITUALITY

Spirituality, culture and social service converge with the right people at helm



PRABHA GUPTA

Rarely do we witness a convergence of spirituality, service, and culture for the betterment of humanity. However, as they say, there is always a time for everything. Such a convergence of spiritual heads on a single platform is even rarer. The Geet Bhakti Amrit Mahotsava, a spiritual extravaganza, saw the esteemed presence of spiritual gurus and intellectuals like Swami Shri Govind Dev Giriji Maharaj, Sri Sri Ravishankar, Sudhanshuji Maharaj, Shrimati Rajshreeji Birla, Sadvi Ritambharaji, Respected Shri Chinna Jiyar Swamiji Maharaj, and Baba Satyanarayanji Maurya. Notably, Baba Ramdev and Yogi Adityanath are to grace the occasion.

Geeta Bhakti Amrit Mahotsava stands as a unique amalgamation of spirituality, rich Indian culture, patriotism, and devotion. The event witnessed the divine spectacle of an 81 Kundiya Mahayagya performed by 2500 Vedic acharyas, alongside Harikirtan, constant chanting of sacred scriptures, and Bhagwat Katha. Over 450 artists showcased Mahanatyam performances on the epic Ramayana and the tradition of Indian saints. This spiritual festival pays tribute to the divine Vedic heritage, rich Indian culture, and devotion.

What distinguishes this event is its strong emphasis on social causes. The Geeta Pariwar organised the Matrishakti Conference to underscore the significance of women in society and our fundamental responsibility to respect and empower them. The conference witnessed insightful deliberations on women's empowerment. The Baghwad Katha commenced with the resonating chants of "Shri Ram Jai Ram, Jai Jai Ram," uniting all present at the Geeta Bhakti Amrit Mahotsava in Devachi Alandi. Twelve women achievers from diverse fields, dedicated to the social upliftment and empowerment of society, were honored during the event. Govind Giriji Maharaj remarked, "Today, as we honor these twelve remarkable women, let us recognise their valuable efforts and unwavering commitment to the welfare of society, reflecting the essence of our cultural legacy."



Sharing his thoughts, Sri Sri Ravishankar stated, "You have united the saint community of Bharat through knowledge, and this knowledge is none other than that of the divine Lord Krishna. Your celebration, the Geeta Bhakti Amrit Mahotsava, is not a coincidence but a divine arrangement." Devotees immersed themselves in the soul-stirring chants of the Bhagwad Gita path which was an essential part of the Geet Bhakti Amrit Mahotsava. An enlightening Dnyaneshwaropasna session took place, where Govind Giriji Maharaj imparted profound knowledge to his disciples by venerating Jnaneshwar Mauli and reflecting upon his teachings. A positive atmosphere enveloped the event as the rich Guru-shishya tradition was revived through Vedshastra Samvad. Vedic scholars from across the nation emphasized the significance of spreading wisdom through this age-old tradition.

The spiritual event was graced by the esteemed presence of revered spiritual guides and intellectuals, including luminaries such as Jagadguru Shankaracharya, Swami Vijayendra Saraswati Ji Maharaj and Anandamurti Guru Ma. Govind Giriji Maharaj expressed, "The Geeta Bhakti Amrit Mahotsava has been a journey of spiritual awakening and enlightenment. It's an honor to witness the divine teachings of Shrimad Bhagwad Gita in the land of Alandi." He further noted the intellectual wisdom of Shri Dhirendrakrishna Shastri Ji Maharaj and the universal appeal of such spiritual knowledge among the youth, evident in the enthusiastic following of devotees.

(The author writes on issues of social issues and development, views are personal)

Iranian Revolution's success secrets

How did western intelligence agencies pave the way for Iranians to stand irreversibly against the pro-western leader?



NILANTHA ILANGAMUWA

The Iranian Revolution is completing 45 years this week. The Western alliance remained oblivious to the profound resentment brewing among the Iranian populace towards their final monarch, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. Embracing an illusion of unshakeable authority, Pahlavi championed his "White Revolution" as a symbol of progress, positioning Iran as an inspiration of Western liberalism and economic advancement. However, beneath the facade of prosperity, discontent festered, unbeknownst to many outside observers. Ascending to power at the youthful age of 21, Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi inherited a legacy shaped by his father, Reza Shah Pahlavi, the founder of the Pahlavi dynasty. Presenting himself as a contemporary incarnation of Cyrus the Great, Pahlavi orchestrated a grand spectacle in 1970 at the ancient ruins of Persepolis, aiming to impress global leaders and assert his dynastic legitimacy. Yet, as he revelled in adulation, the populace endured poverty and repression, obscured by the tactics of the Iranian secret police and the support of the US-backed intelligence apparatus, SAVAK, highlighting the growing chasm between perception and reality. Despite the Shah's efforts to bolster his legitimacy through lavish displays of power, the elaborate festivities only served to underscore the decadence and detachment of his regime, hastening its eventual downfall.

In the mid-1970s, however, mounting public discontent reached a tipping point, compelling the Shah to offer apologies for his regime's excesses. Yet, these gestures failed to appease the swelling tide of mass protests, culminating in the seismic upheaval of the Islamic Revolution. The revolution's aftermath witnessed the swift collapse of the Shah's reign, marking the end of a monarchy that had endured for millennia. This monumental event exposed the limitations of Western intelligence and intervention, reshaping the geopolitical terrain of the 20th century.

In August 1978, despite the escalating unrest, the CIA infamously concluded that "Iran is not in a revolutionary or even a pre-revolutionary situation." Figures like Alan Dulles and Richard Bissell grappled with the moral ambiguity of clandestine operations, revealing the intricate power dynamics at play in global affairs. In reality, the animosity directed towards Iran stems not from any genuine political ideology, but rather from the relentless pursuit of control over the oil industry. The concocted narrative surrounding this issue is often branded by the CIA as 'Black Propaganda'.

The 1953 coup, orchestrated by Western powers including the United States and the United Kingdom against Iran's democratically elected Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh, exemplifies manipulative tactics employed to safeguard Western interests. Operation Ajax, as it was known, set a precedent for similar interventions in other countries, including Guatemala, Chile, Brazil, and Greece. However, this successful coup, aimed at preserving Western dominance in the region, sparked widespread opposition and laid the groundwork for Iran's subsequent revolutionary fervour under Ayatollah Khomeini's leadership. It underscores the deceptive facade of Western foreign policy, which often masks imperial ambitions with the rhetoric of democracy and liberty, perpetuating cycles of exploitation and subjugation.



ASCENDING TO POWER AT THE YOUTHFUL AGE OF 21, MOHAMMAD REZA SHAH PAHLAVI INHERITED A LEGACY SHAPED BY HIS FATHER, REZA SHAH PAHLAVI, THE FOUNDER OF THE PAHLAVI DYNASTY

Before Mossadegh's premiership, Iran's oil industry was firmly under British control through the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company's monopoly. The nationalization of this asset in 1951 significantly weakened British interests in the region, revealing strategic miscalculations. Rohan Butler's suppressed analysis offers crucial insights into the complex blend of political, economic, and strategic factors behind the crisis. The fervent political milieu preceding the nationalization and the subsequent coup in 1953 has made it one of the most scrutinized events in Iranian-Western relations. Mossadegh, central to this narrative, symbolizes resistance against autocracy and foreign intervention, his collapse was seen as the moment when Iran's democratic aspirations were thwarted, paving the way for the reinstatement of autocratic rule under Western patronage.

In this context, the Iranian Revolution marks a pivotal moment not only in Iran's modern history but also in the geopolitics of West Asia, as it overthrew the monarchy and established the Islamic Republic. While its broad contours are well-documented, exploring lesser-known aspects of the revolution reveals its complexity and lasting significance. A diverse coalition of secularists, nationalists, liberals, and leftists united to express long-suppressed grievances against the Shah's despotic rule, culminating in widespread discontent and his eventual ousting. Despite its success, the revolution left lingering resentment towards Western powers, particularly the United States and the United Kingdom, perceived as backers of the Shah's regime. This suspicion of foreign interference continues to shape Iranian attitudes, while the revolution's influence extended beyond Iran's borders, inspiring Islamic movements and revolutions in neighbouring countries and reshaping the Middle East's geopolitical dynamics. The charismatic leadership and religious authority of Ayatollah Khomeini played a pivotal role in galvanizing popular support for

the revolution, while the participation of bazaar traders, a powerful economic class, amplified its momentum. The Iranian Revolution serves as a nuanced case study, highlighting the complex socio-political dynamics inherent in revolutionary movements. Religious ideology played a central role in mobilizing and legitimizing political dissent, underscoring its potent influence in effecting societal change. The revolution's aftermath underscores the importance of inclusive governance, warning against the marginalization of dissenting voices, which can lead to authoritarianism and sectarian strife. Its far-reaching repercussions underscore the interconnectedness of global politics and the imperative of respecting national sovereignty to avoid unintended consequences.

Decades after the Iranian Revolution, Iran continues to grapple with its profound and multifaceted legacy, both internally and externally. This pivotal event serves as a poignant reminder of the enduring impact of revolutionary fervour on the socio-political structure, showcasing its transformative potential alongside its enduring complexities. Iran's foreign policy is deeply rooted in its cultural and psychological heritage, characterized by a complex blend of pride, victimization, and a steadfast commitment to independence.

Iranians draw upon their rich cultural legacy, tracing their heritage back to ancient civilizations like Zoroastrianism, which shaped major world religions. Yet, they also harbour collective memories of centuries of foreign oppression and exploitation, including imperialistic endeavours by the West that overthrew Iran's democracy. This historical backdrop profoundly influences Iran's perception of foreign powers, particularly the United States, which is often viewed through the lens of economic and strategic interests rather than genuine support for democratic principles. In navigating Iran's foreign relations, it's imperative to understand the intricate interplay of cul-

tural, historical, and geopolitical factors that shape its policies. Iran's complex relationship with the Western world, spanning centuries of engagement and confrontation, underscores the nuanced nature of its foreign policy decisions. From the Safavid dynasty's establishment of Twelver Shiism to European powers' economic and strategic interests during the Qajar dynasty, Iran's historical legacy continues to inform its interactions with the international community, highlighting the importance of historical context in understanding contemporary foreign relations.

The Iranian Revolution offers a nuanced study of power dynamics in history, where victories can sow the seeds of future resistance. Despite facing formidable challenges, Iran has experienced remarkable advancements across various sectors over time. Statistics from UNESCO demonstrate significant improvements in literacy rates and life expectancy, showcasing the nation's commitment to education and healthcare. Additionally, Iran's economic panorama has undergone substantial growth, with the nation ascending in global rankings and witnessing remarkable expansion in sectors like space technology.

The revolution's triumph over Western-backed forces not only reshaped Iran's domestic political structure but also reverberated across the globe, inspiring similar movements and challenging Western dominance. Unfortunately, many Western strategists and policymakers are quick to jump to conclusions with their preconceived notions, potentially contributing to the turmoil in the Red Sea and the chronic disasters in West Asia, spanning from Palestine to Syria and beyond. The essence of revolution, however, as emphasized by Lu Xun in his writings, lies in its purpose: to ensure people can live, rather than face death.

(The writer is a Sri Lankan journalist and worked as a communications consultant for the Government of Sri Lanka. Views are personal)

Women's participation is vital for effective peace-building

The perilous circumstances faced by women in conflict zones cannot be overstated, especially during the ongoing Gaza turmoil

Once a UN Peacekeeping Commander observed that 'it has probably become more dangerous to be a woman than a soldier in an armed conflict'. The current situation in Gaza amply proves it, as the death toll rises above 25,000, and more than 17,000 women and children lost their lives (January 24). Almost two mothers die every hour. It is indeed a place where 'womanhood is denied', rued a Palestine-based civil society organisation (MIFTAH). The UNICEF, called it the 'most dangerous place to be a child', when over 1.1 million children are threatened by conflict, malnutrition, and diseases. While, the prolonged war in Ukraine since 2022, has raised the number of refugees to 5.6



ARCHANA DATTA

million, and internal displacement (IDP) to about 7.7 million, 60% of whom are women (UN). Many studies on peace and warfare contend that any conflict, civil or armed, is 'gendered', which affects women and men in starkly different ways. Researchers have said that in a situation of unrest when political structures and economic systems break down, it heightens women's vulnerability, rein-

forces existing inequalities and places women and girls at high risk for gender-based violence (GBV) (Oxfam, Bushra and Lopez 1994 et al). The Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Denis Mukwege, lamented that 'we are far away from drawing a red line against the use of sexual violence in war and conflict, and GBV is still a weapon of war'. While, social scientists expressed concern that in conflict zones, sexual offences against women are often 'trivialised', and a heinous crime like rape is normalised as an 'inevitable outcome of war'.

The UN's 2022 report on sexual violence in conflict zones said that 'sexual violence is used as a tactic to dehumanise and displace populations'. Even in post-war situations,

when there is the apparent absence of violence or negative security, the culture of violence against women doesn't end or bring in positive peace, and 'it continues and even increases after men return from the battlefield' (Tursheh and Twagirumariya 1998). A three-country study in post-conflict Iraq, in conflict-ridden Occupied Palestinian Territory, and Yemen, an area of open conflict, found that women and girls, in all such calamitous situations, face 'deep gender inequalities and all-out adverse impacts'.

Women also bear the brunt of huge internal displacement (IDP) in the wake of conflict and violence. In 2020, at least 21 million women and girls were uprooted within their countries, two-thirds of them

were from Africa and the Middle East. In South Asia, women make up 42 to 52 per cent of refugees. Nearly one million women have been displaced since the war began in October in Gaza.

In the post-conflict situation, 'women experience greater impoverishment, being the first to be laid off in wage employment in the public sector, which has led to the feminisation of the informal sector', disclosed a study. The lack of essential services such as health care, including sexual and reproductive health services, also makes them more vulnerable to unplanned pregnancy, maternal mortality and morbidity, sexual and reproductive injuries and sexually transmitted infections. While girls face obstacles in accessing

education. The UN's 'women, peace and security', report, 2023, said that 'more than 600 million women and girls lived in conflict-affected countries in 2022, a 50 per cent increase since 2017'. Even, the political violence targeting women increased by 50 per cent in conflict-affected countries (2020 - 2022). While, civil conflicts have more than doubled, from 30 in 2001 to 70 in 2016, mostly in least developed countries. When the world needs greater humanitarian aid more than ever before, the global military spending rose to USD 2.2 trillion in 2022, and this diversification of priorities 'is setting back both gender equality and global peace', rued the UN Women. Many feminists argued that in

conflict and post-conflict scenarios, a gender perspective must be integrated into the reconstruction and redevelopment plans. So far, 'male norms and behaviours have been taken as the human norm' (Skelsbaek and Smith 2001:1). The application of international humanitarian law also requires an understanding of the gendered harms caused by armed conflict. In terms of the longevity of a peace agreement, women's participation increases it to at least two years (20%), and 15 years (35%), and also makes it 64% less likely to fail. Yet, women's participation in formal peace processes (1992-2019), on average, was just 13 per cent as negotiators, 6 per cent as signatories in major

peace processes. In active United Nations-led or co-led peace processes, in 2022, it was 16%, going down from 19 per cent in 2021 and 23 per cent in 2020. While, in 2022, only 6 out of 18 peace agreements (33 per cent) included provisions referencing women, girls, and gender, and they are plateauing between 20 to 35 per cent each year. Now, when the world is on the verge of more turmoil and discord, greater and meaningful participation of women is critical for broadening the perspective on conflict management, more inclusive political resolutions, and effective peace-building strategies.

(The author is former Director General, Doordarshan and All India Radio, views are personal)

ORIENTAL NAGPUR BETUL HIGHWAY LIMITED
Regd. Off.: Unit No 307A, 3rd Floor, Worldmark 2 Asset Area No 8, Hospitality Dist.
Delhi Aerocity New Delhi - 110037
E-mail: onbhinvestors.relations@orientalinfrast.com; CIN: U45400DL2010PLC203649
FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023
(Amount in Millions)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended 31.12.2023 (Unaudited)	Quarter Ended 31.12.2022 (unaudited)	Year Ended 31.03.2023 (Audited)
1	Total Income from operations (net)	952.42	1,003.19	4,165.33
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax and Exceptional Items)	497.03	603.56	2,251.97
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional Items)	497.03	603.56	2,251.97
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional Items)	495.83	1,080.76	2,131.94
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	495.87	1,080.76	2,131.94
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	181.35	181.35	181.35
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve and Debenture redemption reserve)	7,692.75	10,770.63	10,922.90
8	Securities Premium	3,443.66	3,443.66	3,443.66
9	Net Worth	9,479.21	12,772.67	12,818.07
10	Paid up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt	20,098.18	22,235.29	21,171.39
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio	2.12:1	1.94:1	1.84:1
13	Earnings Per Share (of Rs 10/- each)			
1	Basic:	27.34	59.60	117.56
2	Diluted:	27.34	59.60	117.56
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-
15	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	1.10:1	1.07:1	1.18:1
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	1.10:1	1.07:1	1.18:1
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	2.01:1	2.11:1	2.03:1

Notes:
a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulations 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly Un-audited Financial Results are available on the websites of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the listed entity (<http://www.nagpurbetulhighway.in>).
b) For the other line items referred to in Regulation 52(4) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, required disclosures have been made to the NSE and are available on the websites of the NSE and the listed entity (<http://www.nagpurbetulhighway.in>).
c) These quarterly Un-audited Financial Results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at its meeting held on February 09, 2024. The Statutory Auditors have carried out Limited Review of the aforesaid Financial Results.
d) The Financial Results of the Company have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standard prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013.

For and on behalf of Board of Directors of
Oriental Nagpur Betul Highway Limited
Sd/-
Abhishek Sehgal
Director
Date: February 09, 2024
DIN: 09771954

ReNew Fazilka Solar Power Private Limited

CIN No. : U40108HR2015PTC055470
Regd. Office : ReNew Hub, Commercial Block-1, Zone-6, Golf Course Road, DLF City Phase-V, Gurugram 122009, Haryana, India
Corporate Office : ReNew Hub, Commercial Block-1, Zone-6, Golf Course Road, DLF City Phase-V, Gurugram 122009, Haryana, India Phone No. : 124 489 6670/80
Standalone Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and nine months ended 31 December 2023
(Amounts in INR millions, except share and per share data, unless otherwise stated)

Particulars	For the quarter ended			For the nine months ended			For the year ended
	31 December 2023 (Unaudited)	30 September 2023 (Unaudited)	31 December 2022 (Unaudited)	31 December 2023 (Unaudited)	31 December 2022 (Unaudited)	31 March 2023 (Audited)	
Income :							
Revenue from operations	40	35	40	122	118	164	
Other income	80	56	9	186	71	123	
Total Income	120	91	49	308	189	292	
Expenses :							
Other expenses	6	7	6	18	14	19	
Total expenses	6	7	6	18	14	19	
Earning before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA)	114	84	43	290	175	273	
Depreciation expense	6	6	6	18	18	24	
Finance costs	76	49	21	143	67	85	
Profit before tax	32	29	16	129	90	164	
Tax expense :							
Deferred tax expense	9	7	15	33	34	52	
Profit after tax	23	22	1	96	56	112	
Other comprehensive income, net of tax	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total comprehensive income, net of tax	23	22	1	96	56	112	
Earnings per share (face value per share INR 10/-) :							
Basic (INR)	5.67	5.31	0.22	23.46	13.64	27.45	
Diluted* (INR)	5.67	5.31	0.22	23.46	13.64	18.43	

Additional disclosures pursuant to Regulations 52(4) Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015:
Debt Equity Ratio 0.50 / 0.50 / 0.15 / 0.50 / 0.15 / 0.14
Debt Service Coverage Ratio* 1.57 / 111.16 / 34.73 / 3.88 / 124.76 / 274.60
Interest Service Coverage Ratio* 1.49 / 1.71 / 2.02 / 2.02 / 2.60 / 3.20
Current Ratio 4.51 / 4.46 / NA / 4.51 / 1.68 / 1.74
Long Term Debt to Working Capital 0.73 / 0.74 / NA / 0.73 / NA / NA
Bad debts to Accounts receivable Ratio* Nil / Nil / Nil / Nil / Nil / Nil
Current Liability Ratio 0.27 / 0.27 / 0.94 / 0.27 / 0.94 / 0.92
Total Debts to Total Assets Ratio 0.25 / 0.25 / NA / 0.25 / NA / NA
Debtors Turnover Ratio* 1.06 / 0.62 / 0.22 / 1.44 / 0.64 / 0.97
Inventory Turnover Ratio NA / NA / NA / NA / NA / NA
Operating margin (%) 69% / 64% / 70% / 70% / 73% / 74%
Net profit margin (%) 57% / 62% / 2% / 78% / 47% / 68%
Outstanding redeemable preference shares NA / NA / NA / NA / NA / NA
Capital Redemption Reserve NA / NA / NA / NA / NA / NA
Debt Service Coverage Ratio (INR in million) 33 / 12 / NA / 33 / NA / NA
Net worth (INR in million) 6,497 / 6,472 / 6,347 / 6,497 / 6,347 / 6,402

*Not annualized for quarter and nine months period values
Notes to the unaudited standalone financial results for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2023
1. The Board of Directors in their meeting held on August 11, 2023 had approved allotment of 25,000 unsecured, redeemable, listed, rated fully paid non-convertible debentures (NCD) of INR 100,000 each, having a face value of INR 100,000 (absolute amount) each, aggregating to INR 2,500 million for cash at par on private placement basis to Barclays Bank PLC. The Company has listed its NCD on Bombay Stock Exchange on 17 August 2023. As part of its growth strategy, the Company has utilized the proceeds from allotment of NCD for bank eligible end uses (i) or any other purpose permitted under applicable law, according to the unaudited financial results for the quarter and nine months ended 31 December 2023 have been drawn up for the first time, in compliance with Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, as amended.
Notes :
(i) The listed 9.55% Non-Convertible Debentures (NCD's) of the Company aggregating to INR 2,500 million as on 31 December 2023 are secured against following collaterals, which consist of:
(a) a first ranking exclusive pledge over the 30% of the Company's share certificates representing 30% of equity share capital of the Company held by ReNew Solar Power Private Limited (Pledged Shares).
(b) a first ranking exclusive charge on all the current assets and investments of the Company (other than excluded assets).
(c) a corporate guarantee provided by ReNew Private Limited (formerly known as "Renew Power Private Limited") ("Guarantor"), secured by a first ranking pari passu floating charge on all the current assets (comprising of loans, advances, trade receivables, inventory, cash and cash equivalents) of the Guarantor and a first ranking pari passu charge over moveable fixed assets (comprising of furniture and fixtures) of the Guarantor, other than project assets.
(d) a first ranking pari passu charge on the accounts of the Guarantor, including in each case, all monies lying credited/deposited into such accounts (excluding accounts charged to project-specific lenders as reflected in the Guarantor's books of accounts).
(ii) Debenture Redemption Reserve is created by the Company proportionately over the tenure of NCD, to the extent of available profits during the quarter/period.
(iii) NCD's of the Company have been rated "CARE A+ (CE)/Stable by CARE Limited vide letter dated 11 August 2023.
(iv) The NCD's are repayable within three years from date of allotment (i.e. 11 August 2023), interest of 9.55 % per annum is payable quarterly. The next due date of interest payment is 29 February 2024.
2. The above unaudited standalone financial results of the Company for the quarter and for the nine months ended 31 December 2023 have been approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at the meeting held on 8 February 2024. The statutory auditors of the Company have carried out the limited review of the above unaudited standalone financial results of the Company for the quarter and nine months ended 31 December 2023.
3. The Statement has been prepared in accordance with recognition and measurement principles laid down in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standard 34 "Interim Financial Reporting" ("Ind AS 34") as prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 (The Act) read with Rule 3 of the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 and relevant rules issued thereunder and other recognized accounting practices and policies.
4. The Company is carrying out business activities relating to generation of power through non-conventional and renewable energy sources in the state of Telangana. There is only one segment (business and/or geographical) in accordance with the requirements of Ind AS - 108 "Operating Segments".
5. Ratios have been computed as follows:
(i) Earning per share = Profit after Tax / Weighted average number of equity shares
(ii) Debt Equity Ratio = Total Debt (Long-term borrowings + Short-term borrowings) / Shareholder's Equity
(iii) Debt Service Coverage Ratio = (Net Profit after tax + non-cash operating expenses + interest + tax expense) / Interest payment + Long Term Debt Principal repayments
(iv) Interest Service Coverage Ratio = Profit before interest, tax, depreciation / Total Interest Expense
(v) Current Ratio = Current Assets / Current Liabilities
(vi) 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)
(vii) Bad debts to Accounts Receivable Ratio = Bad debts / Average Trade receivables
(viii) Current Liability Ratio = Current Liabilities / Total Liabilities
(ix) Total Debts to Total Assets = Total long term outstanding debts/ Total Assets
(x) Debtors Turnover = Revenue from operation/ Average trade receivables
(xi) Inventory Turnover- The Company does not generate revenue from selling of inventory, hence this ratio is not applicable.
(xii) Operating margin (%) = (Profit before tax + Finance costs - Other income) / Revenue from operations
(xiii) Net Profit Margin (%) = Net profit after Tax/ Revenue from Operations
(xiv) Outstanding redeemable preference shares (Quantity and Value): Not Applicable
(xv) Capital Redemption Reserve: Not Applicable
(xvi) Net worth: Issued subscribed and paid up capital + instrument entirely equity in nature + reserves and surplus.
(xvii) Reserves and Surplus includes General Reserve, Debenture redemption reserve, Securities premium account and Profit and loss account balance.
6. The figures for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2023 were neither subjected to audit or review. However, the management has exercised necessary due diligence to ensure that the standalone financial results for these periods provide true and fair view of the Company's affairs.
7. Absolute amounts less than INR 500,000 are appearing in the unaudited standalone financial results as "0" due to presentation in millions.
8. Previous period/year figures have been re-grouped / re-classified wherever necessary, to conform to current period's classification.

For and on behalf of the
ReNew Fazilka Solar Power Private Limited
Amrit Kumar
Director
Saurabh Kaushik
Director

'Biden willfully kept classified materials'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

In a damaging report ahead of the November 5 polls, a special US counsel has said that President Joe Biden "willfully" mishandled classified documents as a private citizen but concluded that it would be difficult to convict him as he comes across as an "elderly man with a poor memory".

The special counsel report said he had kept secret documents related to military and foreign policy in Afghanistan after serving as vice president until 2017.

The comment by Special Counsel Robert Hur in his 345-page report described Biden, 81, as "an elderly man with poor memory", prompting a furious response from the president who held an impromptu press conference at the White House during which he asserted that his "memory is fine."

The report was released after an investigation that lasted more than a year and related to classified files found at Biden's home and former private office from 2022-23.

The report revealed for the first time that the documents were classified as Top Secret - the highest level of classification, and related to Afghanistan. The files included notebooks containing Biden's entries about national security and foreign policy matters "implicating sensitive intelligence sources and methods".

The report criticised Biden for sharing some of the sensitive material in those notebooks with a ghostwriter for his memoir.

Hur said: "We conclude that the evidence does not establish Mr Biden's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt." "Prosecution of Mr Biden is also unwarranted based on our consideration of the aggravating and mitigating factors."

Biden's memory was significantly limited, both during his recorded interviews with the ghostwriter in 2017, and in his interview with the Special Counsel's office in 2023, he said. "And his cooperation with our investigation, including by reporting to the government that the Afghanistan documents were in his Delaware garage, will likely convince some jurors

that he made an innocent mistake, rather than acting willfully—that is, with intent to break the law as the statute requires," Hur wrote.

The special counsel's report said that it would be difficult to convict the president of improper handling of files because "Mr Biden would likely present himself to a jury, as he did during our interview of him, as a sympathetic, well-meaning, elderly man with poor memory."

"In his interview with our office, Mr. Biden's memory was worse. He did not remember when he was vice president, forgetting on the first day of the interview when his term ended ("if it was 2013 - when did I stop being Vice President?"), and forgetting on the second day of the interview when his term began ("in 2009, am I still Vice President?)," Hur said.

He did not remember, even with several years when his son Beau died. And his memory appeared hazy when describing the Afghanistan debate that was once so important to him, Hur said.

Among other things, he mistakenly said he "had a real difference" of opinion with General Karl Eikenberry, when, in fact, Eikenberry was an ally whom Mr. Biden cited approvingly in his Thanksgiving memo to President (Barack) Obama," said the report.

Responding to reporters' questions, Biden expressed his anger and displeasure at the counsel's report on his memory.

"There's even a reference that I don't remember when my son died. How in the hell dare he raise that. It wasn't any of their damn business... I don't need anyone to remind me when he passed away," a furious Biden told reporters at the White House.

"Frankly, when I was asked the question, I thought to myself, was it any of their damn business...The simple truth is that I sat for five hours, two days, over events going back 40 years. At the same time, I was managing a national crisis," Biden asserted.

"I've seen headlines since the report was released about my willful retention of documents. This assertion is not only misleading, it's just plain wrong," he said.

ReNew Wind Energy (Jath) Limited

CIN No. U40101DL2012PLC236227
Regd. Office : 138, Ansal Chambers II, Bikaji Cama Place, Delhi-110066 India
Corporate Office : ReNew Hub, Commercial Block-1, Zone-6, Golf Course Road, DLF City Phase-V, Gurugram 122009, Haryana, India Phone No. : 124 489 6670/80
Statement of Un-audited Financial Results for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2023
(Amounts in INR millions, except share and per share data, unless otherwise stated)

Particulars	Quarter ended			Year ended
	31 December 2023 (Unaudited)	30 September 2023 (Unaudited)	31 December 2022 (Unaudited)	
Total Income from Operations	74	350	85	719
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(32)	164	(42)	223
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(32)	164	(42)	223
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(17)	110	(10)	149
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(17)	110	(10)	149
Paid up Equity Share Capital	153	153	153	153
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	1,871	1,888	1,822	1,726
Securities premium	1,366	1,366	1,366	1,366
Net worth	2,024	2,041	1,975	1,879
Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	2,468	2,641	2,826	2,639
Debt Equity Ratio	1.64	1.43	1.66	1.54
Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)				
1. Basic :	(1.07)	7.06	(0.63)	9.73
2. Diluted :	(1.07)	7.06	(0.63)	9.73
Debtenture Redemption Reserve	174	168	278	151
Debt Service Coverage Ratio*	5.11	0.38	1.49	1.84
Interest Service Coverage Ratio*	1.12	3.70	0.92	2.26
Current Ratio*	2.67	2.49	2.87	2.55
Long Term Debt to Working Capital*	1.41	1.57	1.68	1.76
Current Liability Ratio*	0.24	0.25	0.21	0.18
Total Debts to Total Assets Ratio*	0.45	0.48	0.54	0.52
Debtors Turnover Ratio*	0.23	0.93	0.12	1.41
Inventory Turnover Ratio*	15.84	88.01	134.04	781.73
Operating margin (%)	25%	65%	(382%)	51%
Net profit margin (%)	(22%)	31%	(11%)	21%

Notes :
1. Ratios have been computed as follows :
(i) Earning per share = Profit after Tax / Weighted average number of equity shares
(ii) Debt Equity Ratio* = Debt (Amount due to Debenture Holders) / Equity (Equity share capital, share premium, loan from Related party and excluding un-amortized fees)
(iii) Interest Service Coverage Ratio* = Profit before interest, tax and depreciation / Total Interest Expense
(iv) Current Ratio = Current Assets/ Current Liabilities
(v) 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)
(vi) Bad debts to Accounts Receivable ratio = Bad debts / Average Trade receivables and Average unbilled Revenue
(vii) Current Liability Ratio = Current Liabilities/ Total Liabilities
(viii) Total Debts to total Assets = Total outstanding debts/ Total Assets
(ix) Debtors turnover = Revenue from operation/ Average trade receivables and Average unbilled Revenue
(x) Inventory Turnover = Revenue from operation/ Average Inventories
(xi) Operating margin (%) = (Profit before tax + Finance costs - Other income + Carbon credit (net of expenses))/ Revenue from operations + Income from carbon credits
(xii) Net Profit Margin (%) = Net profit after Tax/ Revenue from Operations
(xiii) Debt Service Coverage Ratio* = (PAT based on Project Revenues realised (excluding non-cash adjustments, if any)**+Depreciation+ Interest (Interest, Guarantee Fees, other financing costs payable under Debenture and Project Documents)) / (Interest + Principal Repayment + Guarantee fee).
(xiv) Net worth represents issued subscribed and paid up capital plus reserves and surplus.
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly financial results filed with the Stock Exchange(s) under regulation 52 of the Listing Regulations. The full format of the quarterly financial results is available on the website of National Stock Exchange of India Limited.
3. For the other line items referred in Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the National Stock Exchange of India Limited.
4. The statement has been prepared in accordance with recognition and measurement principles laid down in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standard 34 "Interim Financial Reporting" ("Ind AS 34") as prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 (The Act) read with Rule 3 of the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 and relevant rules issued thereunder and other recognized accounting practices and policies.
5. The company is in the business of development and operation of wind power. There is only one segment (business and/or geographical) in accordance with the requirements of Ind AS - 108 "Operating Segments".
6. The financial results for the quarter & nine months ended 31 December, 2023 have been approved by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on 9 February, 2024.
7. India Ratings and Care Ratings has assigned long term issue rating and rating for the outstanding non-convertible debentures of the Company to "IND AA (CE)" with negative outlook and "CARE AA (CE)" with stable outlook, respectively.
8. Previous period figures have been re-grouped / re-classified wherever necessary, to conform to current period's classification in order to comply with the requirements of the amended Schedule III to the Companies Act, 2013 effective from 1 April 2021.

For and on behalf of the
ReNew Wind Energy (Jath) Limited
Sd./- Balram Mehta
Managing Director, DIN : 06902711

Israeli bombs target in Rafah

AP ■ RAFAH

Israel bombed targets in overcrowded Rafah early Friday, hours after Biden administration officials warned Israel against expanding its Gaza ground offensive to the southern city where more than half of the territory's 2.3 million people have sought refuge. Airstrikes overnight and into Friday hit two residential buildings in Rafah, killing eight Palestinians, and a third strike targeted a kindergarten-turned-shelter for the displaced in central Gaza, killing at least four people, according to hospital officials and AP journalists who saw bodies arriving at hospitals. US President Joe Biden said Thursday that Israel's conduct in the war, ignited by a deadly Oct. 7 Hamas attack, is "over the top," the harshest U.S. criticism yet of its close ally and an expression of concern about a soaring civilian death toll in Gaza.

Israel's stated intentions to expand its ground offensive to Rafah also prompted an unusual public backlash in Washington. "We have yet to see any evidence of serious planning for such an operation," Vedant Patel, a State Department spokesman, said Thursday. Going ahead with such an offensive now, "with no planning and little thought in an area where there is sheltering of a million people would be a disaster." John Kirby, the National Security Council spokesperson, said an Israel ground offensive in Rafah is "not something we would support." The comments signaled intensifying US friction with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who pushed a message of "total victory" in the war this week, at a time when U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken was in Israel to press for a cease-fire deal in exchange for the release of dozens of Hamas-held hostages.

Netanyahu orders population of Rafah evacuated

Rafah (Gaza Strip): Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says he has ordered the military to prepare a plan to evacuate the population of Rafah ahead of an expected Israeli invasion of the southern Gaza town. Netanyahu made the announcement Friday following international criticism of Israel's plan to invade the crowded town on Egypt's border.

Israel says Rafah is the last remaining Hamas stronghold and it needs to send in troops to complete its war plan against the Islamic militant group. But an estimated 1.5 million Palestinians have crammed into the town after fleeing fighting elsewhere in Gaza.

Netanyahu said a "massive operation" is needed in Rafah. He said he asked security officials to present a "double plan" that would include the evacuation of civilians and a military operation to "collapse" remaining Hamas militant units.

Earlier Friday, Israel bombed targets in Rafah. The attack took place hours after Biden administration officials and aid agencies warned Israel against expanding its Gaza ground offensive to the town where more than half of the territory's 2.3 million people have sought refuge.

Airstrikes overnight and into Friday hit two residential buildings in Rafah, while two other sites were bombed in central Gaza, including one that damaged a kindergarten-turned-shelter for displaced Palestinians.

Twenty-two people were killed, according to AP journalists who saw the bodies arriving at hospitals. AP

Prince Harry settles phone hacking claims with Mirror Group

London (PTI): Britain's Prince Harry will receive a "substantial" payout after he settled the remainder of his phone hacking claims against the Mirror Group Network (MGN) of newspapers, it emerged at a hearing in the High Court in London on Friday. The lawyer for Duke of Sussex, who is now based in the US with wife Meghan and kids Archie and Lilibet, said at the costs hearing that the newspaper publisher had now accepted it would pay "a substantial additional sum" by way of damages and Harry's legal costs.

2011 and was "widespread and habitual" from 1998. In a statement read on behalf of Prince Harry outside court, his lawyer said: "Everything we said was happening at Mirror Group was in fact happening, and indeed far worse as the court ruled in its extremely damning judgment." In light of all this, we call again for the authorities to uphold the rule of law and to prove that no one is above it.

Singling out former 'Mirror' tabloid editor Piers Morgan, who Harry said "knew perfectly well" what was going on, the statement added: "Even his own employer realised it simply could not call him as a witness of truth."

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
Statement of Un-audited Financial Results for the period ended 31 December 2023
(Amounts in INR millions)

Particulars	Quarter ended			Year ended
	31 December 20			

Maldives key partner in ensuring secure Indo-Pacific region: US

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Describing the Maldives as a key partner in ensuring a free, open, secure, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region, the United States has said it is committed to strengthening cooperation with the Indian Ocean archipelagic nation. US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Donald Lu was in the Maldives recently for talks with its new leadership and the civil society, months after President Mohamed Muizzu, considered a pro-China leader, assumed office. "The United States is committed to strengthening cooperation with the Maldives, a key partner in ensuring a free, open, secure, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region," a State Department spokesperson told PTI on Thursday when asked about the assistant secretary's visit from January 29-31. The spokesperson's remarks come at a time when there is an ongoing diplomatic row between the Maldives and

India following a demand by President Muizzu to withdraw all 88 Indian military personnel from his country. There have been growing global concerns over China's increasing military muscle-flexing in the Indo-Pacific region.

While in Male, Lu met with Mohamed Muizzu and other senior officials to discuss shared priorities, including defence cooperation, economic growth, and democratic governance. "They also discussed progress on establishing the US Embassy in Maldives that will further strengthen our partnership and people-to-people ties," the spokesperson said.

Lu also met with members of civil society and higher education officials to discuss democratic governance and transparency in the Maldives, said the spokesperson.

Soon after taking oath as the President of Maldives on November 17, Muizzu formally requested India to withdraw 88 military personnel

from his country by March 15, saying the Maldivian people have given him a "strong mandate" to make this request to New Delhi. Following talks between the two countries, India on Thursday said it will replace its military personnel operating three aviation platforms in the Maldives with "competent" Indian technical personnel.

"I would like to say that the present personnel will be replaced by competent Indian technical personnel," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing in New Delhi. Muizzu on Monday said the first group of Indian military personnel will be sent back before March 10 and the remaining manning ones will be withdrawn before May 10.

Meanwhile, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) after completing its Article IV Mission to the Maldives said that the South Asian nation's post-pandemic growth has been strong, but

recently normalised.

Growth is projected at 5.2 per cent in 2024, as tourist arrivals are expected to rise further. Nevertheless, fiscal and external vulnerabilities have increased, calling for urgent policy adjustment, it said.

An IMF mission led by economist Piyaporn Sodsriwiboon visited Male from January 23 to February 6 to discuss recent economic developments, the outlook and the country's policy priorities in the context of the 2024 Article IV consultation.

"Following the pandemic-induced contraction, the Maldivian economy expanded by 13.9 per cent in 2022 and is estimated to grow by 4.4 per cent in 2023. As tourist arrivals are expected to rise further, growth is projected at 5.2 per cent in 2024.

The Velana airport terminal expansion and associated increase in hotel accommodation capacities is projected to boost growth potential.

Malaysia's top court invalidates Sharia laws

Kuala Lumpur (AP): Malaysia's top court Friday struck down over a dozen Shariah-based state laws, saying they encroached on federal authority, a decision denounced by Islamists who fear it could undermine religious courts across the country.

In an 8-1 ruling, the nine-member Federal Court panel invalidated 16 laws made by the opposition-run Kelantan state government, which imposed punishments for offenses from sodomy, sexual harassment, incest, and cross dressing to giving false evidence.

The court said that the state could not make Islamic laws on those topics because they are covered by Malaysian federal law.

Malaysia has a dual-track legal system, with Shariah covering personal and family matters for Muslims, alongside civil laws.

Japanese conductor Seiji Ozawa dies at 88

Tokyo (AP): Seiji Ozawa, the Japanese conductor who amazed audiences with the lithe physicality of his performances during three decades at the helm of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, has died, his management office said Friday. He was 88. The internationally acclaimed maestro, with his trademark mop of salt-and-pepper hair, led the BSO from 1973 to 2002, longer than any other conductor in the orchestra's history. From 2002 to 2010, he was the music director of the Vienna State Opera. He died of heart failure on Tuesday at his home in Tokyo, according to his office, Verzo Japan.

He remained active in his later years, particularly in his native land. He was the artistic director and founder of the Seiji Ozawa Matsumoto

Festival, a music and opera festival in Japan. He and the Saito Kinen Orchestra, which he co-founded in 1984, won the Grammy for best opera recording in 2016 for Ravel's "L'Enfant et Les Sortilèges" ("The Child and the Spells"). In 2022, he conducted his Seiji Ozawa Matsumoto Festival for the first time in three years to mark its 30th anniversary. That turned out to be his last public performance.

Ozawa exerted enormous influence over the BSO during his tenure. He appointed 74 of its 104 musicians and his celebrity attracted famous performers including Yo-Yo Ma and Itzhak Perlman. He also helped the symphony become the biggest-budget orchestra in the world, with an endowment that grew from less than USD 10 million in the early 1970s to more than USD 200 million in 2002.

GOLDEGE ESTATE AND INVESTMENTS LIMITED						
Regd Office: C-115, Ground Floor, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi-110015 CIN: L1010DL1992PLC047541						
EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023						
Rs. in lakhs except per share data						
S. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE				
		31-Dec-23	30-Sep-23	31-Dec-22	31-Dec-22	31-Mar-23
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
1	Total income from operations (gross)	7.37	7.03	6.76	21.26	19.07
2	Total income from operations (net)	7.37	7.03	6.76	21.26	19.07
3	Net Profit for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	3.27	0.47	3.37	7.13	7.97
4	Net Profit for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	3.27	0.47	3.37	7.13	7.97
5	Net Profit for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	2.45	0.35	(1.15)	5.34	2.29
6	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	2.45	0.35	(1.15)	5.34	2.29
7	Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each)	512.24	512.24	512.24	512.24	512.24
8	Other Equity	-	-	-	-	70.87
9	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each)					
Basic:		0.05	0.01	(0.02)	0.10	0.04
Diluted:		0.05	0.01	(0.02)	0.10	0.04

EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023						
Rs. in lakhs except per share data						
S. No.	Particulars	CONSOLIDATED				
		31-Dec-23	30-Sep-23	31-Dec-22	31-Dec-22	31-Mar-23
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
1	Total income from operations (gross)	7.37	7.03	6.76	21.26	19.07
2	Total income from operations (net)	7.37	7.03	6.76	21.26	19.07
3	Net Profit for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	3.27	0.47	3.37	7.13	7.97
4	Net Profit for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	3.27	0.47	3.37	7.13	7.97
5	Net Profit for the period after tax (after exceptional items/Associate's Profit)	2.51	0.90	(0.70)	6.23	2.89
6	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	2.51	0.90	(0.70)	6.23	2.89
7	Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each)	512.24	512.24	512.24	512.24	512.24
8	Other Equity	-	-	-	-	78.78
9	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each)					
Basic:		0.05	0.01	(0.01)	0.12	0.06
Diluted:		0.05	0.01	(0.01)	0.12	0.06

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial results filed with Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and other disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly results are available on the stock exchange websites i.e. www.mseil.in and on Company website www.goldegeestate.in.

For and on behalf of the Board
Nikhil Bansal
Director cum CFO
DIN: 00815132

INTEGRATED INDUSTRIES LIMITED						
(Formerly Integrated Technologies Limited)						
CIN: L10719DL1995PLC277176						
Regd. Off.: 288 Basement AGCR Enclave East Delhi Shahdara Shahdara DL 110092 IN						
Ph: 011-45511351, Email: info@integratedindustries.in						

STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2023						
(Rs. in crores except EPS)						
S. NO.	Particulars	Quarter Ended			Nine Month Ended	
		31/12/2023	30/09/2023	31/12/2022	31/12/2023	31/12/2022
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	125.77	46.74	0.00	191.98	5.10
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	9.66	1.86	-0.03	13.03	4.98
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax (after exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	9.66	1.86	-0.03	13.03	4.98
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	9.19	1.30	-0.03	11.66	4.98
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	9.19	1.30	-0.03	11.66	4.98
6	Equity Share Capital	8.20	8.10	4.78	8.20	4.78
7	Reserves (Excluding Revaluation Reserves)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10 each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) (not annualized)					
Basic (in Rs.)		11.33	2.52	(0.07)	19.30	10.42
Diluted (in Rs.)		10.41	2.38	(0.07)	18.47	10.42

Notes:

- These above unaudited consolidated financial results for the quarter & nine months ended 31 December 2023 (the results) of the Integrated Industries Ltd (the Company) (formerly Integrated Technologies Ltd), were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 9th February, 2024. The same have been subjected to limited review by Statutory Auditors of the Company in terms of regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, as amended.
- The unaudited consolidated financial results for the quarter & nine months ended 31 December 2023 (the results) of the Integrated Industries Ltd (the Company) (formerly Integrated Technologies Ltd) have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) prescribed under Section 133 of Companies Act, 2013 (The Act) read with the relevant rules thereunder and in terms of Regulation 33 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, as amended.
- The unaudited Consolidated financial results have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement principles laid down in Indian Accounting Standard (Ind AS) - 34 'Interim Financial Reporting', notified under section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015, as amended from time to time, and other accounting principles generally accepted in India.
- The unaudited consolidated financial results for the quarter & nine months ended 31 December 2023 includes the limited review results of two subsidiaries. The financial results of two subsidiaries have been consolidated in accordance with Ind AS 110-Consolidated Financial Statements.
- In the context of reporting business / geographical segment as required by Ind AS 108 - "Operating Segments", the Company's operations comprise of mainly two business segment - Trading in Food Products and Manufacturing of Food Products. Unaudited Consolidated segment information for the quarter & nine months ended 31 December 2023 has been attached as per Annexure "A".
- The name of the company has been changed from Integrated Technologies Limited to "Integrated Industries Limited" vide MCA order dated 25th May, 2023 and the same has been approved by Bombay Stock Exchange.
- The company has commenced new line of business consisting of trading of food products and these financial results comprises of revenue from the said new line of business.
- During the nine months ended 31 December, 2023, the Company has acquired 100% stake in M/s Nuture Well Foods Private Limited. This Subsidiary Company (Nuture Well Foods Private Limited), acquired a running biscuit manufacturing plant with a capacity of 34000 MT per annum at Neemrana, Rajasthan during the nine months ended 31 December, 2023. Accordingly the results for the Quarter ended 30th September, 2023 and Quarter & Nine month ended 31st December, 2023 are not comparable with other periods presented.
- During the nine months ended 31 December, 2023, the company has acquired a Wholly Owned Subsidiary-Nuture Well LLC in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates and registered with Sharjah Media City-Free Zone Authority on 30th May, 2023. This company is part of Consolidated Financials for the quarter & nine months ended 31 December, 2023. Accordingly the results for the Quarter ended 30th September, 2023 and Quarter & Nine month ended 31st December, 2023 are not comparable with other periods presented.
- Pursuant to the approval from the Board vide resolution dated 11th August 2023 and shareholders vide resolution passed at the EGM held on 9th September 2023 the company has increased its existing authorised share capital of the company from Rs. 18,00,00,000/- (Rupees Eighteen Crore Only) divided into 1,80,00,000 (One Crore Eighty Lakh) Equity Shares of face value of Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten Only) each to Rs. 20,00,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Crore Only) divided into 2,00,00,000 (Two Crore) Equity Shares of face value of Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten Only) by creation of 20,00,000 (Twenty Lakh) Equity Shares of face value of Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten Only) each.
- Pursuant to the resolutions passed by the Board of Directors on 19th September, 2023 and in compliance of applicable laws, rules and regulations, the Committee of the Board of Directors for Operations of the Company made the following allotment of securities:
 - 33,22,441 (Thirty Three Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Four Hundred Forty One Only) equity shares of the face value of Rs. 10 (Rupees Ten Only) each of the Company (Equity Shares) at a price of Rs. 170/- (Rupees One Hundred Seventy Only) per Equity Share (including a premium of Rs. 160/- (Rupees One Hundred Sixty Only) per Equity Share, to Promoter Group (12,00,000 Equity shares) & Non Promoter Group (21,22,441 Equity shares), on a preferential issue basis, for cash consideration in accordance with the provisions of the Act and SEBI ICDR Regulations, other applicable laws and the agreements executed between the Company and Proposed Allottee in relation to the same.

During the nine months ended 31st December, 2023 the company has issued 24,43,000 Warrants convertible into equity shares at a issue price Rs. 170/- to the proposed allottees on Preferential Basis to the Promoter/Non Promoter Group. Out of this 1,00,00,000 warrants have been converted into fully paid up equity shares on 27th December, 2023.

Post the above allotments, the Paid-up Equity Capital of the Company now stands Increased to Rs. 8,24,89,960/- (Rupees Eight Crore Twenty Four Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Only) and on fully diluted basis stands at Rs. 9,95,77,500/- (Rupees Nine Crore Ninety Five Lakh Seventy Seven Thousand and Five Hundred Only).

12. Previous period figures have been regrouped/reclassified/reclassified, wherever necessary to correspond with the current period's classification / disclosure.

For INTEGRATED INDUSTRIES LIMITED
(Formerly Integrated Technologies Limited)
Sd/-
Saurabh Goyal
(Managing Director)
DIN: 01094455

Place: Delhi
Date: 09th February, 2024

Kim repeats threat to destroy S Korea if provoked

Seoul (AP): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un restated he has no desire for diplomacy with South Korea and that the North would annihilate its rival if provoked, state media said Friday, in the latest of his belligerent statements that are raising tensions in the region.

During a visit to North Korea's Defence Ministry on Thursday, Kim said his recent moves to cut ties with South Korea allow his military to take on a more aggressive

posture "by securing lawfulness to strike and destroy (the South) whenever triggered."

Tensions on the Korean Peninsula have increased in recent months, with Kim elevating his weapons demonstrations and threats and the United States, South Korea and Japan strengthening their combined military exercises in response. While most South Korean officials and experts have downplayed the possibility that Kim has real intent to

engage in a war, concerns about a direct military provocation have grown as the North may try to ramp up pressure in an election year in South Korea and the United States. The North's official Korean Central News Agency reported Kim said he took the initiative to "shake off the unrealistic pretense of dialogue and cooperation with the (South) Korean puppets who sought the collapse of our republic."

INTEGRATED INDUSTRIES LIMITED						
(Formerly Integrated Technologies Limited)						
CIN: L10719DL1995PLC277176						
Regd. Off.: 288 Basement AGCR Enclave East Delhi Shahdara Shahdara DL 110092 IN						
Ph: 011-45511351, Email: info@integratedindustries.in						

STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2023						
(Rs. in crores except EPS)						
S. NO.	Particulars	Quarter Ended			Nine Month Ended	
		31/12/2023	30/09/2023	31/12/2022	31/12/2023	31/12/2022
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	125.77	46.74	0.00	191.98	5.10
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	9.66	1.86	-0.03	13.03	4.98
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax (after exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	9.66	1.86	-0.03	13.03	4.98
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	9.19	1.30	-0.03	11.66	4.98
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	9.19	1.30	-0.03	11.66	4.98
6	Equity Share Capital	8.20	8.10	4.78	8.20	4.78
7	Reserves (Excluding Revaluation Reserves)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10 each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) (not annualized)					
Basic (in Rs.)		11.33	2.52	(0.07)	19.30	10.42
Diluted (in Rs.)		10.41	2.38	(0.07)	18.47	10.42

Notes:

- These above unaudited consolidated financial results for the quarter & nine months ended 31 December 2023 (the results) of the Integrated Industries Ltd (the Company) (formerly Integrated Technologies Ltd), were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 9th February, 2024. The same have been subjected to limited review by Statutory Auditors of the Company in terms of regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, as amended.
- The unaudited consolidated financial results for the quarter & nine months ended 31 December 2023 (the results) of the Integrated Industries Ltd (the Company) (formerly Integrated Technologies Ltd) have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) prescribed under Section 133 of Companies Act, 2013 (The Act) read with the relevant rules thereunder and in terms of Regulation 33 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, as amended.
- The unaudited Consolidated financial results have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement principles laid down in Indian Accounting Standard (Ind AS) - 34 'Interim Financial Reporting', notified under section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015, as amended from time to time, and other accounting principles generally accepted in India.
- The unaudited consolidated financial results for the quarter & nine months ended 31 December 2023 includes the limited review results of two subsidiaries. The financial results of two subsidiaries have been consolidated in accordance with Ind AS 110-Consolidated Financial Statements.
- In the context of reporting business / geographical segment as required by Ind AS 108 - "Operating Segments", the Company's operations comprise of mainly two business segment - Trading in Food Products and Manufacturing of Food Products. Unaudited Consolidated segment information for the quarter & nine months ended 31 December 2023 has been attached as per Annexure "A".
- The name of the company has been changed from Integrated Technologies Limited to "Integrated Industries Limited" vide MCA order dated 25th May, 2023 and the same has been approved by Bombay Stock Exchange.
- The company has commenced new line of business consisting of trading of food products and these financial results comprises of revenue from the said new line of business.
- During the nine months ended 31 December, 2023, the Company has acquired 100% stake in M/s Nuture Well Foods Private Limited. This Subsidiary Company (Nuture Well Foods Private Limited), acquired a running biscuit manufacturing plant with a capacity of 34000 MT per annum at Neemrana, Rajasthan during the nine months ended 31 December, 2023. Accordingly the results for the Quarter ended 30th September, 2023 and Quarter & Nine month ended 31st December, 2023 are not comparable with other periods presented.
- During the nine months ended 31 December, 2023, the company has acquired a Wholly Owned Subsidiary-Nuture Well LLC in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates and registered with Sharjah Media City-Free Zone Authority on 30th May, 2023. This company is part of Consolidated Financials for the quarter & nine months ended 31 December, 2023. Accordingly the results for the Quarter ended 30th September, 2023 and Quarter & Nine month ended 31st December, 2023 are not comparable with other periods presented.
- Pursuant to the approval from the Board vide resolution dated 11th August 2023 and shareholders vide resolution passed at the EGM held on 9th September 2023 the company has increased its existing authorised share capital of the company from Rs. 18,00,00,000/- (Rupees Eighteen Crore Only) divided into 1,80,00,000 (One Crore Eighty Lakh) Equity Shares of face value of Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten Only) each to Rs. 20,00,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Crore Only) divided into 2,00,00,000 (Two Crore) Equity Shares of face value of Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten Only) by creation of 20,00,000 (Twenty Lakh) Equity Shares of face value of Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten Only) each.
- Pursuant to the resolutions passed by the Board of Directors on 19th September, 2023 and in compliance of applicable laws, rules and regulations, the Committee of the Board of Directors for Operations of the Company made the following allotment of securities:
 - 33,22,441 (Thirty Three Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Four Hundred Forty One Only) equity shares of the face value of Rs. 10 (Rupees Ten Only) each of the Company (Equity Shares) at a price of Rs. 170/- (Rupees One Hundred Seventy Only) per Equity Share (including a premium of Rs. 160/- (Rupees One Hundred Sixty Only) per Equity Share, to Promoter Group (12,00,000 Equity shares) & Non Promoter Group (21,22,441 Equity shares), on a preferential issue basis, for cash consideration in accordance with the provisions of the Act and SEBI ICDR Regulations, other applicable laws and the agreements executed between the Company and Proposed Allottee in relation to the same.

During the nine months ended 31st December, 2023 the company has issued 24,43,000 Warrants convertible into equity shares at a issue price Rs. 170/- to the proposed allottees on Preferential Basis to the Promoter/Non Promoter Group. Out of this 1,00,00,000 warrants have been converted into fully paid up equity shares on 27th December, 2023.

Post the above allotments, the Paid-up Equity Capital of the Company now stands Increased to Rs. 8,24,89,960/- (Rupees Eight Crore Twenty Four Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Only) and on fully diluted basis stands at Rs. 9,95,77,500/- (Rupees Nine Crore Ninety Five Lakh Seventy Seven Thousand and Five Hundred Only).

12. Previous period figures have been regrouped/reclassified/reclassified, wherever necessary to correspond with the current period's classification / disclosure.

For INTEGRATED INDUSTRIES LIMITED
(Formerly Integrated Technologies Limited)
Sd/-
Saurabh Goyal
(Managing Director)
DIN: 01094455

Place: Delhi
Date: 09th February, 2024

Putin urges US to push Ukraine to talks, hints at swap of WSJ reporter

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Russian President Vladimir Putin used an interview with former Fox News host Tucker Carlson to urge Washington to recognise Moscow's interests and persuade Ukraine to sit down for talks. Putin also said that Russia stands ready to negotiate a potential prisoner exchange that would free Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich, who was detained last March on espionage charges he denies, and hinted that Moscow wants the release of its agent imprisoned in Germany.

Most of the interview, released on Thursday, focused on Ukraine, where the war is nearing the two-year mark. Putin repeated his claim that his invasion of Ukraine, which Kyiv and its allies described as an unprovoked act of aggression, was necessary to protect Russian speakers in Ukraine and prevent the country from posing a threat to Russia by joining NATO.

Putin pointed at Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's refusal to conduct talks with the Kremlin. He argued that it's up to Washington to stop supplying Ukraine with weapons and convince Kyiv, which he called a US "satellite," to sit down for negotiations.

"We have never refused negotiations," Putin said. "You should tell the current Ukrainian leadership to stop and come to a negotiating table." Putin warned that the West will never succeed in inflicting a "strategic defeat" on Russia in Ukraine and rejected allegations that Russia was

harbouring plans to attack Poland or other NATO countries. It was Putin's first interview with a Western media figure since his full-scale invasion of Ukraine two years ago.

White House national security spokesman John Kirby tried to minimize the impact of Carlson's interview ahead of its release: "Remember, you're listening to Vladimir Putin. And you shouldn't take at face value anything he has to say."

Putin has heavily limited his contact with international media since he launched the war in Ukraine in February 2022. Russian authorities have cracked down on independent media, forcing some Russian outlets to close, blocking others and ordering a number of foreign reporters to leave the country. Two journalists working for US news organizations - The Wall Street Journal's Gershkovich and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Alsu Kurmasheva - are in jail.

Asked by Carlson whether Russia would release

Uncharacteristic of NBFCs to seek bank licences: RBI

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Reserve Bank Deputy Governor M Rajeshwar Rao on Friday said it is uncharacteristic of non-bank lenders to seek bank licences when they are already enjoying some regulatory advantages. Addressing a conference on non-bank finance companies (NBFCs) organized by CII, Rao also hit out at certain microlenders for "misusing" the liberty offered by the regulator on interest rates, and charging high rates. Rao also expressed displeasure at certain peer-to-peer lending platforms for following business practices which are not in line with the licensing guidelines, and made it clear that such breaches were not acceptable. He also spoke about the constant demand from NBFCs to convert into banks, and made it clear that regulations for even entities in the top-most tier of NBFCs are not at

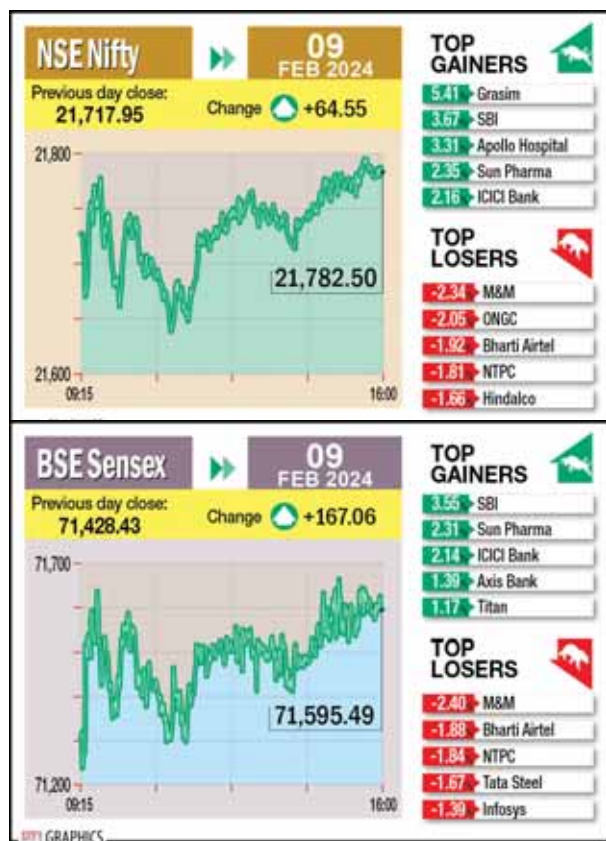
par with universal banks, and NBFCs enjoy some advantages. "NBFCs have evolved as niche companies serving specific economic functions, and it is uncharacteristic of them to demand becoming like a bank," Rao said. Interestingly, the remarks came right after the speech of Bajaj Finserv's Chairman and Managing Director Sanjiv Bajaj in which he said NBFCs have grown and become more "solid" courtesy the stronger regulation and supervision by RBI. "Why not think of bank licences for at least a few of them, especially these NBFCs who have spent ten years, met the compliance requirements, have proved themselves," Bajaj explained using an analogy that an NBFC licence is like a learner's licence before an entity graduates to become a universal bank which can access the cheap deposits. Specifically responding to this request, Rao said universal



bank licences were made on-tap by the regulator few years ago but conceded that no entity has received the nod to operate as one. He said RBI is very clear in not allowing more NBFCs to accept deposits, and pointed out that not a single new licence has been granted, and the number of deposit-accepting NBFCs has reduced from over 200 to only 26 now.

especially in the upper layer, are much more calibrated, but are not certainly at par with the regulations applicable to banks," Rao said. Meanwhile, he also highlighted the regulator's disenchantment with the microfinance companies for charging high interest rates, stating that RBI is "not oblivious" to such practices. "Some of the MFIs have increased their margins disproportionately under the new regime. We are not oblivious to the misuse of the freedom provided to the microfinance sector and some of the irresponsible practices, some of these entities (are practising) and more such instances do put pressure to act on these entities," Rao said. He added that there have been a lot of comments from the government officials as well on the issue of high interest rates and asked for an "introspection" by the sector participants. In 2021, RBI had given full

freedom to entities on interest rates to be charged for microloans by lifting the interest rate cap of 24 per cent put earlier. Rao also asked NBFCs to reduce the reliance on bank loans for their funding requirements by undertaking a diversification of their base to other market instruments. He also said the high growth of over 33 per cent on a compounded annual growth basis in the personal loan segments over the past five years for NBFCs, as against a 15 per cent growth in the overall assets under management was among the reasons due to which RBI increased the risk weights on unsecured loans late last year. Bajaj also requested for a liquidity line at par with a bank which can help an NBFC in situations of stress and also harmonization in regulations for entities which might be overseen by multiple watchdogs like RBI, Irdai and Sebi.



Sensex gains 167 points on buying in bank shares, Reliance

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex closed higher by 167 points in a volatile trade on Friday driven by buying in ICICI Bank, State Bank of India and Reliance Industries. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 167.06 points or 0.23 per cent to settle at 71,595.49. During the day, it hit a high of 71,676.49 and a low of 71,200.31. The broader Nifty rose by 64.55 points or 0.30 per cent to 21,782.50 with 27 of its shares closing in the green and 23 in the red. Stock markets took a breather after Thursday's slide and ended marginally higher on gains in banking and FMCG shares, analysts said. On the other hands, metal telecom and power shares came under selling pressure. "After a volatile session, the market ended on a positive note, aided by a rebound in banking stocks after yesterday's sell-off. Mid and smallcap indices bled the most as the sentiment on the broader indices remains vigilant due to their rich valuation," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge fell by 1.36 per

cent and midcap index declined 0.82 per cent. Among the indices, oil & gas went lower by 1.97 per cent, metal fell by 1.62 per cent, telecommunication (1.45 per cent), utilities (1.36 per cent), industrials (1.21 per cent) and power (1.10 per cent). Bankex, FMCG, financial services, consumer durables and healthcare were the gainers. On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark declined 490.14 points or 0.67 per cent, and the Nifty dipped 71.3 points or 0.32 per cent. In Asian markets, Tokyo and Shanghai settled in the positive territory while Hong Kong ended lower. European markets were trading on a mixed note. The US markets ended in the green on Thursday. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 4,933.78 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. The BSE benchmark fell by 723.57 points or 1 per cent to settle at 71,428.43 on Thursday amid uncertainty about the timing of interest rate reduction after the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy decision. The Nifty declined by 212.55 points or 0.97 per cent to 21,717.95.

Paytm shares fall over 15 per cent in 2 days

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of One97 Communications Ltd, which owns the Paytm brand, tanked over 15 per cent in two days as investors again turned to dump the stock. Extending its previous day's decline, the stock tanked 6.09 per cent to settle at Rs 419.85 on the BSE. During the day, it dived 8.67 per cent to Rs 408.30. Shares of the company dropped 6.15 per cent to Rs 419.15 on the NSE. During the day, the stock tumbled 8.20 per cent to Rs 410. In two days, the stock fell 15.48 per cent, eroding Rs 4,870.96 crore from its market valuation on the BSE. Shares of One97 Communications Ltd fell 10 per cent to hit lower circuit limit on Thursday, after a two-day rally in the stock fizzled out. One97 Communications stock price had climbed 10 per cent on Wednesday and rebounded over 3 per cent on Tuesday after three days of sharp fall. From February 1-5 (three days of trading), the company's stock tumbled over 42 per cent, wiping out Rs 20,471.25



crore from its market valuation, following the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) crackdown. On January 31, the RBI ordered Paytm Payments Bank Ltd, a restricted bank that can take deposits but cannot lend, to not take any further deposits or conduct credit transactions or carry out top-ups on any customers accounts, prepaid instruments, wallets, and cards for paying road tolls after February 29. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday said there are no systemic worries and the action on Paytm was driven by a "lack of compliance" on the

part of the company. Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) is an associate of One97 Communications Ltd. One97 Communications holds 49 per cent of the paid-up share capital (directly and through its subsidiary) of PPBL. Founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma has a 51 per cent stake in the bank. PPBL Independent Director Manju Agarwal is learnt to have resigned from the board after the RBI imposed restrictions on the bank's operations. According to a source, Agarwal resigned with effect from February 1.



EESL inks ₹500 crore pacts with State bodies, industry partners

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) has inked initial pacts worth Rs 500 crore with key state bodies and industry partners at the India Energy Week, to formulate a framework for longstanding collaboration in key areas of energy efficiency. Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh (LAHDC), and Vidhya Pratishtan have partnered with EESL, the company said in a statement on Friday. The MoUs with the two entities, valued at Rs 300 crore and Rs 200 crore, respectively, focus on crucial aspects of energy efficiency, including lighting, clean cooking, space

heating, renewables, e-mobility, cooling, and consultancy. According to the statement, the EESL, a joint venture of public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Power, has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) worth Rs 500 crore with key state bodies and industry partners at the India Energy Week 2024. The focus of the MoUs signed during the event is to formulate a framework for longstanding collaboration in key areas of energy efficiency. These agreements lay the foundation for executing projects that implement energy-efficient measures across various facilities, regions, and communities. The MoU with LAHDC

includes space heating solutions across various locations in the Union Territory of Ladakh, using innovative heat pump technology. This is a follow-up to the recent signing of the company's MoU for the distribution of 2,000 induction cookstoves in Ladakh, which demonstrates EESL's commitment to comprehensive energy solutions in the region. Vishal Kapoor, Chief Executive Officer, EESL, said in the statement, "Through these partnerships, we are setting the groundwork for transformative projects that will significantly contribute to India's journey towards an energy-efficient future."

Forex reserves jump to USD 622.469 billion

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's forex reserves jumped by USD 5,736 billion to USD 622.469 billion for the week ended February 2, the Reserve Bank said on Friday. In the previous week, the overall reserves had increased by USD 591 million to USD 616.733 billion. In October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion. The reserves took a hit as the central bank deployed them to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments since last year. For the week ended February 2, the foreign currency assets, a

major component of the reserves, increased by USD 5.186 billion to USD 55.331 billion, as per the data of RBI. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves increased by USD 608 million to USD 48.088 billion during the week, RBI said. Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down by USD 58 million to USD 18.19 billion, the central bank said. India's reserve position with the IMF was unchanged at USD 4.86 billion in the week.



Tata Power net profit rises to ₹1,076 crore in Q3

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Power on Friday posted a marginal increase of 2 per cent in its consolidated net profit at Rs 1,076 crore in December 2023 quarter. Its consolidated net profit was Rs 1,052 crore in the quarter ended on December 31, 2022, a company statement showed. Total revenues also rose to Rs 14,841 crore in the quarter from Rs 14,339 crore in the same period a year ago. Praveer Sinha, CEO and Managing Director, Tata Power, said in the statement, "Our core businesses continue to perform well and have helped the Company clock its 17th consecutive PAT (profit after tax or net profit) growth quarter." Our consistent performance shows strong fundamentals of excellence in operational performance and project execution capability, he noted. As the country witnesses a surge in power demand, Tata Power is well positioned to capitalize on the growth momentum with its cutting-edge, customized and cost-effective clean and green energy solutions, he said. The company stated that better realisation in the core business segments, consisting of generation, transmission & distribution, and renewables, helped grow its profit. The PAT during nine-month period of FY24 (April to December) grew to Rs 3,235

crore as against Rs 2,871 crore in the same period of previous financial year. During April-December 2023, the company's revenue grew to Rs 45,286 crore, an all-time high for the said period, it stated. As on December 31, 2023, the company's operational capacity stood at 4,270 MW in the renewables segment, generating 6,031 MUs (million units) of green power. Another 4,752 MW of projects under TPREL (Tata Power Renewable Energy) and 4,120 MW of projects under TPSSL (Tata Power Solar Systems) are under execution, thus taking the total clean energy capacity to over 10,000 MW in the next 12-24 months. The company is on an accelerated growth trajectory of transitioning to green energy and aiming for around 70 per cent of capacity from non-fossil-based fuels by 2030. Tata Power is a leading integrated power company and a part of Tata Group. The company has a diversified portfolio of 14,453 MW, spanning across the entire power value chain — from renewable and conventional energy generation to transmission & distribution, trading, storage solutions and solar cells and module manufacturing. Tata Power has 5,593 MW of clean energy generation, which constitutes 39 per cent of its total capacity.

Centre released ₹15,948 crore to sugar mills in last 5 years

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The centre has released about Rs 15,948 crore under different schemes in the last five years till January 31 to various sugar mills to improve their liquidity for clearing cane price dues of farmers, Parliament was informed on Friday. Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel said the central government, with a view to improve liquidity of the sugar mills enabling them to clear cane price dues of farmers, has announced these schemes in the last five years. These schemes include the creation and maintenance of a buffer stock of 30 lakh tonne of sugar with effect from July 2018 to June 30, 2019; scheme for defraying expenditure towards internal transport, freight, handling, and other charges on the export of sugar season 2018-19; and assistance to sugar mills season 2019-20 to facilitate the export of sugar. A scheme for



providing assistance to sugar mills for expenses on marketing costs including, handling, upgrading and other processing costs, and internal transport and freight charges for sugar season 2020-21, 2019-20 and 2018-19 was also announced. "Under these schemes, a sum of about Rs 15,948 crore has been released to various sugar mills of the country in last five financial years including the current financial year till January 31, 2024," Patel said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha. She said that the export of sugar (raw, refined and white sugar) has been placed under a restricted category.

In 2022-23, sugar exports stood at 63 lakh tonne. This fiscal, no export has happened. In a separate reply, she said that the government has initiated an exercise to create a new online platform to connect exporters with various stakeholders, including Indian Missions abroad, export promotion councils, and other partner government agencies. It would help provide information such as the details of various trade events being organised and provide information on various Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). Replying to a question on FTA, she said that imports of wines and vermouth (a kind of aromatic fortified) from Australia stood at USD 8.9 million during the January-December 2023 as against USD 10 million in the same period of 2022. India-Australia Economic Cooperation Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA) came into effect from December 29, 2022.



₹5077 crore FDI reported by companies operating in defence sector: Government

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) worth Rs 5077 crore has been reported by companies operating in the defence sector, the defence ministry said in Lok Sabha on Friday. The data was provided by Minister of State for Defence Ajit Bhatt while replying to a question. The defence industry sector was opened up in May 2001 for private sector participation, he said. "The FDI limit in the defence sector was enhanced in 2020 up to 74 per cent through the automatic route for companies seeking new defence industrial licence and up to 100 per cent by the government route wherever it is likely to result in access to modern technology," Bhatt said. "So far, Rs 5077 crores worth of FDI has been reported by companies operating in the defence sector," he added. The minister said the government also promotes co-development and co-production of niche defence technologies with foreign original equipment manufacturers to encourage FDI in the defence sector. To a separate question, he said the defence ministry has signed a contract with the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) on December 20 for procurement of six next generation off-shore patrol vessels for Indian Coast Guard (ICG) at a total cost of Rs 1614 crore.

BUSINESS BRIEF



A Metro Train Model was presented to President Droupadi Murmu by Vikas Kumar, Managing Director, DMRC during her visit to the Delhi Metro system on February 7, 2024

PFC Q3 NET PROFIT RISES 20 PER CENT

NEW DELHI: Power Finance Corporation posted over 20 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to Rs 6,294.44 crore in the December quarter, on the back of higher revenues. The company's consolidated net profit was Rs 5,241.10 crore in the quarter ended on December 31, 2022. Total income in the quarter rose to Rs 23,593.40 crore from Rs 19,662.65 crore in the same period a year ago. Owing to concentrated resolution efforts, consolidated net NPA (bad loans) has reached its lowest level at 0.86 per cent during April-December 2023 from 1.15 per cent in the same period a year ago. Gross NPA also declined significantly by 78 basis points from 3.91 per cent in the nine-month period of the last fiscal to 3.13 per cent in April-December 2023. The board, in its meeting approved the declaration of a second interim dividend at the rate of 35 per cent, of Rs 3.50 per equity share, subject to deduction of TDS, on the face value of the paid-up equity shares of Rs 10 each for FY 2023-24.

OYO expects consistent PAT rise in upcoming quarters: CEO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

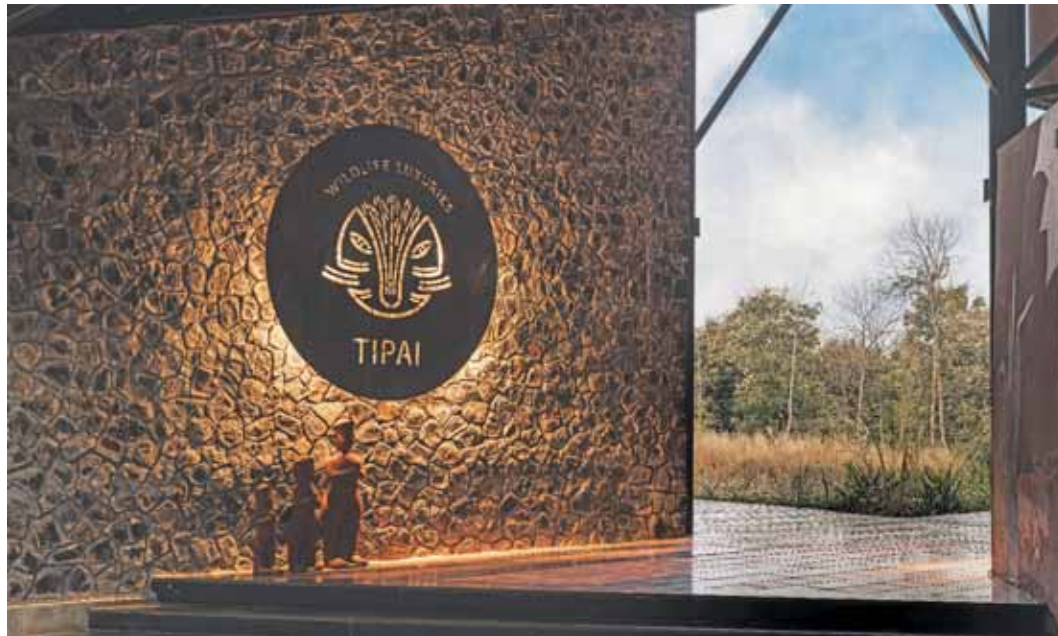
Hospitality and travel-tech firm OYO expects a consistent rise in its Profit After Tax (PAT) after doubling it sequentially in Q3 FY24 to Rs 30 crore, according to company Founder & CEO Ritesh Agarwal. Agarwal shared the update about the two-fold increase in the company's profit during an employee town hall on Friday. Oravel Stays Ltd, which operates travel tech brand OYO, had its maiden profitable quarter in Q2 FY24 with a PAT of Rs 16 crore. When contacted, OYO spokesperson declined to com-

ment. Last year OYO had prepaid Rs 1,620 crore debt through a buyback process that involved the repurchase of 30 per cent of the company's outstanding Term Loan B (TLB). The IPO-bound firm, in its last public filing, had disclosed that it achieved operational profitability in FY23, clocking an adjusted EBITDA of Rs 277 crore. Earlier, Agarwal had shared with employees that the company had turned cash flow positive in the fourth quarter of FY23.

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34-acre luxury nature resort on the fringes of Tipeswar forest in Nagpur is a celebration of low-impact construction, finds **SHARMILA CHAND**



BESPOKE LUXURY IN THE WILD

A comfortable three hour drive from Nagpur and I was in front of the stunning vista of tall trees enveloping forest villas. This is 'Tipai by Wildlife Luxuries', nestled amid the virgin forests of Tipeswar Wildlife Reserve. Spanning in 34 acres, the resort sets an example of ultimate luxury blending seamlessly with eco-friendly measures. An initiative of sustainability-conscious entrepreneur, Keyur Joshi, the co-founder and COO of MakeMyTrip, Tipai has been built with minimal impact on fragile ecosystems. Each of the 11 forest villas and four pool residences speak a story of unique aesthetics. "Core to the design of Wildlife Luxuries is localisation, whether it was the techniques used, the material that was built with, or the people who contributed to the building process—they were all of this land," tells Joshi, with a well deserved sense of pride. "Working closely with the Institute of Village Sciences in Wardha, located 80 kms from the site, the architects researched various possibilities of low-impact construction. Instead of importing labour, the neighbouring village folk were trained in rammed earth construction and stone masonry. The vaulted roofs were made of terracotta tiles made by local potters. Working with a permaculturist, the land was rejuvenated with natural vegetation, strategically located water bodies and a robust rainwater harvesting system to reduce the impact on fragile ecosystems."

"WHEN WE STARTED BUILDING THIS 15-VILLA PROPERTY, WE DECIDED TO USE WHATEVER IS AVAILABLE IN THIS PLACE. IT WAS AN INTERESTING CHALLENGE FOR US. WE ALSO WANTED TO KEEP IT CHEMICAL AND PLASTIC FREE. WE LOOKED AT WHAT THE VILLAGES AROUND US WERE DOING IN TERMS OF CONSTRUCTION. WE USED RAMMED EARTH AND STONES TO BUILD THE VILLAS. WHEN IT CAME TO FURNITURE, WE DID THE SAME THING AND MADE THEM WITH WHAT WAS LOCALLY AVAILABLE"
— **KEYUR JOSHI, Founder, TIPAI**



"THE WOMEN IN MY KITCHEN OFTEN DON'T REALISE THAT THE EVERYDAY THINGS THEY COOK ARE WORTH SERVING IN A RESTAURANT — AND I WANT TO CHANGE THAT"
— **CHEF AMNINDER SANDHU, F&B Founding Partner**

DÉCOR & DESIGN

I am truly fascinated by a stunning blend of classical aesthetics and modern functionality that redefines luxury and eco-tourism. Symbolic of sustainability, every corner exudes an ethos of unparalleled craftsmanship and finesse. Whether it's the large swallow nest lamps hanging from cross-beamed ceilings, or experimental Chandigarh chairs set at a large dining table, tiled floorings, terracotta art and wooden decks; local leaves, dried, pressed and framed on the walls; one gets the strong ethnic vibe of the place. Enter your room and you will

notice recycled furniture and how painstakingly the vaulted ceilings have been made. The colorful Indian durries lend an ambiance of cheer, warmth and sophistication. The sheer curtains with leafy motifs pay homage to the region's sensibilities as these represent the local unique leaf block-printing method and hand-printing technique. From the special packages of tea to the toiletries, a standout feature is the meticulously curated every detail for Tipai exclusively, by small boutique brands who share the brand's values for sustainability, quality and fairness.

Says Ariane Thakore Ginwala, the principal designer for Tipai, "We've tried to retain the land as much as possible and reduce the use of concrete to make our land better. By planting trees and incorporating biomass in the process, we've made our soil richer. Sustainable, conscious luxury is the new travel. The true essence of luxury lies in handcrafted products, made slowly and with intention. We spent a lot of time selecting responsible brands to stay true to our vision. As you can see, our basins are handmade, the small batches of chocolates are from homegrown brands and so on."

AN ODE TO NATURE

The celebration of the forest, the land and its people make Tipai a thriving biodiversity getaway. Right from safari visits to the forest, to identifying birds or picking the ingredients from the resort farm for your meal, every activity has an osmotic relationship with nature. Over five years, more than 300 species of shrubs and trees have been planted in and around the resort, which today attract a plethora of birds and deer. "In the summer the Palash trees bloom defying the arid heat, then rains make Tipai a blooming lush green, that turns a lighter shade as winter falls. The scenery changes dramatically across the seasons, and so does the produce from our food forest - nourishing both humans and animals that call this quiet wildscape home. Frequent visits by deer and a surge in the variety of birds and insects tells us we are doing something right," adds Joshi with a smile.

THE FOOD AT TIPAI

Made with produce from the kitchen garden and organic farms within the region, F&B at Tipai is a true celebration of this land. The food is hyperlocal, from the produce to the flavours and those who grow, cook and craft this experience - they are all of this land. It is heartening to see that at the heart of the three restaurants is a deep desire to empower women; not just through employment, but by helping them see the beauty and power of the everyday things they do. The chutney they

AT A GLANCE!

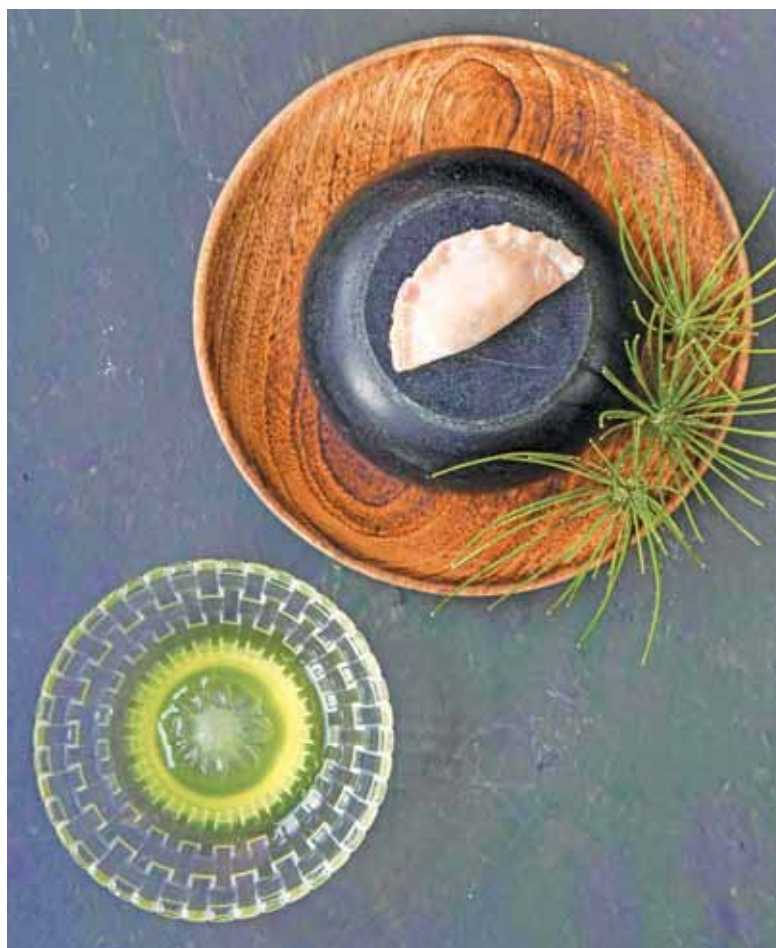
- Tipeswar Wildlife Sanctuary, is home to Indian leopards, sloth bears, and bison among its 170 species of wildlife.
- While activities can be customised at Tipai, guests can indulge in bird watching, safaris, Nature walks, photography classes, and fishing. Or just laze on a machan or sit by the lake.
- Savour the flavours of your choice.

grind on a sil batta, the flatbreads they cook on coals, the instinctive understanding of flavour - the kitchen at 'Palaash', dinner only restaurant, is almost entirely run by women. While you savour the flavours of regional cuisines from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh at Palaash, the menus at 'Perch' and 'Wadi' travel the world. Sipping tea under a gazebo, enjoying picnic by the river, indulging in sundowners by your private plunge pool, all this and a lot more along the fringes of a dense forest known for its Bengal tigers; make Tipai a destination worthy of your bucket list. While there is plenty to do here, you also have an opportunity to set aside the itinerary, just hit the pause button and do nothing.

— *Writer is an independent journalist who writes on travel, food and lifestyle*

A CULINARY VOYAGE

Set sail on a flavorful odyssey where ingredients are infused with inspiration, people and diverse cultures



Pullman New Delhi Aerocity is gearing up to host an extravagant dining experience in partnership with the esteemed restaurant, Ekaa, promising a feast for the senses. Nestled within the historic charm of Fort, Mumbai, Ekaa is renowned for its contemporary approach to dining, offering patrons a culinary adventure like no other, complete with an experiential menu and a carefully crafted narrative centered around ingredients.

Named after the Sanskrit word meaning 'One,' 'Unique,' or 'Matchless,' Ekaa shines a spotlight on seasonality and quality produce, all while incorporating innovative cooking techniques that challenge traditional culinary norms. Stepping into the vibrant ambiance of Café Pluck, guests will be greeted by Head Chef Niyati Rao, who brings her joyful touch of minimalism to every dish. Here, art and flavor converge seamlessly, with ingredients taking center stage in an elegantly understated setting. During the two-day pop-up event,



diners will have the opportunity to sample signature dishes from Ekaa, each with a unique twist inspired by culinary traditions from around the world, including The Kingdom of Siam, The Kingdom of the Tzars, The Kingdom of the Aztecs, The Kingdom of the Marathas, and more. Ekaa's menu, hailed as a gourmet masterpiece, showcases chef-interpreted creations that draw inspiration from seasons, cultures, and personal journeys, promising an unforgettable dining experience.

PULLMAN AEROCIT NEW DELHI

Trendiest destination in Aerocity, Pullman New Delhi is in close proximity to the IGI Airport and within driving distance from business hubs of Gurgaon & New Delhi. It is a combination of 670 Suites & Rooms under one roof along with a state-of-the-art convention space with 16 meeting rooms and one of the largest ballrooms in Delhi NCR. The hotel offers an array of food & beverage options with 6 innovative outlets that draw the best of international and local culinary specialties. Leisure facilities include a spa, a fully-equipped health club and an outdoor swimming pool.



Indulge in a 10-course menu at Café Pluck, where each dish unfolds as a delightful adventure accompanied by captivating storytelling. But the culinary journey doesn't stop there. Elevate your experience by pairing these delectable delights with a carefully curated selection of signature beverages, expertly chosen to complement the unique flavors of each dish, adding an extra layer of indulgence to your dining affair. Guests can immerse themselves in this culinary extravaganza at Café Pluck, where a multitude of delightful experiences await, promising an unforgettable fusion of art, flavor, and storytelling.

Iyer unlikely to be picked for last three Tests

After complaining of groin and back stiffness

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shreyas Iyer is unlikely to be picked in the India squad for the remainder of the Test series against England after complaining of stiffness in his back and groin. Iyer has had recurring troubles with his back and had also undergone a surgery last year. The 29-year-old made 35, 13, 27, 29 in the opening two Tests and was guilty of not capitalising on starts. "He has complained of stiffness and back issue," a BCCI source told PTI. India are already reeling with injuries to key players K L



Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja. Star batter Virat Kohli had missed the first two Tests due

to personal reasons and is unlikely to be available for the games in Rajkot and Ranchi as well. The selectors are yet to announce the squad for the last three Tests but they could do that on Friday. On Monday, India bounced back to level the five-match series with a 106-run victory in Visakhapatnam. England, who have flown back to Abu Dhabi before the third Test in Rajkot beginning February 15, won the series opener by 28 runs. India will be assemble in Rajkot on February 11 and England are expected to reach there a day after.

Padikkal 151 helps Karnataka finish 288/5 on Day 1 against TN

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Opener Devdutt Padikkal continued his red-hot form, slamming an unbeaten 151, his third Ranji Trophy hundred this season, as Karnataka reached 288 for 5 on the opening day of their Group C match against Tamil Nadu here on Friday. Electing to bat, the visitors lost skipper Mayank Agarwal (20) early, with just 35 runs on the board. Agarwal was making his comeback as he missed the last game against Railways after accidentally consuming some liquid on-board a flight that caused burning sensation in his mouth and throat. Padikkal then joined forces with opener Ravikumar Samarth (57), constructing a 132-run partnership for the second wicket and took their side to a position of strength. The stand was broken after Ajith Ram knocked over Samarth. While Karnataka lost the third wicket at 226, Padikkal went strong, clearing the long-on boundary quite regularly to bring up his sixth First-Class ton. Hardik Raj, unbeaten on 35, is giving company to Padikkal at stumps. For TN, spinner R Sai Kishore has bagged three wickets so far. In another tie in Chandigarh, skipper Manan Vohra's fine knock of 134 acted as a cover in an otherwise toiling day for Chandigarh against Tripura.

I made a terrible mistake, shared false info on Kohli: A B de Villiers

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

Former South Africa captain A B de Villiers has said that he "made a terrible mistake" by sharing "false information" about the personal reasons that have forced star India batter Virat Kohli to take a break from international cricket, insisting that he has no idea "what's happening there". On his Youtube channel a few days ago, de Villiers had claimed that Kohli opted out of the first two Tests of the ongoing home series against England due to the impending arrival of his second child with actor wife Anushka Sharma. On Thursday night, he backtracked on that statement in



an interaction with select media on the sidelines of the ongoing SA T20 here. "Family comes first, it's priority as I said on my Youtube channel. I also made a terrible mistake at the same time, sharing false information that was not true at all," de Villiers, who is the brand ambassador of the event, said. "I just think that whatever is best for Virat and his family comes first, no one knows what's happening there. All I

can do is wish him well. Whatever the reason is for this break, I really hope he comes back stronger and better, healthy and fresh and ready to take on the world," he added. Kohli is unlikely to play any part in the ongoing series. **Look forward to seeing SKY at T20 World Cup** De Villiers also spoke about international cricket in general during the interaction. The original Mr 360 degree, who could hit the ball to just about any corner of the ground, de Villiers said he is eager to see Surya Kumar Yadav's performance in the T20 World Cup, where he feels, India would be one of the strongest contenders.

Bumrah tips helped me become a better bowler, says Naman

AP ■ BENONI (SOUTH AFRICA)

India U19 player Naman Tiwari wants to bowl the fastest ball in the world by drawing inspiration watching videos of former greats and following the advice of pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah.

Left-arm pacer Naman, 18, who is grabbing headlines in the ongoing U19 World Cup here, has found the tips he received from Bumrah at the NCA working magic, and is now looking forward to the title clash against Australia on Sunday.

Lucknow boy Naman has troubled rival batters with his yorkers and speed, grabbing 10 wickets so far, with a four-wicket haul against Ireland.

"Bumrah is a source of inspiration for us. I watch his bowling videos a lot. I have met him several times at NCA and talked to him a lot about the mentality and skills of a bowler," Naman told PTI Bhasha on the sidelines of a practice session at Willowmoore Park Stadium here.

"He has explained a lot (of things to me), which is useful. He told me how to bowl accurate yorkers, and I have worked a lot (on that aspect) following his advice. I have to work hard to bring more aggression in this (my bowling)," he said. "I try to learn something from every bowler I like. I try to understand and learn by watching his (Bumrah's) videos. I like Shoaib Akhtar's speed, Dale Steyn's swing and Mitchell Starc's aggression very much," he said.

Naman originally wanted to become a batter but fewer opportunities turned



him to bowling.

"I started playing cricket as a batsman but I was not getting many chances. That's why I started bowling at an academy in Lucknow. Since I am left-handed, I became a left-arm fast bowler," he said. Naman's father is an LIC agent and the pressure to focus on academics was immense given his middle-class background. But his heart was in cricket.

"Papa always told me to focus on studies. I was in seventh standard and wanted to play cricket. I asked my father to give me three years' time to prove myself in cricket. My family is very happy with my success today," said Naman. "Papa calls me every evening. Seeing them (family) happy makes me feel very good that I did not disappoint them," he said. Naman's aim is to become a lethal fast bowler and play Test cricket for India.

"One day I want to bowl the

fastest ball in the world. I also want to play the World Cup with the senior team. But, for now, I have to focus on performance. I want to continuously improve my game because the challenges will be even bigger in the future and I will have to prepare my base to face them," he said. Happy with the team's performance so far in the U19 World Cup, Naman said that it is the result of team effort.

"So far, the performance of all the players has been very good. Especially in the semifinals against South Africa, we showed tremendous spirit. I am very happy with the way we are playing and will try to maintain this momentum in the final also," he said. "Although I like all formats, I find Test cricket the most challenging. That's where the real test of a bowler lies and I want to become a good Test cricketer in the future," said the youngster.

Kashmir differently abled cricketers shine

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amir Hassan had to learn quite early in life that left is right for him. He didn't really have a choice. Fingers of his right hand had to be amputated when he was just an infant after burn injuries caused by an accident deteriorated into severe infection. But life wasn't done testing him. As if being forced to become a southpaw wasn't enough, he also had to grow up the hard way in Tarzoo Village, just three kilometres from



Sopore town in Kashmir valley which earned fame for its apple orchards and notoriety for being militancy-infested during the '90s. Being the eldest child in

his family, he gave up education to help his father, who worked in those picturesque apple orchards. What he never gave up was his cricketing ambition. "Infrastructure is a problem in Kashmir. I daily walk three kilometres from my village for practice. As far as disturbances were concerned, I never got perturbed by them," the left-arm pacer, who is part of the national cricket team for the differently-abled, told PTI during an interaction here. The side has done exceptionally well in the past few years winning the 2019 and 2023 World Cup for the differently-abled, and then beating England in a bilateral T20 series last month. The

achievements become all the more significant given the challenges posed by the COVID-19 disruption. "From childhood, all I wanted to do was to play cricket. I would go for training and come back home. I never indulged in any gossip or activity that would disturb my focus," said Amir, who idolises former pacer Irfan Pathan and the first J&K player to represent India, all-rounder Parvez Rasool. Now in his early 20s, Amir is the leading seamer of team,

having played the two World Cups and the recent series against England where he got five wickets in five games. Not only Amir but national vice-captain Wasim Iqbal and batter Majid Magray, both of whom hail from Anantnag, and Jaffer Bhatt (batter) from Srinagar are shining examples of how cricket for the specially-abled has picked up in the valley. Amir practised bowling while playing with able-bodied boys of his village and that helped him stay a cut above the rest when it came

to competing against other physically challenged cricketers. "You know when National Schools (Championship) was held years ago, I played under Abdul Samad's captaincy, the guy who plays for Sunrisers Hyderabad," Amir said with a lot of pride. Ravikant Chauhan, the secretary of the Differently-abled Cricket Council of India (DCCI), which has been recognised by the BCCI, gave an insight into the growth of cricket in the State.

Bayern Munich trio set to return ahead of key game

AP ■ MUNICH

Bayern Munich is set to welcome back three players to its squad to play at title rival Bayer Leverkusen in the Bundesliga on Saturday, but goalkeeper Manuel Neuer remains an injury doubt. Bayern is two points behind league leader Leverkusen, which is unbeaten in 30 games in all competitions this season. This game is "the moment to put the cards on the table" in the title race, Bayern coach Thomas Tuchel said Friday, adding that he expects Leverkusen will get support from "neutral fans" across Germany who are keen to see Bayern's 11-year run of league titles come to an end. Tuchel said he plans to have central defender Kim Min-jae back after he reached the Asian Cup semifinals with South Korea, and that defender Dayot Upamecano and midfielder Joshua Kimmich are expected to be in the squad after recovering from injuries. Upamecano has been out with a hamstring injury and Kimmich with shoulder problems since both were hurt in Bayern's 1-0 win over Union Berlin on Jan. 24. Tuchel recalled how



Upamecano returned from another injury last year and scored the opening goal in a statement win over Borussia Dortmund. Tuchel said a decision would be taken on Neuer's fitness after training Friday after the goalkeeper missed training earlier this week with an unspecified problem. Backup Sven Ullreich would step in if Neuer can't play, Tuchel added. Forwards Kingsley Coman and Serge Gnabry remain out with injury as does left back Alphonso Davies, who strained a knee ligament in last week's 3-1 win over Borussia Moenchengladbach.

England do all work only to not win much: Vaughan

AP ■ LONDON

Former skipper Michael Vaughan is worried England will become a side that doesn't win much despite putting in the hard yards, adding that the team's batting unit needs to strike a balance between playing aggressive and traditional cricket to succeed in India. Since adopting the 'Bazball' approach, England have enjoyed a good run but the same no-holds-barred approach has also cost them several matches and series, including the Ashes last year. "England have become a difficult team to criticise too much because they are so good to



watch. Every game they play has us all absolutely gripped, and they have improved massively under Ben Stokes," Vaughan wrote in

his column for "The Telegraph". "However, I do worry that they might become a team who do all this great work only to not actually win very much. They didn't win the Ashes when they should have done and now they have let India back into a series when they still have a load of big names, including Virat Kohli, to come back." England had taken a 1-0 lead in the five-match series in India but Ben Stokes and his men let the hosts draw parity in the second Test as all their batters, barring Zak Crawley, were unable to get big scores. "England will not win the series if they bat the way they did in Visakhapatnam. I actually

think the batsmen need to take a leaf out of the bowlers' book. With ball in hand, they have been quite traditional at times, aggressive at others, and they have gone up and down the gears in terms of how attacking their fields have been."

England had pulled off a dramatic 28-run win in the series opener on the back of vice-captain Ollie Pope's epic second-innings knock of 196 and left-arm spinner Tom Hartley's seven-wicket haul in the second innings. "The young spinners have been fantastic but, for me, James Anderson's brilliant performance shows that they have to get another seamer, probably Ollie Robinson, in the side with him," he said.

Pospisil gets wild card for Bengaluru Open

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Former top-30 Canadian tennis star Vasek Pospisil, whose career has been hit by a spate of injuries, was on Friday handed a wild card entry in the singles main draw of the Bengaluru Open Challenger event. Pospisil had won the 2014 Wimbledon doubles title with American Jack Sock and also made the singles quarterfinal at the grass court major in 2015. The 33-year-old old was ranked as high as 25 in singles in 2014 and fourth in the ATP doubles chart the following year. He also has a victory over the then World number one, Andy Murray in 2017. Indian conditions are not alien to Pospisil, who has competed in the country thrice at the Chennai Open, the ATP 250 event that was moved to Pune



before going off the calendar. "I'm really excited to be in India again, and I'm very grateful to the event organisers for giving

me the opportunity. I love the energy of this country and the people here so I'm hoping to have a great week," said Pospisil,

Anger over Messi absence in Hong Kong game spreads

AP ■ HONG KONG

The organizer of a much-hyped soccer match that intended to showcase Lionel Messi in Hong Kong said Friday it would offer a 50% refund following days of backlash from angry fans and the government over the absence of the World Cup winner. The grievances from Hong Kong fans stemming from Messi staying on the bench for the full 90 minutes in the game against a local team due to a groin injury earlier this week has spread to mainland China after the Argentina star put in a 30-minute game appearance in Tokyo in Inter Miami's latest exhibition match in Asia on Wednesday. Over the past two days, many social media users

in mainland China expressed their disappointment over Messi's no-show, with China's state-run newspaper, the Global Times, publishing an editorial that said the impact of the controversy surrounding the football star "has far exceeded the realm of sports." In an Instagram post on Friday, local organizer Tatler Asia apologized to those who were disappointed by the match and said it was upset by "the seeming lack of respect shown to the crowd." It reiterated it had pleaded with Inter Miami's management to urge Messi to explain to the spectators after it learned the football star, who was required to play for 45 minutes unless injured under their contract, would not be playing.