

Supreme Court orders Jet Air liquidation on failure of resolution plan

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday ordered the liquidation of Jet Airways as the consortium of Murari Lal Jalan and Florian Fritsch has failed to take necessary steps to execute the resolution plan of the grounded carrier. The apex court said the ₹200 crore already infused by the consortium stands forfeited.

Besides, the lenders have been allowed to encash the performance bank guarantee of ₹150 crore furnished by the consortium.

A bench of Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Justice J.B. Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra passed the directive while exercising the apex court's extraordinary power vested under Article 142 of the Constitution which empowered it to pass any order, judgment or directive to "render complete justice" to an aggrieved party.

It passed the judgment on an appeal filed by a consortium of lend-



ers headed by the State Bank of India, challenging the impugned order passed by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) that refused to interfere with the resolution process.

"The successful resolution application (SRA or the consortium) herein has failed to infuse the first tranche payment of ₹350 crore as envisaged in the Resolution Plan despite the Effective Date being fixed on 20.05.2022," the order said. "As a consequence,

the payment of CIRP (Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process) costs, workmen and employees' dues etc. which must be made in

priority over the dues of the other creditors have also not been made."

"More than 5 years have passed and the implementation of the Resolution Plan still seems to be a dim light at the far end of a long tunnel," Justice J.B. Pardiwala, who authored the judgment, said. The SBI-led consortium had filed the present appeal challenging the March 12 judgment of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT). The NCLAT dismissed the consortium's appeal and upheld the order on January 13, 2023, passed by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). The NCLT had held the consortium fulfilled all the conditions stipulated in the resolution plan. Jet has remained grounded since April 2019.

SBI posts 28 pc net profit growth at Rs 18,331 crore in July-Sep quarter

New Delhi: The State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest public sector lender, on Friday reported 27.92 per cent growth (year-on-year) in net profit at Rs 18,331 crore in the July-September quarter (Q2 FY25). The operating profit grew by 50.87 per cent to Rs 29,294 crore (year-on-year). The SBI's Return on Assets (ROA) and Return on Equity (RoE) for the half year (H1 FY25) stood at 1.13 per cent and 21.78 per cent, respectively. According to the SBI, its net interest income (NII) for Q2 FY25 increased by 5.37 per cent YoY.

"Gross NPA ratio stood at 2.13 per cent and improved by 42 bps YoY while net NPA ratio at 0.53 per cent improved by 11 bps YoY," said the bank in its financial result. In the quarter, the credit growth came at 14.93 per cent with domestic advances growing by 15.55 per cent YoY. The lender had Rs 51,17,284 crore as total deposits in the September quarter, a 9.13 per cent growth compared to Rs 46,89,218 crore in the September quarter last fiscal. While domestic Current Account Saving Account (CASA) deposits grew



4.24 per cent, domestic term deposits grew 12.51 per cent. CASA ratio stood at 40.03 per cent (as on September 30). According to the SBI, SME and retail personal advances loans registered YoY growth of 17.36 per cent and 12.32 per cent, respectively, in the quarter. While 61 per cent of SB accounts were acquired digitally through the YONO digital banking platform, the share of alternate channels in total transactions increased from 97.7 per cent in H1 FY24 to 98.2 per cent in H1 FY25.

According to the bank, Slippage Ratio for H1 FY25 improved by 2 bps YoY and stood at 0.68 per cent. Slippage Ratio for Q2 FY25 increased by 5 bps YoY and stood at 0.51 per cent. Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) as at the end of Q2FY25 stood at 13.76 per cent. The stock of SBI was down 2.3 per cent at Rs 839.70 apiece during the intra-day trade.

Ola Electric's net loss surges 43 pc in Q2, revenue slumps 26 pc

New Delhi: Bhavish Aggarwal-run Ola Electric on Friday reported a huge 43 per cent surge in net loss at Rs 495 crore in the July-September period (Q2 FY25), from Rs 347 crore in the previous quarter (Q1 FY25), as the EV firm remained mired in issues related to service quality across the country.

The electric two-wheeler company also saw its revenue slump 26.1 per cent to Rs 1,214 crore (on-quarter) from Rs 1,644 crore in the first quarter of this fiscal. The net loss, however, narrowed on a year-on-year basis. The company also saw its market share plunge to 33 per cent in Q2, down from 49 per cent in the previous quarter.

According to experts, increased competition and service network challenges have impacted Ola Electric's market dominance. On Friday, Ola Electric's share further plunged to Rs 72 apiece, its all-time low and down more than 55 per cent from its all-time high of Rs 157.40. The stock made its



public debut at Rs 76.

According to market experts, the company's stock can further slip below the Rs 70 mark. The stock is in a weak position and remains in a 'no-trade' zone, said market analysts.

If Ola Electric's stock remains below its IPO price of Rs 70 for a few days, it may see a further decline due to selling by institutional investors and retail investors. Selling is being seen in shares at every level. Due to continued weakness, investors should stay away from this stock and invest in companies with strong fundamentals, they

added. The reason for the weakness in the shares of Ola Electric is being attributed to the company's weak sales figures and poor service.

Meanwhile, despite Ola Electric claiming that it has resolved 99.1 per cent of the 10,644 complaints filed with the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) regarding its poor after-sales service, the Department of Consumer Affairs was critically examining responses filed by the Bhavish Aggarwal-run EV firm, and will correlate each consumer complaint with the company's claims.

Tata Motors' net profit drops 11 pc on slow JLR, commercial vehicles sales

New Delhi: Tata Motors saw its net profit drop more than 11 per cent (year-on-year) to Rs 3,343 crore in the July-September period amid slowing revenue growth in the luxury unit Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) and commercial vehicles business. The consolidated revenue fell 3.5 per cent to Rs 1.01 lakh crore in a challenging external environment, according to the company. JLR revenue was down by 5.6 per cent to 6.5 billion pounds (about Rs 71,000 crore) in the quarter.

"As highlighted last quarter, JLR performance was impacted by temporary supply constraints which resulted in EBIT margins of 5.1 per cent (down 220 bps)," said the company in its Q2 FY25 financial results. The commercial vehicle sales dropped 13.9 per cent at Rs 17,288 crore and passenger vehicle revenue was down 3.9 per cent at Rs 11,700 crore in Q2. For H1 FY25 (April-September), the automaker reported profit before tax (PBT) of Rs 14,600 crore, an improvement of Rs 2,900 crore over the previous year.

Tata Motors' Group Chief Financial Officer, P.B. Balaji, said growth in the quarter was impacted due to significant external challenges. "Overall, the business fundamentals remain strong, and we remain focused on our agenda of driving growth, competitiveness and free cash flows.

The automaker remains "cautious on near-term domestic demand". "However, the festive season and substantial investments in infrastructure should help bolster it. JLR wholesales are expected to improve sharply, as supply challenges ease," the company said. "Overall, we expect an all-round improvement in performance in H2 FY25 and the business to become net debt free by this year," Tata Motors noted.

JLR Chief Executive Officer Adrian Mardell said that JLR has delivered a resilient performance in Q2, resulting in a 25 per cent increase in first-half profits year-on-year.

Tata Tea Gold VitaCare launches pioneering campaign to address Vitamin D deficiency

Guwahati: Tata Tea Gold VitaCare has unveiled an innovative print campaign aimed at raising awareness about vitamin D deficiency in India, coinciding with World Vitamin D Day. A 2021 study published in the Journal of Nutritional Science revealed that approximately 70% of the Indian population suffers from this deficiency, emphasizing the urgent need for accessible wellness solutions.

The campaign features a unique acrylic mirror advertisement and a digital augmented reality (AR) face test, designed to engage consumers and highlight the importance of vitamin intake. Tata Tea Gold VitaCare offers a convenient way for individuals to boost their vitamin levels, providing 30% of the daily recommended intake of vitamins D, B12, B6, and B9 with just two cups of tea.

Mr. Puneet Das, President of Packaged Beverages at Tata Consumer Products, noted, "Our focus is on delivering wellness through delicious beverages that seamlessly fit into daily routines."



In Guwahati, growing health consciousness is prompting consumers to seek nutritional products that cater to their lifestyles. This campaign is set to resonate with health-aware individuals in the region, further promoting the significance of adequate vitamin D intake in daily life.

Bajaj Finserv Consumption Fund

Guwahati: Bajaj Finserv AMC has announced the launch of the Bajaj Finserv Consumption Fund, an open ended equity scheme following the consumption theme. The fund opens for subscription on 8th November and the New Fund Offer period ends on 22nd November 2024. The Bajaj Finserv Consumption Fund is a true-to-label fund that will strategically invest in sectors aligned with emerging consumption megatrends. These are influential megatrends shaping consumption habits across India. Riding the wave of these changes, the fund aims to identify opportunities in sectors like FMCG, automobiles, consumer durables, consumer goods, healthcare, realty, telecom, power and services, all of which are increasingly contributing to India's rapid consumption growth.

The fund will focus on companies positioned to benefit from emerging consumer boom by identifying potential growth stories. An open end-



ed equity scheme focused on the consumption theme, capturing megatrends shaping consumer behaviour and spending. The scheme will be benchmarked against Nifty India Consumption Total Return Index (TRI).

Mr. Ganesh Mohan, CEO, Bajaj Finserv AMC says, "India's consumption landscape is dramatically shifting due to increased income levels, a surge in urbanization, and a transition from basic to discretionary spending. Consumption as a theme is favourable for investment now as the fundamentals are stronger as compared to the broader markets."

Fostering Collaboration & Knowledge Exchange



Guwahati: The 7th edition of the Apollo Cancer Conclave, organized by Apollo Cancer Centers, Mumbai was attended by over 2,000 Oncologists with over 400 faculty from leading national and international cancer care experts and researchers. The event focused on discussing the latest advances and innovations in cancer care, navigating the evolving landscape from contemporary treatments to precision oncology. Held from November 8th to 10th,

the conclave provided a dynamic platform for healthcare professionals to engage in panel discussions, workshops, and research presentations. Dr. Elisabete Weiderpass, Director of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) at the World Health Organization, remarked, "IARC's 2022 estimates show that the global cancer burden is projected to rise from 20 million new cases in 2022 to 35 million by 2050, primarily impacting low- and middle-income countries. In India, the cancer burden is expected to rise from 1.41 million new cases in 2022 to 2.69 million in 2050." The Apollo Cancer Conclave 2024 set the stage for continued advancements in cancer care, establishing new benchmarks in precision oncology, robotics, AI-based patient care, and clinical collaboration. This year's event exemplified Apollo's commitment to pushing the boundaries of oncology and reinforced its role as a global leader in transforming cancer care.

NSDC organizes mega Job fair in Rajasthan's Bharatpur

Guwahati: The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), is organising a mega job fair, Kaushal Mahotsav, in Bharatpur on November 19, announced Shri. Subhash Garg, MLA, Bharatpur on Thursday highlighting the job fair give youth an opportunity to take career in their respective domain.

Shri Ved Mani Tiwari, CEO, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and managing Director NSDC International said, "Our government's focus has always been on providing job security for the youth. Multiple Kaushal Mahotsavs are being organized across India where the youth is being allowed to meet employers and enter the job market."

Bharatpur, as a key industrial hub, exemplifies the need for a skilled workforce, especially in its 554 registered mustard oil mills and over 10,000 micro and small enterprises in agro-based industries. Initiatives such as the Kaushal Mahotsav are essential in ensuring the local workforce is equipped to sustain and drive growth across these diverse sectors. So far, NSDC has organized a total of eight Kaushal Mahotsavs since 6th Nov 2022. These events saw participation from around 657 Employers, more than 45,000 candidates connected with 26,431 Employment opportunities.

The Embassy of India in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia host a special event

Guwahati: The Embassy of India in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, hosted a special event to showcase the historical significance of all 11 classical Indian languages. This celebration was part of the week-long Pravasi Parichay 2024 and drew over 500 members from the Indian diaspora. The embassy marked the recognition of Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali as classical languages by the Government of India. In a video message, Minister of State for External Affairs, Kir-tivardhan Singh, applauded the embassy's efforts in promoting the value of classical languages.

The event featured a 90-minute play that highlighted various historical tales and cultural aspects tied to the 11 classical

languages—Assamese, Bengali, Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Sanskrit, Telugu, Malayalam, Tamil, Kannada, and Bengali. Attendees enjoyed performances of poetry, dialogues, music, and dance, captivating the audience with India's linguistic richness. Last year, the embassy hosted a program in classical Sanskrit as part of the first edition of Pravasi Parichay, which received a mention by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his "Mann Ki Baat" address in November 2023. Additionally, the embassy organizes an annual film festival each winter called "Ambassador's Choice," featuring a classical language film this year to honor India's linguistic legacy.

The all new Škoda Kylaq

Guwahati: Škoda Auto India has taken the wraps off its much-awaited SUV, the Kylaq, revealing the vehicle for the very first time in India and the world. The Kylaq ushers in the New Era for Škoda Auto in India as it enters new markets and attracts new customers into its fold. The company had ascertained its ambitions to expand further in India with the announcement of this SUV in February this year. In October this year, Škoda Auto India conducted drives of a camouflaged pre-production version of the Kylaq. And a month later, the Kylaq has now made its world premiere, with bookings opening from December 2, 2024.

Company's first ever sub 4m SUV makes its global reveal ahead of January 2025 launch. Announces starting price of INR 7,89,000. Klaus Zellmer, CEO of Škoda Auto, says "The Škoda Kylaq is our first sub-4-metre SUV, designed in India and for India as a new entry point to our brand. India is key to our internationalisation plans, the world's third-largest car market, and SUVs make up 50% of new vehicle sales." The Kylaq can accelerate to a 100kph in 10.5seconds with the manual transmission. The SUV also has a top speed of 188kph. Its 1.0 TSI engine produces 85kW of power and 178Nm of torque.

TCS iON partners with NSDC

Guwahati: The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and TCS iON have signed a MoU to launch the National Proficiency Tests (NPTs) and provide industry-recognized certifications to enhance skills and boost youth employability across India. NPTs are nationwide assessments that enable students, job seekers and professionals to validate their skills and earn recognition in specific areas of expertise through Skill India Digital Hub. The collaboration combines the strengths of two of India's most trusted organizations and initially focuses on sectors such as IT, BFSI,

Manufacturing, Healthcare along with domains including HR, Finance, Sales & Marketing and many more to follow.

Shri Ved Mani Tiwari, CEO of NSDC said, "The NSDC-TCS iON agreement inked today is not just an understanding but the beginning of a movement for enhanced employability for every Indian to get their skills assessed and certified, thereby making them more employable in today's world as per industry standards requirements and expectations."

Shri Venguswamy Ramaswamy, Global Head, TCS iON, said, "We are excited to



announce this collaboration, which is aimed at establishing a robust framework for skill assessments in the country. The NPTs will address the ever-evolving need for talent across sectors."

This collaboration marks a significant step towards digital transformation within the skilling ecosystem, with plans to introduce new skill NPTs each quarter.

Raise your cup to wellness: Tata Tea launches Gold VitaCare with essential vitamins

Guwahati: Tata Tea has introduced a new product designed to enhance well-being—Tata Tea Gold VitaCare. This innovative tea blend promises a delicious way to boost health, as just two cups provide 30% of the daily recommended intake of four essential vitamins: D, B6, B9, and B12.

Vitamin D supports normal bone maintenance, while Vitamin B6 aids in reducing tiredness and fatigue. Folic Acid, or Vitamin B9, is essential for normal blood formation, and Vitamin B12 contributes to energy-yielding metabolism. With these health benefits, Tata Tea Gold VitaCare offers consumers a practical solution to incorporate vital nutrients into their daily routines.

Available in 100, 250, and 500 gram packs, Tata Tea Gold VitaCare is priced at Rs 50, Rs 180, and Rs 340, re-



spectively, and can be found across general trade, modern trade, and leading e-commerce platforms. Tata Tea emphasizes that this product should be consumed as part of a balanced diet, underscoring its commitment to promoting overall wellness in a delicious and convenient manner. Raise your cup to wellness with Tata Tea Gold VitaCare!

Nissan Motor India achieves 5,570 sales in October, powered by new Magnite's success

Guwahati: Nissan Motor India has recorded a strong sales performance for October 2024, with 5,570 wholesale dispatches driven by the overwhelming demand for the New Nissan Magnite. The total sales include 2,449 export units and 3,121 domestic units, reflecting the brand's strategic focus on delivering high-quality products that resonate with consumers both in India and abroad.

The New Nissan Magnite, which embodies Nissan's 'One Car, One World' philosophy, has been a key driver of this success. Featuring over 20 first-in-segment features and more than 55 safety features, the Magnite's bold design and innovation have captured the attention of customers, especially during the festive season. "We thank our customers for their overwhelming response. The Magnite is bringing fresh enthusiasm to the market, and we look forward to carrying this momentum into the coming months," said Mr. Saurabh Vatsa, Managing Director, Nissan Motor India.

In Guwahati, the Magnite has generated significant buzz, with increasing demand for its stylish design and advanced features. The compact SUV is well-suited to the preferences of Northeast India's customers, offering a blend of performance, safety, and affordability that has made it a standout choice in the region.

Diabetes is more than just a blood sugar condition

Guwahati: As World Diabetes Day approaches on November 14, QNET India is reinforcing its commitment to comprehensive diabetes management with the launch of its leading health supplements, Nutriplus DiabaHealth and Nutriplus ImmunHealth. With the global theme "Diabetes and Well-being," the World Health Organization (WHO) highlights the importance of not only managing blood sugar levels but also strengthening immunity and overall well-being.

Nutriplus DiabaHealth, a 100% nat-

ural supplement, combines Malabar kino and other herbal ingredients, offering a safe, effective solution for maintaining healthy blood sugar levels. It provides long-term support for individuals managing diabetes. On the other hand, Nutriplus ImmunHealth is designed to enhance immune function, with ingredients like Papaya Extract, Aloe Vera, and Guduchi Satwa, which stabilize immune responses and support overall health.

In Guwahati, QNET's wellness products are receiving a warm recep-

Swiggy's IPO opens today; price band fixed at Rs 371- Rs 390 per share

Guwahati: Swiggy Limited, one of India's leading on-demand convenience platforms, has launched its Initial Public Offering (IPO) today, marking a significant step in its journey. The IPO opens on November 06, 2024, and will close on November 08, 2024, with a price band set between ₹371 and ₹390 per equity share, each having a face value of ₹1.

The offer consists of a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to ₹44,990 million and an offer for sale by the company's

existing shareholders of up to 175,087,863 shares. Additionally, 750,000 equity shares have been reserved for eligible employees under the Employee Reservation Portion, which will constitute 5% of the post-offer paid-up equity share capital.

Bids can be made for a minimum of 38 shares, and in multiples thereafter. The company plans to list its shares on both the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE).

The IPO is being managed by leading



investment firms including Kotak Mahindra Capital Company, J.P. Morgan India, Citigroup Global Markets, and others. This marks a major milestone for Swiggy as it continues to expand its footprint in the Indian market.

Indian Embassy in Peru celebrates India's new classical languages with cultural showcase

Guwahati: The Indian Embassy in Lima, Peru, recently celebrated the recognition of Assamese, Bengali, Marathi, Pali, and Prakrit as classical languages by the Indian government, a move that now brings India's total count of classical languages to eleven. This distinction was marked by a vibrant event, where both the Indian diaspora and distinguished Peruvian guests gathered to appreciate the cultural significance and historical roots of these languages.

Indian Ambassador Vikas Sapkal opened the ceremony, underscoring the Indian government's dedication to supporting regional languages through funding and research initiatives, aiming to promote and preserve linguistic heritage. Ambassador Sapkal emphasized that the recognition would bolster academic study and cultural

engagement around these languages, enriching India's linguistic landscape.

In addition to lively traditional dances from Assam, West Bengal, and Maharashtra, representatives from the Bengali and Marathi communities shared insights into their linguistic legacies, noting their pivotal roles in India's freedom movement and literary achievements. Over 100 guests enjoyed the festivities, which offered a glimpse into India's linguistic diversity.

In Guwahati, this recognition could serve as a catalyst for Assam's linguistic and cultural promotion on a global scale. Local stakeholders anticipate that increased academic and cultural interest in Assamese could open new avenues for collaborations, tourism, and investment, bolstering Assam's profile internationally.

Bandhan Group enters Tech Space

Guwahati: Bandhan Group (Bandhan Financial Services Ltd) has announced its acquisition of Genisys Group, a global information technology and business process services company. This marks Bandhan Group's strategic entry into the technology sector. The acquisition allows Bandhan Group to expand its global footprint with new offices in the U.S., UK, and India, significantly enhancing its presence in these markets. By integrating Genisys Group's offerings, Bandhan Group will add to its portfolio an integrated portfolio of solutions, including digital transformation, data analytics, cloud services, digital media operations, and smart business process solutions across various industries worldwide.

Satish Subramaniam, CEO of Genisys Group,

expressed, "We are thrilled to join forces with Bandhan Group. Their industry expertise and investment prowess will be critical in helping us scale both organically and through strategic acquisitions."

Genisys Group is at the forefront of delivering IT and AI-driven solutions, utilizing cloud technologies and automation to facilitate digital transformation. Bandhan Financial Services Limited ('BFSL') is the promoter of Bandhan Financial Holdings Limited ('BFHL') and Bandhan Bank Limited. BFSL was incorporated on August 03, 1995, and was registered with the Reserve Bank of India ('RBI') as an NBFC-ND-SI-CIC engaged in the business of investment activities. Bandhan AMC and Bandhan Life are the step-down subsidiaries of BFSL.

ICICI Foundation enhances healthcare access across Northeast India

Guwahati: ICICI Foundation, the CSR arm of ICICI Bank, is making significant strides in improving healthcare access across Northeast India, benefiting over 9,100 patients since 2023. The initiative, spanning Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura, includes providing critical medical equipment like video bronchoscopes, dialysis units, and ultrasounds, as well as infrastructure such as mobile medical units and ambulances.

In Shillong, Meghalaya, the foundation's support to Reid Provincial Chest Hospital with a video bronchoscope has transformed the diagnosis and treatment of TB, lung cancer, and pulmonary infections, reducing mortality rates, particularly among drug-resistant TB patients. In Assam, the installation of 25 dialysis units in districts such as Chirang and Kokrajhar has improved access to kidney care.

A mobile blood collection unit provided to the Christian Institute of Health Sciences and Research (CIHSR) in Nagaland has further enhanced blood donation drives, collecting 180 units from January to March 2024.

These healthcare initiatives are not only improving patient outcomes but also stimulating local economies. In Shillong, the enhanced healthcare infrastructure has reduced the need for medical travel outside the region, supporting local businesses, healthcare providers, and contributing to the growth of the local market by increasing public confidence in accessible healthcare.



tion. As awareness around diabetes management grows, consumers are increasingly seeking natural, preservative-free supplements to enhance their overall health. QNET's product offerings are particularly resonating with health-conscious individuals in Guwahati, where demand for holistic wellness solutions is on the rise. The brand's focus on immunity-boosting and blood sugar control is positioning it as a key player in the region's expanding health and wellness sector.

Suryakumar Yadav Embraces Rohit Sharma's Balanced Leadership Style

Durban: Suryakumar Yadav, who recently ascended to the role of India's T20 captain, is drawing inspiration from Rohit Sharma's leadership methods, emphasizing balance and team unity in both triumph and defeat. Yadav, known affectionately as Surya, shared insights into the influence of Sharma's philosophy ahead of the first T20I against South Africa.

Surya highlighted the importance of maintaining composure and character regardless of the game's outcome, a lesson he has learned from observing Sharma over the years. "Rohit has shown that even when you don't succeed, your character should not change. Maintaining balance in life is crucial," Surya explained.

Under Sharma's captaincy,



Surya developed his understanding of effective leadership, noting that a true leader shapes the team's approach to the game. Having played under Sharma's captaincy at Mumbai Indians and in Mumbai's Ranji team, Surya has been privy to Sharma's calm demeanor and player-centric management style, "I've cus-

tomized Rohit's approach to fit my own style, adding my own elements," Surya said, smiling. He emphasized the significance of off-field relationships in building team chemistry and ensuring players feel comfortable and valued.

The Indian skipper is committed to understanding his teammates' psyches, which

he believes is key to optimizing their performance on the pitch. "It's about giving them the freedom to express themselves and knowing who can handle pressure situations," he added. Despite being labeled a limited-overs specialist post the 50-over World Cup, Surya remains hopeful about making a comeback in Test cricket. "My return to the Test format will happen when it's meant to be. I continue to participate in domestic competitions, regardless of the format," he affirmed.

As Surya takes forward Sharma's legacy with his own twist, his focus remains on nurturing a team environment conducive to both personal and professional growth, setting the stage for a resilient and united Indian T20 squad.

Barcelona Continues Scoring Spree with Convincing Champions League Victory



Barcelona: Barcelona's formidable attack shone brightly once again as they secured a significant 5-2 victory over Red Star Belgrade in the Champions League on Wednesday. This triumph marked the seventh consecutive match across all competitions in which the Catalan giants have scored at least three goals, with an average of four goals per game during this impressive run.

Robert Lewandowski led the charge with two goals, bringing his remarkable scoring streak to 15 goals in his last 10 appearances for Barcelona. Raphinha also continued his excellent form, adding another goal to his tally, which now stands at eight in his last six Champions League games.

"We played very well again today," Lewandowski remarked after the match, celebrating his career total of 99 goals in the competition. "We had the match under control and secured the three points." Barcelona currently leads this season's Champions League in goals scored, with a total of 15 across four matches. The match's intensity was acknowledged by Red Star midfielder Timi Elsnik, who commented, "We knew that Barcelona were in good form before the match, winning the 'clasico' and scoring a lot of goals. It was quite a challenge but we put in a good showing, especially in the first half."

The victory follows a string of dominant performances by Barcelona, including a 3-1 win against Espanyol in the city derby and a historic 4-0 thumping of Real Madrid in the 'clasico'. Prior to that, Barcelona had secured a 4-1 victory over Bayern Munich in the Champions League, alongside decisive wins against Sevilla, Alaves, and Young Boys, demonstrating their offensive prowess and tactical excellence under coach Hansi Flick.

Neeraj Chopra Expresses Emotional Goodbye to Longtime Coach Klaus Bartonietz

New Delhi: In a heartfelt farewell, star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has announced the end of his successful collaboration with coach Klaus Bartonietz, after a transformative five-year partnership. Bartonietz, who played a pivotal role in Chopra's journey including a historic gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics and a silver at the recent Paris Games, cited family commitments as his reason for stepping down. Chopra took to social media to express his gratitude and emotional attachment to Bartonietz, highlighting the profound impact he had on his career and personal growth. "Coach, you are more than just a mentor to me. Everything you taught has helped me grow both as an athlete and person," Chopra wrote, acknowledging the deep bond formed through years of training and competition.

The 75-year-old German coach's decision follows after his contract concluded post-Paris Olympics. Under



his guidance, Chopra not only topped podiums at the Olympics but also claimed the title of world champion, Diamond League champion, and an Asian Games gold medalist. Klaus Bartonietz, initially a biomechanics expert, stepped into the role of head coach following the departure of Uwe Hohn due to differences with the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) and the Sports Authority of India. His tenure with Chopra has been marked by significant athletic achievements and personal milestones. Reflecting on the lighter moments, Chopra reminisced, "I will miss the pranks and the laughs we shared, but more than anything, I will miss US as a team."

Mind now switches to red ball: Cummins prepares for India Tests after ODI loss to Pakistan

Adelaide: Australia captain Pat Cummins is gearing up for the much-awaited contest of the year - the five-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy series against India - after suffering a mega nine-wicket loss against Pakistan in the second ODI at Adelaide Oval here on Friday.

Pakistan pacer HarisRauf's fiery five-wicket haul floored the Australian batters on their home turf to wrap them for 163 all out in 35 overs. Fellow speedster Shaheen Shah Afridi claimed the figures of 3-26 in his eight overs to further stamp their fast-bowling dominance on seam-friendly and bouncy Australian pitches. In response, openers SaimAyub and Abdullah Shafique set up a perfect start for the visitors with the 137-run partnership. Ayum, who was at his attacking best, hammered 82 off 71 balls laced with six sixes and five fours before spinner Adam Zampa got the sole wicket of Pakistan's innings in



the 21st over. Babar Azam (15 not out) and Shafique, who scored an unbeaten 64 including four fours and three sixes, guided the side to a resonating nine-wicket win to level the three-match series 1-1.

Australia will be without the services of their senior players including captain Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood, MarcusLabuschagne, and Steve Smith for the series decider in Perth on Sunday.

Rahul, Easwaran fail to leave mark as India A reduced to 73/5, after Harris makes 74

Melbourne: KL Rahul and AbhimanyuEaswaran failed to leave a mark yet again as India A were reduced to 73/5 at the end of day two's play in the second four-day game against Australia A at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Friday. Previously, Australia A managed to take a 62-run lead, thanks to opener Marcus Harris making 74 in their total of 223. For India A, fast-bowler Prasidh Krishna took a four-fer while pacer Mukesh Kumar picked three wickets.

In their second innings, India A were in trouble yet again as they went from 31/1 to 56/5. Wicketkeeper-batter DhruvJurel will have to stage a rescue act for India A, who lead by 11 runs at the end of day two. Jurel is unbeaten on 19 while Nitish Kumar Reddy is nine not out. In the morning, resuming from unbeaten 26, Harris brought up his 47th first-class halfcentury and strengthen his case for opening the batting with UsmanKhawaja in the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Harris' 74 came off 138 balls and was laced with five boundaries. He was also lucky to have a reprieve at 48 when it looked like TanushKotian found the edge of Harris' bat before being caught at first slip, but the on-field umpire not giving him left India A enraged. He was also helped by valuable contributions from Jimmy Peirson (30), Nathan McAndrew (26 not out) and Corey Rocchiccioli (35). In India A's second innings, Rahul and Easwaran added 25 runs for loss before the latter sliced to gully off McAndrew.

FC Goa Ascends to Top Three in ISL After Overcoming Punjab FC

Margao: FC Goa secured a crucial 2-1 victory against Punjab FC in the Indian Super League on Wednesday, propelling them into the top three of the standings. This win at their home ground marks FC Goa's second triumph in a row, following a significant 3-0 defeat of Bengaluru FC earlier in the week.

Punjab FC initially took the lead with Asmir Sujik finding the net early at the 13-minute mark. However, FC Goa quickly responded, with Armando Sadiku leveling the score in the 22nd minute. The equalizer came from a precise pass by Iker Garrotxena, setting the tone for a competitive match.

The first half saw both teams creating opportunities but failing to convert, ending the half with a 1-1 tie. As the second half commenced, FC Goa intensified their attack, and it wasn't long before Garrotxena turned from provider to scorer. In the 49th minute, he adeptly converted a close-range effort, giving his team the lead with a sharp left-footed finish.

Despite several attempts by Punjab FC to equalize, FC Goa's defense held strong, maintaining their narrow lead through the intense final minutes of the match. This victory not only highlighted FC Goa's resilience but also underscored their strategic prowess on the field.