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Results to shape 2024 outcome

BJP eyes winning momentum, INDIA Bloc fortune at stake

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA

¬he high-stakes crucial Hindi heartland heartland Assembly poll results, due on Sunday morning, are set to establish another round of tone and tenor in national politics, with the BJP led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi looking forward to maintaining the winning momentum in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The poll results are vital for the newly formed stakeholders of the Opposition coalition called INDIA. Not only are Assembly polls

crucial, but the fortunes of Union Ministers Narendra Singh Tomar, Faggan Singh Kulaste, and Prahlad Singh Patel, along with 18 other MPs, are also to be gauged in these polls, touted as semifinals to 2024. The Congress is eyeing the role of the big brother of INDIA Bloc in the General Elections by retaining Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, recapturing Madhya Pradesh, and wresting power the Telangana.

The grand old party is quite hopeful to resurrect in the southern bastion by dislodging 10-year-old

Rao Chandrashekhar Government in Telangana. The Congress had bifurcated Andhra Pradesh to reap the political harvest, but ever since then, it has been ruled by regional parties. Votes cast in

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Qatar's Amir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-

Thani, on the sidelines of the

Friday. They discussed bilateral

partnerships and the well-

being of the Indian community

in the oil-rich country. The

meeting took place against the

backdrop of eight former

Indian Navy personnel being

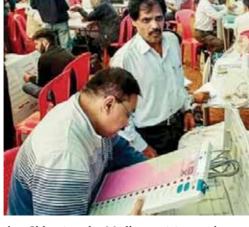
sentenced to death on October

26 by a court in Qatar. The

Indian government has

reportedly filed an appeal

NEW DELHI



the Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Telangana Assembly polls will be counted on Sunday. The counting of votes for the Mizoram Assembly polls is scheduled for Monday. Stakes are especially high for

the BJP in Madhya Pradesh as the incumbent Shivraj Singh Chouhan Government was formed after dislodging the elected Congress government in the last polls following a rebellion by Union Minister Ivotiraditya Scindia. Now Scindia's political spectrum too is to be evaluated as Congress looks at him as its enemy for dethroning the Kamal Nath

Modi meets Qatar Amir

amid Naval sentencing

giving another term to Shivrai Singh Chauhan. While the Congress is confident of gaining a landslide and believes that the people of MP would teach a lesson to the BJP, the saffron party is gasping for breath to write off the script from the public and political memory the way the saffron government was installed.

With the BJP not naming Chauhan as its chief ministerial face and making several regional bigwigs, including Union ministers, fight the polls to send out a message of collective leadership, the party's performance will decide if the party's longest-serving chief government, and BJP views minister will bounce back him as their Maharaja for strongly or will have to contend

with an uncertain future. Shivraj Singh Chauhan has been at the helm since 2005,

except for a brief period after

the 2018 polls when Kamal

Nath led a Congress

government for about 15

months.

In Rajasthan, the key to the government lies with former ČM Vasundhara Raje Scindia, who too faced similar eventualities as that of Chauhan in MP. The incumbent Congress government led by Ashok Gehlot is banking on his government's welfare measures to break the three-decade practice of the ruling party being voted out in every election. A loss may make the Congress three-time chief minister, who has not enjoyed the best of equations with his party leadership.

look beyond the OBC leader, a

What is still wrapped beneath is the result of the Gehlot and his former deputy Sachin Pilot feud during the full tenure of the government. About 17/18 seats are afloat in the desert state in the hands of Vasundhara and Pilot for the 2023 assembly results. In Chhattisgarh, three-time CM Raman Singh will be watched as significantly Congress-sitting CM Bhupesh Baghel will be evaluated in his first term. Baghel gained popularity with welfare schemes for all sections but Raman's effect coupled with Modi's magic in the 90member Assembly will add on to deduct one more state from the treasury of Congress and

Ever since exit poll projections flowed in, it has created an air of anticipation, even though, in the past, individual exit polls have missed the mark. And so, the projected numbers suggest that the Congress's hopes of a clean sweep may suffer a setback. A majority of the polls show that the Congress could find itself pipped to the post in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Even in Chhattisgarh, where the Congress is very dominant presently, it will be given a run for its money courtesy of a late surge by the BJP.

Tihar Jail lapses: 50

In a major security lapse at Tihar Jail, one of the largest prison complexes in the world, the Delhi Prisons Department has terminated the services of 50 jail staffers posted on its drive found a mismatch in their biometric identification records. Among these 50 terminated jail staffers, 39 are warders, 9 are assistant superintendents, and 2 are matrons. This comes after the Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board (DSSSB) detected manipulation of fingerprints during their recruitment process.

Sources said the department initiated an investigation after reports receiving inconsistencies in the biometric data of some officials. A team of experts was formed to examine the data, and the findings revealed that 50 staffers had tampered with their biometric information. According to sources, the notice was served as per the direction of the DSSSB, which conducted the exams and recruited about 450 applicants for these three posts. Of these 450 employees, the biometric identification did not match for 50 of them, leading to the issuance of termination notices. The staffers were on probation for two years and are required to respond within one month to the notices issued to them. A month's termination notice

treatment has courted controversy. Notably, the two killings — Prince Tewatia on April 14 and Tillu Tajpuriya on former Tihar officials

ED charges AAP MP Sanjay in excise scam

The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday Enforcement filed a charge sheet against AAP MP Sanjay Singh in connection with the Delhi excise policy-linked money laundering case, officials said.

The prosecution complaint has been filed before a local court under various sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). This is a supplementary charge

sheet in this case as the agency had filed about five such complaints earlier. Singh, a Rajya Sabha MP of the

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), was

arrested in this case by the ED in October.

The anti-money laundering agency had alleged that an accused businessman Dinesh Arora gave ₹2 crore in cash at the Rajya Sabha MP's residence in two tranches. Singh has rebutted the claim.

The AAP MP was arrested by

the ED in connection with its money laundering probe linked to the 2021-22 Delhi Excise policy case and was the second high-profile leader after Manish Sisodia, a former deputy chief minister, to be

held in this case. The AAP that rules Delhi has called the arrests and the case a "political witch-hunt".

An investigation by the ED has revealed that Arora has given ₹2 crore cash at Singh's house on two occasions — ₹1 crore each time — the agency alleged in its remand application. The period when the cash was

allegedly given was between August 2021 and April 2022.

Moitra in focus on Day 1 of Session

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The imminent expulsion of Trinamool Congress (TMC) member Mahua Moitra from the Lok Sabha on the first day of the Winter Session on Monday marks an acrimonious start to the last fully-fledged session of the Modi-II government. The largest Opposition party, Congress, in both houses (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) of Parliament has come out in defence of Moitra. Meanwhile, Moitra's party, TMC, is demanding a discussion before a decision on impending action against their Parliament colleague.

The next session will be the Budget Session in February, where only an interim Budget will be brought due to the general elections scheduled in a few months.

The report of the Lok Sabha panel recommending the expulsion of Trinamool leader Mahua Moitra from the lower house over a "cash-for-query" complaint is listed for ta the House on Monday, the first day of the session. In the Centre-convened all-party meeting on Saturday, where it appealed for cooperation in the smooth functioning of the Winter Session, TMČ leaders demanded a discussion in the Lok Sabha on the ethics committee's recommendation to expel party MP Mahua Moitra from the House in a "cash-for-query" case.

Moitra can be expelled only if the House votes in favor of the panel's recommendation, according to the rules. The committee, at a meeting on November 9, adopted its report recommending her expulsion from the Lok Sabha.

The Centre asserted that it was ready for a discussion on all issues, provided the opposition ensures an enabling environment in both houses of Parliament in the upcoming Winter Session.

As leaders of political parties in Parliament met to discuss the agenda for the session beginning Monday, opposition leaders demanded English nomenclature for the three bills seeking to replace criminal laws while also flagging issues of price rise, "misuse" of probe



Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Coal and Mines Pralhad Joshi and others during a meeting with floor leaders of political parties at the Parliament House on Saturday

agencies, and Manipur. With the government urging the Opposition to ensure a conducive environment, it informed that three bills to replace criminal laws and a proposed law for the appointment of election commissioners are issues set to dominate the Winter Session. In the meeting, Trinamool MPs Sudip Bandyopadhyay and Derek O'Brien accused the government of reducing allparty meetings to a "waste of

Contrary to being vocal against his rival party in West Bengal, Congress party Leader in Lok Adhir Ranjan Sabha Chowdhury has come to the defense of Moitra, who is all set to be disqualified from Parliament on the first day of the Winter Session, pertaining to allegations against Moitra in the cash-for-query" case. Parliamentary Affairs Minister

Pralhad Joshi said the government assured during the meeting that it is ready for discussion on all issues. However, he emphasised that the opposition must ensure an enabling environment for

discussion to take place. Joshi stated that the government is fully prepared for a structured debate and has requested the opposition to let the House function smoothly. He added that the government has taken the opposition's suggestions positively, mentioning that 19 bills and two financial items were under consideration.

Deputy leader of the opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Pramod Tiwari, said the opposition has flagged concerns over issues such as China "taking away" our land, Manipur, price rise,

and the "misuse" of the Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation. Joshi had convened the meeting, which was attended by senior leaders such as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh, Gaurav Gogoi, and Pramod Tiwari, Trinamool leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay, NCP leader Fouzia Khan, RSP leader NK and handr TMC representatives at the all-party meeting called by the government claimed that the panel's report had been made public "brazenly" before being

tabled in the House. Sudip Bandyopadhyay and Derek O'Brien, the TMC's parliamentary party leaders of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, respectively, represented it at

the meeting.
During the meeting, they mentioned that while a few MPs are already under suspension, they have seen reports in the media that one member of the TMC is "going" to be expelled shortly, according to sources.

The Winter session of Parliament begins on December 4 and will have 15 sittings till December 22, during which it is expected to consider key draft legislations, including three bills to replace the colonial-era criminal laws. They alleged that the government is bringing bills to Parliament without discussing them in all-party meetings, according to the sources. They also urged the government not to pass the three bills to replace the IPC, CrPC, and Evidence

against the sentence. "Ōn the sidelines of the COP28 Summit in Dubai yesterday, I had the opportunity to meet Sheikh @TamimBinHamad, the Amir of Qatar. We had a good

conversation on the potential of bilateral partnerships and the well-being of the Indian community in Qatar," Modi posted on X on Saturday. The Indian nationals, who

worked with the private company Al Dahra, were arrested in August last year in an alleged case of espionage. Neither the Qatari authorities nor New Delhi made the charges against the Indian nationals public. India described the ruling by the Qatari court as 'deeply' shocking and vowed to explore all legal options in the case. "Navy Chief Admiral R Hari



We are working closely to ensure that their interests are looked after,' Admiral Kumar said at a media briefing. 'The government of India is putting all-out efforts to ensure they are brought back,' he said.

The Indian nationals were given the death sentence by Qatar's Court of First Instance. India described the ruling as 'deeply' shocking and vowed to explore all legal options in the case. An appeal has already been filed against the death sentence, and a higher court in Qatar has admitted the plea. The appeal has been filed by the legal team of the detained Indian

nationals. "The Indian nationals, who

worked with the private company Al Dahra, were arrested in August last year in an alleged case of espionage. Neither the Qatari authorities nor New Delhi made the charges against the Indian

nationals public. "In its reaction to the ruling by the Qatari court, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) last month said it is attaching 'high importance' to this case and is exploring all legal options. The charges were filed against the eight Indian navy veterans on March 25, and they were tried under Qatari law. All the former Navy officers had 'unblemished stints' of up to 20 years in the Indian Navy and had held important positions, including that of instructors in the force, former military officials had said."

illegal staffers fired

has been issued to these officials who are currently posted across Tihar, Mandoli and Rohini prisons, after which their services will be discontinued. It is suspected that somebody else took their exams. The DSSSB, responsible for recruiting personnel here communicated the order to us, and we have proceeded

accordingly," sources added. Tihar is home not only to dreaded gangsters such as Lawrence Bisnoi, Neeraj Bawana, Kala Jathedi, Deepak 'Boxer' Manjeet Mahal, and Hashim Baba, but it has also housed, or currently houses, a diverse group of VIP inmates. This includes former Ranbaxy promoters Malvinder and Shivinder Singh, politicians Satyendar Jain, Manish Sisodia, Sanjay Singh, conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar, activist Umar Khalid, and Olympic medallist

Sushil Kumar. While jail brawls and extortion rackets being run from prison kept Tihar in the news for most of the year, even Delhi's jail minister Satyendar Jain receiving massages and special May 2, both by fellow inmates have exposed major lapses in the prison's security system. Despite rules, inmates have, in the past, managed to gain access to phones, alcohol, hard cash, and even weapons, according to

Man eats Animal world, and its habitat tireless effort to return home. had tranquilised the cat and were

SHOBORI GANGULI NEW DELHI

Owing to rampant construction across metros in India, from Mumbai to Bengaluru, Gurugram to Delhi, all in the pursuit of development, we humans have invaded an extremely fragile ecosystem and its inhabitants. When these displaced individuals wearily return to a place they once called home, they are treated like criminals. Voiceless animals are being stoned and subjected to lathi charges for crimes they never committed. Indeed, not even aware. Cut to the present: Sainik Farms, a residential colony in South Delhi. The poor leopard's fault was its

Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) sent alerts: "Do not step out. Keep your pets at home. The leopard may enter your homes." When was the last time a tired, hungry, and homeless human became a predator or a social menace? The frightened leopard just wanted to return home, not attack or devour humans.

Last we heard, the leopard, a healthy 4 to 5-year-old male, was brutally attacked by a mob of 400-500 men from Deoli village adjacent to Sainik Farms as it silently walked towards its home. Stones were hurled at him just when the Animal Welfare team, headed by Sushil Jain,





only 6 inches away. The mob attacked the rescue team because they wanted to kill the leopard. At this point, the hungry, tired, and tranquilised leopard roared back, attacked the stone hurlers, and desperately ran. We humans may term it a leopard attack, but imagine this: You are quietly walking down towards your home, and someone hits you on the head from behind. Human instinct would be to hit back, not walk away. Why can't we respect animal instinct? The leopard is on its way to recovery and should be in Asola forest by dawn, provided we humans don't turn into demons. Yet again.

Sharad attacks Ajit, tells party workers to ignore deserters

Aday after deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar made a couple of startling claims about the circumstances leading to his joining hands with the ruling BJP and his uncle withdrawing resignation as the NCP chief, Sharad Pawar on Saturday exhorted his party workers not to bother much about the things spoken by the "deserters" but begin preparations for the 2024 Lok Sabha and Assembly polls.

Addressing his party workers and leaders in Pune, NCP chief Sharad Pawar alluded to disclosures made by Ajit Pawar on Friday and said: "Some people raised new questions, commented. Those who left the party and those who tried to hijack this party are criticising you and me today. There is no reason to think too much about it"

"The reason for them (read Ajit Pawar and his supporters) is that they are realising that after going among the people, people will ask them many questions tomorrow. If you want to divert attention from him, some of your colleagues have gone to a different place today, taking the formula of attacking yourself and taking a different program ...There is no reason to think much about these things, power comes and goes. After the loss of power,



if a new hope takes a stand to move forward in public interest, it gets the support of the common man," Sr Pawar said. Ajit Pawar had on Friday created a sensation in the state political circles by claiming that the NCP president was initially in favour of his joining the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena-BJP alliance government but backed out later and that after announcing his resignation as the NCP chief, Sr Pawar had himself asked the party workers to go on agitation to demand that he take back his resignation as the party president in May this

Sharing his own political experience to explain how power is not permanent and it was essential to continue working for the common man, Sr Pawar recalled: "After the 1978 assembly elections, the then (Congress) had given a big opportunity to the young leadelected. However, after the different (Janata Party-led coalition) government"

Afterwards I went abroad for a few days and upon my return, I was surprised to see that out of the sixty MLAs, only six remained with me, while the rest of the newly elected MLAs had gone to other parties.

"It was natural that when our numbers came down from 60 MLAs to 6, many people thought that it was the end of our (Congress) ideology. But it embodied the principles of Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Yeshwantrao Chavan, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and Mahatma Jyotirao Phule... No one can finish it off," Sr Pawar

"However, in the subsequent Assembly elections, out of these sixty people who left the party, about 51 to 52 people lost the elections. It means that people did not like their decision to desert me. Once again we were able to raise a new generation and in the subsequent elections 76 people were elected and we were able to give a different direction to the politics of Maharashtra," the NCP chief said.

Alluding to the recent developments within his party, Sr Pawar said: "I am giving you this example because there is no reason to worry if someone ers and over 60 of them were leaves the party. Finally, those who succeed in making their

Case filed against me for calling

Hamas terrorist: Chandrashekhar

people to gain their support, people live with them. That situation was seen in Maharashtra on this occasion".

It may be recalled that Ajit Pawar had rebelled against his uncle and NCP President Sharad Pawar, walked away with 40-odd MLAs and joined the Eleveth Street Annual Parts 21 the Eknath Shinde-BJP alliance government on July 2. İmmediately after Ajitdada joined the government, he was sworn in as the deputy chief minister, while eight other group MLAs were administered as Cabinet ministers in the Shinde government.

In his elaboration, Sr Pawar said: "There is no reason to worry about what has happened. Following the recent exit of some people, our organisation has started to become clean. In addition, the current situation is helping us to give opportunities to new people. If we can strengthen the youth organization, I am sure that when the elections are held tomorrow, a large cadre of the Nationalist Youth Congress will be elected in the Maharashtra Assembly with a large vote and they will run the state and solve the problems of the people".

Sr Pawar went on to urge the party workers and leaders to each and every village in the state and work towards strengthening the party at the

Will intensify operations against terror, sponsors, says J&K LG

After witnessing a series of attacks on the army personnel in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch in recent months, Lt-Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday announced the intensification of anti-terror operations in the Union Territory.

"We will intensify our opera-tions against the terror ecosystem and those aiding and abetting terrorists and make sure they pay a very heavy price for their heinous actions," the Lt Governor said after visiting the residence of slain paratrooper Havaldar Abdul Majid at a village in Poonch.

Majid was among five soldiers who made a supreme sacrifice during 36-hour-long gunfight with terrorists in the Dharmsal belt's Bajimaal area of Rajouri district on November 22 and

Two Pakistani terrorists affiliated with the proscribed Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit, including a top commander, were also killed in the encounter.

Seventeen security personnel have been killed in action since April 2023 in four similar strikes by the terrorists in Iammu Kashmir.

Lt-Gov Manoj Sinha in a message posted on his wall on X (earlier Twitter) said, "Visited the home of Hav Abdul Majid in Poonch, who was martyred during an anti-terror operation in Rajouri and offered my con-



dolences to the bereaved family. His family has a long history of service & sacrifices for the motherland. The entire nation is proud of his valor & courage," the Lt Governor wrote on X. He commended the Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police and Central Armed Police Forces for the well-planned counter-terrorism operations to wipe out the terror ecosystem. Majid's father Mohammad Rashid said he urged the Lt Governor to provide a government job to his daughter-in-

During his meeting with the next of kin of Majid, I sought his intervention in taking care of Majid's wife and kids, providing a government job for her. He assured early action," Rashid said. He said he is proud of Majid for sacrificing his life for the country but his departure has left a void that he finds very hard to fill."He left for heaven after killing the enemies of the nation. Our family is dedicated to the nation and the whole country is proud of his

Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police, Kashmir range, V. K. Birdi while chairing a highlevel security review meeting in South Kashmir's Awantipora on Saturday asked the police officials to strengthen the intelligence grid on the ground to effectively deal with the terrorists. "All stakeholders must be taken into confidence by creating synergy and cordial relations with them. The intelligence grid on the ground must be strengthened. There should also be intensified legal action against the Over Ground Workers (OGWs). The SOPs should also be followed in letter and spirit," the IGP Kashmir told the police officers while chairing a security review meeting in south Kashmir's

Awantipora. He also laid stress on introducing modern technology for the smooth functioning of the police department.

Police must adopt modern technology for better and transparent policing which is resultoriented and people friendly," the IGP Kashmir said

Jobs in supply chain, warehouse sectors in plenty across India



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN 🔳 KOCH

Thousands of well-paying jobs in fields of materials and supply chain management are waiting for prospective candidates across the country. Having a degree in engineering/science or humanities is just not the mandatory qualification to enter into the corporate world. Job seekers who tone up their skills in various branches of materials, supply chain, procurement, warehouse and ogistics management stand to make it to the top through the ranks in corporate houses, according to Roby Antony, the newly elected vice president (south), Indian Institute of Materials Management (IIMM). Antony is the first person from Kerala to make it to the top league of the IIMM in its 63year history.

'More than the basic qualifying mark, what counts in the profession is the kind of skill the candidate has attained after his university examination. We in the IIMM imparts training in various facets of materials management, supply chain management, warehousing and procurement management," Antony told The Pioneer.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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HR26AB3183,	UP13P6931,	DL6SL5890,
DL9CS3013,	DL6SV4918,	BRI9519,
DL3CBD1477,	DL8CX9867,	DL9SL3687,
DL7SR0867,	DL7CD9537,	PB03R5434,
DL4SB3002,	RAR14787,	HR35D1369,
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DL3SBA3361,	HR26AM7691,	DL6CH9004,
DL8SY3499,	DL9SR7780,	HR29Z4444,
DL4SAL5893,	TN22AA5451,	DL2CAD9848,
DL5SP5793,	DL3SBF0110,	HR14C6770,
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CH01R5895.	DL6SB9139,	DL7CJ3410,
HR264098,	DL9SR8812,	DL7CF6301,
DL2SL7535,	DAD1308,	DL4CN3240,
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DL9SV7988,	DL9SH6312,	DL4SZ2553,
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DL9SL7690,	DL4SJ2471,	DL7CF6241,
DL1SP9731,	DL7SS0409,	DL9CR9494,
DL9SF5982,	DHI3222,	DL7CF5653,
DL3CBF3571,	TAH2913,	HR26BS9959,
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Tupolev Tu-Registrar, Kumaun University, Nainital patrol aircraft.

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI hose who speak truth are becoming persona non grata in Kerala, according to Union Minister of State for Information Technology and Skill Development. "The most powerful person in the State has filed a criminal case against

discriminate people based on me for terming the Hamas a terrorist organization. What religion and community. We else you call an outfit engaged grew up learning to address a in genocide and slaughtering spade a spade," said the minispeople in the name of religion and caste," asked Chandrasekhar while addresster reacting to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. The latter termed Rajeev Chandrasekhar as a deadly ing the delegates of Indian Minority Foundation at poisonous person for "humiliating" the Hamas.

Chandrasekhar who usually keeps off from political disslapped the union minister with criminal case for describcourses while focusing his organization. "If Hamas is not works done by him made a small detour this time to reply to the charges made against Laden? A philanthropist and him by the CPI-M commissars. lover of humanity?", asked the The minister pointed out that there are forces working inside He said being the son of an and outside the country to derail the god works being Indian Air Force officer, he done by theNarendra Modi Government to elevate India to

the numero uno position in the comity of nations. When Narendra Modi was sworn in as Prime Minister in

2014, was at its lowest ebb with low investment and high inflation. There was a sense of helplessness prevalent all over India. The Chinese were campaigning to the world saying that democracy would never work in India. The Government that was in power during 2004 to 2014 had become dysfunctional and corruption was all pervasive. India was one of the five fragile economies in the world," he

The minister further said that at the end of the ninth year of the Modi Government (2023) India has become the fifth on our way to become the third largest economy. For the first time in our history, India has a national education policy that envisages all school students in standards six to ten gain skill and expertise for a livelihood even if they drop out of school half way through," said Rajiv Chandrasekhar.

Mai Bhi Kejriwal campaign getting massive public support, says AAP



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Senior AAP leader and min-ister Atishi conducted a door-to-door campaign in her constituency, Kalkaji Assembly, on Saturday and claimed that 'Mai Bhi Kejriwal' signature campaign are getting huge public support across the city. MLAs, and leaders of the AAP are on the ground for the door-to-door campaign to gather the opinion of the people of Delhi. She mentioned that at present, the central government and the BJP are falsely accusing AAP leaders and putting them in jail. She highlighted the arrests of

Satvendar Jain, Manish Sisodia, and Sanjay Singh. Furthermore, she mentioned a conspiracy to arrest Arvind Keiriwal.

"Everyone knows these allega tions are false, and the only reason for leveling these false accusations is that the BJP knows it cannot defeat AAP in elections. Whenever the people Kejriwal. Therefore, the BJP wants to bring down the AAP government led by Kejriwal through unscrupulous means. Therefore, today we have come to ask the people of Delhi whether, if Kejriwal is falsely arrested, he should resign or continue to govern from jail,"

83 per cent people opine Kejriwal should resign if arrested, BJP leader cites its survey report scam. The chief minister did not

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Senior BJP leader Vijay Goel on Saturday conducted a survey and claimed 83 per cent of the respondents opined that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal should resign if he was arrested in the excise policy case. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is also running a campaign, "Main Bhi Kejriwal", alleging the BJP was conspiring to get Keiriwal arrested in the "fake' liquor scam case.

leaders and volunteers are collecting public feedback on whether Kejriwal should step down from the post of chief minister if he was arrested.

Last month, the Enforcement Directorate had summoned Kejriwal for questioning in a money laundering case linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy

appear before the central agency, claiming that its summons was "illegal and politically motivated". In a statement, Goel said he along with activists of the Lok Abhiyan social organisation conducted the survey at Rajiv Chowk Metro Station Gate No. 6 and more than 10,000 people participated in it. People were asked whether Kejriwal should resign from the post of chief minister if he is arrested in the liquor scam case. More than 83 Kejriwal should resign, according to the statement.

"Why Kejriwal did not conduct such a referendum before the resignation of Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain? Did they ask people before opening liquor shops in every nook and corner of Delhi," Goel, a former Union

Prerna makes history as first woman to head **Navy warship**

Ernakulam on Friday.

The Kerala Government has

a terrorist organization what

would you call Osama bin

knew only two tribes of people,

men and women. "We never

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Commander Prerna →Deosthalee has become the first woman officer to command an Indian Navy warship. She was presented with the appointment letter on Saturday by Western Fleet commander Rear Admiral Praveen Nair. She will command a water jet fast attack craft INS Trinkat deployed on the western seaboard. At present, she is the First Lieutenant of the warship INS

Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar announced on Friday the appointment of the first woman officer to command a warship. This marks the first time that a woman officer will assume command of a ship. According to sources, the officer is a qualified navigation instructor and has been

woman officer

as an observer

in the Navy's

KUMAUN UNIVERSITY involved in Invitation for Expression of Interest (EoI) for Exam related Printing
Kumaun University, Nainital (KU) invites various tenders from competent & reputed companies/ firms for different works related toinducted into linducted into the Navy. She

3 sharpshooters associated with Bishnoi gang held

 $T^{\text{hree sharpshooters associated with the Lawrence}}$ Bishnoi gang have been arrested here, police said on Saturday. Two of the accused were arrested from Shivaji Nagar while the third accused was held in Sector 37 on Friday. Two country-made pistols, four cartridges and two magazines were recovered from their possession, they said, adding three FIRs have been lodged against them under the Arms Act.

The crime unit team led by inspector Anand Kumar arrested Sandeep alias Sumit, a resident of Bhandor village in district Rewari, on the highway between Hero Honda Chowk and Rajiv Chowk.

'While checking, four cartridges and two magazines were recovered from his possession. The accused was earlier jailed under the Arms Act and in cases of robbery, fighting, kidnapping and dacoity," an official said.

The second accused, identified as Bhavani Singh alias Roni,

was arrested from Rajnagar A country-made pistol was seized from his possession. He

has also been jailed several

times in the past in cases of kid-



napping, attempted murder Arms Act and fighting, the police said.

The crime branch team arrested the third accused Rahul, a resident of Kothal Khurd village in district Mahendragarh near Beriwala Bagh The police team also recovered

an illegal pistol from him. The accused has also been in jail in cases of robbery, kidnapping, fighting and under the Arms Act, said a police officer. 'We are questioning the

accused after taking them on remand. These accused were close to accused Vikas alias Vicky who was carrying a reward of Rs 1 lakh and was arrested four days ago.

Based on the information received during his interrogation, the three accused have now been arrested", Assistant Commissioner of Police Varun Dahiya said.

MRC Colonel to head Army **Training Command**

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN MRC WELLINGTON

Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh took over as the 24th General Officer Commanding in Chief of the Shimla-based Army Training Command on 01 December

General Manjinder Singh is an alumnus of Sainik School Kapurthala, National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla and Indian Military Academy, Dehradun. He was commissioned into 19 MADRAS on 20 December 1986. Since 1 January 2021 he has been designated as Colonel of Madras Regimental Centre, Wellington, Nilgiris, an elite unit of the Indian Army.

The General Officer commanded his Battalion in an intense Counter Insurgency environment in J&K, an Infantry Brigade at the Line of Control, an Infantry Division as part of Strike Corps and a Corps deployed along Line of Control in Counter Insurgency Operations in J&K. For his exemplary leadership and devotion to duty towards the Nation, he was

Wellington, his alma mater.

Researchers discover distinct mechanisms controling different types of immune cells PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI

Giving a ray of hope for patients having autoim-

mune skin disorders, a team of researchers has discovered distinct mechanisms controlling different types of immune cells, and found that, by precisely targeting these mechanisms, they could selectively eliminate 'problematic cells' and reshape the skin's immune landscape. Our skin is packed with specialised immune cells that protect against infections and cancer and promote healing. These cells, called tissue-resident T cells or TRM cells, stay in place to fight infections and cancerous cells in the skin. However, when not controlled properly, some of these skin TRM cells can contribute to

autoimmune diseases, such as psoriasis and vitiligo, explained the researchers led by University of Melbourne. Professor Laura Mackay, a

Laboratory Head and Immunology Theme Leader at the Peter Doherty Institute of Infection and Immunity (Doherty Institute), and lead first author of the study, said that this research is the first to decorated with Yudh Seva describe the unique elements Medal in 2015 and Vishisht that control various types of Seva Medal in 2019, said a skin TRM cells in animal modmedia release by MRC els, offering precise targets for potential treatment strategies.



"Specialised immune cells in our skin are diverse: many are critical to prevent infection and cancer, but others play a big role in mediating autoimmunity," said Dr Park

"We discovered key differences in how distinct types of skin T cells are regulated, allowing us to precisely edit the skin's immune landscape in a targeted way."

University of Melbourne's Dr Susan Christo, Senior Research Officer in the Mackay Lab at the Doherty Institute and cofirst author of the study, explained how these discoveries could advance efforts to treat skin disease.

"Most autoimmune therapies treat the symptoms of the disease rather than addressing the cause. Conventional treatments for skin disorders often impact all immune cells indiscriminately, meaning that we could also be wiping out our protective T cells," said Dr

MoS Bhatt to visit Ghana to attend **UN Peacekeaping** Ministerial meet



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Minister of State for defence Ajay Bhatt will pay an official visit to Accra, Ghana for two days starting December 5 to attend the United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting. The Department of Peace Operations, UN and the Republic of Ghana are the hosts of the meeting, defence ministry said here on Saturday.

The UN Peacekeeping Ministerial meeting aims to address the security and operational challenges being faced by the UN peacekeepers and generate support for these missions deployed across the world. India has always been at the forefront by sending maximum number of troops and equipment to various UN Peacekeeping missions.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Bhatt will hold bilateral meetings with participating Ministers of member countries and discuss defence cooperation matters to further strengthen the engagements.

LG launches 'Dilli Gramodaya Abhiyan' for urbanised villages

Delhi Lieutenant Governor(LG)Vinai Kumar Saxena on Saturday here launched the "Dilli Gramodaya Abhiyan' an ambitious campaign for the devel-opment of urbanised villages of the Capital, from Jaunti Village in North-West Delhi. The campaign has an earmarked amount of more than Rs 800 crores.

Giving details here, officials the campaign will be funded and implemented by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. The funds will be utilized for creation and up gradation of basic infrastructure, livelihoods, scientific livestock management, healthcare, proper land use and water management among others.

The campaign aims at bring-

ing about a qualitative change in the landscape and liveli-

ed, urbanized villages in the

The campaign was launched with commencement of works for Delhi's first grazing ground in Jaunti Village, on a 7-acre plot meant to provide fodder to nearly 4000 livestock in Jaunti and adjoining villages as well as providing the locality with an open green space free of encroachment.

A water body adjoining the grazing ground will also be cleaned, dredged, deepened and rejuvenated within a week. The grazing ground will have a water channel on its periphery to ensure rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge. Saplings of Moringa and nutritious grasses like Napier grass were also planted by the LG on the grazing

Speaking on the occasion, Saxena said this first experiment with a grazing ground in the Capital will ensure that the stray cattle moving on roads, eating from garbage dumps and suffering due to malnutrition and accidents will get a proper eco system for their sustenance.

He said this ground will provide healthy food to the cattle that, in turn, will also provide healthy dairy products. At the same time, it would also prevent traffic chaos and road accidents due to presence of stray cattle on the roads.

Saxena instructed that the land should be levelled properly so that even the animals would not have any problem in reaching to the grazing ground and the nearby pond. Launching the program, the LG sat on steering of a tractor and ploughed a stretch of land and also sat on a JCB vehicle guiding, the workmen in pruning the trees and clearing

Saxena said the Rs. 800 Cr. fund for village development





now be used for development of these villages. The fund has been transferred to the DDA, following the transfer of Gram Sabha Land as per extant regulations and policy decisions. Saxena, who has adopted Jaunti as one of the four vil-Jaunti as one of the four villages for developing as model villages said that same effort would be made to make all villages self-sustainable and gave the example of neighbouring Qutabgarh Village, where lot of infrastructure development of infrastructure development projects are being undertaken and a stadium is on the verge

of completion. The LG recalled that after his visit on October 3, to the Jaunti Village, lot of initiatives have been taken during the last 02 months and more works were in the pipeline. He appreciated that youngsters particularly wrestlers, who have shown promising achievements by winning

the DDA should be utilized fully for the overall development of the villages in the National Capital. Special emphasis will be given on healthcare facilities. Under the 'Dilli Gramodaya

Abhiyan, urbanized villages will be provided with essential amenities to improve the living conditions in these villages. Under this Campaign, an Action Plan will be prepared for each village in consultation with the villagers to transform the quality of basic infrastructure, civic services, health and sports services, horticultural upgrade and water management.

It may be noted that earlier the LG had undertaken the development of 05 villages as model villages in the North-West Delhi, namely Qutabgarh, Nizampur, Rawta, Deorala and

Qutabgarh village was adopt-

ed as a model village in February, 2023 and in the last 10 months, the village has seen development in all sectors. The developments include rejuvenation of waterbodies, renovation of parks, c o m m u n i t y centres/PanchayatGhars, repair of DJB pipelines, upgradation of MCD dispensary to polyclinic, creation of model Anganwadi, implementation of government schemes through special camps etc. A sports complex is also being built in Qutabgarh by the DDA and will have facilities for cricket, badminton, volley

um is expected to be completed in a month. On receiving positive response from the villagers on the ongoing development works in Qutabgarh, a similar model village development plan was NizampurRashidpur and

ball, wrestling etc. The stadi-

NGT fines Haryana ₹10K for not filing report on illegal sand mining

The National Green Tribunal has imposed a cost of Rs 10,000 on Haryana for not filing a report on illegal mining in the Rithoj village of Gurugram district despite earlier directions.

The green body was hearing a petition that claimed unscientific illegal mining in the village had resulted in the depletion of water table, green cover and damage to water

A bench of National Green Tribunal Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava noted that the tribunal had earlier formed a panel that in its report had acknowledged the adverse effects of illegal min-

The bench -- also comprising Judicial Members Justice Sudhir Agarwal and Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi and Expert Member A Senthil Vel -- said the authorities concerned took no action despite



acknowledging the existence

Following this, the tribunal had sought a further action taken report.

It said the tribunal, in its order dated January 5, had warned the panel of "stern action" for submitting a "casual report".

Considering another report the following month, the tribunal had noted that the administration did not take any action despite the illegal mining continuing.
In its order dated February 8,

the tribunal had said the conduct showed paralysis of the administration on the subject, in breach of the "public trust doctrine", the bench added.

The National Green Tribunal had also directed the Haryana chief secretary to personally look into the matter and take remedial measures, besides filing an action taken report within a month.

The matter was listed on August 22 when the tribunal, after considering the report, found that the action taken to control the illegal mining was not disclosed in "quantified terms".

The tribunal had again sought a report from the state authorities within three months, the bench said.

The green panel said in an order passed on Thursday, Even after the expiry of three months, no report has been filed ... A letter has been circulated under the signature of the environmental engineer, Haryana State Pollution

Control Board, seeking adjournment on the ground that further time is required for receiving information and compiling the same."

The tribunal said the state of the state

The tribunal said the state's environment department had submitted another letter seeking adjournment.

"The above series of orders passed by the tribunal cleary reflect that the state authorities are not taking the orders of the tribunal seriously and are not complying with the same. No material has been disclosed even today in respect of the steps taken for stopping illegal mining in the area," it said.

We grant a further three weeks as prayed by counsel for the state to file the report, subject to a deposit of cost of Rs 10,000, which is to be deposited by the state in the ring-fenced account within one week," the tribunal added. The matter has been posted to February 9 for further pro-

2 women among 4 people from Manipur attacked by miscreants after seeking help to book Uber cab

Four people from Manipur, including two women, have allegedly been assaulted in southeast Delhi's Sunlight Colony after unidentified people asked them to book an Uber ride to Munirka as their phone had died.

Police added that the victims told them that they were Meteis and suspect that they were beaten up by people from their "opponent group". The victim, who works at a private firm and resides in of Jeevan Nagar in Ashram, suffered abrasion on his knees, redness and swelling in the eyes, and swelling on the left side fore-

According to police, a case under relevant provisions of the law has been registered and efforts are being made to arrest the accused. Manipur has been witnessing ethnic clashes between the Meitei and tribal Kuki communities since May resulting in the death of more than 180 people. Following



Police (southeast district) Rajesh Deo said a case of hurt, rioting and outraging the modesty of women has been registered at the Sunlight Colony police station. Police said a call was received

at 2.30 am on Friday from Kilokari village and found that a man had been taken to hospital after he was beaten up.

The police learned that the victim, his wife and his sister were dropping a friend home on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday.

"On the way, three strangers, including a woman, accosted them and asked them to help book an Uber ride for Munirka as their phone batteries had run out," a police officer said. While waiting for the ride to be confirmed, one of the accused started abusing and insulting the man and assaulted his wife

and his sister, the official said. "The accused called a few more people to the spot and they also joined the attack," the official added. CCTV footage of the incident shows a brawl inside a narrow street, with a group of people punching and kicking the complainant, his friend and the two women even as one of them screams. Teams have accessed footage from CCTV cameras from the area and trying to apprehend

City wakes up to dense fog as | No house tax for city rural residential areas: Mayor air quality remains 'very poor'

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi on Saturday woke up to a thick layer of fog while the 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) continued to remain in the 'very poor' category at 375 at 10am which further settled at 353 at 4 pm. Due to fog, as many as 20 flights at the Delhi airport were diverted due to bad weather on Saturday morning due to low visibility at the Delhi airport as visibility dipping down to 400 metre in the morning hours. The official said the flights were diverted to Jaipur, Amritsar, Lucknow, Ahmedabad, and Chandigarh. The diversions happened between 0730 and 1030 hours. A total of 13 flights were diverted to Jaipur, four to Amritsar and one each to Lucknow, Ahmedabad, and Chandigarh, the official added. In a post on X around 0810 hours, Delhi airport said low visibility procedures were in progress at the airport.



Flight UK954 from Mumbai to Delhi (BOM-DEL) has been diverted to Jaipur (JAI) due to bad weather at Delhi airport and has arrived in Jaipur (JAI) at 0842 hours," Vistara airline said in a tweet on X. Flight UK832 from Chennai to Delhi (MAA-DEL) has been diverted to Amritsar (ATQ) due to low visibility at Delhi (DEL) airport and is expected to arrive in Amritsar at 1100 hrs." Data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) showed the average air quality index was stood at 353 at 4 pm. The average AQI is based data received from 35

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that the wind direction in Delhi was now northwesterly, which is expected to bring down mercury once more, lowering the minimum temperature on Saturday

Forecasts show that there will be no significant change in meteorological conditions over the weekend either, with wind speeds to touch around 5-6km/hr during the daytime and pre-dominantly stay calm

Ling in rural areas in the national Capital, the AAPruled MCD has announced that house tax notices will not be sent in any rural residential areas and house tax will not be collected from them in future. The announcement to this effect was made by Mayor Dr Shelly Oberoi on Saturday announcing that from now on MCD will not collect house tax from any rural residential area. Meanwhile, Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva on Saturday claimed the Municipal Corporation of Delhi(MCD)was forced to withdraw lakhs of notices issued people of Delhi Dehat villages following continuous protest by the people of Delhi Dehat and BJP workers. Stating this here, he also said the AAP was forced to withdraw these notices fearing peoples' wrath in ensuing 2024 election. Sachdeva said BJP Councilors in MCD strongly protested against the property tax being



levied on villages in the monthly meeting of MCD when the topic came up for discussion. "As per the directions of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, a few days ago, we held discussions with the heads of Delhi's rural areas. Following this, there was a high-level meeting with all the officials of Property Tax on Friday and it was decided not to collect property tax from the rural dehat. Property tax department has been issued orders not to collect taxes from villages. Property Tax will be collected as usual from all designated commercial areas of the MCD," Oberai said. "During the 15 years of BJP

rule in the civic agency, the public was harassed a lot by sending house tax notices. A few days ago we discussed with the Pradhans of rural areasof the city and a high level meeting was held with all the concerned officials following which directions were given not to collect tax. House tax will be collected from all notified commercial areas of MCD as before," the Mayor said.

Deputy Mayor Aaley Mohammad Iqbal stated, "In all 70 constituencies of Delhi where there are rural areas, be it Lal Dora or Extended Lal Dora, property tax will not be collected from there. Under the

leadership of CM Shri Arvind Kejriwal, a decision was made in a meeting with officials of the property tax department." Chaudhary SurendraSolanki, Pradhan of 360 villages said that the mayor has given a clear message that there will be no house tax in all the rural areas of Delhi. There are 2138 roads notified by MCD, there tax will be given on commercial but if any villager is doing small employment, then house tax will not be collected from him. "We had also taken this decision in the Panchayat of Peeragadhi. We are happy that our voice was heard. We hope

that whatever other issues will

be heard as soon as possible,"

with a delegation of BJP leaders of Delhi Dehat and the members of Delhi's 360 Villages Panchayat had met Lt. Governor V K Saxena and extended support to the Panchayat's demand for withdrawal of notices.

Delhi BJP leaders regularly extended support to the dharnas and protest organised by the people of Delhi by participating in them and this rattled the Aam Aadmi Party ultimately forcing the Mayor of Delhi to announce withdrawal of the property tax

notices. Delhi BJP President said after coming to power AAP Councilors tried to make property tax department a medium to extort from people of Delhi especially those living in Dehat but BJP will not let this happen. Sachdeva said now BJP will agitate for restoration of property tax discount taken back by MCD from Group Housing Societies.

Woman duped of over ₹11 lakh as Noida logs first case of digital arrest

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

The Uttar Pradesh Police has launched an investigation after a Noida resident found herself at the receiving end of a new cyber fraud trend, wherein she was duped of more than Rs 11 lakh and held under "digital arrest" for a day. This is the first case in the new trend of "digital arrest fraud" lodged at the Cyber Crime police station in Noida. The thugs posed as police officials who mentioned the names of an IPS officer in the CBI and the founder of a grounded airline, associating the 50-year-old victim in a fictitious money-laundering case. A similar case was recently reported in Haryana's Faridabad where cyber thugs,

posing as police personnel,

got a woman "digitally arrested" for more than a week after convincing her that her personal IDs were used for illegal activities. The thugs then asked her to stay online via Skype and not share this information with anyone even as they kept a watch on her throughout the period. In her complaint, the Noida-

based woman has claimed that she was contacted over an IVR (interactive voice response) call on November 13 and told that a mobile phone SIM card was pur-chased using her Aadhaar card in Mumbai and used for illegal advertising and harass-

ment of women. "Then my call was transferred to a person (who identified himself as a Mumbai Police officer) who did the initial interrogation over the call and then on Skype VC. Then he informed that I have another allegation of money laundering related to (the founder of an airline) for which an FIR has been registered against me and an arrest warrant issued by the Supreme Court for which he sent documents on Skype," the woman has said. "After the interrogation, he

said I am innocent and not guilty, so he is transferring the interrogation (to an IPS officer posted with the CBI, Mumbai) for further investigation of this case. Then he gave the Skype ID and asked me to request the CBI officer to do the priority investigation on VC to remove my arrest warrant," she has said in



The said CBI officer told her that during the investigation of the airline founder, police found 246 debit cards from his house and one of those

had the victim's name on it, which was used to open a bank account with her Aadhaar card. "He then said my account was

used for a fund transfer of Rs 2 crore for which I have been paid Rs 20 lakh. However, he said I do not look to be involved in this case, so to complete the investigation, I need to transfer funds from all my accounts to my ICICI account and subsequently, transfer the funds from the ICICI account to the PFC account as per the directives of the Supreme Court...," she

The woman has claimed that she was told not to disclose this information as it was related to "national security and will make me liable for further action". "Also, to prove not guilty of the crime, he asked me to keep sufficient balance in my accounts for which he also advised to apply for a personal instant loan of

gave the details of how to apply for the same, which I denied but he forced me to arrange Rs 3 lakh more through the same and after much pressure, I had applied for the same, which is also transferred to the PFC account," she said.
"They also took a picture of

Rs 20 lakh from ICICI and

my signature on Skype on the pretext of validating my Aadhaar card for investigation," she has alleged. The woman reported the matter to the Uttar Pradesh Police's Cyber Crime officials and alleged a fraud of Rs 11.11 lakh with her, besides being "digitally arrested" from morning to night.

Inspector Reeta Yadav, incharge of the Cyber Crime police station in Noida Sector

lodged under the relevant provisions of the Information Technology Act and Indian Penal Code (IPC). "An investigation into the case is underway," she said. The officer urged people to be

cautious of emerging online crimes and reach out to police at the earliest either on the central helpline number 1930 or emergency number 112 or report such activities to the cyber desk of local police stations. "People should also know

that police never question any person digitally. If someone threatens you like this, ask them to send you a proper notice, ask for their details and tell them that you are coming to the police station to meet them," Yadav said.

Parliament Winter Session to begin on Mon, **Dhankar urges members to shun disruption**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

With winter session of Parliament set to begin on Monday, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday urged all members of the legislature to abide by the behaviour witnessed in the country's Constituent Assembly that saw "hardly any disruptions" during its three-year tenure.

Delivering the Rajendra Prasad Memorial Lecture - 2023 at the Akashvani Rang Bhawan here, Vice-President Dhankhar also said a big change has come about in the country that began

"I am not indicating towards politics. But in a large country like India, if there is political stability, then people's talents march forward in the right direction. After three decades,



when India got a strong oneparty government," Dhankhar

"And what was the result? Indiamade UPI has been adopted by many countries, India is setting new standards globally that is recognised by the world, India is the setter of agenda. The world is looking at us as to what is our point of view on an issue,"

Hailing Rajendra Prasad for

the Constituent Assembly, Dhankhar said he ran the House in a manner such that every member could showcase their

There were problems, divisions and different points of view but, for three years, you (India's first president Rajendra Prasad) ran the House in a manner that we could get an amazing

talents to the fullest.

Constituent Assembly, there was a positive debate. There was hardly any disruption and con-sensus was the basis," the vicepresident said.

"From this stage, taking inspiration from him, I urge all the members of the legislature that they should abide by the behaviour that was witnessed in the Constituent Assembly. This would be beneficial to our country and the world," he said. The Constituent Assembly was established to draft a Constitution for India. It met for the first time in New Delhi on December 9, 1946, and its last session was held on January 24,

Dhankhar's remarks come ahead of the Winter session of Parliament that begins on Monday. During its 15 sittings till December 22, it is expected

Parishad (ABVP) and then the

youth wing of the BJP, demon-

strating a preference for avoid-

ing groupism and sticking to

the agenda of organisational

discipline and efficiency as his

He was an MLA and a minis-

ter in Himachal Pradesh before

being brought into the BJP's

Nadda was a Cabinet minister

in the first Modi government

before taking over as the BJP's

national president in 2020 from

Amit Shah who, in turn, had

ioined the central government

Shah, in his post, said Nadda is

playing an important role in expanding the BJP and further

strengthening it with his organ-

isational skills and hard work.

The BJP is set to contest the

Lok Sabha polls in 2024 with

responsibilities grew.

national politics.

as home minister.

the colonial-era criminal laws. Dhankhar said the Indian economy was in "very concerning situation" about a decade ago and was considered part of the "fragile five". "India, where one-sixth of the

will India come out of the fragile five. This is just a matter of one decade ago. Now, the situation is such that we have surpassed the UK and France to become the fifth

world's population lives, was a burden on the global economy.

Countries were worried how

largest economy," the vice-president said. This has happened due to the hard work of 140 crore Indians and efficient leadership. By the end of this decade, till 2030, India will achieve a new milestone by surpassing Germany and Japan to become the third

largest economy, he said.

Meeting friends always a delight, Modi reacts to 'Melodi' selfie

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday reacted to a viral selfie his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni took with him on the sidelines of the COP28 meet in Dubai, saying "meeting friends is always a delight".

always a dengm. Meloni had on Friday posted the selfie on X with the remarks, "Good friends at COP28" followed by hashtag 'Melodi', a mix of the two leaders' surnames. The warm picture of the two leaders smilingly into the camera has gone viral since.

Modi addressed the opening session of the World Climate Action Summit, the ceremonial opening of the high-level segment for heads of state and government, and attended the Presidency's session on Transforming Climate Finance, another high-level event on



Green Credits Programme, and a Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) event in Dubai.

He met a slew of world leaders including Meloni, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, British Foreign Secretary David Cameron, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Turkey President R T Erdogan, Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson and Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu. Modi also met Barbados Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley President of Guyana Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, the Swiss Confederation President Alain Berset, Mark Rutte, the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, and Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon. Prime Minister Modi had a hectic schedule as he addressed four sessions at the UN climate change conference, met various world leaders and also held

Modi to celebrate Navy Day 2023 on Maharashtra visit

 $P_{\text{Modi will visit Maharashtra}}^{\text{rime Minister Narendra}}$ on December 4, Monday and will unveil the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Rajkot Fort, Sindhudurg. He will also attend the programme marking Navy Day 2023 celebrations there, Prime Minister's Office(PMO)said here on

Announcing this, the PMO statement said Prime Minster Modi will also witness the 'Operational Demonstrations' by Indian Navy's ships, submarines, aircraft and special forces from Tarkarli beach, Sindhudurg. The Prime Minister will reach Sindhudurg, Maharashtra at about 4.15 pm.

Navy day is celebrated on December four every year. 'Navy Day 2023' celebrations at Sindhudurg pays homage to the rich maritime heritage of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, whose seal inspired the new Naval Ensign which was adopted last year when the Prime Minister commissioned

PUBLIC NOTICE Known to all that my client Known to all that my client Rattan Prabha owner of the PROPENT MO.452/2-D, AREA MEASURING 200 SQ.YDS (KHASRA NO.3596/3087/1342/624, KHEWA MO.207/302, KHATONI NO.293/230, STIUATE INCH ANDRAWALI Alias SHAHDARA, DELHI-1 0032 has lost the following documents a below 1.Will in favour of Narender Kumar, Sale deed dated 09.12.1964 in favour of Marevi, along with all Original Back Chain of this Pperty, And It is informed that any deal with sa documents by any person except my said clie

AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION
Ch. No. 760, Dwaka Court Sector-10. Dwarka Namu Dalka 75 M:- 9899013918

PUBLIC NOTICE

Know all through this Public Notice that the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) Delhi, Office of Delhi Pollution Control Committee, 5th Floor, ISBT Building, Kashmere Gate, Delhi-110006 has granted Environmental Clearance Certificate to our Project "Proposed Expansion of 'The Address' at Plot No. 4-B, Mayur Vihar Phase-I Extension, Delhi-110091, vide Environmental identification No EC23B038DL113325 dated 17.10.2023 and the details of the said Environmental Clearance has also been displayed at the following website of the MoEF&CC/SEIAA "environmentclearance.nic.in" Antarctica Properties Company Ltd.

Date: December 02, 2023

on his 63rd birthday



Drime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday greeted BJP chief JP Nadda on his 63rd birthday, lauding his organisa-tional skills and work in different capacities during his career, including as a lawmaker and a minister. Modi said in a post on X,

'He (Nadda) has made a mark for his organisational skills. His simple and warmhearted nature has endeared him to several people. I have seen him work hard

for the party over the last several decades.

The prime minister added, "He has also distinguished himself as a very good MLA, MP and minister. I pray for his long and healthy life in service of the people."

A low-key leader, Nadda rose

Kenyan President to Modi greets Nadda



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

enyan President William Kenyan riesiden. Samoei Ruto will pay a three-day visit to India beginning Monday, in the first presidential trip from the influential east African nation in over six years. It will be Ruto's first visit to India in his present capacity as well.

The Kenyan leader will meet his Indian counterpart Droupadi Murmu and hold wide-ranging talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Saturday. "At the invitation of President Droupadi Murmu, the President of the Republic of Kenya, William Samoei Ruto will pay a State visit to India from December 4 to 6," the MEA said.

He will be accompanied by a

arrive on Monday

is taking place after a period of

over six years and is expected

to strengthen and invigorate

the bilateral relations between

the two countries," the MEA

The Kenyan president's visit to

India comes around three

months after the 55-nation

African Union was inducted

into the G20 at its New Delhi

summit following India's strong

Ruto will be accorded a cere-

monial welcome at the fore-

court of Rashtrapati Bhawan on

December 5. "President Ruto

will hold detailed discussions

with Prime Minister Shri

Narendra Modi. A state ban-

quet will be hosted by the

President in honour of

President Ruto," the MEA said.

The visiting leader is also

scheduled to attend a business

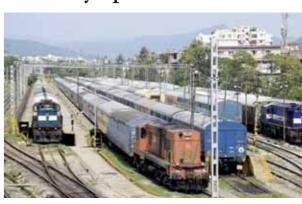
and investment event in New

said in a statement.

push for it.



Kharge flays Centre over Railways performance



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday attacked the Centre on the latest Railway Performance Report, alleging the Narendra Modi government has left no stone unturned to destroy the Railways.

He also accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of indulging in PR stunts by flagging off new trains and not paying attention to safety, convenience and relief

of the common people.
"The Modi government has left no stone unturned to destroy the Railways!" Kharge said in a social media postX. "After major accidents like Balasore, the much publicised 'Kavach' did not add even a single kilometre of protection," he

very expensive while the number of sleeper coaches have also been reduced, Kharge further claimed. The Congress chief also alleged that more than 10 per cent trains ran behind schedule this year.

"By abolishing the Railway Budget, the Modi government has got away from its accountability. Modiji is busy with PR stunts of flagging off white-painted trains just to garner applause. But he is not paying even an iota of attention to the safety, comfort, convenience and relief of the common public," Kharge alleged in his post. Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had on Wednesday said 'Kavach' -- the indigenously-developed automatic train protection system -- was fully installed on 1,500 kilome-

PUBLIC NOTICE

the first indigenous aircraft

Every year, on the occasion of

Navy Day, there is a tradition

of organising 'Operational

Demonstrations' by the Indian

Navy's ships, submarines, air-

craft and special forces.
These 'Operational

Demonstrations' provide an opportunity to the people to witness various facets of multi-

domain operations undertak-

en by the İndian Navy. It high-

lights the Navy's contributions

towards national security to the

public, while also heralding

maritime consciousness

Notice is hereby given that Smt. Rajin Mehrallottee of residential flat no. B-68 Tower-63 Golf Drive developed by Sunrays Height Pvt. Ltd., expired on 24 June, 2023 intestate I Lovey Mehra son of Rajin Mehra hereb invites for any claimant/s or objection, against the transfer of the said property of against the transfer of the sald property of my deceased Mother in my favour with 30 days of publication of this notice, with copies of proofs to support the claims/objections at the below mentioned address. If no claims/objections are received within the

211, 2nd Floor, Ansal Bhawan Kasturba Gandhi Marq, New Delhi-11000

is all received within the developer shall be at the liberty to transfer the said Flat of the deceased to her son in the manner provided under the applicable laws/policy. LOVEY MEHRA

To be known to all that I,Jagat Jit Singh S/o Sh. Sardar Singh R/o DDA MIG Flat No.B-4/130/1, Ground Floor, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110029 owner of DD A MIG Flat No.B-4/130/1, Ground Floor, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110029. The original documents i.e. Allotment-cum -Demand Letter of the above flat have been lost. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in P.S. Crime Branch in vide S.O. No. 430/20/14 LR No. 1180774/2023 dated 29.11.2023. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone No. 7827603280 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy.Director(LAB)H or Director(H.)-HH-II.D Block, 3rdFloor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi. C/o SUNRAYS HEIGHTS PVT. LTD

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that I, Neeraj Kumar s/o late Sh. Naresh Kumar is filing application in L&DO for Substitution/Mutation of the Property No.B-38, Vijay Nagar, Delhi, in the name of Neeraj Kumar, on the grounds of Will & Release Deed. If there are any objections/claims from the general public on this application, the same shall be communicated to L&DO with supporting documents through registered post or by visiting L&DO at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi or through an email at Ido@nic.in, within 30 days of publication of this notice. Name: Neeraj Kumar, Address: B-38, Vijay Nagar Delhi, **Phone**: 9990871101

Íock,3[™]Floor,Víkas Sadan,INA,New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE General public is hereby informed that I Harsh Chaudhry s/o late Sh. Nand Kishore Choudhry, is filing application in L&DO for Substitution/Mutation of the Property No.B-21, Nizamuddin West, New Delhi, in the name of Harsh Chaudhry, on the grounds of Release Relinquishment Deed. If there are any objections/claims from the general public on this application, the same shall be communicated to L&DO with supporting documents through registered post or by visiting L&DO at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi or through an email at Ido@nic.in, within 30 days o West, New Delhi. **Phone**: 9811310670

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

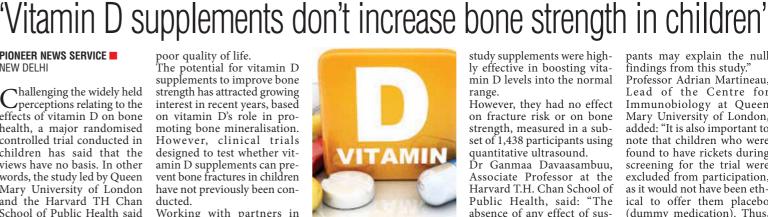
hallenging the widely held Uperceptions relating to the effects of vitamin D on bone health, a major randomised controlled trial conducted in children has said that the views have no basis. In other words, the study led by Queen Mary University of London and the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health said vitamin D supplements do not increase bone strength or prevent bone fractures in children with vitamin D deficiency.

Around one-third of children have at least one fracture before the age of 18. This is a major global health issue, as childhood fractures can lead to years of disability and/or

poor quality of life. The potential for vitamin D

supplements to improve bone strength has attracted growing interest in recent years, based on vitamin D's role in promoting bone mineralisation. However, clinical trials designed to test whether vitamin D supplements can prevent bone fractures in children have not previously been conducted.

Working with partners in Mongolia, a setting with a particularly high fracture burden and where vitamin D deficiency is highly prevalent, researchers conducted a clinical trial to determine if vitamin D supplementation would decrease risk of bone fractures or increase bone strength in schoolchildren. The study, in Lancet Diabetes



& Endocrinology, is the largest randomised controlled trial of vitamin D supplementation ever conducted in children. Over the course of three years, 8,851 schoolchildren aged 6-13 living in Mongolia received a weekly oral dose of vitamin D supplementation. 95.5% of participants had vitamin D deficiency at baseline, and ly effective in boosting vitamin D levels into the normal

However, they had no effect on fracture risk or on bone strength, measured in a subset of 1,438 participants using quantitative ultrasound. Dr Ganmaa Davaasambuu,

Associate Professor at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, said: "The absence of any effect of sustained, generous vitamin D supplementation on fracture risk or bone strength in vitamin D deficient children is striking. In adults, vitamin D supplementation works best for fracture prevention when calcium is given at the same time - so the fact that we did not offer calcium alongside vitamin D to trial partici-

findings from this study." Professor Adrian Martineau, Lead of the Centre for Immunobiology at Queen Mary University of London, added: "It is also important to note that children who were found to have rickets during screening for the trial were excluded from participation, as it would not have been ethical to offer them placebo (dummy medication). Thus, our findings only have relevance for children with low vitamin D status who have not

The trial findings are likely to prompt scientists, doctors and public health specialists to re-consider the effects of vitamin D supplements on bone

developed bone complica-

tions.

publication of this notice. Name: Harsh Chaudhry, Address: B-21, Nizamuddin SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005 FICICI Bank 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 other force in the patients. 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.

Sr. No.		Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch		
1.	Rakesh Kathuria/ Ekta Chopra/ LBDEL00001999476	Flat No. T-F/0608, 6th Floor, Tower-F, "Paras Dew's", Sector-106, Dwarka Expressway, Gurgaon, Haryana/ November 29, 2023	July 31, 2023 Rs. 51,81,177/-	Delhi/ NCR		
2.	Miriya Cheema/ Anila Bhatia Cheema/ LBGUR00002191149	Flat No. 8072, 7th Floor, Type A, Tower-8, ATS Triumph, Situated At Sector-104, Gurgaon/ November 29, 2023	July 29, 2023 Rs. 2,47,94,974/-	Delhi/ NCR		
The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged 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.						

Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

Centre For Sight - Group of Eye Hospitals, through this notice informs all public that the old medical records from 1st April 2017 to March 31st 2018 (except MLC, court cases & Paediatrics cases) are to be discarded at the following locations Delhi/NCR: Dwarka, Safdarjung Enclave, Preet Vihar, Vikaspuri, Rohini, Rajouri Garden, Ashok Vihar Gurugram (sector 29 & NRR) Faridabad. Any patient who wants to collect their medical documents, may contact the MRD Dept. at centre for Sight, Dwarka, sector 9. After one month of publication of this notice, we will destroy all medical records from 1st April 2017 to March 31st 2018 (except MLC, court cases & Paediatrics cases) and will not be responsible for same.

system in 'tight fist grip': VP Dhankhar PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar said here on Saturday retired judges have kept the country's arbitral system in a "tight-fist grip", denying a chance to other qualified minds, and echoed the remarks of Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud that it resembles an "old boys' club".

Dhankhar suggested that the time has come when people need to introspect and move forward by bringing about necessary changes, including, if required, by legislation. "Nowhere on the planet, in no

other country, in no other system there is such a tight-fist grip on the arbitral system by

retired judges. In our country, this is at large," he said. The vice president lauded the

Retired judges keep country's arbitral

"bold" remarks of Justice Chandrachud -- a person, he said, is changing the landscape of the judiciary in the country on the arbitral system in

India. Dhankhar said the CII reflected on the lack of diversity in appointing arbitrators. Justice Chandrachud had said retired judges dominate the field, he pointed out. "He goes on to add, and I salute

him for this, he said while other qualified candidates are overlooked, he implied that this reflects an old boys' club mentality within the arbitration space," Dhankhar said.

He added that the "bold" statement of Justice Chandrachud would go a long way in making the arbitral process in India 'spinally strong"

Dhankhar said India is known for its human resources. "In every domain, in every walk of life, we have people who can take a look at it. But they are not built up to adjudicate an arbitrary process," he rued. The time has come when peo-

ple need to introspect and move forward by bringing about necessary changes, including, if required, by legislation, the vice president asserted.Addressing an event of the International Court of Arbitration, he said institutional arbitration is better than ad-hoc mechanisms as it provides a sound system for arriv-

ing at conclusions.

Dhankhar also said there is a need to evolve a mechanism where the arbitral process does not suffer from judicial interventions.

He said while approaching for

relief is a remedy prescribed in law, amicable dispute resolution in arbitration proceedings could mean lesser parties approaching courts for intervention. The vice president said he is of

the view that when disputes last long, the legal fraternity bene-"But our fiscal gain cannot be

at the cost of national gain, national prosperity ... Economy will gallop ... When the dispute resolution mechanism is fair, equitable and conclusive," he observed.

Developing nations press rich world to fight climate change better

ountries once colonised by empires are striking **✓**back on global warming - and they have the pope's

blessing.

Leaders of developing

Linto Saturday's second-day of high-level speeches at the UN climate summit to press rich industrial countries to share their knowhow to fight global warming and ease the financial burdens they face — while trumpeting their own natural resources that swallow heattrapping carbon in the air.

Conference of the Parties, or COP28, in the oil-rich United Arab Emirates featured about 150 presidents, prime ministers, royals and other leaders who are presenting their plans to cut heat-trapping emissions and mostly seek unity with other nations to avert climate catastrophe that seemed to draw closer than ever in 2023

Injecting moral authority into the talks, Pope Francis said "the destruction of the environment is an offense against God" in a letter read on his behalf because he had to cancel plans to attend because

In the letter read by Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Francis noted that almost all of the world that's "needy" is "responsible for scarcely 10 per cent of toxic emissions, while the gap between the opulent few and the masses of the poor has never been so abysmal?

The poor are the real victims of what is happening: we need think only of the plight of Indigenous peoples, deforestation, the tragedies of hunger, water and food insecurity, and forced migration," the pope's let-

Several African leaders noted their continent's rainforests help gobble up excess carbon dioxide in the air and emphasised how their countries belch out only a tiny fraction of heat-trapping emissions compared to richer countries.

Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of Equatorial Guinea one of sub-Saharan Africa's biggest oil producers — faulted developed nations for failing to deliver on their pledges to meet their commitments on financing for climate action and meet their own targets to curb their industries' emissions.

President Jose Ramos Horta

Indonesia and north of Australia, blasted "shark loans" from multilateral lending institutions, saying developing nations cannot recover from heavy debt burdens that squelch their ability to put money into fighting climate change and grow economically.

Later on Saturday, 50 oil companies - representing nearly half of global production — pledged to reach near-zero methane emissions and end routine flaring in their operations by 2030, Sultan al-Jaber, the president of this year's United Nations climate talks, said. The companies also signed up to reach "net zero" for their

The pledge includes nationoil companies like Saudi Arabia's Áramco, Brazil's Petrobras, and the Abu Dhabi National Oil Co., of which al-Jaber is head, as well as multinationals like Shell, BP and TotalEnergies.

cized the announcement as a "smokescreen to hide the reality that we need to phase out oil, gas and coal."

300 civil society groups criti-

With US President Joe Biden staying home, Kamala president to lead America's delegation since Al Gore — now a major climate activist — at COP3 in 1997.

She said the United States is pledging USD 3 billion to the Green Climate Fund, which helps developing countries access capital to invest in clean energy and "nature-based solutions," cautioned that the world But a letter signed by over was facing a "pivotal moment" in the fight against global warming. In a statement, the US Treasury said the pledge is subject to funding availability.

Harris also said the US was joining 115 nations in a comciency and triple renewable energy capacity by 2030, saying her country was on track to meet those goals because of investments like building 30 gigawatts of solar energy and laying thousands of miles of more efficient high voltage transmission lines.

We understand the whole world will benefit from our work," she said. "When the United States increases renewable energy production and innovation, it lowers the costs and boosts the efficiency of renewable energy technology around the globe.

'Himalayas need help, COP28 must respond'

Warning of a potential cat-astrophe in the Himalayas where the glaciers are melting at an alarming rate, UN chief Antonio Guterres on Saturday said the ongoing annual climate talks here must respond to the needs of the developing nations, especially the vulnerable mountain countries that need urgent

Almost 240 million people depend on the glaciers and 10 major rivers, such as Indus, Ganga, and Brahmaputra, originating in the Himalayas. Another billion people living downstream of these rivers across eight countries, including India, are also dependent on the glacier-fed rivers.

Addressing a meeting with mountain countries at this year's Conference of Parties (COP28), UN Secretary-General Guterres emphasised that nearly a third of Nepal's ice had vanished in just over 30 years, and it was directly linked to greenhouse gas pollution that heats up the planet.

Guterres, who visited Nepal, including the Everest region, in October last week, called for developed countries to clarify the delivery of USD 100 billion and produce a plan to double adaptation finance to USD 40 billion a year by 2025.

"But those sums are dwarfed by the scale of what's needed," he said and advocated for reform in International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to better cater countries like Nepal.

"So, we need the outcome of this COP to call for reform of the IFIs so that they reflect today's world and are far more responsive to the needs of developing countries and for reform of the business models of the MDBs so that they can leverage far more private finance at reasonable cost to the



developing countries," he told

the gathering.
He said unless there is a change in course, "a catastrophe can be unleashed."

'The glaciers could disappear altogether. That means massively reduced flows for major Himalayan rivers such as the Indus, the Ganges and the Brahmaputra. Deltas decimated by saltwater," Guterres

The Secretary-General highlighted the alarming pace at which the glaciers were disappearing, causing devastating impacts on local communities. 'The mountains are crying out for help and COP28 must respond."

Guterres attended the high-level roundtable with Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', and other heads of state and dele-

The roundtable followed the recognition given to the mountains in the COP28 President's Opening Plenary, which mandated the issue be taken up under the Nairobi work programme.

The roundtable also fol-

lowed the International Centre for Integrated Mountain mission to Friday evening's high-level event on the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage convened by UNFCCC Adaptation Division.

Izabella Koziell, ICIMOD Deputy Director General, stated the urgent imperative to prioritise the Hindu Kush Himalaya for Loss and Damage compensation.

Israeli offensive shifts to crowded southern Gaza

Tsrael pounded targets in the **L**crowded southern half of the Gaza Strip on Saturday and ordered more neighbourhoods designated for attack to evacuate, driving up the death toll even as the United States and others urged it to do more to protect Gaza civilians.

At least 200 Palestinians have been killed since the fighting resumed on Friday morning following a weeklong truce with the territory's ruling militant group Hamas, according to the Health Ministry in Gaza.

Separately, the ministry announced that the overall death toll in Gaza since the October 7 start of the Israel-Hamas war surpassed 15,200, a sharp jump from the previous count of more than 13,300. The ministry had stopped issuing daily updates of the overall toll on November 11, following warrelated disruptions of connectivity and hospital operations.

The ministry does not differentiate between civilians and

Saturday that 70 per cent of the dead were women and children. It said more than 40,000 people were wounded over the past two months. With the collapse of the temporary truce, Israel had been urged by the United States, its closest ally, to do more to protect Palestinian civilians.

The appeal came after a blistering air and ground offensive in the first weeks of the war devastated large areas of northern Gaza, killing thousands of Palestinians and displacing hundreds of thousands. Some 2 million Palestinians, almost the entire population of Gaza, are now crammed into the southern half of the territory.

It was not clear if Israel's military would heed appeals made Friday by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken for more surgical strikes as it shifts its focus to southern Gaza. French President Emmanuel Macron told reporters at the COP28 climate conference in Dubai on Saturday that while he acknowledges Israel's right to defend itself,



ing areas in the southern half of

Gaza. Several houses and build-

ings were hit. At least nine peo-

ple, including three children,

were killed in a strike on a house

in the city of Deir al-Balah in the

south, according to the hospital

where the bodies were taken. The hospital also received seven bodies of others killed in overnight airstrikes, including two children.

Meanwhile, Palestinian militant groups in Gaza said they fired a barrage of rockets on southern Israel. Sirens were heard in communities near the Gaza Strip but there were no immediate reports of damage or

Along with the resumption of fighting, the military published an online map carving up the Gaza Strip into hundreds of numbered parcels and asked residents to familiarise themselves with the parcel number of their location ahead of evacuation

warnings.
On Saturday, the military used the map for the first time, listing more than two dozen parcel numbers in areas around Gaza City in the north and east of Khan Younis. Separately, the military also dropped leaflets with evacuation orders over towns east of Khan Younis.

The maps and leaflets gen-

erated panic, fear and confusion, especially in the crowded south. Unable to go back to northern Gaza or neighbouring Egypt, their only escape is to move around within the 220-square-There is no place to go,"

said Emad Hajar, who fled with his wife and three children from the northern town of Beit Lahia a month ago to seek refuge in Khan Younis. "They expelled us from the north, and now they are pushing us to leave the south." Amal Radwan, who sheltered in the urban Jabaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza, said she was not aware of such a map, adding that she and many others in the shelter are not able to leave because of the relentless bombardment, "We won't leave," she said. "Here is death and there is death." Amjad Abu Taha, a Palestinian teacher from Gaza City, alleged that Israel is trying to deceive the world by suggesting Gaza residents have the opportunity to seek safety. "But all knows that no place is safe in Gaza," he said.

in a new phase as winter looms fighting with the second (best)

AP ■ KHARKIV (UKRAINE)

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says the war with Russia is in a new stage, with winter expected to complicate fighting after a summer counteroffensive that failed to produce desired results due to enduring shortages of weapons and ground forces.

Despite setbacks, however, he said Ukraine won't give up.

Associated Press in Kharkiv in new phase of war."

Asked if he was satisfied by the results of the counteroffensive, he gave a complex answer. "Look, we are not backing

war, and that is a fact," interview Thursday with The

"We have a new phase of northeastern Ukraine after a morale-boosting tour of the region. "Winter as a whole is a

down, I am satisfied. We are

army in the world, I am satisfied," he said, referring to the Russian military. But he added: "We are losing people, I'm not satisfied. We didn't get all the weapons we wanted, I can't be satisfied, but I also can't complain too much. Zelenskyy also said he fears

the Israel-Hamas war threatens to overshadow the conflict in Ukraine, as competing politi-cal agendas and limited resources put the flow of

And those concerns are amplified by the tumult that inevitably arises during a US election year and its potential implications for his country, which has seen the international community largely rally around it following Russia's Feb. 24, 2022, invasion.

The highly anticipated

counteroffensive, powered by tens of billions of dollars in Western military aid, including heavy weaponry, did not forge the expected breakthroughs. Now, some Ukrainian officials worry whether further assis-

tance will be as generous.

At the same time, ammunition stockpiles are running low, threatening to bring Ukrainian battlefield operations to a standstill.

With winter set to cloak a wartime Ukraine once again, with new but familiar challenges as the conflict grinds toward the end of its second full year: There are freezing temperatures and barren fields that leave soldiers exposed. And there's the renewed threat of widespread Russian aerial assaults in cities that target energy infrastructure and civil-

Zelenskyy says war with Russia | Pak EC to issue schedule for Feb 8 election this month

Democratic

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's election commission has said that it will announce the schedule for the upcoming general election around the middle of this month, amidst rumours of a

possible delay in polls.
The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has already announced that the general election will be held on February 8 next year.

During an informal con-Friday, Chief Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja when asked about the election schedule said: "Count 54 days backwards from February 8.

Raja also said the ECP has been proactively handling election-related responsibilities ahead of the schedule. In June, the Pakistan

(PDM) government amended the Elections Act to give powers to the ECP for fixing a general election date, while defining the timeline of procedures from the announcement of the polls' schedule till the polling day, which is about

Movement

54 days.

The ECP has already failed to hold polls within 90 days of the dissolution of the National Assembly, which was dissolved on August 9.

marking fresh electoral districts in the light of new census results announced just days before the term of the government ended.

The ECP said that after fresh delimitation, the National Assembly (NA) would consist of 336 seats, including 266 general seats, 60 seats reserved for women,

and 10 for non-Muslims. The delimitation shows that the strength of the

Assembly has decreased by six seats from the previously 342 Balochistan has a total of 20 National Assembly seats, including 16 general and four

reserved seats for women; Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has 45 general National Assembly seats and 10 reserved seats for women: Sindh has a total of 75 seats of which 61 are general

Punjab, population-wise the largest province, has the biggest share of 141 general National Assembly seats and 32 seats reserved for women while the federal capital has representation of three general seats in the national assembly with no seat reserved for

Lawsuits against Trump over Jan 6 riots can move forward, rules Court

AP ■ WASHINGTON

awsuits against Donald Lawsuns agains -Trump over the US Capitol riot can move forward, a federal appeals court ruled on Friday, rejecting the former president's bid to dismiss the cases accusing him of inciting the violent mob on Jan. 6,

The US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit court knocked down Trump's sweeping claims that presidential immunity shields him from liability in the lawsuits brought by Democratic lawmakers and police officers. But the threejudge panel said the 2024 Republican presidential primary frontrunner can continue to fight, as the cases proceed, to try to prove that his actions were taken in his official capacity as president.

Trump has said he can't be sued over the riot that left dozens of police officers injured, arguing that his words during a rally before the storming of the Capitol addressed "matters of public concern" and fall within the scope of absolute presidential immuni-

The decision comes as Trump's lawyers are arguing he is also immune from prosecution in the separate criminal case brought by special counsel Jack Smith that accuses

overturn his election loss to President Joe Biden. Smith's team has signaled that it will make the case at trial that Trump is responsible for the violence at the Capitol and point to Trump's continued embrace of the Jan. 6 rioters on the campaign trail to argue that he intended for the chaos that day. Friday's ruling underscores the challenges facing Trump as he tries to persuade courts, and potentially juries, that the actions he took in the run-up to the riot were part of his official duties as president. The judge presiding over his election subversion criminal trial, Tanya Chutkan, also rejected that claim in an order released Friday night.

While courts have afforded presidents broad immunity for their official acts, the judges made clear that that protection does not cover just any act or speech undertaken by a president. A president running for a second term, for example, is not carrying out the official duties of the presidency when he is speaking at a rally funded by his reelection campaign or attends a private fundraiser,

the appeals court said. 'He is acting as officeseeker, not office-holder — no less than are the persons running against him when they take precisely the same actions

Trump of illegally plotting to in their competing campaigns to attain precisely the same office," Judge Sri Srinivasan wrote for the court. But the court said its deci-

sion is not necessarily the final word on the issue of presidential immunity, leaving the door open for Trump to keep fighting the issue. And it took pains to note that it was not being asked to evaluate whether Trump was responsible for the riot or should be held to account in court. It also said Trump could still seek to argue that his actions were protected by the First Amendment — a claim he's also made in his pending criminal case - or covered by other privileges.

"When these cases move forward in the district court, he must be afforded the opportunity to develop his own facts on the immunity question if he desires to show that he took the actions alleged in the complaints in his official capacity as president rather than in his unofficial capacity as a candidate," the court said.

Trump could ask the full appeals court to take up the matter or go to the US Supreme Court. A lawyer for Trump, Jesse Binnall, did not immediately return a phone message seeking comment on the ruling. A Trump campaign spokesperson called the decision "limited, narrow and procedural."

Gohar Khan elected chairman of Imran's party unopposed

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Tailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party on Saturday elected Barrister Gohar Ali Khan as the new chairman, days before the top election body's deadline for the party to hold organisational polls to retain 'bat' as its election symbol.

This is the first time since the Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) was founded in 1996 by the cricketer-turned-politician that someone else has replaced the 71-year-old as its chairman. Soft-spoken Gohar, a lawyer by profession and someone who has been appearing in several cases against Imran Khan and the PTI was elected unop-

posed as nobody filed a nomination against him in the intra-party elections held in the north-western city of Peshawar, considered a stronghold of the Gohar, 45, was hand-picked by incarnated Khan after consultation with his loyalist lawyers who frequently meet him in jail where he has been

kept since being arrested on August 5 after conviction in the Toshakhana case. Khan himself avoided filing the nomination due to conviction and disqualification. The organisational elections were necessitated on the directives of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) that had given a 20-day time frame to the PTI on November 23 to retain the 'bat' as its electoral symbol, ahead of general elections scheduled to be held on February 8. Political observers considered the move to

launch Gohar, a relatively unfamiliar face in the political arena, as most astonishing, especially when the party needed a strong experienced hand to steer it safely through the rough waters in the absence of Khan. However, the fact that he is just a stopgap arrangement and was appointed as chairman to avoid legal complications would remain his main vulnerability. It means that for every key decision, he would look up to Khan for approval.

UK peers question India's addition to safe states' list

PTI ■ LONDON

A House of Lords committee that scrutinises bills tabled in Parliament has raised concerns over India being added to the UK's expanded safe states list, which would rule out Indians entering the country illegally from seeking asylum.

The cross-party House of Lords Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee considered the draft Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 (Amendment of List of Safe States) Regulations 2024 and in a report released on Friday questioned the lack of key information on a policy intended to tackle "unfounded" human rights

It follows former home secretary Suella Braverman tabling the draft regulations in the House of Commons earlier this month after having "rigorously assessed" that India, as well as Georgia, are deemed safe states to be added to the list.

"More generally, we observe that there is scope for different points of view on whether India and Georgia are 'safe states', based on their human rights records," said Baroness Angela Harris, a Liberal Democrat peer on the committee. "The Home Office has also not provided any clarity on whether the significant backlog of existing asylum claims from nationals of these countries will continue to be processed as previously or will be deemed inadmissible retrospectively. Overall, we found the explanatory material laid with the draft Regulations did not provide a clear

ILLEGAL ASYLUM ISSUE

enough picture of how they would be implemented in practice," she said. The committee's report notes that a submission it received suggests that human rights abuses in both India and Georgia may be "significant and widespread" and that the UK Home Secretary, now James Cleverly since the sacking of Braverman, may need to be questioned on how the Home Office arrived at the conclusion to add the two countries to an expanded list. The amendment draft, which would need the consent of both Houses to be passed into law, would mean that any asylum or human rights claim made by a national from India or Georgia must be declared inadmissible, unless "exceptional circum-

stances" apply. "In the case of these draft regulations, the guidance on 'exceptional circumstances' is so critical to their operation that effective scrutiny is impossible without understanding how this aspect will work," stressed Baroness Harris.

In conclusion, the committee's report draws the draft to the special attention of Parliament and suggests that it can only scrutinise them properly if the guidance is published before the debate on them takes place.

At the time of the announcement, the Home Office had noted that the proposal will undergo parliamentary scrutiny in the usual way via debates in both Houses of Parliament before it comes

South Korea launches first spy satellite

AP ■ VANDENBERG SPACE FORCE BASE (US)

Couth Korea launched its first Omilitary spy satellite into space Friday, a little over a week after North Korea claimed to put its own spy satellite into orbit for the first time as tensions rise between the rivals. Launched from California's

Vandenberg Space Force Base using SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket, it was the first of five spy satellites South Korea plans to send into space by 2025 under a contract with SpaceX. The event had been scheduled for earlier in the week but was pushed back because of weather conditions. South Korea had no military

reconnaissance satellites of its

own in space and has partially resorted to the United States' spy satellites to monitor moves by North Korea. South Korea's Defense Ministry described the launch as successful, saying the satellite had a communication with an overseas ground station. A ministry statement said the launch allowed the South

Korean military to acquire an independent spaced-based surveillance system. It said the satellite would also help bolster the military's preemptive missile strike capability, a key part of its so-called three-axis system that includes missile defense and massive retaliatory capabilities.

Govt bans 'dark patterns' on e-commerce platforms

Notifies guidelines

'n order to protect consumers' interest, the government has ▲banned use of "dark patterns" on e-commerce platforms which intend to deceive customers or manipulate their choices.

A gazette notification in this regard as "Guidelines for prevention and regulation of dark patterns" was issued on November 30 by the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) which is applicable to all platforms offering goods and services in India, and even advertisers and sellers.

Resorting to dark patterns will amount to misleading advertisement or unfair trade practice or violation of consumer rights. The penalty will be imposed as per the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, it

"In the emerging digital commerce, dark patterns are increasingly being used by the platforms to mislead the consumers



by manipulating their buying choices and behaviour," Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh told PTI. The notified guidelines will ensure clarity in the minds of all stakeholders — buyers, sellers, marketplaces and regulators - as to what is not acceptable as unfair trading practices, the latter being liable under the Consumer Protection Act, he

According to the notification, dark patterns have been defined as any practice or deceptive design pattern using user interface or user experience interac-

designed to mislead or trick users to do something they originally did not intend or want to do, by subverting or impairing the consumer autonomy, decision making or choice. For instance, 'basket sneaking' is a dark pattern that includes additional items such as products, services, payments to charity or donation at the time of checkout from a platform, without the consent of the user, such that the total amount payable by the user is more than the amount payable for the product or service chosen by the user.

Another dark pattern called "forced action" means forcing a user into taking an action that would require the user to buy any additional goods or subscribe or sign up for an unrelated service or share personal information in order to buy or subscribe to the product or service originally intended by the

Likewise, CCPA has specified 13 dark patterns to provide only as a guidance for the industry. Initially, CCPA had identified 10 dark patterns but after the public consultation another three



International air travel penetration remains low in India: CAPA

PTI ■ MUMBAI

 $E^{ven \ as \ India \ has \ become \ the}_{third \ largest \ market \ in \ terms}$ of domestic traffic, the penetration of international air travel remains low, CAPA India chief Kapi Kaul said on Friday.

He also pitched for regulatory reforms, saying if corrective measures are not taken, the capacity pipeline will reduce

"In terms of domestic traffic, we have reached number 3. But in terms of international (traffic), we are ranked at 18. In spite of being the third-largest domestic market, the penetration of (international) air travel remains lowest among the top 20 domestic markets," Kaul said.

He was delivering the keynote address at a function organised here by Tata Memorial Trust to mark the 119th birth anniversary of IRD Tata

Kaul said India's seats per capita consumption stands at 0.13, whereas the same for a country like Australia is as much as 3.11 The long-term fundamentals for growth are very strong, he said, adding that "we have only

searched the surface of international travel. We are 0.06 in terms of seats per capita consumption".

sumption".
"We will continue to grow as we move from (USD 4 trillion (economy) to (USD) 15 trillion...And we will be equal to the size of the United States," he said. The privatisation of Air India, nearly two years ago, is a "landmark reform", steering domestic aviation into its most promis-

ing decade, he added. "As we stand on the threshold of the most promising decade for Indian aviation poised to conquer international markets, the statistics narrate a compelling story," he said.

Over the 15 years to FY19, international passenger volumes at Indian airports witnessed a 10 per cent CAGR surge, reaching 69.5 million — 4.2 times high er than in 2004, Kaul noted. He said there is a need to strengthen institutions like the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Bureau of Civil Aviation (BCAS), and that the government must script bold reforms to ensure a smooth flight into the future.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 W^{ipro} Consumer Care — Ventures, the venture funding arm of Wipro Consumer Care and Lighting, on Saturday said it has launched the second fund with a corpus of Rs

The Fund II will focus on investing in consumer startups in India and Southeast Asia, a company statement said.

'We would look for e-comm driven companies at Pre Series A onwards, with minority stake approach (up to 25 per cent), and continue with our strategy of helping and nurturing the startups as required," it added. Wipro Consumer Care — Ventures, launched around four years ago with a corpus of Rs 200 crore, has made 10 investments

"The fund performance is robust

Wipro Consumer Care Ventures launches second fund with ₹250 crore corpus

with MOIC (Multiple on Invested Capital) running at over 2.2x as well as strong IRR (internal rate of return), which are above market benchmarks," it said.

Wipro Consumer Care — Ventures has done part exits from two of its investments so far from the first corpus.

Moreover, "in one of them, we have clocked a 10x increase in a short period," the funding company said While a large majority of this

fund has been committed, a couple of more new investments would be made from this fund



as well as few follow ons too. Our portfolio construct is varied and a mix of investments in startups in India, in SE Asia, as well as in a VC fund," it said.

Ventures Managing Partner Sumit Keshan said the focus would be on companies, which operate in categories and subcategories of personal care, skin care, home care, wellness, food, fragrances, BPC etc.
"Geo coverage would continue
to be India and Southeast Asia

Wipro Consumer Care -

where we feel we can add value beyond providing capital. We have been successful in valueadding to our investments by providing support in terms of offline focus, R&D, sourcing (specifically from overseas vendors), helping identify thirdparty manufacturers, finance discipline, etc," he added.

Lighting, a part of Azim Premjiled Wipro Enterprises, has crossed the milestone of Rs 10,000 crore in overall sales in It operates in the FMCG and

Wipro Consumer Care and

lighting business. It has also expanded into the food segment with the acquisition of Nirapara

Tata Power acquires Bikaner, Neemrana Transmission Project

Tata Power on Saturday said it has acquired Bikaner-Neemrana Transmission Project through a bidding process. Bikaner-III Neemrana-II Transmission Ltd is a

special purpose vehicle (SPV) set up by PFC Consulting, for the project.

The company has acquired Bikaner-Neemrana Transmission Project to boost renewable energy evacuation in India, a company statement said. The company received the letter of intent (LOI) after emerging as a successful bidder in the Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) process, as per the guidelines issued by Ministry of Power,

The project, which will be developed on a Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) basis, will enable the evacuation of 7.7 GW of renewable energy from the Bikaner Complex in Rajasthan. The project entails establishment of a 340-km

transmission corridor from Bikaner-III pooling project

station to Neemrana II substation. Tata Power will maintain the transmission project for a period of 35 years. It is estimated to cost Rs 1,544 crore and is expected to be commissioned within 24 months from the date of transfer of the

NVISIBLE

Coal output from captive, commercial mines rises 37 per cent in November

 $T^{
m he}$ government on Saturday said coal production from captive, commercial coal mines registered a 37 per cent rise to 11.94 Million Tonnes (MT) in November.

The coal output from captive, commercial coal mines was at 8.74 MT in November 2022-23. Coal dispatch from captive, commercial coal mines in November was at 12.92 MT, registering a growth of 55 per cent as against 8.36 MT in the yearago period.

'The average daily coal dispatch from such mines in November 2023 is the highest the statement added.

ever with 4.3 lakh tonnes per day," the coal ministry said in a statement.

The total coal production from captive, commercial coal mines during the April-November period was around 83.90 MT, while the total coal dispatch was 89.67 MT, registering a year-on-year growth of 24 per cent and 31 per cent, respec-tively, from the same period in

The government is committed to achieving the target coal production and dispatch, which is a crucial step towards ensuring the country's energy security and driving economic growth,



by 12.06 pc to 182.84 million kg in October

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Tea production in the country increased by 12.06 per cent to 182.84 million kg in October this year as compared to 163.15 million kg in the cor-According to Tea Board data, production of the crop in West Bengal rose to 54.98 million kg in October, as against 49.75 million kg in the same period in

Assam, the country's largest tea-producing state, also registered a higher crop at 104.26 million kg in October. The state produced 90.72 million kg of tea in October 2022, according to

the data. In south India, production was marginally lower at 18.89 million

kg in October 2023, as against 18.92 million kg in the same month of the previous calendar

Category-wise, production of the CTC variety touched 167.72 million kg in October 2023, whereas that of orthodox tea was 12.98 million kg across both north and south India.

Shrinithi Capital aims to double | Al pilot unions express concern **AUM to ₹600 crore by 2024** over flight duty, rest period scheme

PTI CHENNAI

Shrinithi Capital Pvt Ltd engaged in commercial vehicle and two-wheeler loans aims to double its total assets under management to Rs 600 crore by 2024, a top official said on Saturday. The Chennai-headquartered

firm currently has assets under management of Rs 300

Under its expansion drive, Shrinithi Capital Pvt Ltd has planned to strengthen foot prints in southern parts of the

"Shrinithi's rapid ascent in the industry, coupled with exemplary collection figures even during challenging times, has garnered attention across the sector. As part

of our expansion process, we plan to open 30 more branches in South India and aim to double our AUM from Rs 300 crore to



Rs 600 crore by 2024," company managing director and CEO S Sellamani said in a state-

The company today tied up with ESAF

Small Finance Bank to offer a business correspondent

Sellamani and ESAF Small Finance Bank executive vice president Hari Velloor exchanged documents as part of the tie-up between the two entities

"Our partnership with ESAF Small Finance Bank aligns with our expansion goals, as we plan to disburse loans to small truck transporters and owners cum drivers, particularly focusing on customers at the bottom of the pyramid who face challenges in securing loans with traditional banks and NBFCs," he said. Under the expansion plan, Shrinithi Capital aims to

increase its branch network from 50 to 80, extending operations to Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka, the statement

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Air India pilot unions IPG and ICPA on Saturday expressed "deep concern" over the flight duty and rest period scheme adopted by the Tata Group airline, accusing the carrier of deviating from the DGCA-approved norms.

The two unions -- Indian Pilots' Guild (IPG) and Indian Commercial Pilots' Association (ICPA) -- in a joint communication to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation also alleged that the introduction of a side policy, along with the flight duty time limitation (FĎTL) scheme, by Air India seems to "undermine the authority and purpose" of the DGCA approval.

The pilot unions have also sought a review and assessment of the issue by the DGCA, requesting it to take appropriate measures to address the

Pilots and cabin crew's flight duty time limitations are governed by the aviation safety regulator DGCA, which proposed more rest hours for the pilots last month.

In recent months, the issue of fatigue has been in focus, especially after the death of an IndiGo pilot, who had collapsed at the boarding gate of Nagpur airport in September. And last month, an Air India pilot during a training session showed signs of discomfort and later died at the Delhi airport.However, Air India said the pilot was not on active flying duty and was undergoing conversion training to operate wide-body aircraft.

"We are writing to express our deep concern and disappointment regarding recent developments concerning the Flight and Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) scheme at Air India," the two Air India pilot unions

said in the communication addressed to the DGCA.
Alleging that there has been a "deviation" from the DGCAapproved Air India FDTL scheme, and an "Air India Rostering practices Policy" has been suddenly framed and implemented by the management from December 1, the letter stated that the "policy is in violation of DGCA CAR FDTL and that it is not part of the DGCA-approved Air India FDTL Scheme.

"The said policy is not approved by the DGCA. The DGCA plays a pivotal role in ensuring the safety and reliability of civil aviation operations in our country.

Green tea production was at 2.14 million kg, the data said. Production by small tea growers (STGs) stood higher at 95.24 million kg in October 2023 across the country, compared to 78.19 million kg in the same month of 2022.

Fed's Powell notes inflation is easing but downplays discussion of interest rate cuts

AP WASHINGTON

Inflation is slowing steadily, but it's too early to declare victory or to discuss when the Federal Reserve might cut interest rates, Chair Jerome Powell said on Friday.

Speaking at Spelman College in Atlanta, Powell noted that consumer prices, excluding volatile food and energy costs, rose at just a 2.5 per cent annual rate in the past six months. That's not far above the Fed's 2 per cent inflation target.

Still, more progress is needed, Powell said. He added, "It would be premature to conclude with confidence" that the Fed has raised its benchmark interest rate high enough to fully defeat inflation Nor is it time to "speculate on

when policy might ease", Powell said, referring to the possibility of cuts in the Fed's benchmark interest rate, which affects many consumer and business loans

Instead, he said, the Fed's interest-rate-setting committee "is moving forward carefully" phrasing that analysts consider a signal that the central bank doesn't plan any changes to interest rates anytime soon. Many Wall Street investors have recently stepped up their bets that the Fed will cut rates as early as May, according to CME Fedwatch, in part after another Fed official earlier this week appeared to open the door to rate cuts by this spring. Still, the Fed's policymakers are

expected to leave interest rates

December 12-13. It would be the third straight meeting in which they have kept rates at their current level. Beginning in March 2022, the Fed raised its key rate 11 times from near zero - to about 5.4 per cent, the highest level in 22 years.

Those rate hikes have made loans significantly more expensive across the economy, notably for mortgages, auto loans, credit cards and business borrowing. The result has been diminished purchases of homes, cars, furniture and appliances, a trend that has slowed the economy and forced prices modestly lower in those categories.

Powell's remarks Friday follow comments from a raft of Fed officials this week, with most of alone when they next meet them signalling that the Fed can



afford to keep its key rate steady in the coming months. But like Powell, they have mostly shied away from signalling a definite end to rate hikes.

Yet some officials have sounded more optimistic than others. Christopher Waller, a key Fed official who typically favors keeping rates relatively high, said Tuesday that he was "increasingly confident" that the central bank's benchmark rate is high enough to return inflation to the Fed's 2 per cent

Waller went so far as to open the door to the possibility that the Fed would cut rates as early as spring as long as infla-

tion continued to cool. Some other Fed officials, however, suggested that one more possibility of another rate hike rate hike remains potentially on off the table because doing so

the table should inflation remain chronically high. John Williams, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, who is close to Powell, said on Thursday that the Fed's key rate is "at or near'

its peak. Williams added that

the central bank's benchmark

rate is the most economically restrictive it has been in 25 Still, he added that "it will be appropriate to maintain a restrictive stance for quite some time" to bring inflation back

down to 2 per cent. Vincent Reinhart, a former Fed economist and now chief economist at Dreyfus & amp; Mellon, said that many Fed officials are reluctant to take the

sure on the Fed to cut rates. "Doing nothing is hard work," Reinhart said. Any sign the Fed is done raising rates and simply wants to keep them at their current level for an extended period will nevertheless spur speculation about the timing of rate cuts, he said. On Thursday, the government

would immediately raise pres-

reported that inflation fell to 3 per cent in October compared with 12 months earlier, according to the Fed's preferred gauge. That was the lowest such level since the spring of 2021. Core prices, which exclude

food and energy, rose 3.5 per cent from a year earlier. From September to October, overall prices were essentially unchanged, and core prices ticked up 0.

JUNIOR WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

12 Indian boxers storm into finals

ndian boxers on Friday continued their fine form at the IBA Junior World Boxing Championships as 12 of them entered the finals after stunning displays in the last four rounds in Yerevan, Armenia

Amisha (54kg) and Payal (48kg) started the day on a winning note for India against Trigos Bucur Rocio of Romania and Bibolsynkyzy Sila of Kazakhstan, both winning the bout by an unanimous 5-0 verdict.

Prachi Tokas (+80kg) put up a dominant show over Osipova Mariia of Russia, forcing the referee to stop the contest in the first round itself.

Megha (80kg), on the other hand, showed a similar display of strength and power to also clinch a referee stop the contest (RSC) win in round three against Tseng An Chi of Chinese

Vini (57kg), Akansha (70kg) and Shrushti (63kg) outperformed their opponents to grab identical 5-0 unanimous decision victories to enter the finals.

Vini was up against Kantzari Ouriana of Greece while Akansha and Shrushti faced Mcdonagh Mary of Ireland and K Alina of Kazakhstan respec-

Nisha (52kg) struggled after the initial dominance in round one



but soon fought back to grab an impressive 4-1 win over Russia's Sikstus Diana.

The boys put on a solid display as four out of five boxers in action got the win. The two heavyweight boxers Hardik Panwar (80kg) and Hemant

Sangwan (+80kg) entered the finals with a comfortable 5-0 unanimous decision win against R Andrei of Belarus and K Tigran of Armenia respectively. Jatin (54kg) took on K Pavel of Russia who for a moment

looked like the more dominant

boxer but Jatin soon took control of the game and got a 4-1 win in his favour.

Sahil faced a tough challenge from D Vladimir of Russia as both the boxers were quick in predicting each other's moves and counter attack

The bout looked like it could go anywhere, but ultimately, Sahil got the win with a 3-2 split decision verdict.

Neha (46kg), Nidhi (66kg), Pari (50kg), Kritika (75kg) and Sikandar (48kg) ended their campaign with bronze medals.

Olympian Elavenil Valarivan wins 10 m air rifle gold in Nationals

PTI NEW DELHI

Olympian Elavenil Valarivan won the women's 10m air rifle title on the concluding day of the 66th National Shooting Championship Competitions for rifle events here on

Saturday. The Gujarat shooter shot 253.4 as Haryana's Ramita Jindal came second with 252.5 in the eight-woman final.

Ramita's teammate Nancy came third in the individual event and combined with Hazel and Shruti for the team gold. Ramita also won the junior air rifle gold with a finals score of 254.9 while Gautami Bhanot of Madhya Pradesh claimed the youth gold.

Haryana won the overall championship with a total of 26 medals including 15 gold. Punjab was second while West Bengal was third.

Elavenil, in prime form in recent times, was second in the qualifiers with a score of 632.9. Maharashtra's Isha Anil Taksale topped the massive 720-strong field with a score of 633.3. Others to make it through in

the quality finals field was Mehuli Ghosh who finished fifth in the qualifiers with a 632.1 and fourth overall, bowing out with 209.8 in the final.



Vaishali, Praggnanandhaa world's first brother-sister Grandmasters duo

ndian chess ace R Vaishali $oldsymbol{1}$ joined younger sibling R Praggnanandhaa to become the world's first-ever brother-sister Grandmasters duo and only the third woman from the country to earn the GM title, at the IV El Llobregat Open in Spain. Vaishali achieved the feat after crossing 2500 ELO rating points on Friday. She is the country's

84th GM. The 22-year old Chennai-based Vaishali crossed the 2500 mark

at the tournament in Spain where she defeated Turkish FM Tamer Tarik Selbes in the second round. She obtained her third GM

norm at the Qatar Masters tournament in October and needed to increase her ELO rating. They also became the first-ever brother-sister duo to make the

Candidates, the qualifying event

for the World Championship match. The Candidates will be held in Toronto in April. Her younger brother Praggna-

nandhaa had got the GM title in 2018, when he was just 12. Koneru Humpy and D Harika are the two other women GMs from India.

Humpy was the world's youngest female player ever, when she became a GM in 2002, at the age of 15.

Chess legend Viswanathan Anand congratulated Vaishali on social networking platform 'X'. "She worked very hard the last few months and this augurs well as she gets ready for the candidates. Her parents and just maybe the competition at home should be congratulated. @Rameshchess & Aarthie for being her rock," Anand wrote. Vaishali was introduced to chess by her father, Rameshbabu, who himself was a chess player.



Confident Indian junior men's hockey team hopeful of success in World Cup

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Indian junior hockey team's events will play a morale-boosting role when it begins its campaign in the men's Junior World Cup, commencing in Kuala Lumpur on December 5, asserted vice-captain Araijeet Singh

The Indian team left for the Junior World Cup on Saturday

and will play its opening game against Korea on December 5. "The team has grown signifi-cantly since the last World Cup (in Bhubaneswar). We won the Sultan of Johor Cup 2022 and the Junior Asia Cup and recently finished third in the Sultan of Johor Cup as well," said Hundal in a Hockey India release on

Saturday "So, we know that we are capable of winning the Junior World Cup, it's just a matter of per forming to the best of our abilities when the time comes.

India are placed in Pool C alongside Spain, Korea and Canada, while defending champions Argentina are in Pool A along with Chile, Australia and hosts Malaysia

Germany, France, South Africa and Egypt are slotted in Pool B, while the Netherlands, New Zealand, Belgium and Pakistan will battle it out in Pool D.

India had finished fourth in the previous edition of the tournament held in Bhubaneswar in 2021, losing to France in the 3rd/4th place match.

After their game against Korea, India, the 2016 champions, will play Spain on December 7, while their last pool game will be against Canada on December

India need to finish in the top two in Pool C to secure their entry in the quarterfinals. Captain Uttam Singh said his

team wanted to erase the disappointment of returning without a medal in the 2021 edition of the Junior World Cup. "The last time around we had to

face the bitter disappointment of losing the 3rd/4th place match to France but the team has bounced back and the bond amongst the team is stronger than ever. "As always, the team will take it

match by match, we will look to give our best on the pitch and hopefully bring a medal back to India," said Singh.

The team faced an unexpected change in the 18-member squad with Shardanand Tiwari being ruled out due to illness. He has been replaced by Sukhvinder. With Sukhvinder's entry into the squad, Yogember Rawat has been added as the replacement athlete for the event.

Ramkumar Ramanathan to face Pichler in final

India's Ramkumar Ramana-than, seeded fifth, brushed aside Japan's Ryotaro Taguchi to reach the final of the ITF Kalaburagi Open here on Saturday. Ramanathan did not break a sweat while winning the semi-final match 6-2 6-1. In the final he will face David Pichler of Austria on Sunday. The Austrian, seeded seventh

here, ousted second seeded Japanese Matsuda Ryuki 6-2 6-4. Ramanathan, eyeing his second ITF M25K title, took just 65 minutes to register his win over Taguchi at the Chandrashekhar

Ramkumar, who won the ITF Mumbai Open last week, served and returned with aplomb. In the first set, the first five games went with the serve. The apanese was the first to yield as he lost his serve in the sixth game, giving the Indian a 4-2

Patil Stadium

lead.



won the seventh game with a booming serve to take a 5-2 lead and then broke his rival again in the eighth game to clinch the set

Ramanathan, the Indian Davis Cup team member and the Asian Games silver medallist, went even better in the second The best the Japanese could do

was to hold his serve in the sec-

a flurry of winners from either flanks. With breaks in the fourth and the sixth games, Ramanathan wrapped up the second set at 6-1 and with that the match as well. RYUKI, TAGUCHI WIN **DOUBLES:** Meanwhile, Ryuki

and Taguchi joined to lift the

doubles crown The Japanese duo dropped a set against the Indo-Austrian pair of Nitin Kumar Sinha and Pichler before prevailing 6-4 2-6 10-7 to earn the winne's cheque of USD 1550 and 25 ATP points.

The runners-up settled for USD 900 and 16 ATP points. Results (all Indians unless men-

Singles (Semifinals): 5-Ramkumar Ramanathan beat Ryotaro Taguchi (JPN) 6-2 6-1; 7-David Pichler (AUT) beat 2-Matsuda Ryuki (JPN) 6-2 6-4. Doubles (Final): Ryuki Matsuda (JPN)/Ryotaro Taguchi (JPN) beat 2-David Pichler (AUT)/ Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-4 2-6

Important for Indian players to compete against different footballing cultures: Luis

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Spain and Liverpool legend Luis Garcia believes that Indian football can touch global heights if the players are given exposure to different leagues abroad and nourish young talents and coaches methodically.

Garcia, who was part of the ISL title-winning Atletico de Kolkata side in 2014, said giving the Indian footballers a chance to appear in foreign leagues will expand their knowledge band-

"It is very important because you compete against a different style of football (abroad). If you have to wait for the last stages of a tournament to compete against them, then it is only going to be 1 or 2 games, and they need to compete more often.

"I think it's important that the Indian (national) team travel away during the year, and try to have friendly games in Asia and



feeling of facing a different kind of football," Garcia, who appeared in 77 matches for Liverpool between 2004 and 2007 Premier League seasons, told PTI here on Saturday.

"I know there are a lot of complications in between. You have to pick up where you left it (post Covid days), and it's not easy, but it is the only way (to grow)." In India to celebrate the three decades of partnership between Garcia said the young Indian footballers should be given the right kind of coaching so as to give them a sound base.

You play only in India. Yes, dur-

ing the past few years, there have been a lot of efforts to give the tools to the younger generations. That's the only way you can have a competitive national team. 'If you want to compete at the highest stages, to qualify for a

World Cup, you need to allow the young kids to improve their

Manav regains men's title, Sreeja wins women's crown

PTI VIJAYAWADA

op-seeded Manav Thakkar defeated an injured G. Sathiyan 4-2 to lift the men's singles trophy while Sreeja Akula rallied to beat Archana Kamath and win the women's crown in the UTT National Ranking Table Tennis Championships here on Saturday

Sathiyan, the second seed, conceded the match in the sixth game when he was trailing 0-2 because of a back spasm.

Nevertheless, he fought and opened well and even led 2-1. But his back pain shot up sharply and rendered him helpless. Yet, the reigning national champion carried on for a while before conceding.
Archana had things going her

way in the final against top seed Sreeja. Leading 3-1, she failed to press home the advantage to win the second crown. But credit must go to the RBI woman, who seized the moment in the fifth game and avoided the two close calls in the sixth and seventh games to win the title.

The second seed led 10-8 in the decider but failed to nail it down when the opportunity presented. She allowed Sreeja four consecutive points from that position to help her claim

Archana will retrospect the loss and regret her defensive tactics at times. It is not her game because whenever she attacked she more often than not finished Archana decimated third seed

Ayhika Mukherjee in the semifinals to win 4-0, and her dominance was so much that she needed just 25 minutes to finish the job.

However, in contrast, she was down and out in the quarters

AAI, trailing 0-2 down. Somehow, she gets fired up when down, as happened in Vadodara. It was no different

She perhaps visualised the Vadodara quarterfinals and against Anusha Kutumbale of upped the ante to clip the wings

of Anusha thoroughly and post

Sreeja sailed into the final after some midway struggles against fourth seed Sutirtha, winning her semifinal 4-2. Sreeja led 3-0 but let Sutirtha come back strong and breathe down her neck at 2-3. However, the RBI woman wrapped it up in the sixth game.

Sixth seed Sharath was on course when he led 2-0 and 10-8 in the third game of his quarterfinal against Sourav Saha. But the 10-time national champion squandered the advantage to bow out 2-3.

Sharath hardly put any effort into his outing Friday night, and it must have even surprised the paddler himself.

In the men's singles semifinals,

top seed Manav picked up from where he left off Friday to beat Anthony Amalraj 4-1.

Second seed Sathiyan dropped a couple of games against Sourav Saha, but the latter could neither repeat his quarterfinal performance nor stop his rival from entering his maiden final of the season. Sathiyan won 4-

SARTH SHOCKS DIVY-**ANSH:** The U-19 Youth Boys

final was the best in recent times, and in the all-UP showdown, Sarth Mishra dug himself out of a deep mire to win the title against Divyansh Srivastava. His 4-3 win, especially how he kept his cool in the last three extended games, gave a lesson that Divyansh must have rel-

Ronaldo walks off to chants of 'Messi, Messi' as his team loses 3-0

AP RIYADH (SAUDI ARABIA)

ristiano Ronaldo walked off the field with the gleeful chants of "Messi, Messi, Messi!" ringing in his ears from delighted Al-Hilal fans who had just watched their Saudi Pro League team beat the Portugal superstar's Al-Nassr 3-0 in the Riyadh Derby on Friday

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner may have finished on the losing team — Aleksandar Mitrovic scored twice after fellow Serbian Sergej Milinkovic-Savic opened Ăl-Hilal — but Ronaldo still remains the focus of attention in Saudi Arabian soccer despite the taunts of opposition fans referencing his great rival of nearly two decades. As thousands of cars headed east out of downtown Rivadh to watch the top two league teams and bitter local rivals face off at the King Fahd International Stadium — the last to be played

at the arena for three years as it is to be renovated to host games at the 2027 Asian Cup and anticipated 2034 World Cup one Al-Nassr fan leaned out and shouted: "Are you here to see Cristiano?"

When Ronaldo warmed up, there were cheers from the several thousand away fans, many of whom had No. 7 on their backs, and jeers from the masses of home supporters. But even in those hostile sections, parents pointed out the 38-year-old soccer great to sons and daughters. Saudi soccer has not been the same since the former Real Madrid and Manchester United forward completed a move last December. Even fans of Al-Hilal, the most successful club in Saudi Arabia and Asia, with 18 and four championships respec-tively, acknowledge what he has

done at Al-Nassr which has nine domestic titles. "He has lifted the level of the whole of football here," Riyadh resident Fahad Al-Qahtani, 25, told The Associated Press. "Al-Hilal will still be champion this season and we are still the biggest in Asia but Ronaldo has been amazing.

In the previous 14 games of the league season, Ronaldo had netted 15 goals to top the scoring charts and help Al-Nassr move into second in the league behind Al-Hilal. His teammates now include former Liverpool star Sadio Mane, Marcelo Brozovic from Inter Milan and Alex Telles, who arrived from Manchester United. "Cristiano is an example for

everyone, an example that Al-Nassr are lucky to have," Al-Nassr coach Luis Castro said. "He is an example of rigor, ambition and discipline. Lots of people want to be like Cristiano Ronaldo but few want to work like Cristiano Ronaldo. If you want something you have to give



everything to get it." Ronaldo tried everything on Friday. In the second half with Al-Nassr trailing by a solitary goal, he shot a fierce volley high into the net but it was margin-ally ruled out for offside. Soon after he rolled around the floor of the Al-Hilal penalty area claiming that he had been elbowed. When Mitrovic scored his first and Al-Hilal's second

buildup. Hilal has its own superstar but a less influential one right now as Neymar, who signed from Paris Saint-Germain in August, suffered a serious injury while on international duty with Brazil

late in the game, Ronaldo insist-

ed that he had been fouled in the

in October. On social media, Neymar posted good luck messages to his teammates, such as Mitrovic, midfielder Ruben Neves and defender Kalidou Koulibaly who all arrived in the summer as

highly rated English Premier League players. They joined several Saudi Arabian internationals in the team such as Salem Al-Dawsari and Saleh Al-Shehri, who scored against Lionel Messi's Argentina in Saudi Arabia's famous 2-1 win at the 2022 World Cup. The derby defeat on Friday left

Al-Nassr seven points behind leader Al-Hilal after 15 rounds. Ronaldo may have his work cut out to help his team win title No. 10 but, given his form so far this season, he may still have the last laugh with the Messi chants fad-Ronaldo's day was further soured with news from the U.S.

That he has been hit with classaction lawsuit seeking at least \$1 billion in damages for his role in promoting cryptocurrencyrelated "non-fungible tokens," or NFTs, issued by the beleaguered cryptocurrency exchange

India eye next-level T201 performance

¬he ever-milling modernday sport does not allow extended celebrations and India, in the immediate aftermath of their T20I series triumph, will have to hit gamemode and treat the fifth match against Australia here Sunday as a workshop to fit two key pieces in their grooves ahead of an

exacting assignment.
Shreyas Iyer and Deepak Chahar will have significant roles to play in the T20Is against South Africa, beginning on December 10. In that context, the Indian think-tank will be eager to see them firing in their last competitive outing before facing the

Proteas at Durban.

Iyer might have been in grand touch during the recent 50-over World Cup, but the Raipur T20I on Friday was the Mumbaikar's first international match in the shortest format in over a year after playing against New Zealand at Napier last Novem-

The rust was visible while making a 7-ball eight without a single boundary. So, Iyer will be looking to rack in some runs and he will be longing for an outing at the Chinnaswamy Stadium, where he cracked a hundred against Netherlands not so long ago in the one-day showpiece. In fact, Chahar, who is regaining his range after a long injury lay-off, too finds himself in a

similar scenario as Iyer. The fourth T20I against the Aussies was his first outing for India in this version after the match against South Africa at Indore in October last year.

SHREYAS, CHAHAR WILL HAVE SIGNIFICANT ROLE TO PLAY



The 31-year-old pacer, who charted his comeback through domestic events like the Rajasthan Premier League in September, did make an impression taking the wickets of Tim David and Matthew Short but gave away 44 runs in his quota of four overs.

The nature of the Chinnaswamy deck might not be precisely of his liking, but Chahar has several variations up his sleeve to

counter the docility of the track

A power outing here against Australia can leave him in a good frame of mind, and he also does not have to worry about the outcome of the series as Survakumar Yadav's side already has it in its pocket through a 3-

The management might also want to have a look at off-spinning all-rounder Washington

Sundar ahead of the SA sojourn. Sundar has been quite unfortunate to have countered injuries at several crucial junctures in his

But the 24-year-old Tamil Nadu player has managed a return to India colours during the T20I against New Zealand at Ahmedabad on February 1 earlier this year, though he did not bat or bowl in that match. Since then, Sundar played five more T20Is — two against Ireland at Malahide and three matches at the Hangzhou Asian Games — underlining his improved fitness levels.

While that can be termed as satisfactory, Sundar picked up only two wickets from those matches and all of them came against Bangladesh in the Asiad semi-

Hence, the management will be keen to give Sundar a go against

the Australians and he might be accommodated in place of left-arm spinner Axar Patel, who was not included in India's T20I squad to face South Africa.

The confidence that he can eke out from a good effort against Australia does not have any real

replacement. Other than that, India have ticked several boxes over the course of the last four matches. Survakumar, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Rinku Singh, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Ishan Kishan, who may come back in place of Jitesh Sharma, were among runs, while leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi has taken seven wickets to top the bowling chart and they would like to keep the momentum

going.
On the other hand, the Aussies have nothing to lose now as Matthew Wade and company would like to return home with a victory, an apt epilogue to their country's highly fruitful stint in Indian shores over the last two

SQUADS:
India: Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Shreyas Iyer (vice-captain), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ishan Kishan, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Washington Sundar, Axar Patel, Shivam Dubey, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Avesh Khan, Mukesh Kumar.

Australia: Matthew Wade (captain), Jason Behrendorff, Tim David, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Chris Green, Aaron Hardie, Travis Head, Ben McDermott, Josh Philippe, Tanveer Sangha, Matt Short, Kane

T20 cricket under the legendary Mahendra Singh Dhoni during Dashing opener Ruturaj Gaikwad said India's "fearhis stint with the Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier less and aggressive" approach

thing to cheer about after India's heartbreaking loss in the ODI World Cup final. India on Friday defeated Australia by 20 runs in the fourth T20I to take an unassailable 3-1 lead in the five-match

'T20I win something

after World Cup loss'

to be happy about

"I think this is something to be happy for everyone after the disappointing loss in the final of the World Cup," Gaikwad, who scored 28-ball 32 to help India post 174 for nine, told Jiocinema. "I think it was important for all "I think it was important for all of us to express ourselves and enjoy the game. I think everyone pretty much took responsibility at every stage. So, we are really happy with the result, but there's

helped them secure the five-

match T20I series against

Australia and hoped the tri-

umph would give fans some-

PTI ■ RAIPUR

still one match to go." Asked what was the discussion after the World Cup disappointment, Gaikwad, who was the vice-captain for the first three T20Is, said: "The discussion was more or less to just be fearless and aggressive and back your instincts at every stage. There were 2-3 members from the World Cup squad who were with us.

"There was positive energy in the team because we were coming from domestic tournaments. and everyone had done pretty well there. Everyone came in with a lot of confidence."

THE MSD FACTOR: Gaikwad said he has learnt the ropes of

"I learnt a lot about this format playing for CSK. Mahi bhai (MS Dhoni) is always keen on reading situations and understanding the game," said the 26year-old, who has been with CSK since the 2019 IPL season. "He sends a message that you have to look for the team score and what the team requires irrespective of the situation of

the game.
"In T20s, you always have to be ahead of the game mentally and I give a lot of importance to that. The night before, I visualise what kind of situation may occur during the game, and how the pitch may behave.

Mahi bhai always insists that we don't rush our thoughts, because there's enough time for an opener even in a T20 match.'

Gaikwad had a couple of good opening partnerships with Yashasvi Jaiswal, having shared 77 runs and 50 runs in the second and fourth T20Is respectively. The duo also had a mix-up in the opening game which cost Gaikwad his wicket.

'After the first match, we decided that we'd be off from risky singles. We'll just look for boundaries," he said.

'He's (Jaiswal) someone who takes the game on and regard-less of any situation, he likes to be aggressive. The discussion has always been that if the wicket is suitable, we'll go with a positive intent. But I think the focus is taking care of the first two

Taijul grabs 10 wickets

Fashions Bangladesh 150-run win against NZ in 1st Test



AP ■ SYLHET (BANGLADESH)

eft-arm spinner Taijul Islam haul in tests as Bangladesh secured a 150-run victory in the series-opening match against New Zealand on Saturday. Taijul followed his 4-109 with 6-

75 in the second innings to wrap up New Zealand's innings for 181 in the first session of the final day, with the tourists chasing a target of 332 runs.

Offspinner Nayeem Hasan complemented him with 2-40, while pacer Shoriful Islam (1-13) and offspinner Mehidy Hasan (1-44) contributed a wicket apiece.

"We are just thinking about the process, not the result, Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto said. "We have so many test matches coming up. This win will give us a confidence to do well

"As I said earlier, we want to make winning a habit at home. Hopefully we will be able to continue the performance. Daryl Mitchell battled to topscore for the visitors with a

patient 58 from 120 balls.

Resuming at 113-7, Mitchell's presence gave New Zealand a slim hope of an unlikely victoboundary from the third ball of the day before punching the same bowler for a single through cover to raise his ninth half-century off 99 balls.

Unlike many of his compatriots Mitchell looked confident against the host's spinners, but a mis-timed sweep shot against offspinner Nayeem Hasan eventually brought about his dis-missal and effectively ended New Zealand's hopes of saving

Skipper Tim Southee scored an attacking 34 off 24 balls, with one four and two sixes, before Taijul dismissed him to complete his 12th five-for. Taijul then wrapped up the

match when Ish Sodhi, who made a laborious 22 off 91, popped a simple catch to Zakir Hasan at silly mid-off.

"Bangladesh played well and are a very good side in these conditions. As a bowling group, we needed to sustain pressure,' Southee said. "It was a pretty Mirpur.

good wicket. Took a bit of spin which you expect in this part of the world.

be better in the next game. Everyone's striving to always improve their game and get bet-

Opener Mahmudul Hasan made 86 as Bangladesh was bowled out 310 in its first innings but New Zealand compiled 317, for a seven-run lead, courtesy of a brilliant 104 from Kane Williamson.

Shanto then became the first Bangladesh cricketer to hit a century on debut as captain as the hosts made 338 in the second innings, and set a daunting 332-run target for the Black Caps on an increasingly deteriorating pitch.

Taijul then spun his way through the tourists batting line-up late on day four and the final morning to lead Bangladesh to its first victory against New Zealand at home, and only its second over-

The second and final test of the series begins on December 6 at

165 players to go under hammer in WPL auction on December 9

s many as 165 players will go A s many as 100 players was 50 dunder the hammer during the player auction for the second edition of the Women's Premier League scheduled to be held here on December 9.

The second edition of the WPL could take place in February-March next year.

"Out of 165 players, 104 are Indians and 61 are overseas cricketers of which 15 are from associate nations. The total capped players are 56, uncapped players are 109," BCCI said in a release on Saturday.

"A maximum of 30 slots are available with the five teams, with 9 spots for overseas players." West Indian all-rounder Dean-

bought for Rs 60 lakh by Gujarat Giants before being controversially excluded on medical grounds, and Australian fast bowler Kim Garth chose to be in the top bracket with the highest reserve price of Rs 50 lakh. Interestingly, it was the 27-year-old Garth who had replaced Dottin in the Gujarat Giants squad, who later released the Aussie in the off season.

Aussie all-rounders Annabel Sutherland and Georgia Wareham, English wicket-keeper Amy Jones and veteran South African pacer Shabnim Ismail are the only four players to be slotted with a base price of Rs 40 lakh. The five franchises -Delhi Capitals, Mumbai Indians,

and Royal Challengers Bangalore — have 30 slots available with nine reserved for overseas players A total of 60 players, including

21 foreigners, were retained by the five teams. The Giants will have the biggest salary cap available to fill in 10 slots, while Delhi Capitals, who finished second best, will enter the auction with a purse of Rs 2.25 crore to fill up to three vacancies.

Defending champions Mumbai Indians have Rs 2.1 crore to fill five slots, while Royal Challengers Bangalore will look to pick seven players with a purse of Rs 3.35 crores and UP Warriorz will have Rs 4 crore purse to fill five spots at the auction.

IPL has given me confidence to remain calm under pressure: Rinku

ndia batter Rinku Singh credited his calm approach during pressure situations in the ongoing T20I series against Australia to playing in the Indian Premier League, while adding that doing a lot of weight training helps him play the big shots with

Rinku blazed away to a 29-ball 46, while Jitesh Sharma, playing his first match in the series, smashed 35 in 19 balls as the hosts made a challenging 174 for nine before restricting Australia to 154/7 to help India take an unassailable 3-1 lead in the fivematch rubber.

"Well I have been playing for a long time. I have been playing in the IPL for 5-6 years now. So, that has given me the confidence. I back myself, try to keep myself calm," said Rinku in a chat with Jitesh on BCCI.Tv follow-



ing the 20-run win here on Friday. Jitesh conceded he was under a lot of pressure when he came in to bat and marvelled at Rinku's composure. "It didn't look like that this was your (Rinku) first series. I was under a lot of pressure when I can in to bat, you were so calm, picking and choosing the ball to hit," Jitesh told Rinku. Wicketkeeper-batter Jitesh, who came in place of Ishan Kishan on Friday, also thanked Rinku for help-

ing him keep calm. You kept telling me to take it easy and not to take pressure," Jitesh told Rinku.

Jitesh and Rinku played fine cameos when India were struggling at 111 for 4 in the 14th over.

Rinku, asked about the secret behind his towering 100-metre sixes, said, he

regularly goes to the gym.
"I like lifting weights which gives me the power (strength)," said Rinku.

was upset on missing ODI World Cup due to injury: Axar

India spinner Axar Patel has admitted that he was upset after missing out on the ODI World Cup at home due to an injury and it took him about a week to get over the disappointment and focus on recovery

The 29-year-old was part of the Indian team in the run-up to the World Cup but a left quadricep injury during the Asia Cup forced him out, with Ravichandran Ashwin replacing him in the 15-member squad.

"Obviously, you are bound to be (disappointed). The World Cup was in India, but that injury happened. For the first few days, I was thinking about it, not being able to play due to injury," Axar told reporters during the postmatch press conference.

"But, the team was doing well, so after 5-10 days, I was back to training and was doing my rehab. But, yes, when you are out

due to injury and those 5-10 days you are not able to do anything, you do feel a bit bad. After that, I returned to routine life.

"I was upset, but it happened due to an injury; it's not in anyone's hands. It's part and parcel of the game." Axar made an impressive return to international cricket, claiming five wickets in the series so far with his three-wicket haul setting up the 20-run win for India in the fourth T20I here

on Friday night. "If you are away from international cricket for some time due to injury and then come back, you try to prove yourself and you also have to look after your body, so I also took one match (at a

time)," he said "When you come from injury you try to keep that part of the body safe. You are not able to give your full effort. It stays in the

back of my mind. "It doesn't happen in that way because the trainer already tells you that nothing will happen but while sprinting, you feel what if something happens again to the quadricep.

"But the first couple of matches, I was back to routine. Now I don't feel anything like that and the work that I put in the last one-and-a-half months, I am reaping the reward now, so I am happy overall."

INDÍA'S T20 WORLD CUP PREPARATION BEGINS **NOW:** After missing the ODI World Cup, Axar is eager to be part of the T20 World Cup scheduled to be held in the USA and West Indies in June next year and said the preparation for the same has already begun. "Before the T20 World Cup, I

don't think India has a lot of T20 games scheduled, maybe 9-10 matches. So, we have to plan from now and prepare as there is the World Cup in June and then there is IPL in between, so the planning is going on," he INJURY DURING ASIA CUP FORCED HIM OUT OF TEAM



said. "All the players have been told about their respective roles, in what position they will play ited Australia to 154 for 7 while and once Rahul (Dravid) sir is back, there will be a detailed discussion but we know what we have to do in this series, so there is no confusion.

Axar, who has taken 44 wickets in 49 T20Is, was omitted from the T20I squad for the upcoming South Africa tour with Ravindra Jadeja replacing him. Asked if he was fired up due to the snub, Axar said, "It is not like that, if I would have gone for runs then you would have said that I was upset. I was normal.

"...There was nothing in my mind that I have to prove myself for that. I have been doing well and this is not my decision and I didn't think much about that. I am just happy I got wickets today.

Axar dismissed World Cup hero Travis Head, Ben McDermott and Aaron Hardie as India limchasing the hosts' total of 174 for 9 in the fourth T20I. "I didn't change my bowling much. There was dew in the last

three matches, so we were bowling back of length but there was no dew today, so we could give the ball flight as the seam was not too wet," he said. "There was grass on the pitch, so some balls were skidding, so

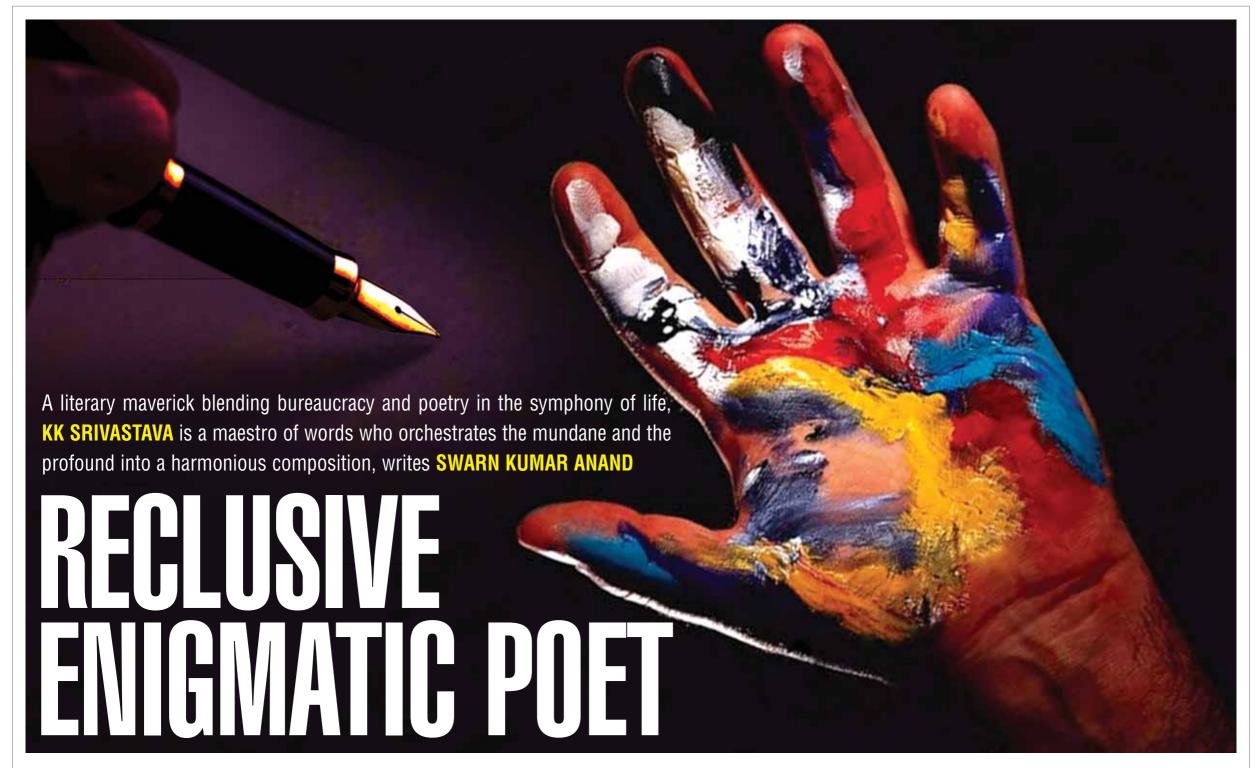
they were facing difficulties. I have also been varying my pace

for the last three matches, sometimes going for a few slower ones in between. PARTNERSHIP WITH RAVI **BISHNOI:** Axar formed a for midable left-right spin combination with young Ravi Bishnoi, who produced figures of 4-0-17-

"Throughout the series he has been bowling well. His speed has been troubling the Australians, especially his googly and he has been working on his leg spin."

"Walk away from 'friendships' that make you feel small and insec and seek out people who insp you and support you





n the realm of literature and bureaucracy, Kuldeep Kumar Srivastava emerges as a unique figure: A man of diverse accomplishments seamlessly blending the rigour of a top bureaucrat with the soulful expressions of a poet. Armed with a Masters in Economics from Gorakhpur University in 1980, KK Srivastava served as a former Additional Deputy Comptroller & Auditor General at the office of the CAG of India. But beyond the corridors of bureaucracy, Srivastava's poetic prowess shines through three collections: Ineluctable Stillness, An Armless Hand Writes, and Shadows of the Real. His literary journey takes a captivating turn with Soliloquy of a Small Town Uncivil Servant, published by Rupa in 2019, marking his return after a seven-year hiatus. Venturing into varied territories, Srivastava's words traverse cultural boundaries with a Russian translation of Shadows of the Real by Adolf Shvedchikov released by the Russian Cultural Centre. His commitment to language extends further, with Nardeo Sharma and Jaswinder Singh translating thirty-five of his poems into Hindi, published by Vani Prakashan.

sunday magazine

> As he navigates the intricacies of bureaucracy, Srivastava does not shy away from critiquing societal structures. His collection of essays and critiques, released in 2022 by Authors Press, New Delhi, delves into various topics, including reflections on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Amid these professional accomplishments, Srivastava also embraces a role as a literate representative on the Ethics Committee on Mental Research at IHBAS, actively engaging with ethical considerations in mental health research. Wendy Mary Lister, a nurse and poet from the UK, aptly described him as "a master of unique genius" in her review in literary journal "Enchanting Verses", after reading his first two poetry collections, capturing the essence of Srivastava's literary brilliance. In 2009, Carls Kraus, an Austrian poetess, wrote in one of her letters to Srivastava about his book, AN ARMLESS HAND WRITES, "All these poems in this collection are just 'wonderful' and on a very high level so that the reader has to know a lot about English literature, philosophy,

and psychology. I was delighted to

read such 'clever' poems as yours. I

am very sick, and I don't know whether I will even live till today's After a few days, Carla died. Three

years later, he paid tribute, perhaps to the departed soul, in his book Shadows of the Real, "Once, she was the river and/ she was the shore/ she flew/ she halted, she stayed awake in me/ her purity melted into mine... Death has not ended a life/ Finishing a tiny journey is no death/ There is no death in her death... Hidden beneath shades of silence/ I gaze/ Her reflection expands as I grow older.' Memories and symbols depict anguish and pang in Srivastava's mind. Rosemary C Wilkinson, President Emeritus of WCP/WAAC, USA, responded to the editor of a literary magazine who requested her to review Srivastava's first book of poetry, Ineluctable Stillness: "First, I want to say that someone much more knowledgeable than I should be reviewing Srivastava's collection of poetry, for I am in awe of who he is and the commendable challenges he has overcome in his life. This poetry draws us to a new appreciation of new forms, which attract us to read and continue reading until devoured." Srivastava has led a troubled life. The first chapter of Soliloquy of a Small Town Uncivil Servant, titled "Growing up in Gorakhpur," encapsulates his childhood memories. "For us, a joint family meant nothing more than sharing a common sandas (toilet) and kitchen. Leave these two apart, and you had people leading scattered lives with no feelings, no emotions, and no real relationships. Moreover, every six months or so, a new soul would make an entry into the family. Srivastava recalls that his schooling in municipal schools was "an extension of the milieu obtained in my house and neighbourhood. The Principal and the only other teacher were both jaded, poor, wearing undistinguished clothes, thin and weak, fragile and weird - and then the uncontrollable crowd of noisy, ill-mannered, directionless, suffocating sixty children never interested in what was to come next.' Srivastava's name was removed twice:

once in intermediate and once in

degree college due to non-payment of

school fees. On both occasions, his

teachers came to his rescue, and he

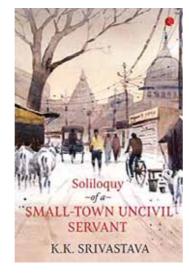
posed no problem. His outstanding

performance, earning the highest

marks in all three subjects during

was readmitted. Continuing his

studies at Gorakhpur University



"WE MEET HUGE FIGURES EVERY DAY THEN HUGE FIGURES MEET AMONGST THEMSELVES. THEY TALK TO EACH OTHER; THEY LAUGH... THEY TALK ABOUT OTHERS; THEY RUB **THEMSELVES** AGAINST EACH OTHER, THEY TOY WITH THEIR 'SELF'; THEY JETTISON OTHERS' SELVES. MOST OF US **NOWADAYS ARE** SICK lecturer in a newly opened degree college owned by a wealthy man, who intended to offer the job to his prospective son-in-law. Dr. BK Singh, an upright figure heading the interview board, saw through the game plan and refused to conduct the interview. A new board was formed with a pliable chairman who questioned Srivastava about the difference between economic growth and development. Realising that the die had already been cast, he attempted to explain the difference by referencing Gunnar Myrdal's concept of "instrumental value premises" with "ten indices of economic development" and their relevance to Adelman and Morris's forty-eight qualitative indicators applicable to developing economies. However, he sensed the disquieted demon of the "holier than thou syndrome" raising its head, as learned members appeared least interested in what he was articulating. Clearly, they might have been a bit miffed. His first career dream came to an end. Veteran media personality Seema Mustafa helped organise a conversation between Brazilian poet and critic Regis Bonvicino and Srivastava. This scholarly interview, titled 'Poet of a Shared Paranoia,' was published in THE CITIZEN, where Srivastava tells the interviewer, "One should look at uncivil people too, so one may know how civil one is." The interviewee emphasised how the higher echelons of society tend to look down upon individuals from non-elite backgrounds. In The Descent: Essays and Critiques, Srivastava recalls his meeting with Ashok Vajpeyi, a retired IAS officer and internationally acclaimed writer, who asked Srivastava, "Do you get strange questions from some people like I get about finding time to write?' Srivastava's reply is unmistakable: "Sir... the company of ignorant ought to be shunned; otherwise, their collective ignorance will engulf a tiny majority like ours. They spend a lot of time networking and are not given to valuing artistic and literary pursuits.' Any Doubting Thomas? Srivastava's poems and narratives do not explicitly reveal the true identity of the narrator, giving his writings the

semblance of fiction. One could argue

that they are autobiographical, at least

in parts but fictionalised. His

graduation, secured him a scholarship

Srivastava aspired to become a teacher

of one hundred rupees per month.

and applied for the position of a

concerns for the downtrodden strata of society, including those in bureaucracy, manifest in his critical observations in some of his books. Let us examine two extensive poems: Saturday Dinner Party from his book Ineluctable Stillness and "Oh! That One Year Get-together And Our Very Own Mr Monsieur Maillard from his poetry book An Armless Hand Writes. Reading these two poems together reveals how different aspects of party and hostel life, pledged to collective ethos, are twisted to look down upon people from non-elite classes. Consider a few lines: "Am I in St Petersburg? Dostoevsky and his St Petersburg/Hellish congestion. Now when congestion has come/can Dostoevsky's characters be far behind?" Further, "there is no heart here, no soul here/only stories are told/by room bearers/old, simple, peaky and weak with no voices." In the concluding lines, "We cannot glory in the years we spent together/it was a life full of/vile ambitions and low achievements. It was a life dissembled to the core... We set off on an odyssey/an unsure/obscure odyssey. Soliloquy of a Small Town Uncivil

Servant continues to delve into the connections between the civil and uncivil in chapters titled "Rendezvous With a New World," "The Behemothic Ethos," and "Within the Cave or Cave Within." Throughout these chapters, the central theme revolves around the ignominy directed towards the "uncivil" within the context of the collective ethos of coexistence. Cryptic quotes like these convey profound messages, such as "they know the art of defacing clean faces to hide their unclean ones. "We meet huge figures every day then huge figures meet amongst themselves. They talk to each other; they laugh.. they talk about others; they rub themselves against each other, they toy with their 'self'; they jettison others' selves. Most of us nowadays are sick". Unfortunately, space limitations prevent additional citations. The Pioneer talked to a few individuals to discover unknown

facets of Srivastava's personality. Dr. NL Srivastava, his college mate and former Director of the Institute of Health and Family Welfare, Lucknow, recalls, "Kuldeep was very studious. I was pursuing my PhD in psychology from BHU when he inquired if I could arrange Allport's book on theories of personality for a couple of days as he needed it for the civil

services examination. The book was

University library. Yes, I sent him a letter. Two days later, he took the early morning train, came to me, collected the book, and went back in the evening. Four days later, he again came to return the book. Can you believe it? He copied almost a hundred pages from the book in registers with his own hands within three days. Libraries were his home. He is a completely self-made man." Meenakshi Mishra, former Director General from the CAG office and his service batch mate known for her uncompromising attitude, recalls, "Brooding and no-nonsense type. A competent administrator and auditor. A different CAG gave him very difficult and big offices where others virtually feared going, like Jharkhand, Rajkot, MP, and Kerala, and he very effectively managed these offices. So many transfers he was subjected to. An outspoken man. When very senior IA&AS officers, both retired and even serving, were critical of GC Murmu's appointment as CAG, KK's was a lone voice defending him in the public domain, describing Murmu as 'a very suitable selection and down-to-earth CAG.' He further justified by saying, 'The organisation needs such a CAG.' An ardent supporter of Prime Minister Modi, his article on the Mann Ki Baat programme, 'Aesthetic Blend of Flames of the Minds,' was the very first article on this program and a wonderful literary piece. Gyanendre Pandey, a former editor of Dainik Bhaskar, recalls his association with Srivastava in these words, "My admiration and connection with Srivastava stem solely from his literary achievements." Pandey highlighted that despite the demanding responsibilities of a top CAG bureaucrat, he managed to find time for literary pursuits, an uncommon feat among bureaucrats who are typically engrossed in their professional obligations. Srivastava is certainly, given modern times' standards/methods of obtaining name and fame, a unique aberration: he does not believe in circulating and networking. The best way to conclude this article is to quote from Soliloquy of a Small Town Uncivil Servant, "Eidetic merger of insights and

intuitions is at the core of my

as the world outside.

narratives. Preparing to ride a bicycle

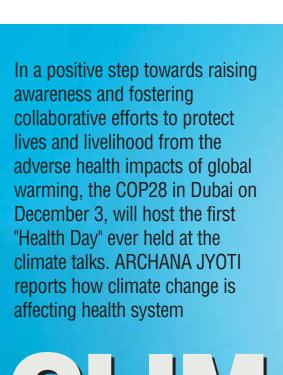
has never guided that merger. I have

truly ridden the bicycle. I know both:

reveal as much about the world inside

the bicycle and the ride." His books

not available in the Gorakhpur



the pioneer

From extreme heat to the spread of infectious diseases and war and are assessed and are assessed and are assessed and are assessed and are assessed and are assessed and are assessed and are assessed and are assessed as a second are assessed as a second are assessed as a second are a second are as a second are a eases and vector-borne

illness like dengue, global food security to air pollution causing respiratory ailments, climate change is gradually spreading its tentacles, affecting our health and health system on multiple fronts. In fact, the extreme weather

events around the world in recent months offer a terrifying glimpse of what lies ahead in a rapidly heating world including India.

This has been evidenced in two reports released back-to back recently by the Lancet and the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), a think tank which have raised serious red flags

The CSE report 'India 2023: An assessment of extreme weather events' points out that India experienced extreme weather events almost every day in the first nine months this year, claiming 2,923 human lives with maximum mortalities reported from Bihar.

Extreme weathers affected 1.84 million hectares (ha) of crop area, damaged 80,563 houses, It underscores the need for immediate actions to curb the escalating environmental crisis as it said that "But these numbers might be even higher because not all the data is collected." The experts have long argued that the climate crisis is a health crisis and that considerations of health impacts should be central to climate negotiations.

Increasingly frequent and severe extreme weather events, such as droughts, floods and heatwaves, will also strain healthcare infrastructure.

For instance, Madhya Pradesh reported the highest number of extreme weather events at 138. However, the largest number of deaths occurred in Bihar (642), followed by Himachal Pradesh (365) and Uttar Pradesh (341). As per the report, Punjab recorded the highest number of animal deaths while Himachal Pradesh reported the most damaged houses due to extreme weather events. Southern region too was impacted by the abnormal weather. For instance, Kerala witnessed the highest count of extreme weather days (67) and deaths (60) while Telangana suffered maximum effect on crop area (over 62,000 hectares) and high animal casualties (645). Karnataka faced severe destruction, with over 11,000 houses demol-

In northwest India, the most populated State, Uttar Pradesh had the most extreme weather days at 113. Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, and Rajasthan were also significantly affect-

Also, as the climate crisis jeopardizes lives and livelihoods, global food systems struggle to sustain a growing population, and compromised water sources compound the chal-lenges. In parallel, climate change is catalyzing a surge in infectious diseases like dengue and cholera, endangering millions and putting pressure on the already dismal health infrastructure

in the eastern and northeastern regions, Assam registered maximum extreme weather events (102), with the state losing 159 livestock and over 48,000 hectares of crops devastated. Nagaland saw over 1,900 houses destroyed.

January was slightly warmer than average, while February broke records, becoming the warmest in 122 years. India had its sixth driest February and the driest August in 122

It said lightning and storms were the most common disasters, occurring on 176 out of 273 days and claiming 711 lives while the most significant devastation came from heavy rains, floods, and landslides, causing over 1,900 deaths. The reported impact of extreme weather events in India is indeed alarming. The statistics provided underscore the human, agricultural, and



DR TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS, WHO Director-General: Prioritizing health is not just a choice; it is the foundation of resilient societies. We must change the conversation and demonstrate the massive benefits of bolder climate action on our health and well-being.



DR MANSUKH MANDAVIYA, Union Health Minister: The effects of climate change is the biggest threat that humanity is currently facing and it is having an immense impact on health systems...We commit to prioritising climate-resilient health systems...



SUNITA NARAIN, CSE director general: Our report attempts to build an evidence base on the frequency and expanding geography of extreme weather events in the country. This assessment clearly shows, what the country has witnessed so far in 2023 is the new 'abnormal' in a warming world.



DR VIKRAMJEET SINGH, Senior Consultant, Internal Medicine, Aakash Healthcare, Delhi: The evolving landscape of climate change significantly raises concerns about its direct and indirect impacts on respicontributes to the proliferation of air pollutants, such as particulate matter

and ground-level ozone causing asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Increased heat can also lead to the intensification of allergenic pollen production, triggering allergic respiratory responses. Dehydration and heat stress too can cause respiratory distress, placing an additional burden on healthcare system.

Colloborative efforts are essential to address adaptation measures to meet the health challenges linked with



DR KAVITA SINGH, DNDi: Climate change is altering patterns for dengue fever and other diseases. Before, we didn't have as many cases, or as many deaths...More R&D and investment is needed to combat these diseases so as to benefit the entire world, not just the countries that currently

environmental toll of climaterelated incidents. The details of the report highlight the vulner-

India to these extreme events, with Bihar being particularly affected. This underscores the ability of different regions in need for upgrading key intervulnerable people, populations, older adults, people with

conditions, people with disabilities, workers, and pregnant, breastfeeding, and

ventions such as vector control, epidemiological surveillance, and access to safe water and sanitation. To reduce the negative impact on health, the health community stresses the

importance of reducing and

stopping emissions.

postpartum women

Another report by the Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change, is equally alarming. It highlights concerning trends in heat and health, indicating a rise in exposure to high temperatures that jeopardise livelihoods and endangers public

The report reveals a 43% increase in the total number of heatwave days experienced by children under the age of one from 2013-2022 compared to the 1986-2005 period. Adults over 65 saw a staggering 216% increase in heatwave days during the same timeframe. These alarming statistics underline the immediate impact on health and the urgency of mitigation and adaptation actions.

The economic toll of heat exposure is substantial, with 191 billion potential labor hours lost in 2022 alone, a 54% increase from 1991-2000. This loss amounted to a potential income loss of USD219 billion in 2022, equivalent to 6.3% of the country's GDP. Agricultural workers bore the brunt, experiencing 64% of potential hours lost and 55% of potential income losses. The projected scenario, where temperatures exceed a 2°C

increase, indicates a nearly 5-fold rise in heatwave exposure for individuals over 65 by midcentury, underscoring the dire consequences if mitigation efforts are not implemented urgently.

The report also red flags the health impacts of air pollution, attributing increasing deaths to small particulate matter (PM2.5) generated from human activities. Transitioning to renewable energy sources is identified as a crucial step to mitigate air pollution, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote universal, affordable,

and clean energy.
As India participates in the Dubai Climate Summit, these findings should serve as eveopener and add a sense of urgency among the developed nations to discussions around climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies to tackle the shared challenges posed by a changing climate.

With the health sector grappling with unprecedented challenges, it is imperative to address the glaring disparity in financial

In fact, the current allocation of a mere 0.5% of global climate inadequate to meet the demands and complexities of the health challenges posed by climate change. A substantial increase in resources for the health sector is not only warranted but deemed essential. Adequate funding is crucial for the development and implementation of strategies to address climate-related health impacts, including extreme weather events, infectious diseases, and other health crises. The ongoing global health crisis, likely exacerbated by climate change, underscores the interconnectedness of health and environmental issues.

A robust and well-funded health sector is crucial for effectively responding to both the immediate health crisis and the long-term impacts of climate change on public health.

The writer is Associate Editor,

NEWS BRIEF

GURUGRAM DOCTORS USE REVOLUTIONARY DEVICE ON IRAQI MAN TO TREAT HEART FAILURE



DOCTORS at Max Hospital, Gurugram, have successfully implanted a cardiac contractility modulation (CCM) device on the man, aged 44 with overt heart failure. He had initially sought a heart transplant. Dr. (Col.) Manjinder Singh

Sandhu, Principal Director-Cardiology at Max Hospital, said that the patient, an Iraqi resident was in overt heart failure and after optimising his medication, it was concluded that the patient was not a candidate for heart transplant but rather for the new revolutionary therapy CCM. He said that the CCM device

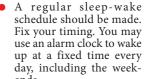
marks a significant leap forward in the treatment options available for patients with compromised heart pumping capacity or damaged muscles.

While implantable cardioverter-defibrillators (ICD) have been effective in preventing sudden cardiac death, they fall short in addressing death due to progressive pump failure. Further, the introduction of cardiac resynchronisation therapy with defibrillator (CRTD) was a crucial step for patients with a left bundle oranch block on ECG, but this only addressed a subset of individuals, Dr Sandhu said. Recognising the critical need for a more inclusive solution, CCM has become a beacon of hope for the majority of patients who were ineligible for CRTD. This cutting-edge therapy aims to improve heart function and quality of life for those facing limited options,"



Having Sleep Troubles? Practise Sleep Hygiene!

M any of us have trouble falling asleep. Many of us do not have a refreshing sleep, or one keeps waking up in between. By following basic sleep hygiene practices, these problems can be easily resolved, and you may not have to resort to sleeping pills. A few points to be remembered are as follows:



Avoid caffeine, tobacco, and alcohol in the

evenings and at bedtime. The bedroom should have a quiet and cool environment. There should be no or low light, preferably. There should be no nap

ping during the day.

Do not watch television while on the bed. Avoid using computers, phones, or other light-emitting devices around bedtime.

Go to sleep only when you feel sleepy. If you are unable to fall asleep within 20 minutes of lying down on the bed, then get up and preferably go to another room, read some-thing or listen to some relaxing music, and return to bed only when sleepy. This may be repeated as many times as you feel necessary.



DR RAHUL JAIN

Daily physical exercise for half an hour is recommended. It helps release stress.

day's activities at bedtime. It just makes your brain work harder, and it cannot relax, which hampers sleep. Adequate sleep time varies

from person to person. You should sleep for the amount of time your body feels rested. You should wake up fresh. Do not set any fixed targets.

By following the above few suggestions, you can make a lot of changes in the quality of your sleep. It is rightly said that a good laugh and a long sleep are the two best cures for anything. Invest in your sleep. It will help reset your brain and allow you to be more effective in the daytime. Restful sleep is indeed the foundation of good health. Consultant Neurologist

The writer is Consultant Neurologist and Director, Jain Hospital and Jain Neuro Centre

Early body contact augments premature babies' social skills

Combining the immediate medical care of very premature babies with a relatively simple intervention such as skin-to-skin contact can help develop the infant's social skills faster, says a study published in JAMA Network Open by researchers from Karolinska Institutet and others

mature babies are usually ■placed in an incubator to keep them warm and to stabilize them during the first hours after birth. In the "Immediate parent-infant skin-to-skin study" (IPISTOSS), 91 premature babies born at 28 to 33 weeks were randomized to either traditional care in an incubator or immediate skinto-skin contact with one of the parents. The study has generated several results that show, among other things, that immediate skin-to-skin contact is safe for babies and beneficial for their cardiorespiratory stabilization and temperature maintenance, and that it is perceived as valuable by the

Now, as part of this study, the

researchers have also studied the social development at four months of age of 71 of these premature babies. The children were randomly assigned to receive either standard care in an incubator or to receive care resting on one of their parents' breasts, either the mother's or the father's, for the first six hours after birth. "What is new about our study

is that we also allowed the fathers to have skin-to-skin contact immediately after the birth. In most previous studies, it is the mother who is the primary caregiver, but in our study it was the fathers who had the most skin-to-skin contact," says Wibke Jonas, midwife, senior lecturer and associate professor at Karolinska Institutet's Department of

Women's and Children's Health, as well as research leader and last author of the study. The study has identified

fathers as a previously untapped resource that really has an important function in having immediate skin-to-skin contact with their infant if the mother is not available," says Siri Lilliesköld, PhD student at the same department and specialist nurse in neonatal care, and first author of the study. After four months, the social interaction between mother and infant was filmed and assessed by two psychologists who did not know which infant had received early skin-to-skin contact and which had not. The quality of the interaction was measured according to



the Parent-Child Early Relational Assessment (PCERA) scale, where different elements are graded between one and five, with one being cause for concern and five being very good quality. The

study also shows that fathers may play a more important role than previous research has

The infants who received immediate skin-to-skin contact had significantly better results

infant's communicative and social skills. On the five-point scale, their average score was closer to four, while the infants cared for according to current practice were just above three. What you could see was that the infants in the skin-to-skin group had slightly better communication skills, they were a bit more social and happier," savs Wibke Ionas.

in a subscale measuring the

Premature babies have developmental challenges as they grow up and need a lot of support. Even though medical developments have come a long way, the care of these babies still needs to be developed, the researchers say.

"If we combine the immediate medical care of the very premature babies with a relatively

simple intervention such as skin-to-skin contact, it has effects on the infants social skills," says Jonas Wibke and continues.

"Previous studies have shown

that premature babies perform slightly poorer when socially interacting, for example, they do not give as clear signals in the interaction with their mothers. The closeness between babies and their parents at birth may therefore stimulate later interaction and thus the development of the infant."

The benefits of immediate skinto-skin contact are so clear that both Wibke Jonas and Siri Lilliesköld believe it should be introduced now in Swedish neonatal care. And this work is already underway, they say.

ly to minimize separation between infants and parents in general, and now we have the evidence to do the same with these very premature babies," says Siri Lilliesköld. The research team will contin-

"We have worked very active-

ue to report on the develop-ment of the infants at 12 and 24 months. The study is a collaboration

between researchers from Karolinska Institutet and the University Hospital of Stavanger, Norway, and the University of Turku, Finland. The research was funded by, among others, the Swedish Research Council, Region Stockholm and Stiftelsen Barnavård. The researchers declare that there are no conflicts of interest.



Beyond Lunar Geopolitics: Governance architectures

 $I_{
m geopolitical\ moment.}^{
m ndia}$ is in an interesting hand, India has joined the Artemis Accord, and on the other hand, it has plans to collaborate with Japan to send a probe called Lunar Polar Exploration Mission in 2026, also referred to as the Chandrayaan-4 mission. With this astute act of balancing, in the coming years, some space analysts estimate that India's Lunar South Pole capacity can help scale up some of the goals of the Artemis programme, including lunar resource utilization. However, while these incidents suggest an acute act of external balancing, one needs to also ask whether governance and geopolitics have a meeting point.

As India navigates its position, it should carefully consider the nature of space norms. In this context, one must ask whether there are any suggestions for lunar governance, particularly after India's successful moon landing of Chandrayaan-3. There has been substantial public interest in the topic of lunar water ice since then. Questions related to water ice on the Moon have been a focus of lunar exploratory missions in the past. In fact, a recent report claimed that water has not only accumulated at the lunar poles but may also be found in Permanently Shadowed Regions (PSR) depressions that have been permanently blocked from sunlight. It has also been estimated that some of these PSRs must have been eliminated in the past, with water sublimating into gas. This implies that PSRs are non-renewable and finite resources.

Given the unique ecosystem of space and its multiple resource systems, questions related to the sustainable management of lunar governance have become significant. When conceptualising how lunar ice (and other



resources) might be governed, terrestrial water governance regimes can provide an important reference point, shedding light on numerous complex dynamics in managing common pool resources. However, the significance lies not in its strategic value but in the analogous criteria it offers from the perspectives of water laws, politics, and governance. These provide a lens through which we can understand how lunar resources of strategic value may be governed. Given the significance of governance in Outer Space, many analogous references have been made. Facets related to ocean governance, which were negotiated through the United Nations Convention on the Laws of Seas (UNCLOS) have highlighted issues related to sustainable management and freedom of movement in global

Similarly, questions related to soft and hard laws through the Antarctic Treaty System are

also significant. However, when one deliberates on the nature of challenges and the politics of space resources, the management of the oceans is not the only relevant analogy. Riparian laws and regimes also offer a significant paradigm on which to build. Some of the issues explored in riparian regimes pertain to property rights, questions of ownership and regulation, adaptive and risk governance, and temporal priority, among others. Riparian regimes are significant because they have negotiated similar governance issues relevant to outer space in general, lunar governance in particular, and more specifically, the management of lunar water ice in Permanent Shadowed For instance, the issue of property rights has been enduring, especially concerning water rights. In rivers, these rights are partially public and partially private. Significantly, the articulation of property rights differs between surface water regimes and groundwater

Riparian regimes typically grapple with balancing two competing principles. In surface water regimes, the "Harmon Doctrine" suggests absolute use over resources within its territory, regardless of the impact on lower riparians. On the other hand, the "Riparian Integrity" doctrine states that a country may not alter the natural flow of water in a way that adversely affects upper or lower riparians. A compromise formula has been suggested, stressing "equitable and reasonable use" and the 'No Harm principle". Most countries have negotiated bilateral and multilateral arrangements according to their interests. In both groundwater and surface water debates, "reasonable use" is normatively emphasised, meaning one cannot exhaust the water source or prevent others from using it.

However, given the politics of water resources, water laws have been interpreted and translated differently by countries worldwide. Similar issues are nearly guaranteed to arise with respect to lunar resources, where rules regarding the prohibition and extraction of resources are ambiguous.

In riparian governance, several potential solutions have been explored: water shares, collective rights, and prior appropriation. Proportionate sharing rights entail that users can use rights in proportion to their licensed allocations, converting water rights into water shares.

WORLD GOVERNMENT

Alternatively, some cases emphasise correlative rights, limiting water users to reasonable shares, as opposed to unlimited use. The concept of prior appropriation advocates that only those with a permit may divert water from the resource-meaning the one who captures the resource first gets to use it first. These alternate and sometimes contentious approaches provide analogous perspectives to space resource use, emphasising the importance of crafting an overarching architecture while considering these debates.

Thus, the long history of riparian negotiations, its issues, and solutions should be relevant for lunar governance, where distinct resource systems are available for exploration and use. For instance, the Permanent Shadowed Regions and Lunar Regolith are small ecosystems with their own specific characteristics associated with the roles different stakeholders can play. In this case, activities like mining, scientific investigations, manufacturing, construction, and tourism draw attention to the concept of "boundaries," specifying who has access, how resources are allocated, and the purpose of such allocation. Principles of adaptive governance can help shed light on some of these complex areas.

What lessons can be drawn from riparian regimes? In terms of solutions for riparian regimes, adaptive governance has emphasised the need for integrated management and conjunctive uses of surface and groundwater. This involves formulating resilient water institutions based on self-organization principles articulated by Elinor Ostrom. These principles address collective action problems, suggesting that actors should be able to switch between levels and solve problems collaboratively. A networked governance structure, grounded in effective communication, collaboration, and interaction, is key to such institutional designs.

Thus, elements that could enable, bridge, match, and facilitate actor interaction were considered fundamental for adaptive governance. Moreover, like rivers, we can

characterise outer space

resources such as lunar water ice as 'common pool resources' and draw on the rich literature and insights of Ostrom and her followers in successfully managing such systems. These insights are valuable for understanding the resilience of international regimes, the nature of multi-stakeholder interactions, and global rule-making. Questions like these can significantly inform issues related to lunar and outer space governance.

Similar to terrestrial common pool resources, methodological frameworks of socio-ecological systems (SES) can effectively help study the interactions between social, ecological, and governance systems. To date, no effort has been made to create an SES model for the Moon. While much of the current debate centres on great power politics and the control of lunar resources and their impact on geopolitical configurations, it is crucial that aspirational emerging powers like India consider the architectures of lunar governance, enabling them to assume a leadership role. By expanding the debate to include the use of common pool resources, India could lead in establishing principles of adaptive governance. Insights from ongoing water governance debates could offer valuable suggestions toward creating a workable lunar governance system.

(The writer is Associate Professor, Department of International Relations, South

India, at a crucial geopolitical juncture, aligns with Artemis **Accord and plans** Chandrayaan-4 mission with Japan. Drawing from riparian regimes, the discourse on lunar governance explores adaptive solutions and common pool resource principles, positioning India as a leader in shaping lunar exploration's



future

MEDHA BISHT

PERSPECTIVE •

Fossil fuels, funding gaps, deforestation in focus

The COP28 climate conference in Dubai marks a pivotal moment as world leaders confront urgent climate challenges. Focused on fossil fuels, funding disparities, and deforestation, the conference seeks concrete actions to mitigate the escalating climate crisis and prioritise environmental sustainability



BK SINGH

he COP28 climate confer-November 30, is a pivotal event that aims to address critical objectives with far-reaching implications for the global community. These objectives include conducting a comprehensive global stocktake to assess nations' commitment fulfillment, securing funding for loss and damage, and addressing the contentious issue of phasing out fossil fuels. However, negotiations on the latter have been marred by opposition from oil-producing and developing countries, leading to significant conflicts during the deliberations.

The plenary session of COP28 witnessed the United Nations underscoring the urgency and severity of climate change, highlighting a concerning 1.4degrees Celsius warming of the Earth. In response to this alarming trend, there is a renewed emphasis not only on phasing out coal but also extending this commitment to oil and gas. Notably, an agreement on the loss and damage deal has been reached, with Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Germany pledging financial contributions of \$10 million, \$17.5 million, \$75.89 million, and \$100 million, respectively. However, the adequacy of the US funding commitment, given its status as the wealthiest and second-highest emitter of greenhouse gases, has sparked criticism.

Preceding the COP28 conference, a research publication by NASA and Columbia University scientists has sounded an alarm, indicating that the world is on track to surpass the critical 1.5 degrees Celsius warming threshold above preindustrial temperatures within this decade. The study provides evidence suggesting that the goals set for 2030 through nationally determined contri-

butions (NDC) are unattain-

able. This revelation follows a Lence, launched on series of extreme weather events globally, from heatwaves in China and Europe to flooding in Libya, rainfall deficits in parts of Asia due to El Nino conditions, and widespread forest fires in Canada, the United States, Europe, and Russia. The year 2023 is projected to be the warmest on record.

Published in the journal "Nature Climate Change," the report proposes an urgent need for the world to achieve netzero emissions by 2034 to have a 50 per cent chance of containing warming within 1.5 degrees Celsius. This is significantly earlier than the 2050 pledges made by several Western countries. Despite the consistent inclusion of the objective to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius in annual conferences, tangible actions to meet this goal have been insufficient.

Developing nations, particularly those in the global south, have borne the brunt of extreme weather events, a consequence of the fossil fuel burning practices of developed nations since the inception of industrialization. While the climate finance agenda was initiated during the 2009 Copenhagen conference to aid adaptation and facilitate the transition to renewable energy for developing nations, there is a noticeable lack of substantial commitment and compliance from developed nations.

A concerning pattern has emerged where major emitters, such as the United States and China, deflect responsibility onto nations with lower emissions, hindering collective progress in combating climate change. The recent criticism faced by India for methane emissions highlights this issue, prompting the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to develop technologies and mitigation processes to minimise

such emissions. India is expected to address these allegations assertively during the COP28 summit.

The impact of wildfires in the developed world on global warming is profound, with the Earth's warming contributing to a surge in wildfire incidents worldwide. Regions such as Siberia, North America, the Eastern and Western Mediterranean, Africa, and the Indian subcontinent have experienced devastating wildfires. The Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) reports alarming statistics about Canadian wildfires, which emitted over 1 gigatonne of CO2 equivalent in the current year, equivalent to the emissions from 285 coal-fired power plants. Global wildfires in 2021 contributed a staggering 6.45 gigatonnes of CO2 equivalent, constituting approximately 20 per cent of the total greenhouse gas emissions from all human activities on Earth.

This revelation underscores the urgent need for comprehensive measures to address and mitigate the escalating impact of wildfires on climate change. It is disconcerting that 20 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions originate from wildfires in developed countries. Rather than hindering the developmental aspirations of nations with minimal emissions, developed countries must take responsibility and address the impact of wildfires on global warming.

The ongoing COP28 in Dubai provides an opportunity for concrete discussions and actions to ensure equitable global cooperation in addressing climate change and its associated challenges. The G20 countries, in their recent Delhi declaration, acknowledged the substantial \$5.9 trillion required to fulfill the financial commitments necessary for achieving the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) targets of developing nations by 2030. This financial support is crucial for enabling these nations to effectively tackle climate challenges and transition toward sustainable development.

However, developed countries are falling short of the commitments articulated in their NDC under the 2015 Paris climate accord. The failure to provide financial support and technology to aid developing nations in climate-resilient

adaptation and the transition to renewable energy is evident. The loss and damage funds agreed upon during the Sharm El Sheikh COP 27 to mitigate impacts in impoverished nations have languished unutilised for a year until certain countries pledged funding during COP28.

The ongoing Global Stocktake (GST) in COP28 is exerting moral pressure on countries that are lagging in achieving their NDC goals. There is a notable resurgence in the combustion of coal, oil, and natural gas for energy, both in developed and developing nations. This surge has been particularly pronounced following the COVID-19 pandemic, with China setting a record-high coal consumption of 4.5 billion metric tonnes in 2022. In contrast, India's consumption was 1.1 billion tonnes during the same period.

Reflecting on past climate negotiations in Glasgow and Sharm El-Sheikh, both China and India have opposed fervent pleas from numerous developing nations to "phase out" fossil fuel consumption, opting instead for a more lenient "phase down" approach. The consequence is a surge in con-

sumption and a subsequent acceleration of global warming. At COP28, there is a notable push from activists for the establishment of a "Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.' Ironically, the host country opposes this initiative, given its economic dependence on oil. Despite economic dependencies that resist changes, world leaders must make concerted efforts to transition away from fossil fuels and embrace more sustainable practices.

During the Glasgow climate summit, nations controlling 90 per cent of the world's forests pledged to halt deforestation by 2030, with India choosing not to sign this agreement. Furthermore, amendments to the Forest (Conservation) Act of 1980 have raised concerns about expedited diversion of forest lands, contributing to deforestation. Trees, crucial for capturing CO2 through photosynthesis, play a vital role in mitigating climate change. Deforestation, however, contributes to increased CO2 release, exacerbating global

Despite the commitment made at Glasgow to end deforestation by 2030, subsequent discus-

sions at other forums, including the Sharm El-Sheikh climate conference, have failed to reaffirm this stance. No country has reported tangible progress towards ending defor-The India Middle East Europe

Corridor Economic (IMEEEC), stemming from the G20 countries' declaration in Delhi, aims to counter China's Belt and Road initiative. The corridor envisions transporting goods from India's eight ports on the western coast to the UAE's port, with a rail corridor through the UAE and Saudi Arabia extending up to the Haifa port in Israel. However, the IMEEEC faces economic challenges, with two additional handling steps at intermediate ports and rail freights ten times more expensive than shipping costs.

India's efforts to enhance rail connectivity to ports raise concerns about potential exploitation of the Western Ghats forests and pose environmental challenges in the UAE and Saudi Arabia. The installation of three additional pipelines for the transportation of oil, green hydrogen, and data along the sea and rail route raises questions about the necessity for such infrastructure in the context of the global push to phase out fossil fuels.

As world leaders convene in Dubai, there is a pressing need for a clear roadmap to steer nations away from economically and environmentally nonviable projects. Concerted efforts are needed to proactively reduce emissions, ensuring that global warming is contained within the 1.5 degrees Celsius target. Leaders must prioritise sustainability and environmental responsibility in the face of evolving infrastructure projects.

(The writer retired as Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,























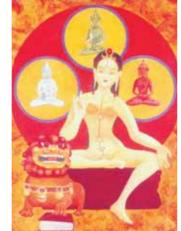






Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Sky Blue Lucky day Saturday

work commitments, leading to some setbacks



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week, you might find yourself feeling assertive and somewhat uncompromising, with little room for emotions. Your primary focus will be on work, leading to a sense of being overwhelmed due to heavy workload. Achieving your goals may seem challenging as they appear distant. Midweek, expect an unexpected arrival or departure that could impact your routine. There's a risk of acting impulsively or even aggressively in confusing situations. Travel might be part of your schedule. In moments of uncertainty or fear, consider meditating to gain confidence and clarity. While you're naturally unbiased in making tough decisions, caution is advised against hasty actions to avoid wasted efforts. The week might also bring feelings of unease and restlessness. Trust your intuition for simpler matters and rely on your analytical skills for more complex situations.

Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Light Purple Lucky day Sunday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week emphasizes the need for organization, focus, and discipline amid a backdrop of confusion and misunderstandings between partners. You may find yourself in a situation where the truth is within reach, yet you choose to ignore it, possibly due to fear of worsening things with your decisions. Midweek, there's a chance of receiving unfavorable legal news or facing an inquiry that could lead to disappointment. Attention to your health is advised during this time. It's beneficial to moderate your expressiveness and avoid conflicts. This period calls for rest, reflection, and an assessment of your work in solitude. Focus on healing and rejuvenating yourself to return with renewed energy to tackle challenges. Exercise patience, as this is just a temporary phase in your life, and things are

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Deep Blue Lucky day Saturday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week is set to be a fortunate one, marked by successful outcomes and joyful events. If you have children, they're likely to excel in their academic pursuits. Long-standing projects are poised to reach completion, bringing a sense of accomplishment. Additionally, there's a high chance of acquiring a new residence, either through a fortunate draw or by moving into a newly built home. Social gatherings with family and friends are expected. enhancing your personal life. Your presence exudes a positive energy, making you a source of inspiration for many. Your communication skills will be particularly effective, attracting people with your charismatic personality. They will seek your guidance and cooperation, recognizing you as a natural leader in your community.

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Lemon Yellow Lucky day Monday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week promises substantial financial prosperity and contentment. Excelling in your professional sphere, you skillfully apply your knowledge in practical ways. Your approach is marked by responsibility and fairness, with a strong adherence to schedules, procedures, and regulations. Such discipline is likely to fortify your financial stability, providing security and comfort. There's a possibility of receiving a significant inheritance, and prospects for raises or promotions seem bright further boosting your confidence. This period is ideal for selfreflection and celebrating your achievements. The horizon may include new job opportunities, projects, or assignments. Your eagerness to learn and embrace fresh ideas will enrich your professional life, offering innovative approaches to apply in your career

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Sea Green Lucky day Monday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week your efforts and positive actions are set to yield fruitful results. It begins with a focus on hard work and dedication, aiming to improve both your professional skills and personal growth. Your attention to detail, persistence. and strong work ethic will be particularly prominent as you tackle challenging tasks. These efforts will not only provide valuable work experience but also expand your knowledge. The success that follows will be a testament to your skills and intelligence, allowing you to take pride in your achievements. This period also offers a chance for profound spiritual healing and reconnection with higher powers. As the week concludes, various powerful influences converge. creating an opportune moment for emotional or physical healing. For some, this time may bring about the acceptance of romantic relationships or marriage proposals.

Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour Rose Pink Lucky day Monday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week offers a blend of emotional richness and material prosperity. It starts with financial success, and as the week progresses, you'll notice an increase in your profits and gains. Your lifestyle is generous and fulfilling, contributing to a harmonious atmosphere at work. There's potential for travel, possibly overseas or on a cruise, for business or pleasure with family. Midweek, you'll skillfully balance professional commitments and domestic responsibilities. As the week winds down, you'll reap the rewards of your efforts. Expect to enjoy good health, a burst of creativity, and a positive environment. The weekend is the perfect time to relax and spend quality time with family, basking in the success and contentment of the week's achievements.

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Coral Pink Lucky day Wednesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week begins with a quest to discover methods for successfully completing your final tasks, finding you right at the brink of achievement. While challenges may arise, you'll identify solutions to overcome them. Midweek brings a romantic phase, allowing quality time with your partner. The latter part of the week is auspicious for real estate transactions, such as purchasing a new home or dealing with property matters. You may find yourself in a fortunate position, surrounded by remarkable opportunities. Your health and energy levels are high, contributing to a lighthearted mood. The support and cooperation from your family will further elevate your confidence. The week concludes with you enjoying a festive time with your

Lucky number 18 | Lucky colour Chocolate Brown Lucky day Thursday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week holds the promise of realizing your dreams, filled with an abundance of love, wealth, and happiness, as if receiving a bounty of blessings. The period is also marked by excellent organizational skills, mental agility, and heightened intuition. It's a perfect time to harness this positive energy for intellectual pursuits. In financial, spiritual, and emotional spheres, you'll find this week particularly rewarding. Matters of relationships take a forefront, with plans and aspirations smoothly falling into place. Opportunities for new jobs or business ventures are likely. Your health is robust, and your abilities in leadership, communication, and influence are at their peak. Additionally, this period seems to be graced with good fortune, enhancing your endeavors.

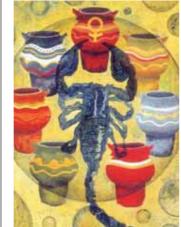
Lucky number 16 | Lucky colour Silver Lucky day Friday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week, you'll encounter surprising changes that will leave you feeling proud and confident, ready to face the world's challenges. You'll find success in areas where you had previously lost hope. Your achievements may draw envy from others, but your supporters will celebrate you triumphs. This is a time of progress, focusing on what's best for you. Overcoming past struggles and reaching your goals will be publicly recognized and celebrated. Joy and fulfillment will stem from reflecting on past experiences. As the week ends, you'll immerse yourself in positive, nostalgic memories, reconnecting with your childhood and spending time with younger people. Additionally, this period may also bring opportunities for new friendships and connections that enrich your social circle.

Lucky number 22 Lucky colour Dark Grey Lucky day Thursday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week is heavily focused on work, where taking risks could lead to lucrative opportunities. Your creative potential is at its peak, empowering you to push boundaries confidently. You're well-equipped to tackle a formidable challenge that's been weighing on your mind, poised to overcome it with flair. Midweek, anticipate . some firm guidance from a senior female figure in your family, likely a mother or a maternal influence. Heeding her advice and ideas will be beneficial for you. To further enhance your intellectual abilities, engage in activities like reading, puzzle-solving, and exploring spiritual insights, which could lead to significant breakthroughs. Additionally, this period might also bring unexpected collaborations or partnerships, offering new perspectives and enhancing your professional journey.

Lucky number 14 | Lucky colour Cream Lucky day Tuesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week, success is anchored in partnership and teamwork, fostering a harmonious and understanding atmosphere at work. You'll find a renewed respect for your self-esteem and virtues, bringing life and energy to your career and lifestyle. Opportunities for the near future appear optimistic, especially with recent business ventures showing signs of flourishing. Job-wise, a promising new offer may be forthcoming. Emphasizing cooperation, your negotiations are poised to be successful. This period also resonates with spiritual growth and the joy of anticipated childbirth in families Your visionary outlook and confidence enable you to fearlessly explore new possibilities. As the week concludes, any worries you have will be alleviated by your ability to overcome challenges with your inner resources.

ucky number 17 | Lucky colour Wine Red Lucky day Monday

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ASTROTURF

BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

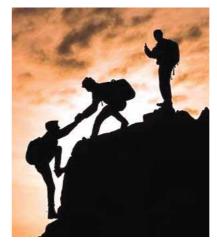
ll about life is how we relate to the self, immediate surrounding, and the world at large. So said renowned philosopher Jiddu Krishnamurti. Rightly so because we are an inseparable part of the universe operating as an integrated unitary organism, in which no existence has a reality independent of the whole. India's learned masters had realised this truth of life thousands of years back. Now, even modern theoretical physics agrees as would renowned Australian physicist Paul Davies's words mean: "For a naïve realist, the world is a collection of objects. For a quantum physicist, it is an inseparable web of vibrating energy patterns, where no individual component has a reality independent of the entirety. Included in that entirety is the observ-

The world is in fact so made out that all and sundry need to discharge their respective obligations, to collectively

carry on the cycle of life. Purposely so because no individual is capable of servicing even existential needs in one's own right. We need support from various groups of people engaged in production of different need-based items. Also, we need continued support of common pool of natural resources such as Space, Air, Sunlight, and Water. In fact, even small organisms like termite service existential order in their own ways. They create hole deep inside the soil structure to facilitate entry of oxygen, which improves dynamic potential of earth mass. In the process, it eats earth mass, and to digest it, its body secretes necessary enzyme. Having consumed a small part to sustain, it excretes the rest, which being rich in enzymes, further adds to the fertility of soil. It then loses its life before the crop comes up, but not without serving the cause of larger world. If you look at the construct of universe,

all but human beings, spontaneously follow the design parameters driving them, with no scope for making any exception. Humans on the contrary enjoy the exclusive privilege to guide their actions by choice. But if there is choice in hand, the probability of its use and misuse remains equal. And being an integral part of the world order, aberration on the part of even an individual could upset familial and societal dynamics. To overcome this vulnerability, human beings are armed with Buddhi (the faculty of discriminate intelligence). Applying which, they can dispassionately visualise things in the right perspective to pick up the right lead. The irony, however, is that every individual is born unique, manifesting varying inherent traits, often in conflict with others. The world, thus, turns out to be a natural breeding ground for conflict of interest.

That makes it incumbent upon us to



have a lesson in the 'art of living'. Here comes the role of how we relate to the self. For, that's what defines how we conduct individually and the way we relate to those around and society at

large. Relating to the self means looking within to identify and acknowledge one's inherent negative traits that would be detrimental to individual and societal interests. Having known thus, one could make necessary amends. But here again, our ego plays spoilsport. It doesn't let you dispassionately analyse and understand one's own inherent trends, and the least of all the fault lines. Here, astrology comes handy, which reflects upon personality trends with a fair amount of precision. The paradox, however, is that ordinary mortals passionately pursuing their aspirational and selfish urges, seldom remain conscious about getting into self-search mode. It is only when confronted with unmanageable situation that they wake up to look for support.

Here is a case in point of someone who came seeking guidance only when his marital life came to a dead end: "Sir, what is wrong in my destiny that it so

Learn to live in togetherness happened?" Well, you need to look within for the answer. Mind signifying Moon placed adverse to Neptune makes you stuck to illusionary beliefs and perceptions, distanced from ground realities, and not keen to look beyond for a reality check. Your lagna lord Mars as well as the Sun are both placed adverse to Uranus and Saturn. That makes you temperamental, impulsive, bad tempered, revengeful, irrational, and even brutal at times. My way or highway seems to be your attitude. That did not let your positives, though enough, play out to your advantage. The result is there to see. "How do I go about now?" He asked. Well, learn to live with the inevitable and start afresh. Also, address your negatives so that they do not pull you down in future.

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