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Sensex, Nifty decline on selling in IT shares, FII sellout



New Delhi (PTI): Gold prices traded flat at INR 82,400 per 10 grams while silver prices dropped by INR 1,500 per kg in the national capital on Thursday, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal had rallied INR 1,000 to breach the INR 82,000 per 10 grams level for the first time in Delhi on Wednesday. Gold of 99.5 per cent purity also ruled flat at INR 82,000 per 10 grams -- its all-time high level -- on Thursday.

However, silver was under selling pressure and fell below the INR 1 lakh mark, declining by INR 1,500 to INR 99,500 per kg after five

straight days of gains. It had closed at INR 1.01 lakh per kg on Wednesday. Meanwhile, in futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for December delivery declined INR 308 or 0.39 per cent to trade at INR 79,428 per 10 grams. Silver contracts for December delivery plunged INR 1,016 or 1.04 per cent to INR 96,724 per kg on the bourse.

“Gold prices witnessed slight profit-taking as traders preferred to secure gains from recent rallies ahead of Friday’s key events -- the Non-Farm Payroll (NFP) and unemployment reports,” Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst of Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, said.

Currently, gold is trading around at INR 79,400 in MCX, and facing a resistance at INR 79,600, while Comex shows a hurdle near USD 2,790 per ounce. The upcoming US election next week is expected to be a decisive factor for gold’s trend, with market participants closely watching its outcome for further direction, Trivedi said. In the international markets, Comex gold futures trading 0.36 per cent lower to USD 2,790.80 per ounce.

Two-wheeler sales up, reflecting mid-to-high single-digit growth amid varied demand trends



Mumbai: Two-wheeler retail sales during the Navratras grew by a mid-to-high single digit across regions even as rural sales have remained muted, a brokerage firm said in a report on the automobile sector on Thursday.

The report by Motilal Oswal Financial Services also said that during the last week of October, inquiries and bookings are seeing a slight improvement for passenger vehicle OEMs (original equipment makers), especially Maruti Suzuki and Tata Motors.

“We observed varied demand trends in October, with two-wheelers and tractors showing positive momentum and passenger and commercial vehicles witnessing moderate demand. A better monsoon is helping drive positive sentiments in rural regions, though the sustainability of this demand remains to be seen,” the brokerage firm said.

Overall, two-wheelers performed better, with festive growth expected at 4-5 per cent year-on-year, partially constrained by a high base, it said.

At the same time, passenger vehicles may see a fall in the festive season compared with last year, it said, adding that inventory levels are currently high for both two-wheelers and passenger vehicles, making Diwali sales a critical period to gauge inventory clearance.

Tractor volumes are recovering and are expected to perform well in the second half of the current financial year. In commercial vehicles, sentiment improved sequentially, driven by demand in certain industries, though a full recovery remains distant, it stated.

Overall, the brokerage firm said, it expects dispatch growth for two-wheelers and tractors at 12 per cent and 2 per cent, respectively, while for the three-wheelers at 5 per cent.

India’s forex reserves drop by \$3.463 billion to \$684.805 billion

Mumbai (PTI): India’s forex reserves dropped by USD 3.463 billion to USD 684.805 billion in the week ended October 25, the RBI said on Friday.

The overall reserves had dropped by USD 2.163 billion to USD 688.267 billion in the previous reporting week. In end-September, the reserves had hit an all time high of USD 704.885 billion.

For the week ended October 25, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by USD 4.484 billion to USD 593.751 billion, the data released on Friday showed.

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 the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves increased by USD 1.082 billion to USD 68.527 billion during the week, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down by USD 52 million to USD 18.219 billion, the apex bank said.

India’s reserve position with the IMF was down by USD 9 million to USD 4.307 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.

Petrol sales rebound on festival season, diesel demand continues to drop

New Delhi(PTI): India’s petrol consumption soared 7.3 per cent in October on the back of increased demand from the start of festive season but diesel sales were down 3.3 per cent, preliminary data of state-owned firms showed on Friday. Petrol sales of three state-owned firms, which control 90 per cent of the fuel market, rose to 3.1 million tonnes during October when compared to 2.87 million tonnes of consumption in the same month last year. Diesel demand dropped 3.3 per cent to 6.7 million tonnes. While petrol sales were up mostly due to an increase in use of personal vehicles as the festive season kicked in, diesel demand dropped due to lower demand from the agriculture sector owing to the extended rainy season.

Petrol and diesel sales have been tepid during the last few months as monsoon rains reduced vehicular movement and demand for the agriculture sector. Month-on-month petrol sales were up 7.8 per cent when compared to 2.86 million tonnes of consumption in September. Diesel demand was however almost 20 per cent more than 5.59 million tonnes



of consumption in September. Diesel is India’s most consumed fuel, accounting for almost 40 per cent of all petroleum product consumption. The transport sector accounts for 70 per cent of all diesel sales in the country. It is also the predominant fuel used in agriculture sectors, including in harvesters and tractors.

Consumption of petrol during October was 10.5 per cent more than in October 2022, and 32.8 per cent more than in Covid-marred October 2020. Diesel demand was up 1.7 per cent over October 2022, and 12.6 per cent compared to October 2020.

Jet fuel (ATF) sales rose 2.5 per cent year-on-year to 6,47,700 tonnes during October 2024.

But this was 2.6 per cent lower month-on-month when compared with 6,31,100 tonnes of fuel sold in September. Like petrol and diesel, ATF demand too is now firmly above pre-Covid levels. ATF consumption was 11.5 per cent more than in October 2022, and 1.9 per cent more than in October 2020.

Cooking gas LPG sales were up 7.5 per cent year-on-year at 2.82 million tonnes in October 2024. LPG consumption was 13.1 per cent higher than in October 2022, and 19.1 per cent more than in October 2020. Month-on-month, LPG demand was up 3.5 per cent against 2.72 million tonnes of LPG consumption in September, the data showed.

Maruti Suzuki India sales top 2 lakh in October amid strong festive season demand

Calcutta: Auto companies betting big on festive sales of October 2024 after a sluggish run through August and September this year were not disappointed. Maruti and Mahindra seem to have made the most of the festive demand.

With all the festivities starting from Navratri to Diwali bunched up in October this year, the companies have managed to offload stocks and will return to a healthy level of inventory of 30 days after hitting a high of 80 days stocks in the sales channel in September. Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) crossed

the two lakh milestone of sales in a month.

The company sold a total of 206,434 units, which is its highest ever monthly sales volume. Total sales in the month include domestic units of 163,130 vehicles, sales to other OEM of 10,136 units and the highest ever monthly exports of 33,168 units. Mahindra & Mahindra announced that its overall auto sales for the month of October 2024 stood at 96,648 vehicles, including exports.

In the utility vehicles segment, Mahindra sold 54,504 vehicles in the domestic market, a growth of 25 per cent

and overall, 55,571 vehicles, including exports. The domestic sales for commercial vehicles stood at 28,812.

Hyundai Motor India also cashed in on the popularity of SUVs registering a sale of 70,078 units in October, which is its third highest monthly sales since inception.

The company sold a record number of 37,902 SUVs with the Creta contributing 17,497 units. Tata Motors sales in the domestic & international market for October 2024 stood at 82,682 vehicles, compared with 82,954 units during October 2023.

Vi launches festive Deepawali rewards for subscribers



Shillong: As Deepawali approaches, Vi is igniting the festive spirit for its subscribers with an array of exciting rewards. Running until November 3, the telecom giant is inviting customers to recharge via the Vi App, where they can spin a wheel to unlock guaranteed rewards, including data packs and an annual recharge valued at Rs 3,499.

This festive offering features rewards ranging from 1GB to 30GB of extra data and enticing discount coupons from popular online retailers. After each recharge, subscribers can participate in the spin-the-wheel game, answering a simple question for a chance to win again every 48 hours.

In Shillong, where the demand for connectivity is on the rise, Vi's initiative is likely to resonate well with customers eager for value and reliable service during the festive season. As many residents prioritize staying connected with loved ones, these promotions can enhance user engagement with the Vi App and foster customer loyalty.

Additionally, Vi is providing instant discounts of up to Rs 100 on annual prepaid packs and special offers on vouchers from major brands like Myntra, Flipkart, and Amazon, ensuring that subscribers can make the most of their Deepawali celebrations while enjoying seamless connectivity.

Good quality green tea from Tetley

Guwahati: Discover a refreshing way to build on your wellness with antioxidant-rich green tea, now with added Vitamin C to help support your immune system from Tetley. From the bright zest flavour of lemon and the soothing sweetness of honey, to the tropical taste of mango and the invigorating blend of ginger and mint, there's a flavour for every mood. These thoughtfully crafted combinations not only taste great but also provide an extra layer of wellness in every cup. Enjoy a soothing break that helps you feel fit and refreshed, inside and out.

Some of the different Tetley green tea is Tetley Green Tea with Ginger, Mint & Lemon, Tetley Green Tea Classic, Tetley Green Tea Mango, Tetley Green Tea with Lemon & Honey, Tetley Green Tea with Tulsi and Tetley Green Tea Kahwa. Awaken your senses with the invigorating blend of ginger, refreshing mint, and zesty lemon flavours infused in antioxidant-rich green tea. Now with added Vitamin C. Discover the purity of Tetley Green Classic Taste, now enhanced with the power of added Vitamin C. Rich in antioxidants, this soothing brew helps you feel fit and refreshed both inside and out. Elevate your daily routine with a timeless cup that refreshes your body from within.

Godrej L'affaire extends its heartfelt celebration of love and relationships

Guwahati: From the warm glow of diyas to the aroma of festive treats, Diwali is a celebration of love, light, and togetherness that bridges hearts and traditions. Godrej L'affaire, the experiential owned media lifestyle platform by Godrej Industries Group (GIG), extends its heartfelt celebration of love and relationships with the continuation of their #CelebratingAcceptance campaign on Diwali. The film aims to showcase the true meaning of acceptance and equality in relationships, by portraying the emotional journey of a same-sex couple. In a world where stereotypes and prejudices continue to persist, Godrej L'affaire seeks to challenge these biases through a compelling brand film.

The story centres around young Shlok's interaction with his neighbour Aunt, who helps with his understanding of love and family.

Sujit Patil (he/him), Chief Communications Officer, Corporate Brand and Communica-



tions, Godrej Industries Group, said, "Festivities in India are deeply entrenched in tradition. With this film Godrej L'affaire aims to generate conversations around widening traditional norms. We hope to spark meaningful conversations around love that transcends norms."

This Diwali, join Godrej L'affaire in embracing a significant step towards fostering a society where love knows no bounds and where all relationships are cherished.

India's Skill Convocation 2024 celebrates 8 lakh graduates, showcases new AI and industry-aligned programs

Guwahati: The Kaushal Deekshant Samaroh 2024 celebrated over 8 lakh graduates from the Craftsmen and Craft Instructor Training Schemes across more than 15,000 ITIs and 33 NSTIs. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message applauded the skilled graduates, describing India's young workforce as a global talent powerhouse and a driving force for Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India).

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) held a central ceremony at Kaushal Bhawan in New Delhi, led by Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (Skill Development), with over 19 lakh students participating online. PM Modi highlighted new opportunities with AI and employability skills



modules for ITI students, introduced to meet global workforce standards. MSDE's recent initiatives align with India's rapid economic growth, ensuring students are future-ready.

Notable honorees included All-India Toppers from CTS and CITS, female achievers in engineering trades, and

para-athlete Ms. Preethi Pal. Her story of resilience inspired graduates nationwide. Minister Chaudhary underscored the importance of aligning training with local industry needs, encouraging corporate and legislative support for upskilling initiatives, reinforcing India's role in the global talent market.

In Guwahati Kalyan Jewellers launches its 2nd showroom

Guwahati: Kalyan Jewellers, one of India's most-trusted and largest jewellery brands, has announced the launch of its all-new showroom at Guwahati. The new and luxurious showroom features an extensive range of designs from various collections, offering state-of-the-art facilities with world-class ambiance, providing an unparalleled experience. With this showroom launch, the jewellery brand expands its operations in the city. Aims to strengthen presence in the state of Assam & make brand more accessible to patrons. Announced mega-launch offers pre-Diwali.

Mr. Ramesh Kalyanaraman, Executive Director of Kalyan Jewellers, said, "As a company, we have achieved huge milestones and taken major strides towards creating a holistic ecosystem to enhance the customer shopping experience. As we embark on this next phase of our growth journey, we are delighted to announce the launch of our new showroom in Guwahati."

Patrons will also receive Kalyan Jewellers' 4-Level Assurance Certificate, which guarantees purity, free lifetime maintenance of ornaments, detailed product information, and transparent exchange and buy-back policies. This certification reflects the brand's commitment to offering the very best to its loyal customers. Kalyan Jewellers' all-new showroom offers Muhurat – the bridal jewellery line curated from across India. It also features exclusive sections featuring Kalyan's popular house brands.

JSW MG Motor India announce sales of 7,045 units in October 2024

Guwahati: JSW MG Motor India has announced sales of 7,045 units in October 2024, a YoY growth of 31% over the corresponding month in the previous year (October 2023). The company's New Energy Vehicles (NEVs) remain a significant part of its overall sales. Contributing over 70% of total volumes – the highest share of monthly sales by any passenger car manufacturer in the country – thereby demonstrating its commitment to promoting the adoption of NEVs.

Marking yet another significant milestone in India's journey towards clean mobility, JSW MG Motor India electrifies the EV market by selling 3,116 units of the MG

Windsor – the country's first intelligent Crossover Utility Vehicle (CUV) – within the first month of its launch. These robust sales numbers are the highest among all other passenger electric cars which were sold during October 2024. The company remains committed to sharing its sales numbers on the VAHAN portal, in consonance with its announcement in the previous month. As reported on VAHAN, the carmaker's YoY growth was 34% (excluding Telangana) this month. The boost in sales during the festive season reflects the rapidly growing popularity of the company's electric vehicle portfolio.

Sunfeast Mom's Magic inspires mothers across the country

Guwahati: In India, although daughters, like sons, should have equal rights to inherit family property; in reality it is far from the truth. Research done by Sunfeast Mom's Magic shows that only 7% daughters receive equal inheritance through a will. The long-standing belief that "betiyan paraya dhan hoti hain" (daughters are ultimately someone else's responsibility) is still very much prevalent in Indian families.

Ali Harris Shere, Chief Operating Officer, Biscuits & Cakes Cluster, Foods Division, ITC Limited said, "A large number of Mothers in India themselves having faced unfair treatment in matters of inheritance by their parents, are the ones who can truly spark a change now in their own

families for their daughters. Through the 'Will of Change' campaign, we hope to inspire mothers to ensure equal inheritance rights for daughters and become a Mom of Change."

At the heart of the campaign is a deeply emotional and thought-provoking film starring Shefali Shah and Manish Chaudhary. The film poignantly highlights how inheritance decisions often ignore daughters, despite their contributions to the family. The story unfolds in a modern family setting, where Mr. Shekhar Verma is finalizing his will with a lawyer. While his daughter Shreya, helps him gather the documents, it becomes clear that only his son Arjun is being named the heir to their family assets.

slice successfully complete its merger with NESFB

Guwahati: slice, India's leading consumer payments and lending company has successfully completed its merger with North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB), effective from 27th October 2024, following the receipt of all requisite shareholder and regulatory approvals. This merger unifies the operations, assets, and brand identities of both entities into a single, integrated banking institution. This merger marks a pivotal milestone in India's financial landscape, combining the innovation of a leading fintech with the trusted foundation of a traditional banking institution. This strategic integration sets the foundation for building India's foremost tech-driven bank, prioritizing stability, risk management, and a robust gov-

ernance framework as its key pillars.

Reflecting on the merger, Rajan Bajaj, Founder & CEO, slice and Executive Director of the merged entity, said, "For over a year, the teams at slice and NESFB have worked tirelessly to make this merger a reality. Today, we're thrilled to be at the starting line of building India's most loved bank. We are grateful to the regulatory authorities, especially the RBI and The Govt of Assam, for trusting us with this transformative journey."

Moving forward, the merged entity will introduce a range of banking products and services including savings account, fixed deposits, and credit products among others.

Hapkido Federation of India hosts thriving 8th National Hapkido Championship

Guwahati: The Hapkido Federation of India (HFI) successfully conducted the 8th National Hapkido Championship on October 19-20, 2024, in New Delhi, drawing an impressive participation of 550 martial artists from various states. The event showcased the growth and popularity of Hapkido, a traditional Korean martial art that emphasizes harmony and balance through a blend of striking, throwing, and submission techniques.

Under the visionary leadership of Premjit Sen, HFI's president, the sport has gained significant traction across India. Sen's unwavering dedication has been pivotal in promoting Hapkido, offering enthusiasts a unified platform to demonstrate their skills. "Premjit Sen's day-and-night hard work has been the driving force behind Hapkido's growth in India," said Rajnesh Choudhury, General Secretary of HFI.

The event not only highlighted the competitive spirit of the participants but also drew attention to the martial arts community's potential in regions like Guwahati. Local enthusiasts are increasingly engaging in martial arts training, reflecting a rising demand for such disciplines in the region, which may soon see a surge in training centers and competitions as awareness continues to grow.

TKM unveils Limited Festival Edition of Toyota Rumion

Mumbai: Making this festive season special for car buyers, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) has introduced the Festive Edition of the Toyota Rumion. This Limited-Edition, featuring exclusive Toyota Genuine Accessory (TGA) packages aimed at enhancing the Rumion's aesthetics and comfort is the perfect mobility choice to celebrate the season in elegance and style. This festive edition of the Rumion, available across all grades, comes with a dealer-fitted TGA package worth ₹20,608, ensuring that customers enjoy a premium experience. The Festival Limited Edition TGA package features Back Door Garnish, Mud Flaps, Rear Bumper Garnish, Deluxe Carpet Mat (RHD), Head Lamp Garnish, Number Plate Garnish, Door Visor – Chrome, Roof Edge Spoiler and Body Side Molding Garnish Finish.

Toyota Rumion is available in six variants of S MT/AT, G MT, and V MT/AT, S MT CNG offering a wide range of options for customers. Bookings for the Festival Limited Edition of the Toyota Rumion are now open at all Toyota dealerships, as well as online.

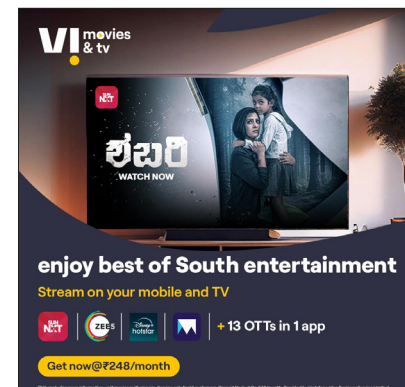
Vi expands regional OTT lineup with Sun NXT integration on Vi Movies & TV

Shillong: Telecom leader Vi has announced a strategic partnership with Sun NXT, further expanding its Vi Movies & TV app to include premium South Indian content in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Bengali, Marathi, and Hindi. With this addition, Vi users can access Sun NXT's vast catalog, featuring blockbuster movies, exclusive series, TV shows, and live TV, as part of Vi Movies & TV Plus and Lite packs, priced at Rs 248 and Rs 154 per month, respectively, at no additional cost.

This partnership aligns with Vi's strategy to meet the rising demand for regional content, as highlighted in a FICCI-EY

report that showed regional OTT viewership surpassing Hindi content at 52% in 2023. Vi's enhanced lineup now offers a comprehensive experience, featuring major platforms like Disney+ Hotstar, SonyLIV, ZEE5, and ManoramaMax under a single subscription.

In Shillong, where demand for regional content is robust, Vi's expanded offerings provide customers with easy access to Sun NXT's popular titles such as Annaathe, Beast, and Thiruchitrambalam, enriching the local viewing experience. By delivering top-tier regional content, Vi strengthens its position in the competitive Shillong market, where a diverse audi-



ence is increasingly drawn to high-quality, culturally relevant programming.

Renault Nissan Automotive India hits 4.5 million powertrain production milestone



Guwahati: Renault Nissan Automotive India Pvt Ltd (RNAIPL) has achieved a significant milestone by crossing the production of 4.5 million powertrain units at its Oragadam facility. Since its inception in 2010, the plant has manufactured 2.83 million engines and 1.67 million gearboxes, supporting both domestic and export markets.

RNAIPL's state-of-the-art facility boasts end-to-end production capabilities, from melt-

ing aluminum to casting and machining engine parts. The plant can produce engines ranging from 800cc to 1500cc and has created seven types of engines and three gearbox varieties. The company has also produced over 160,000 units of EV reducer components for export.

Keerthi Prakash, Managing Director of RNAIPL, emphasized the milestone's significance, stating, "In addition to powering cars produced at our Chennai plant, we have also exported powertrain units globally." The company is preparing for future growth, backed by a USD 600 million investment from the Renault Nissan alliance.

Guwahati automotive sector is keenly observing RNAIPL's developments. The production increase is expected to bolster the availability of efficient engines and gearboxes, potentially enhancing the local automotive market's competitive edge and attracting further investment in the region.

Utkarsh Small Finance Bank expands in Kolkata, opens 17th outlet in Chinnar Park

Kolkata: Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited (Utkarsh SFBL) has further strengthened its presence in Kolkata by launching its 17th banking outlet in Chinnar Park, a move aimed at broadening access to essential banking services for local communities. With this addition, Utkarsh SFBL now operates 982 banking outlets nationwide, reflecting its commitment to fostering economic inclusion.

Expressing his enthusiasm, Mr. Govind Singh, MD & CEO of Utkarsh SFBL, stated, "We are happy to expand our banking network in West Bengal. Chinnar Park, famous for its cultural heritage, marks a significant step toward strengthening our presence in the state. This



outlet will not only support local communities in accessing banking services but also play a pivotal role in economic development and empowerment."

The new outlet offers a range of services, including savings and current accounts, loans, and digital banking options, catering to various customer segments. In Siliguri, where similar

banking services are in high demand, the bank's expansion highlights a trend of growing accessibility and financial support for underserved regions. Siliguri customers can now expect enhanced banking solutions as Utkarsh SFBL scales its reach across West Bengal, aligning with the financial needs of diverse communities.

Dolby & BTS's Jin team up for "I'll Be There" in Dolby Atmos



Aizawl: Dolby Laboratories, a leader in immersive entertainment experiences, is teaming up with Jin of 21st century pop icons BTS in the latest chapter of the "Love More in Dolby" global brand campaign. Jin stars in the commercial to celebrate his new single "I'll Be There," which is now available globally in Dolby Atmos. Following the single "I'll Be There," Jin's highly anticipated first solo album Happy is set to release in Dolby Atmos worldwide on November 15th.

"When I first heard my new music in Dolby Atmos, I was truly amazed by the incredibly vivid and immersive experience. It felt like you are right inside the music," said Jin.

Directed by GRAMMY®-nominated music video director and filmmaker Colin Tilley, the campaign's commercial explores how Dolby Atmos can transform an everyday moment into an extraordinary experience by putting fans right into the heart of the music scenes, where Jin delivers the powerful performances BTS is known for. The piece is the latest installment of Dolby's "Love More in Dolby" global brand campaign, which celebrates transformative entertainment experiences brought to life by Dolby Vision and Dolby Atmos across music, movies, gaming, and more.

IPL 2025 — Virat Kohli, Rajat Patidar, and Yash Dayal retained by RCB

New Delhi: Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) have announced that they have retained talismanic batter Virat Kohli (INR 21 crore), top-order batter Rajat Patidar (INR 11 crore), and uncapped left-arm fastbowler Yash Dayal (INR 5 crore) ahead of IPL 2025. "We're all too aware of the need to establish a strong Indian core to our team going into the 2025 IPL season, and we feel that our retention decisions are a significant step in the right direction. It's great to continue Virat's lengthy association with RCB, I'm confident that a new group of players will benefit hugely from his inspirational and infectious energy, and his commitment to high standards," said Mo Bobat, Director of Cricket at RCB.



"It's always sad to release players, given the strength of relationships that are built and the many shared achievements and memories, and I wish all departing players well. As for us, we now commence our auction preparations having retained top Indian talent, whilst also giving ourselves both options and flexibility with our

three remaining RTMs, and a healthy available purse. It should be fun!" added Bobat.

Speaking further on retaining Dayal, who's in India's T20I team for the upcoming series against South Africa and Patidar, who made his Test debut earlier this year, head coach Andy Flower explained the rationale behind it. "We are

thrilled to retain Yash Dayal, an extraordinary talent whose career is on an upward trajectory. His unique ability as a left-arm bowler, capable of swinging the ball in both directions, adds a valuable dimension to our bowling attack—one that is increasingly rare in the auction landscape.

"Having witnessed Yash's impressive performance last season, we are eager to secure this crucial role and support his continued development as a key player for RCB. Rajat Patidar is a key member of our squad. His exceptional talent and resilience have already made a significant impact on our team, and he truly embodies the spirit of RCB. We are excited to see him continue to develop and shine in the upcoming season."

Napoli Solidifies Serie A Lead with 2-0 Victory Over AC Milan

Milan: Napoli, under the guidance of Antonio Conte, cemented their lead at the top of Serie A by securing a 2-0 victory against AC Milan at the San Siro.

The win not only underlines Napoli's title credentials but also extends their lead to seven points over the nearest rival, Inter Milan, who are set to play Empoli on Wednesday. Romelu Lukaku opened the scoring



by overpowering a Milan defender and firing home from the center of the area. Khvicha Kvaratskhelia doubled the lead with a brilliant solo effort, dribbling past two defenders to curl the ball into the far corner from an angle, all before halftime.

Despite efforts to rally, Milan's Alvaro Morata saw a goal disallowed for offside early in the second half, leaving Milan floundering in eighth place, now 11 points adrift of the leaders. Napoli's resurgence this season is a stark contrast to their 10th-place finish last year, showcasing a strong comeback under Conte's regime since his appointment in June. The team has remained unbeaten since their opening day loss to Hellas Verona on August 18.

This victory sets the stage for Napoli's critical upcoming fixture against Inter Milan at the same venue in less than two weeks, potentially a decisive moment in the title race. In other Serie A action, Bologna notched a 2-0 win at Cagliari with goals from Riccardo Orsolini and Jens Odgaard, while Lecce triumphed over a nine-man Hellas Verona squad 1-0, thanks to Patrick Dorgu's effort.

Stats reveal Manchester United's struggles under Erik ten Hag

Manchester: Manchester United, the record 20-time English champion, is searching for a sixth permanent manager since Alex Ferguson's retirement in 2013 following the firing of Erik ten Hag. Here are the statistics that show how low things got at

United under Ten Hag — and what his successor will need to improve on: The break for international matches this month offered a chance to assess each Premier League team's start to the season, and it didn't make good reading for United. Worst

East Bengal Dominates Bashundhara Kings 4-0 in AFC Challenge League

Thimphu: In a commanding display, East Bengal outclassed Bangladesh's Bashundhara Kings 4-0 in the AFC Challenge League group stage match held on Tuesday at Changlimithang Stadium. This victory marks a stark contrast to their current struggle in the Indian Super League, where they sit at the bottom of the table. The Kolkata-based club wasted no time asserting their dominance, with Dimitrios Diamantakos scoring from Lal Chungnunga's cross just a minute into the game. The lead doubled in the 20th minute thanks to Souvik Chakrabarti's stunning longrange effort, which found the top right corner of the goal.

Continuing their relentless attack, Nandhakumar Sekar added a third goal in the 36th minute, capitalizing on an assist by Madih Talal. Before the half-time whistle, Anwar Ali further compounded Bashundhara's woes with a beautifully curled shot from outside the box, marking the fourth goal for East Bengal.



Despite a few opportunities, Bashundhara Kings struggled to find the back of the net, reflecting a defensive frailty that East Bengal exploited mercilessly. The Red and Gold Brigade, having drawn their opening match against Paro FC, looked completely rejuvenated and kept up their aggressive play throughout the second half.

Bashundhara Kings, coming off a 0-1 defeat to Nejmeh SC, failed to regroup and alter the course of the match. East Bengal's victory in this match not only provides a much-needed boost to their continental campaign but also gives them a strong position in their group ahead of their upcoming fixtures.

finish: Last season, Ten Hag led United to its worst finish — eighth place — in the Premier League era. United had to go back to that 1989-90 season for a lower finish, and that was 13th place under Alex Ferguson in the year he reportedly came



close to losing his job.

India Triumphs in ODI Series Against New Zealand, Kaur Highlights Team's Determination



Ahmedabad: In a decisive third ODI against New Zealand, India's Women's cricket team emerged victorious, driven by a strong desire to succeed following their recent T20 World Cup setback. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur expressed the team's intense motivation to clinch the series after the series was balanced at 1-1. The match featured a standout performance by Smriti Mandhana, who scored a magnificent 100 off 122 balls, marking her eighth ODI century—the most by an Indian woman in the format. Kaur, contributing an unbeaten 59, played a pivotal role in chasing down New Zealand's target of 233, leading to a six-wicket victory.

Reflecting on the team's efforts and strategy, Kaur shared, "It was crucial for us to win this series at any cost. We had comprehensive discussions on our approach and it's satisfying to see those plans materialize." Praising Mandhana, Kaur highlighted

her resilience at the crease, acknowledging the challenges she faced early in her innings before finding form. Kaur also noted the need for ongoing improvement in fielding to achieve their goal of becoming the best fielding side in the world.

Smriti Mandhana spoke about her mindset during the game, emphasizing the importance of self-discipline and team responsibility, particularly after a tough phase in the T20 World Cup. New Zealand's captain Sophie Devine commended her team's effort despite the loss and the challenges posed by the absence of key player Amelia Kerr due to injury. Devine praised her team's resilience and is looking forward to a well-deserved break.

The series win is a significant morale booster for India, reasserting their prowess in the ODI format and setting a positive tone for future engagements.

Ronaldo's Late Penalty Miss Costs Al-Nassr Saudi Cup Progress

Riyadh: In a dramatic turn of events, Cristiano Ronaldo missed a crucial stoppage-time penalty, leading to Al-Nassr's elimination from the King's Cup in a 1-0 defeat to Al-Taawoun. This marked a significant setback for Ronaldo, who has yet to secure a major trophy with the club since joining nearly two years ago.

The match, which took place in the roundof-16, saw Al-Taawoun secure a lead with a goal from Waleed Al-Ahmad 70 minutes into the game. The tension peaked when Al-Ahmad was penalized for a foul in the penalty area during the 95th minute, setting the stage for Ronaldo. Despite his previous perfect record of 18 penalties for Al-Nassr, Ronaldo sent the ball soaring over the bar, leaving the crowd of 14,519 in disbelief.

The loss marks the first under the direction of Stefano Pioli, who took over as head coach in September. While Al-Nassr's hopes for the King's Cup are dashed, they still remain contenders in the Saudi Pro League and the Asian Champions League, where they currently trail behind leaders. Coach Pioli expressed disappointment but remained optimistic about the team's chances in the remaining competitions. "We feel disappointed to be out of the cup," said Pioli. "But we still have two trophies to go for, and we will give our best in them."