OPINION 6

SUPREME COURT VINDICATES

ABROGATION OF ARTICLE 370

WORLD 8

ISRAEL BATTLES MILITANTS

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KOHLI IS A **MASSIVE** PLAYER: KALLIS 12 SPORTS

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY DECEMBER 12, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

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MODI'S HISTORIC COURSE CORRECTION IN J&K

AConstitution, which bestowed special status on the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir, was a "temporary provision" and any interpretation of the provision cannot postulate that integration of J-K with India was temporary, the Supreme Court ruled on Monday

Upholding the abrogation of the controversial provision, the apex court said Article 370 read together with Article 1 of the Constitution leaves no manner of doubt that the integration of J-K as a part of the nation, which in itself was a Union of States, was complete.

"It can be garnered from the historical context for the inclusion of Article 370 and the placement of Article 370 Part XXI of the Constitution that it is a temporary provision," Chief India Chandrachud, writing for himself and justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant, said in his 352-page verdict.

In its landmark verdict, the five-judge Constitution bench headed by CJI Chandrachud unanimously upheld the Centre's August 5, 2019 decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370, while directing restoration of Statehood for J&K at the earliest and holding the elections Assembly September 30, 2024

question whether the provisions of Article 370 were temporary in nature or they acquired a permanent status in the Constitution at the end of the J&K Constituent Assembly's tenure in 1957.

his verdict, Justice Chandrachud said Article 370 was introduced to serve two purposes. First, an interim arrangement

until the Constituent Assembly

of the State was formed and could take a decision on the legislative competence of the Union on matters other than the ones stipulated in the IoA (Instrument of Accession), and ratify the Constitution (the transitional purpose); And interim arrangement because of the special circumstances in the State because of the war conditions of the State (the temporary purpose),"

The CJI said there are intrinsic reasons in Article 370 that support the view that the provision was not intended by the framers to be a permanent feature of the Constitution at the date of the adoption of the Constitution. "Part XXI of which Article 370 is a part specifies temporary and transitional provisions. In certain cases, the temporary provisions contained in Part XXI had a restriction with reference to the time over which they would operate," he said.

Continued on Page 2

OF ARTICLE 370 IN THE STATE Kashmir's integration



The five-judge bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant during pronouncement of verdict on a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, in New Delhi, on Monday

PM and Amit Shah hail the Apex Court's verdict

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

 $P^{\text{rime Minister Narendra Modi and}}_{\text{Union Home Minister Amit Shah}}$ Monday hailed the Supreme Court's verdict upholding the Government's decision to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution as "historic" and said this gives a stamp of approval to the move as being "completely constitutional".

Taking to social media, the two top leaders instrumental in abrogating the provisions of Article 370 in 2019 said the top court's decision is not just a legal

judgment, but a "beacon of hope" and testament to the collective resolve to build a stronger and more united India, besides bringing peace and normalcy to Jammu and Kashmir.

Modi said the Supreme Court verdict on the abrogation of Article 370 is "historic" and constitutionally upholds the decision taken by Parliament on August 5, 2019. "It is a resounding declaration of hope, progress and unity for our sisters and brothers in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. The court, in its profound wisdom, has fortified the very

essence of unity that we, as Indians, hold dear and cherish above all else," he said. "I want to assure the resilient people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh that our commitment to fulfilling your dreams remains unwavering," the Prime Minister added.

"We are determined to ensure that the fruits of progress not only reach you but also extend their benefits to the most vulnerable and marginalised sections of our society who suffered due to Article 370," he asserted.

Continued on Page 2

with India begins

Assembly polls in September 2024

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday upheld the Government's decision to abrogate Article 370, which bestowed special status on the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir, and said steps should be taken to conduct elections in the Assembly by September 30 next year.

The apex court also directed that statehood to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir be restored at the earliest.

The apex court also upheld the validity of the decision to carve out the Union Territory of Ladakh from Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019. On that day, the Government abrogated Article 370 and bifurcated the State into two union territories — Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. The erstwhile State does not

have internal sovereignty different from other States of CJI DY the country, Chandrachud said. provisions of the Indian Constitution can be applied to J-K," the CJI said.

'We hold the exercise of presidential power to issue constitutional

abrogating Article 370 of Constitution as valid," the CJI

The bench comprising CJI D Y Chandrachud and Justices Gavai, Surya Kant, Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, assembled at 10.56 am to pronounce the three separate and concurring judgements. Justices Kaul and Khanna wrote their judgments separately. In his concurring judgment, Justice Khanna said the purpose of Article 370 was to slowly bring Jammu and Kashmir at par with other Indian states. He directed the setting up of a truth-and-reconciliation commission to probe human rights violations both by the state and non-state actors.

The CJI said Article 370 was couched amidst other temporary and transitional provisions with a marginal note which indicates that its provisions were temporary. 'On January 26, 1950, when

the Constitution was adopted, the State of Jammu and Kashmir became an integral part of the territory of India. The mandate of Article 1 is that 'India that is Bharat shall be a Union of States'," the CJI

NEW DELHI: Following is the timeline of events in a case in which the Supreme Court on Monday upheld the government's decision to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution, which bestowed a special status on the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, and said steps should be taken to conduct the election to the Assembly in the Union Territory by September 30 next year.

■ December 20, 2018: President's Rule imposed while exercising powers under Article 356 of the Constitution in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Subsequently extended on July 3, 2019.

August 5, 2019: Centre abrogates the provisions of Article 370, bestowing a special status upon the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

August 6, 2019: First petition challenging the presidential order scrapping Article 370 filed by advocate M L Sharma, who was later joined by another lawyer from Jammu and Kashmir, Shakir Shabir.

■ August 10, 2019: National Conference (NC), a prominent political party from Jammu and Kashmir, files a petition contending that the changes brought in the status of the state had taken away the rights of its citizens without their mandate

August 24, 2019: Press Council of India moves the Supreme Court supporting the Centre and Jammu and Kashmir administration's decision to impose restrictions on communications.

■ August 28, 2019: Supreme Court issues notices to the Centre, Jammu and Kashmir administration on a plea moved by Kashmir Times editor for the removal of the restrictions imposed on journalists.

August 28, 2019: A bench headed by then Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi refers matter to five-judge Constitution bench

September 19, 2019: Supreme Court sets up five-judge Constitution bench to hear pleas challenging abrogation of Article 370.

■ March 2, 2020: Supreme Court declines to refer to larger seven-judge bench batch of petitions challenging constitutional validity of Centre's decision to abrogate provisions of

■ April 25, 2022: Supreme Court agrees to consider listing after summer vacation pleas challenging Centre's decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370 after one of the petitioners seeks urgent hearing in view of delimitation exercise being carried out in Jammu and Kashmir.

July 11, 2023: Supreme Court says it will commence day-to-day hearing from August 2 on petitions challenging abrogation of August 2, 2023: Supreme Court

commences hearing on petitions challenging abrogation of Article 370. ■ September 5, 2023: Court reserves verdict on 23 petitions in the matter after

hearing those for 16 days. ■ December 11, 2023: Supreme Court upholds government's decision to abrogate Article 370, says steps should be taken to conduct election to Assembly in Union Territory by September 30 next year.

People jubilant, Politicians bicker

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

 $T^{\text{he common people on the}}_{\text{streets of Jammu and Kashmir}}$ were 'upbeat and jubilant' after the apex court delivered its long-awaited verdict on Monday, upholding the abrogation of Article 370 and setting the stage for conducting the Assembly pol September 2024.

The common people refrained from discussing the politics surrounding the abrogation of Article 370; instead, they were keen on witnessing the 'dance of

democracy. Senior Advocate Sheikh Shakeel called it a landmark judgement. Speaking to The Pioneer, Sheikh Shakeel said, "The Apex Court has paved the way for restoring democracy in Jammu and Kashmir. The five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India DÝ Chandrachud has also directed the Centre to restore the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir while setting the stage for long pending Assembly polls.

A senior representative of the deprived Valmiki society Gharu Bhatti and president of the West Pak refugees joint action committee Labha Ram Gandhi also welcomed the landmark judgement.

The Apex court has cleared all the hurdles allowing our children to



Members of Rashtriya Bajrang Dal after the Supreme Court's verdict upholding the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution, in Jammu, on Monday

realise their dreams and work hard. "The successive Governments in the State deprived us of our basic fundamental rights. We were caged and living in inhuman conditions for a long period of 70 years. After the Abrogation of Article 370, we were given the voting rights. We were granted citizenship of Jammu and Kashmir and our children were granted permission to sit for competitive examinations. Now have been admitted toadmittedly professional colleges and preparing for Administrative

examinations. It is time to distribute sweets," he said. The apex court has also directed the Centre to restore statehood status as soon as possible, Ashok

Kumar, a local businessman running a provision store in the Nanak Nagar area of Jammu said. However, the political parties reacted differently in both the Jammu and Kashmir regions. In Jammu, J&K Unit BJP chief Ravinder Raina hailed the Supreme Court's verdict upholding the abrogation of Article 370, saying "We honour and respect the judgment in letter

and spirit." Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad termed the Supreme Court's verdict on pleas challenging the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution "sad and unfortunate", but said "We have to

"It (the court verdict) is sad and unfortunate," Azad told reporters. The former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister said the people of the region are not happy with the verdict delivered by a five-judge

bench of the apex court.
On the other hand, National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah said he is disappointed but not disheartened by the Supreme Court verdict.

In a broadcast on 'X', Omar apologised to the people of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh for failing to convince the apex court to restore Article 370.

"Unfortunately, we could not convince the five judges, and for that... I apologise to the people of J&K, Ladakh, and those in the country who wanted us to succeed," he said. "Our efforts will not end here," the NC leader added. "I am in Srinagar at my home and addressing you because the gate has been locked and I am not being allowed to meet Omar said. anyone...,"

Continued on Page 2 | party paving the way for him

MP gets a

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

 $A^{ ext{fter Chhattisgarh, the BJP}}$ on Monday dropped a big surprise as it announced Mohan Yadav (58), a leader of Other Backward Classes (OBC) the new Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.

The suspense over the third winning State, Rajasthan, continued as its anticipated Chief Minister's name is expected to be announced by Tuesday afternoon, according to BIP sources.

Chhattisgarh's Minister-designate and BJP leader Vishnu Deo Sai will take oath, along with his Cabinet colleagues, Wednesday at a ceremony in Raipur in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other dignitaries. Yadav is an MLA from Ujjain Dakshin who won the 2023 Assembly polls by a margin of over 13,000 votes. He was the Higher Education Minister in

leader of the State legislative

Bhavan. the outgoing Shivraj Singh Government. Chouhan has submitted his resignation to the Governor after Yadav was elected as the



to take over as the next CM of Madhya Pradesh.

Yadav has staked the claim to form the Government and the oath ceremony will be decided by the party in a day. Yadav met Governor Mangubhai Patel in the evening and handed over a letter of support claiming to form next Government. Yadav was accompanied by outgoing Chief Minister Chouhan, State party chief VD Sharma, and the three Central observers to the Raj

According to BJP leaders, Yadav was elected as the BJP's legislature party leader in Madhya Pradesh at a meeting in Bhopal in presence of central observers.

Continued on Page 2

The Lonely Courage of Prime Minister Modi

ADVAITA KALA

 \mathbf{T} n the intricate web of global **⊥**leadership, few threads are as uniquely spun as that of Narendra Modi, the fourteenth Prime Minister of India. Modi's journey from the dusty tea stalls of Gujarat to the grand corridors of power in New Delhi is not just a tale of political ascension, but a testament to a kind of courage that is often overshadowed and dismissed in the world of politics the courage of treading a lonely path.

At the heart of Modi's leadership style is a distinctive blend of solitary decisionmaking and a deep connection with the masses. He is not a politician who views the people as the public, but as a community. And PM Modi is a community builder

excellence. He is a leader who,

despite being surrounded by advisors and supporters, often appears to walk a path of his own creation. His time in public life is not just about physical solitude; it's an ideological and emotional state, where one's convictions are so strong that they often stand in stark contrast to prevailing norms. And he often surprises us, not because what he does is unpopular, but because what he does has already been dismissed as unthinkable by those who came before him. Modi's courage is evident in his

bold policy decisions. The demonetisation initiative, while contentious at the time, highlighted his willingness to take drastic measures against corruption. Similarly, the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), although initially disruptive, has

been recognised for its long-

Another aspect of Modi's lonely term vision of a unified market. courage is seen in his diplomacy. international These decisions, taken amidst Navigating a world stage where allegiances shift like sand, Modi considerable uncertainty and opposition, exemplify a leader unafraid to walk alone if it has sought to position India as a global player, forging ties with both Western and Eastern means walking towards what he believes is right for his nation.

powers while maintaining a distinct stance on issues critical to India's interests. This delicate balancing act, pursued with a mix of diplomatic charm and assertiveness, underscores a leader willing to stand alone on the global stage to carve out a place for his country.

Chouhan

But perhaps the most poignant aspect of Modi's solitude is found in his personal narrative. His lifestyle, marked by simplicity and an almost ascetic discipline, sets him apart from many of his peers. This personal solitude, mirroring his political path, speaks to a leader whose life is inextricably linked to his mission, a mission he pursues with a singular focus that often requires walking a path less trodden.

journey. It's a reminder that in As Article 370 is assigned to the the theatre of politics, the most impactful roles are often played dustbin of history, PM Modi is already onto his next mission, by those who dare to walk alone.

with a zeal and relentlessness that is seen so rarely. The praise and criticism a mere footnote. In the end, the lonely courage of Narendra Modi is not just about the decisions he makes or the policies he implements. It's about the profound sense of responsibility he carries — a responsibility to a nation of over a billion, each with their own hopes and dreams. It's about the willingness misunderstood, to be solitary in one's conviction, and yet remain unwaveringly committed to the vision of a resurgent India. As the world watches India's trajectory under leadership, one cannot help but reflect on the blend of solitude

and strength that defines his

2 J&K Bills passed in Parliament | Mamata flays Centre for fund blockade

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Parliament on Monday passed two Bills related to Jammu and Kashmir as the Rajya Sabha cleared them with a voice vote, with Home Minister Amit Shah assuring the country that the beginning of a "new and developed Kashmir" that will be free from terrorism has been made under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The two bills Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill and JK Reservation (Amendment) Bill - seek to nominate two members from the Kashmiri migrant community and one representing the displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) to the legislative assembly, besides providing reservation to certain communities in Jammu and Kashmir. They were passed by Lok Sabha last

The Home Minister said the two bills related to Jammu and Kashmir brought by the government would give jus-tice to those deprived of their rights for the last 75 years and asserted that reservation to the displaced people would give them a voice in the legislature.

He also alleged that Jammu and Kashmir suffered due to the "mistakes" of first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and listed decisions like the "untimely" ceasefire and tak-



ing the Kashmir issue to the United Nations among them. The opposition led by the Congress, however, walked out of the House midway during the Home Minister's

Earlier the Opposition and treasury benches engaged in a heated verbal duel after a controversial remark by a DMK MP M Mohamed Abdulla during a discussion on Jammu and Kashmir bills, following which Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar expunged it and reminded the MPs of the responsibility that came with the freedom of speech. Abdulla stirred controversy by invoking Periyar's words, asserting the right to self-determination for every race. This led to a heated debate in the house, prompting the home minister to seek clarification from Congress members on their stance regarding

Abdullah's statement. As the opposition and treasury benches exchanged heated words, Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge said if the views of a member were not in consonance with the law of the land and business rules of the House, then the Chairman can expunge those remarks, but asserted that he won't accept it simply because "the treasury benchers shout and say it is unconstitutional". Leader of the House Piyush

Goyal asked Congress members if they agreed with what Abdulla said. Senior Congress leader K C Venugopal asked the Chairman to go through records and verify in what context Periyar had made the remarks, which was quoted by the DMK member.

Dhankar retorted, "Can we quote anything in this House? Can we go to the extent of it being seditious, challenging our integrity, going against our Constitution?'

Shah then intervened amid shouting from both sides and said it is for the chair to decide if the remarks by Abdulla are to be kept in the records or not. In response, Kharge said Abdulla had only quoted Periyar and whether supporting it or against it can be a matter of discussion but "it is very undemocratic to stop someone from speaking in the house".

While Congress MP Jairam Ramesh asserted that his party does not support the statement, DMK leader Tiruchi Siva accused the ruling members of creating hype and trying to give a different colour to "a very ordinary statement" made by Abdulla Disapproving of M Mohamed Abdulla's remarks, Dhankhar told the DMK member, who also described the abrogation of Article 370 as an attack on federalism, that the freedom of speech in the Upper House "is not unqualified" in reference to the Supreme Court judgement on the matter.

"Can we quote anything in this House? Can we go to the extent of it being seditious, challenging our integrity, going against our Constitution? Going against the judgement of the Supreme Court this day? That will not be acceptable," he said during the proceedings.

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

Continuing her diatribe against the Centre for depriving her State of its rightful dues, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday reminded the BJP Government of its constitutional duties to treat all the States alike when it came to releasing their rightful

Addressing a meeting at Banarhat in North Bengal Banerjee said that the Centre was not treating the BJP-ruled States and the States ruled by the Opposition parties equal-ly. New Delhi had released funds to Uttar Pradesh where three lakhs fake job cards were reported while "in the case of Bengal they have stopped payment of Rs 7,000 crore just on flimsy grounds," the Chief Minister said.

In what is being viewed as a two-pronged strategy of coaxing Prime Minister Narendra Modi into releasing the State's dues on the one hand and making non-release of the MNRE-GĂ and Prime Ministers Awaas funds, a strong electoral issue on the streets Banerjee on Monday reiterated that she had sought an appointment with the Prime Minister between 18 and 20 December when she would be in Delhi.

"We are not begging for funds ... but we are asking for what is rightfully ours ... I will be in Delhi on December 18, 19 and 20 ... I have already written a letter to the Prime Minister seeking his appointment ... I

will request him to release the funds because it belongs to the poor ... no government has the right to withhold the rightful dues of the labourers," Banerjee said, adding how the Centre was not clearing a total of Rs 1.15 lakh crore of the State. Bengal will never bow its head before anyone ... we will only demand and extract our rightful dues," Banerjee said reminding how "we had given our acquiescence to the introduction of GST laws considering the usefulness of the onenation-one-tax regime ... but they are now victimizing us by taking away taxes from the State but not releasing its rightful dues ... this is not their money ... it is our money, our people's money ... they have not been releasing the funds for Awaas schemes, rural roads and 100-days' works" in order to punish the people who had not voted the BJP to power in

Banerjee's speech came on a day when a central team surveying the progress of rural housing schemes was blockaded by the villagers in Bankura district.Speaking on the Chief Minister's seeking appointment

with the Prime Minister, the State CPI(M) leadership said that she was "running with the hare and hunting with the hound." CPI(M) Central Committee member Sujan Chakrabarty said that "she

should make the agenda of the meeting clear to the public ... one is not sure whether she is meeting the Prime Minister to save her nephew from arrest," in lieu of some seats in Bengal

Do not believe in commenting on affairs of other parties: TMC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Trinamool Congress leadership maintained a studied silence on the Dheeraj Sahu case but at the same time reminded the tri-colour party how it had failed to show the same "alliance dharma" while dealing with the arrested TMC leaders.

When asked to comment on the Income tax raids conducted at the premises of Congress' Odisha MP Dheeraj Sahu from whose premises more than Rs 354 crore were allegedly recovered TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said that his party did not believe in commenting on the affairs of the other parties. Another senior leader and Minister said that "before shooting a person for some alleged crime his crime should be properly investigated into ... in Bengal and in many other Opposition-ruled States we have been seeing how their leaders are being falsely framed by the ED and CBI," adding "before letting the MP to speak his side it will not be right to condemn him" The leader however reminded how the Congress had "not cared to honour the Alliance dharma ... and publicly humiliated the TMC leaders after they were wrongfully arrested by the ED

Earlier the Congress claimed that Sahu's treasures had no connection with the party. Congress Lok Sabha leader Adhir Chowdhury said that the cash dug out by the income tax department had "nothing to do with the Congress Party," adding "the Government should investigate and find out whose money is that." Speaking about "TMC's preach-

ing" Pradesh Congress leader Asutosh saidthat his party did not have to take lessons from the TMC aboutt alliance dharma. "We will fight our own case .. if our MP is guilty hewill face the consequences ... we want to

know how many BJP leaders wereprosecuted — like it happened during the Manmohan Singh Government — for the frauds they did.

Maharashtra Congress organises morcha over State farmers plights

T N RAGHUNATHA

The Maharashtra Congress 1 on Monday organised a noisy 'halla-bol' morcha in Nagpur to protest against the "blind, deaf and dumb" Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena- BJP-NCP (Ajit Pawar) alliance government over the plight of farmers, workers, jobless, women, inflation, crime and other issues. State Congress chief Nana

Patole — who led the halla-bol' morcha from Dikshabhoomi to the State Legislature in Nagpur where winter session is currently-- charged that while the Shinde-led three party government had no replies to the Opposition, deputy chief minister Devendra Fandavis who considers himself as a "Super CM" was falsely claimhad done a lot for the aggriev-

Questioning Fadnavis' claim of having reached out aid to the farmers, Patole said: "If the state government has really helped the farmers, then where has the help gone? The state is reeling under acute water scarcity. We are facing both dry drought and wet drought in the state. Unseasonal rains have wreaked havoc on farmlands. Under the circumstances, we demand a loan waiver for the distressed farmers".

Patole demanded that the Maharashtra government replicate the support price hike of Rs 3,100 and Rs 1000 bonus for paddy farmers in Chhattisgarh for farmers, and availability of a gas cylinder for Rs 450 announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the recent election cam-

paign.
"The BJP government at the Centre has been ruling the country for the past nearly 10 years by undermining the tenets of the Constitution... The Modi government makes er and the masses continue to suffer," Congress Legislature Party Leader Balasaheb Thorat

(Assembly) Vijay Wadettiwar etisation, GST, the lockdowns said: "The Shinde-Fadnavis- and other issues.

ing the lives of the farmers... The farmers will teach a lesson to the MahaYuti government. Today's 'halla-bol' morcha is aimed at preserving the Constitution of late B. R. Ambedkar," Wadettiwar said. Wadettiwar accused the Shinde-led three party gov-ernment of failing to fulfil its promise of creating 75,000 jobs in the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of Independence Till date, not even one person

has been recruited," he said. Former chief minister Ashok Chavan said that the Congress came to power in Telangana on the basis of 6 Guarantees. while it was voted to office in Karnataka through similar guarantees "Now it's the turn of Maharashtra to mitigate the grievances of the people on a war-footing basis," he said.

Prithviraj Chavan came down heavily on the Modi government for destroying the country's economy through its dis-Leader of Opposition astrous decisions like demon-

Deaths from cardiovascular disease surge globally

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

lobal death counts due to Global death counts and a Cardiovascular diseases (CVD) increased from 12.4 million in 1990 to 19.8 million in 2022 reflecting global population growth and ageing and the contributions from preventable metabolic, environmental, and behavioural risks, an alarming study has said as it called for an urgent action for a heart-healthy world.

The new Global Burden of Disease (GBD) special report published in the Journal of the American College Cardiology provides an update of health estimates for the global, regional and national from 1990-2022 by analysing

the impact of cardiovascular conditions and risk factors across 21 global regions. It said that millions of lives are lost prematurely to cardiovascular disease (CVD) heart disease

The report showed high blood pressure, high cholesterol, dietary risks and air pollution are the leading causes of high CVD cases. Asia, Europe, Africa and the Middle East reported the highest burden of CVD mortality.

"Cardiovascular diseases are a persistent challenge that lead to an enormous number of premature and preventable deaths," said Gregory A. Roth, Associate Professor in the Division of Cardiology at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington.

'There are many inexpensive, effective treatments. We know what risk factors we need to identify and treat. There are health people can make to improve their health.

This atlas provides detailed information on where countries stand in their efforts to prevent and treat cardiovascular diseases," he added.

Atishi expresses anguish over non functioning of street lights, dark spots

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

After PWD Minister Atishi expressed her anguish on the non-functioning of street lights and dark spots in the national capital, the Public Work Department (PWD) has showcaused to five engineers over non-functional of street lights in several parts of the national capital. The notices were served on Friday to four engineers in south Delhi and one in northwest Delhi division. Concerning the same, the Minister pulled up PWD officials issuing clear instructions. As per the report, Atishi instructed the PWD to submit

a report on the non-functioning of street lights every evening by 8 pm. Some of the non-functional lights are on stretches PWD has been given a deadline of Monday to make the remaining lights functional. She emphasized the necessity of the functioning of street lights. Since the Delhi Government is extremely sensitive towards women's safety issues, the Vigilance Minister stressed the need for expeditious work.

"Keeping the interest of public safety in mind, I further instructed the officials that Street lights play an instrumental role in avoiding probable accidents during winters due to high precipitation fog and smog, so prompt action is necessary." Atishi shared.According to the notice issued to one of the executives, it was found during a review directed by the PWD minister on December 7 that only 7,612 street lights are functional out of the total 7,742 under his juris-

PM and Amit Shah... brought new meaning to life

The verdict is not just a legal judgment, it is a beacon of hope, a promise for a brighter future and a testament to the collective resolve to build a stronger, more united India, the Prime Minister said on the microblogging platform, using "NayaJammuKashmir".

Shah, who moved the legislation in Parliament to abrogate Article 370 and turned the erstwhile State into two Union Territories -Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh said Prime Minister Modi took a visionary decision five years ago that brought peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir.

"I welcome the Supreme Court of India's verdict upholding the decision to abolish Article 370. On August 5, 2019, Modi took a visionary decision to abrogate Article 370. Since then peace to J&K," he said. Shah said growth and development have the Minister said.

in the Valley, which was once torn apart by violence. Shah said prosperity in the tourism and agriculture

sectors has raised the income levels of the residents of both Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. "Today, the Supreme Court's verdict has proved that the decision to abrogate Article 370 was completely constitutional," he wrote on 'X' with the hashtag #NayaJammuKashmir.

Shah said after the abrogation of Article 370, the rights of the poor and deprived have been restored, and separatism and stone pelting are now things of the past. The entire region now echoes with melodious music and cultural tourism and the bonds of unity have strengthened, he said, adding Jammu and Kashmir's integrity with 'Bharat' stands reinforced.

"It is once again the Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh that

People jubiliant...

PDP chief and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti urged people not to lose hope, even as her party suspended all its political activities for a week.

According to a statement issued by the PDP spokesman, the decision has been taken to stand in solidarity with the people of Jammu & Kashmir in the wake of the Supreme Court of India's judgment of the issue of Article 370.

"The party president Mehbooba was scheduled to address various workers' conventions as part of her ongoing public outreach programme and many such conventions were scheduled over the next few days. Many other political activities were also scheduled by the party. But to stand in solidarity with our people at this crucial juncture in the wake of the Supreme Court's verdict on the issue of Article 370, We have decided to cancel all our political activities for the next one week," the party chief spokesperson Syed Suhail Bukhari said in a statement.

Sharad joins onion farmers protest in Nashik TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI cation of the ban on the exports north Maharashtra which is export of the produce. This has of onion and highlighting other one of the onion-growing hubs, led to anger among the farm-

Veteran NCP leader Sharad Pawar on Monday joined the onion growers in their massive protest organised in Nashik demanding the revo-

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that Mr. Rav Sharma is the GPA Holder of Property Bearing No. G-82/B-3,(Adjoining Plot no. G-83), Area measur-ing 107 Sq. Yds., Out of Mustatil no. 8, Killa no. 4 ing 107 Sq. 7ds., Util of Musistali no. 8, Rilla no.5 Situated in the Revenue Estate of Village Matial Dolhi State Dolhi in the Abadi Known as Kira Garden Extension, Jain Park, On Najafgarh Road Uttam Nagar, New Delhi -110059. He acquired the above property through Notarized GPA date 10.06.2014 and ATS & Will dated 10.07.2014 exceed by the Paps Nillage Custo.

cuted by Mr. Ram Niwas Gupta.

Mr. Ravi Sharma is now selling the Upper Groun
Floor Without Roof Flights of the above said prop
erty to Mr. Santosh Kumar Chuabe & Ms. Poonan
and further Mr. Santosh Kumar Chuabe & Ms. Po Poonam are currently in the process of mortgaging the aforementioned floor with SMFG Indi-Home Finance Co., Our Client. Any objections of ncerns regarding this transaction should be ised within a period of 07 days from the date of his public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 07-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said prop erty or the interests of our client.

anyone wishes to raise an objection, please of so within the stipulated 07-day period by contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh 201301; Landline(s):+910120-3101683

peasant issues, even as the Opposition Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) staged a vociferous protest in Nagpur to demand that the onion growers be allowed to export their produce.

In what came as a big boost for the agitating onion growers, 84vear-old Pawar drove down to Chandwad in Nashik district in

To be known to all, SANDEEP SINHA S/o LATI SH.S.K.SINHA R/o FLAT NO.67-D,THIRD FLOC R,POCKET-A,SUKHDEV WHAR,NEW DELHI-11 0025.Mutatee/Owner of DDA SFS Flat NO.67 D,Third Floor,Alongwith Scooter Garge, Po ket-A,CAT-II,Sukhdev Vihar,NEW DELHI-110 125. have an Dida Tire triffed copies in DDA.Th

ket-A,CAT-II, Sukhdev Vihar,NEW DELHI-11 IZ Janue applied for certified copies in DDAT 12 original documents i.e. Allocation Lette Demand-cum-allotment Letter,Poss-ssion Letter,NOC For Water And Electricity Conneion, Site Possession Slip & Other Documents of the above said flat has been lost. An F.I.R NCR/IR NO.1213892/2023 dated 08/12/202 to this effect has been lodged in P.S.Crim Branch, Delhi. Any person(s) claiming any righ interest, having any objection or found in possion of original documents, may write contact with above named person at abov Address/PhoneNo.9871595415 with in 15dat from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objectic with respect to this property, can personal inform or write to:Deputy Director(LAB-Housin Inform or write to:Dep

and threw his weight behind the farmers who have for some time been demanding the revocation of the ban on onion exports. Hitting out at the Modi gov-

ernment for its "anti-farmer" policies, the NCP president said: "The onion prices have crashed across the country following the Centre's ban on the But, we have do it because till

ing community. Owing to the Centre's anti-farmer polices, the tillers are not getting remunerative prices for their produce"

Pawar said that the farmers had been forced to take to streets to register their anger. "We have no interest whatsoever in undertaking such agitations.

MP gets a new

we hit the streets, the government will not take note of your problems'

Recalling that when he was the Agriculture Minister (May 2004-May 2014) he had clearly assured the farmers that the prices of onion would not be allowed to fall, Pawar said that the Modi government had precisely done that, as a result the onion prices were crashing in the markets.

BJP...

leader. Yadav is the first leader

to become Chief Minister

from the temple town of

MODI'S HISTORIC...

"Any interpretation of Article

In his separate verdict, Justice Parliament's

"A combination of factors, such as Article 370's historical context, its text, and its subsequent practice, indicate that Article 370 was intended to be a temporary provision," he said in his 121-page concurring judgement.

state," he said. Justice Kaul said the provision was placed

erstwhile princely States were to be reflected in the Constitution of India itself. "However, insofar as Jammu and Kashmir State was concerned, Article 370 was a

procedure special contemplated due to the 'special conditions' in the State and hope was expressed that in times to come, Jammu & Kashmir will become ripe for the same sort of integration as had taken place in the other States," Justice Kaul said.

"Thus, the intent was clear: of complete integration but taking place over a period of time. Article 370 was envisaged as an interim system till the State's Constituent Assembly came into being and for a limited period, on account of the special circumstances of the

'Temporary and Transitional Provisions' at the time. The marginal note to the provision Temporary Provisions with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir', he noted. In his separate verdict, Justice Khanna said the judgment penned by the CJI was

scholarly and it elaborately

annotates the complex legal

He said the judgment

issues.

authored by Justice Kaul pragmatically demystifies the factual and legal position. "Both judgments are in seriatim and uniformly agree that Article 370 of the Constitution of India was a feature of asymmetric federalism and sovereignty. Article 370 was enacted as a transitional provision and did not have permanent character," Justice

दिनांक: 11.12.2023 सूचना 266/2023 STDC 319152 1

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📆 म.प्र. राज्य पर्यटन विकास निगम मर्यादित

पर्यटन भवन, भदभदा रोड, भोपाल- 462003

मध्यप्रदेश राज्य पर्यटन विकास निगम भोपाल द्वारा जगदीशपुर जिला भोपाल स्थित हेरिटेज मॉन्युमेंट हेतु पर्यटन के आकर्षण की बहुआयामी योजनायें तैयार

करने के संबंध में अभिरुचि की अभिव्यक्ति (EOI) जारी की गयी है। वेबसाइट पर अभिरुचि की अभिव्यक्ति के प्रपत्र (टेण्डर डॉक्य्मेंट) वेबसाइट के माध्यम से देखे जा सकते हैं। अभिरुचि की अभिव्यक्ति के प्रपत्र ऑनलाइन जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 01.01.2024 समय सायं 05:00 बजे तक निर्धारित है। कार्य का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट https://mptenders.gov.in पर देखा जा

म.प्र. माध्यम/112738/2023

Chouhan proposed the name of Yadav, for the top post at a meeting of the newly-elected

in Bhopal in the presence of party's central observers. During the meeting, BJP observers, including Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, BJP OBC Morcha president K Laxman and national secretary Asha Lakra discussed the names with the

victorious MLA-elects.

legislators held in the evening

Former Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, who was fielded from Madhya Pradesh in the recently held State legislative Assembly elections, will be the new Speaker. According to the BJP, outgoing Finance Minister and two time MLA Jagdish Devda from Mandsaur and outgoing Public Relation Minister MLA Rajendra Shukla from Rewa have been elected as Deputy Chief

Ministers. Devda was elected

from Malhagarh by nearly 60,000 votes and Shukla from Rewa by around 21,000 votes. The appointments end suspense over the identity of two of three Chief Ministers for the States the BJP won on December 3 as tribal leader and former Union Minister Vishnu Deo Sai was named Chhattisgarh Chief Minister on Sunday. "I am a small worker of the

party. I thank all of you, the State leadership and the central leadership. With your love and support, I will try to fulfil my responsibilities." Yadav said after being named as the Chief Minister-elect. . Yadav, who was not seen as among contenders for the CM post, is considered to be close to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and is a three-

time MLA and a prominent

leader of OBCs, who account

for more than 48 per cent of

the State's population. Yadav

is seen as a vocal Hindutva

Ujjain where Prime Minister Narendra Modi had dedicated newly-constructed Mahakal Lok corridor last year. His appointment as the Chief Minister-elect comes 10 days after the saffron party swept the Madhya Pradesh Assembly election by winning 163 of 230 seats, successfully beating anti-incumbency. Now, of the five States that voted in November, only Raiasthan is without a Chief Minister; the Congress, which won Telangana, has installed Revanth Reddy in the top post and, in Mizoram, the fledgling Zoram People's Movement claimed an impressive win and Lalduhoma is Chief Minister. The BJP will now pick the new Chief Minister for Rajasthan after meeting with newly elected MLAs on

370 cannot postulate that the integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India was temporary," he said.

Sanjay Kishan Kaul said Article 370 contemplated the mechanism for extending the law-making power and the various provisions of the Constitution of India to the State, which showed that Article 370 was meant to gradually bring the state on par with other states in this process of phased integration.

noted that

Instruments of Accession

JNU bans protests within 100 metres of academic buildings

Students may face expulsion for flouting restrictions: Varsity manual

The Jawaharlal Nehru University's (JNU) new manual has mentioned that putting up wall posters and staging dharnas within 100 metres of the academic buildings can lead to a fine of up to Rs 20,000 or expulsion from the institution while any "antinational" act will attract a Rs 10,000 fine

The manual also names the academic buildings of different schools house offices of chairpersons, deans, and other important office-bearers, apart from classrooms and labs. Earlier, protests within 100 metres of the administrative blocks, which house the offices of the Vice-Chancellor, registrar, and proctors, among others, was prohibited as per a High Court order.

However, according to the revised Chief Proctor Office (CPO) manual, the university has now barred protests within 100 metres of academic buildings as well where classes are conducted.

This development comes after the JNU in October witnessed an incident where an "antinational" slogan was scribbled on the School of Languages building wall and the admin-



a committee to look into the repeated nature of such incidents on the campus.

The JNU Students' Union (JNUSU) has opposed the new rules saying that it is an attempt to stifle dissent on campus and demanded its withdrawal. "The stringent measures out-

lined in the manual are aimed at stifling the vibrant campus culture that has defined JNU for decades.

The JNUSU demands that the university administration immediately revoke the new manual of the office of the

students' union said. Under the new rules, approved by the Executive Council in a meeting on November 24, the Vice-Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit or the competent authority will have the power to deem an act punish-

able if they find it in violation

the university. They also have the power to waive, change or uphold the punishment if deemed fit.

The university has prohibited printing, circulating or pasting posters or pamphlets carrying any kind of derogatory religious, communal, casteist or anti-national remarks.

Any act to incite intolerance towards a religion, caste, or community or an activity which is deemed "anti-national" will be imposed with a fine of Rs 10,000. If a student is found involved in a hunger strike, dharna, 'group bargaining' and any other form of protest within 100-metre radius of any academic and administrative complex or is found blocking entrance or exit of any of these complexes, he or she will be either imposed a fine of Rs 20,000, evicted from hostel ed and declared out of bounds for up to two months, the CPO manual said.

All forms of coercion such as gheraos, sit-ins or any variation of the same which disrupt the normal academic and administrative functioning of the university or any act inciting violence will be punished as well, it added. A student who has received five or more punishments during the duration of their study shall be expelled from the university, the manual noted.

In case a student is found guilty of being involved in any of the prohibited activities and is given a punishment, he or she will not be allowed to register for the semester and they would not be given a 'no-dues' certificate until the imposed fine is cleared.

The administration will also

to the parents or guardian of the student besides uploading it on the official website. If a student fails to appear before the proctorial enquiry, the committee will assume that the complaint was filed with a malafide intention and the student may be asked to perform community service in JNU.

Any false allegation against any student by the complainant can also lead to rustication from the university Furthermore, the university now will not allow cross-examination between defendant and complainant or the witness, which use to be an important rule of the proctorial enquiry

The Vice-Chancellor's decision will be the final call, in case any dispute arises with regard to the interpretation of any of

Miscommunication forced shooters to change escape plan, led to their arrest

"miscommunication" Abetween the alleged shooters of Karni Sena chief Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi and their handlers over the escape plan from Rajasthan's Jaipur after the killing led to their arrest. According to police, shooters Rohit Rathore and Nitin Fauji were supposed to get out of Jaipur immediately by boarding a truck after killing Gogamedi on December 5. However, they could not

because of a "miscommunication" between them and their handlers over the vehicle's location, forcing the accused to come up with an alternative escape plan that involved using several vehicles and hiding at different locations, the officials

Rathore and Nitin Fauji were arrested in a joint operation of the Delhi Police Crime Branch and the Rajasthan Police from a hotel in Chandigarh, five days after the incident. Delhi police official aware of

the developments in the investigation, said that according to Karni Sena chief murder case



a plan, "the duo were supposed board a truck arranged by their handlers soon after killing

The truck would have taken Rathore and Nitin Fauji to "somewhere out of Jaipur but they could not find the vehicle", the official said and added that when they again contacted their handlers, they were told that they were at a location far away from the truck.

The official said Rathore and Nitin Fauji, then, stole a scooty to move and hid in a farm near the Jaipur-Ajmer bypass for at least an hour, waiting for a mes-

deterrent to encourage com-

muters to use this FoB con-

nection even after provision of

The officer noted that a simi-

lar problem has been encoun-

tered between the Dhaula Kuan

station of Airport Express Line

and the Durga Bai Deshmukh station of Pink Line of Delhi

Metro. Later on FoB connec-

tivity was provided with travel-

lator, however it is not a long

"The connectivity solution has

to be found at this stage and if

an extension is pursued as per

DPR, the seamless connectiv-

ity issue of Aqua Line and Blue

Line will remain unresolved

forever with no scope of further

correction. It would be prudent

to take up extension of Aqua

Line without aforementioned

constraint as it will have long

term adverse effect on footfall,

the NMRC MD said in a state-

"Accordingly, a permanent

solution has been worked out

for seamless connectivity of

Aqua Line and Blue Line by

slight change in alignment of

extension of Aqua Line going up to Knowledge Park-V.

Action has already been initi-

ated to carry out these changes

in DPR. Revised DPR will be

processed soon for approvals,"

The senior IAS officer said

are being done in the planning

of the project with the sole aim

of providing comfort due to

ease of interchange to the com-

muters of Delhi, Noida, Greater

Noida as well as Greater Noida

ment.

ie added.

term permanent solution.

travellators," he noted.

sage from their handlers. They were in contact with their handlers on the Signal app, the official said on the condition of

'While at the field, they met with farmers, whom they told that they were students and had lost their way," the official said. When they did not get any reply from their handlers, they made their own plan and hired a taxi for Didwana and further took a bus, a train and another taxi to move to Hisar, then Manali and finally reach Chandigarh, the official added. The officials said the attackers

were in contact with Virender Charan, who provided them arms through couriers on the direction of Rohit Godara, a close associate of the Lawrence-Goldy Brar criminal gang. Charan and Godara, both are suspected to be hiding in European countries, sources

Godara, was the one who claimed responsibility for Rashtriya Rajput Karni Sena chief Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi's killing in a Facebook post, saying the Karni Sena chief was backing his enemies The officials said Rathore and

Nitin Fauji were promised passports and visas within 20 days of the incident to flee the country, but till then they had to remain in hiding. Godara, a former LLB student

who was earlier arrested in a case of rape in Rajasthan, believed that he went to jail because of Gogamedi. Nitin Fauji, who quit the Indian

officials said.

Army after he was named in a kidnapping case in Haryana, wanted to settle abroad, the

Temperature recorded at 6.5 degrees Celsius: IMD

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday said Delhi has recorded the season's coldest morning on Monday with the minimum temperature settling three notches below normal at 6.5 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperature recorded at the observatory at Lodhi Road was 6.3 degrees Celsius, two notches below normal, it said. The national Capital has been seeing below-than-normal temperatures for the last couple of The air quality was recorded in the 'very poor' cat-

The maximum temperature was recorded at 24.8 degrees Celsius, normal for this time of the year. The national capital has been witnessing below-



City records coldest morning of season

Saturday, the city recorded a low of 8.5 degrees Celsius. On Sunday, the minimum temperature was recorded at 8.3 degrees Celsius. The forecast for the period

between December 12 and 17 indicates that the minimum temperature will oscillate between 6 and 8 degrees At 4 pm, Delhi's 24-hour aver-

age Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 317. Meanwhile the Commission of Air Quality Management (CAQM) claimed that Delhi has registered its lowest daily average AQI in 2023 for the first 10 days of

398 on Monday as per the 4PM AQI Bulletin by CPCB. The GRAP Sub-Committee met and took stock of the current air quality scenario and forecast of meteorological conditions as well as the projected air quality index by IMD/IITM," said a Met depart-The weather office has forecast ment official. Delhi has not reported a single day of 'Severe' air quality during this period of 2023 as compared to the corresponding period in last 5 years. For the first 10-days

AQI in 2023 as compared to the corresponding period in last 5

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', 401 and 450 'severe' and above 450 'severeplus'. On Monday, the humidity levels oscillated between 40 per cent and 100 per cent.

clear skies for Tuesday with shallow fog in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to settle around 24 and 6 degrees Celsius, respectively. The air quality is likely to remain 'very

Extension of services impeded by lack of seamless connectivity with Blue Line, says NMRC



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

he Noida Metro Rail The Norma Michael Corporation (NMRC) Monday said the extension of services between Noida and Greater Noida West has been impeded by the lack of "seamless connectivity" between the NMRC's Aqua Line and Delhi Metro's Blue Line.

Currently an interchange between the Blue Line and the Aqua Line is at Noida's sector 51 and 52 metro stations. However, commuters face hassle as they need to travel a distance of 430 metre and undergo ticketing and security process once again for switch-

An extension of the Aqua Line is proposed from Noida Sector 51 to Knowledge Park-V in Greater Noida West, also known as Noida Extension. Local residents have been protesting with demand for metro service for years and seamless connectivity with the Blue Line in Noida.

NMRC Managing Director Lokesh M said in the current detailed project report (DPR) of extension of Noida- Greater Noida metro service, "there is constraint of seamless connectivity" between Sector-51 station of Aqua Line and Sector-52 station of Blue Line of Delhi Metro.

"Although Foot Over Bridge connection (FoB) has been planned to connect sector-51 and sector-52 station, it is not going to resolve commuters' problem permanently owing to the 430 metre distance between the two stations. Travelling a distance of 430 metre between Set up special cells on campuses to work on Viksit Bharat @2047: LG

of academic institutions in the national Capital set up special cells on campuses to work on the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047. More than 500 academics and students listened to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's virtual address on the vision for Viksit Bharat @2047 at an event hosted by Raj

Launching "Viksit Bharat @2047: Voice of Youth" -- an initiative that aims to provide a platform to youngsters for contributing ideas to the vision of a developed India by 2047 -- the prime minister said India's

youth power is both the "agent of change" and the "beneficia-

Delhi Lieutenant Governor ry of change".

Vinai Kumar Saxena on Saxena on Monday urged unistudents for nation building and suggested that the heads of institutions set up special cells on their campuses to engage the students and monitor the progress, the Raj Niwas said in a statement. Vice-chancellors of central and state universities, along with directors of institutions in Delhi, participated in the programme.

After the prime minister's speech, a panel discussion and question-answer session were held with the vice-chancellors and the faculty members discussing the theme of "Empowered Indians". The



ideas expressed at the event will be taken up by the students. The event was streamed live to the campuses of all the institutions represented at Raj Niwas, the statement said.

A brainstorming session was also held in which the academics presented their ideas on the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047. Saxena said that, as outlined by the prime minister will have to work towards making India the most powerful maian is nappy, coi healthy and empowered.

period of December, Delhi reg-

isters its lowest daily average

He said academia has a responsibility in the shaping of a new India and underlined its role in engaging with the youngsters and preparing them for the path ahead, it noted. It is important for the youngsters to join this movement and share their dream and vision on Viksit Bharat @2047, he said. The LG added that in the country of 140 crore people with 28 States and 08 Union Territories, subscribing to 08 different religions, speaking 122 languages and 1600 dialects, different culture and

in his address, all those present food habits, there was one identity that bound them all. This identity, the LG undereconomy in the world where lined was that of being an

> The dream of Viksit Bharat cannot be realised until all the people have employment and every deprived individual on the margins gets justice, Saxena

> The LG requested the faculty and teachers to motivate all students of Colleges and Universities to be associated with the Maha Kumbh of nation building. He advised the Heads of the Institutions to establish special cells in their campuses, that could engage with students and monitor the progress of endeavours being undertaken.

Report on menstrual hygiene management in India released

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A comprehensive report on menstrual hygiene management in India was released by NGO Sulabh International on Monday found that girls are "fearful" of using school toilets during menstruation owing to lack of water, soap, sanitation and missing doors. According to the report, the fear in school girls provokes absenteeism from schools during their menstrual cycle.

"Our data indicates that girls are fearful of using school toilets during menstruation owing to lack of water, soap, sanitation, missing doors and taps, and even missing dustbins," the report by Sulabh International said. "This provokes absenteeism

from schools during periods, slight changes in alignment which implies that for up to 60 days in a school year a menstruating girl is either unable to attend classes or goes halfheartedly, feeling ill-at-ease," it "It emerges from our findings that distance from

home to school is not as big a deterrent for girls to miss school, as is lack of menstrual hygiene management facilities," it added.

The report further stated that it is a "forced choice" for the school girls to stay at home during their menstrual cycle. "If school girls do not get regular menstrual hygiene material such as pads, they find it safer to stay at home. It is a forced choice when young girls choose security, privacy and safety of their home to manage

their periods over the dismal

absence of sanitation and men-

strual hygiene management

facilities in schools," the report

According to the NGO, the study was conducted in 14 districts across 7 states of India including Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Odisha, and

Tamil Nadu. The research involved a sample size of 4,839 women and girls in 22 blocks and 84 villages covering diverse ethnicities in the country's remote

The report suggested that community toilets as well as toilets in workplaces with washing areas, bathing cubicles, and running water must be pro-

Infrastructure of city run schools no less than top private institutions: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday inaugurated the auditorium of a government school in the Civil Lines area and asserted that the infrastructure of state-run schools is no less than any top private institution.

Addressing the event, Kejriwal said many prominent people studied in government schools during the 15-20-year period India gained Independence since there were few private schools.

Kejriwal reiterated that education is the focus of the AAP dispensation and said the infrastructure of government schools in Delhi underwent a transformation in the last eight

The infrastructure of government schools is no less than that of top private schools. The children have also grown in confidence and one can see that they are more confident than their counterparts in private schools," he said.

"Money is needed if quality education is desired and many

people don't have that. In the past eight years, we have changed this belief," he said. The chief minister said the dropout rate from government schools was quite high earlier since studies did not happen but that issue has been

addressed. "Before entering politics, when I worked with NGOs, I often witnessed that children in government schools were not receiving education properly and their parents would pull them out of school after a year or two and engage them in work. Now, there are nearly 18 lakh students studying in government schools," he said. Kejriwal further said there has

eight years.

been a significant change in the education sector in the past

compared to those in private schools. Children in government schools must communicate confidently and this is the most important aspect," he Addressing the gathering at the inauguration event, Education

"When I interact with children

and their parents, I find that

government schoolchildren

have more self-confidence

Minister Atishi said, "When we go for the inauguration of any school building, we think that our schools have surpassed private institutions. After the inauguration of this auditorium, I think this has now surpassed big multiplexes too." She further stated that no private school in Delhi has better facilities than the ASoSE in Raj

India to take quantum jump during current period: Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi exuded confidence on Monday that India will take a quantum jump during the current period and said the young generation has to be prepared in such a way that it provides leadership to the country and prioritises national interest over everything else.

Launching "Viksit Bharat @2047: Voice of Youth", an initiative that aims to provide

youngsters for contributing ideas to the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, the prime minister said India's youth power is both the "agent of change" and the "beneficiary of

"In the life of any nation, history provides a time period when it can make exponential strides in its development journey. For India, the Amrit Kaal is ongoing and this is the period in the country's history when it is going to take a quantum leap. For India, this

adding that each and every moment of this "Amrit Kaal" should be utilised.

Modi also addressed vicechancellors of universities, heads of institutes and faculty members at workshops organised at Raj Bhawans across the country.

"The exam date has been declared for us as the citizens of the country. We have 25 vears of Amrit Kaal in front of us. We have to work 24 hours a day. We have to prepare the young generation in such a



leadership and prioritises national interest over everything else," he said.

Noting that the country's rapidly-increasing population is empowered by youngsters, the prime minister informed that India is going to be the leader in terms of the working-age population for the coming 25-30 years and the world recognises this.

Modi stressed moulding the voice of the youngsters into the policy strategy for building a developed India and

cational institutions that maintain maximum contact with them.

The prime minister added that teachers and universities should ponder about finding ways to make India a developed country at a faster pace and also, identify specific sectors for improvement.

Viksit Bharat@2047 is the vision to make India a developed country by 2047, the 100th year of its independence. The vision encompasses various aspects of

nomic growth, social progress, environmental sustainability and good gover-

The prime minister suggested running special campaigns in every college and university in the country to connect more and more youngsters with the campaign. He mentioned the launch of the "Ideas" portal related to Viksit Bharat and informed that suggestions on the portal can be given on five different

'New law needed to give power to CBI to probe cases without States consent'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

sserting that withdrawal of A'general consent' by some States has led to severe limitations in the CBI's powers to investigate crucial cases, a Parliamentary panel on Monday said there was a dire need to enact a new law and give wider powers to the federal agency so that it can probe cases without a "State's consent and interference".

At the same time, the panel said that some safeguards should also be laid down to ensure objectivity and impartiality in the functioning of CBI so that the states also don't feel discriminated against. As per the provisions of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, which governs the functioning of the CBI, the consent of the state government is a pre-requisite for any investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Nine states have withdrawn the general consent to the CBI for investigating cases, according to a report tabled by the panel in Parliament on Monday. State governments have granted general consent to the CBI for investigation in a "specified class of offences against specified categories of persons", CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

according to the provision of 1946, there is a dire need to Section 6 of the DSPE Act. enact a new law and define the For investigation of any matter status and functions and give wider powers to CBI to invesin such state, which is not covered in the aforesaid consent, tigate such crucial cases withspecific consent of the state out the need for a state's congovernment is required for the sent and interference, the panel CBI to investigate in the state and the agency seeks such The panel's report comes in the consent on a case-by-case basis. back of non-NDA govern-"With reference to this only the ments in some states with-Committee reiterates that as on drawing general consent to date, nine states have withdrawn the general consent they Centre of misusing agencies to had given to the CBI for investarget political rivals. "At the tigating cases. This has led to same time, in the same Act, severe limitations on the powsome safeguards should also be

corruption and organised crimes in states," it said. Hence, as recommended earlier, apart from the DSPE Act,

ers of CBI to investigate crucial

cases impartially and objec-

tively which will give rise to

threat to the nation's security and integrity and any delay in investigation of such cases by the CBI may lead to a general dissatisfaction among the citizens of the country, said the 135th report of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel Public Grievances, Law and Justice. The CBI has recently proposed

while accusing the

laid down to ensure objectivi-

ty and impartiality in the func-

tioning of CBI so that the

states also don't feel discrimi-

nated and absolutely power-

'State's consent clause' should

less," the panel said.

suitable amendments in recruitment rules for its various posts including that of inspector, it said.

that are considered to be a

Accordingly, the federal agency has proposed that 60 per cent of posts of inspectors are to be filled by "promotion" and 40 cent

"deputation/absorption" basis, the report said. The existing mode of recruitment follows the "50:50" formula for filling up these posts. "The aforesaid proposal is already under consideration. However, the position will be reviewed in case the proposed amendment does not meet out the functional requirement," the report said. The panel was informed that as many as 308 posts (including that of a joint director, deputy inspector general, superintendent of police, etc.) in the CBI were filled last year alone.

Nadda leads BJP stir after ₹350 crore cash haul from premises linked to Congress MP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ **NEW DELHI**

day after Home Minister Aday after frome symmetry Congress and raised concerns about Opposition parties' muted response on over Rs 350 crores recovery from Congress MP Dhiraj Sahu, BJP Parliamentarians led by party chief J P Nadda on Monday held a protest in the Parliament Complex. Earlier Prime Minister Narendra Modi too had questioned the ulterior motive of the Congress and Opposition on recovery of the huge amount.

Holding placards, BJP MPs alleged the cash seized by the income tax department during raids on a distillery company linked to Congress Rajya Sabha MP from Jharkhand proved that the opposition party was

"neck-deep" in corruption. However Opposition parties including Congress, Shiv Sena (Uddhav) came out in defence of Sahu saying the person against whom corruption charges are made get cleaned when the pass through 'Modi washing machine. Congress in seeking clarification from the MP in question of IT raids said that the matter is related to Sahu's business of more than four decades and whether the finance recovered are illegal



will be known after investiga-tions. Party MP Manickam Tagore said the matter is not that of party but an individual case and should be looked through that prism.

BJP members in Lok Sabha also raked up the issue of cash seizure in the House on Monday. Sanjay Seth, the BJP member from Ranchi, raised the issue during the Zero Hour, seeking a reply from the Congress. "I am very surprised. After independence, such a large amount of cash has been seized from an MP's house. Crores of rupees have been recovered but the whole INDI alliance is silent on this corruption. I understand Congress is silent as corruption is in their nature but JDÛ, RJD, DMK, and SP all are sitting silently.

Now I understand why a campaign was run against PM Modi that agencies are being misused. It was run because there was a fear in their mind that all the secrets of their corruption would be revealed," the Home Minister had stated prompting the party members to take the protest ahead.

'This is just the tip of the iceberg... Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi will have to answer whose money it is and how it was looted," Nadda said after Rs 351 crore were seized by income tax sleuths during searches against Boudh Distillery Private Limited, owned by the family of Congres MP Dhiraj Prasad Sahu. Holding placards near

Mahatma Gandhi's statue, the protesting MPs also demandseizure is the "highest-ever" haul in a single action by any probe agency in the country, official sources had said on

Sunday. Several other BJP MPs sitting next to him displayed newspapers with reports of the recovery of cash to drive home their point. Rajendra Agrawal, who was chairing the proceedings, urged members not to name the Raiva Sabha member and asked them to put down the newspapers.

Opposition INDIA bloc Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said if a leader of the INDIA alliance is found with Rs 200 crore, then the black money with the BJP would be Rs one lakh crore, "The BJP is shouting from the rooftops about the Dhiraj Sahu case but are not commenting on the Rs 400 crore issue regarding Praful Patel (of the Ajit Pawar faction of NCP). I will write to Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on this," Raut told the

Another party MP Priyanka Chaturvedi asserted that the opposition should not be blamed for Congress MP Dhiraj Sahu's business interests. "BJP always finds a chance to accuse; it is wrong to say that they (opposition party) are standing with him.

Rang De Korea showcasing Korean culture organised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $R_{ ext{val}}^{ ext{ang De Korea, the festi-}}$ Korea Cultural Centre India (KCCI) here recently showtural aspects, ranging from leading Korean brands such as LG, Hyundai, Kia, Orion, Atomy, Innisfree, Sulwhasoo, and Laneige to K-PoP and Kfashion was a huge delight for the South Korean culture fans

across age and gender in India. The fest was held to mark conclusion of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Korea and India this year>

Saurabh Kumar, Secretary External Affairs, highlighted the support provided by the Republic of Korea to infrastructure projects in India, and the steady growth in cooperation areas, including defense. The festival marked



the conclusion of the 50thanniversary celebrations of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Korea Ambassador Chang Jae-bok outlined three key goals set by the embassy earincreasing high-level interactions, fortifying economic relations, and fostering people-to-people contacts. Over 500 Korean companies

are currently investing in India, and bilateral trade

reached a record high of almost 28 billion US dollars last year.

Hwang Il Yong, Director of the KCCI, expressed satisfaction with the success and interest generated by the ing that it is thriving in India. The festival featured various traditional Korean perforincluding mances, Namsadangnori, Pansori, tightrope walking, Pungmul,

Beona, and modern fusion

Embassy, Korean Cultural Centre India, and Korean Foundation for International Exchange. Ends

performances like Gwangtal. Additionally, X:IN, a K-Pop

multinational girl group that

included the first Indian

member in K-pop history,

was a highlight of the evening.

The event was hosted by the

and Tourism of Korea and

organized by the Korean

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be a below the property and any dealings with the property will be a below the property and any dealings with the property will be a below the property and any dealings with the property.

Sr. No.		Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch	
	Neha Sharma/ Pushpa/ LBGHZ00005767914	Flat No-1206, 12th Floor,tower A, Nagar Nigam Sky Tower, Awas Vikas Colony, Sasni Gate, Aligarh/ December 07, 2023	February 25, 2023 Rs. 37,86,318/-	Delhi & NCR/ Aligarh	
	Ranjit Kumar/ Sakshi Sisodia/ LBDEL00002847048	G-24, Livin'life Service Suites, Commercial Plot No. 01, Sector 05, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad/ December 07, 2023	August 31, 2017 Rs. 32,62,420/-	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

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

A housing loan facility was granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between ICICI Bank Limited ("Secured Creditor, which term shall include its successors and assigns) and the borrower & co-borrower, mentioned below ("Borrower(s)", which term shall include his/ its/ their respective [successors, assigns, heirs]. The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Secured Creditor ("Authorized Officer") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, ('Rules") has issued demand notices under Section 13(2) of the Act calling upon the borrowers / co borrowers mentioned below to repay the amount payable pursuant to the loan agreement

The borrowers / co-borrower, having failed and neglected to repay the amount as claimed in the said demand notices, a notice is hereby given to the borrowers / co-borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Rules. The details including date of symbolic possession of the properties are as mentioned below

and as specifically mentioned in the said respective demand notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of

Sr. Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number		Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	
1.		Flat No 812/G-3, HIG, Ground Floor, Shubham Apartment-IV, Situated at Plot No. 812, Shalimar Garden Ext -I, Village Pasonda, Pargana Loni Uttar Pradesh Ghaziabad- 201010 / Dec 07, 2023	July 19, 2023 Rs. 8,28,878/-	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.

Date : December 12, 2023 Place: Delhi/NCR

Authorized Officer

'Corridor based road safety practices can save 40,000 lives each year'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Scaling successful corridor-based road safety practices can save as many as 40,000 lives each year. This was revealed in a study released by Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, on Monday. The report highlights good practices, such as the National

Highway 48 (Old Mumbai-Pune Highway) Zero Fatality Corridor (ZFC) project, that registered a remarkable 61% decrease in fatalities between 2018 and 2021. Similarly, the Belgaum Yaragatti Highway's Safe Corridor Demonstration Project (SCDP) in Karnataka recorded a notable 54% reduction in deaths over three years from 2015 to 2018. Most remarkably, the Sabarimala Safe Zone has maintained zero road crash deaths between 2019 and 2021, serving as a blueprint for pilgrimage sites nationwide.

In each of the aforementioned cases, a concerted effort was undertaken to analyse road crashes and take a 360-degree approach to address them. These include enhancement of road safety furniture on the road, effective and targeted enforcement, and improvements in emergency medical response.

"This timely report aims to chart a safer course for India's roadways. Its comprehensive analysis will serve as a resource



for policymakers, administrators, and stakeholders to identify and replicate strategies that have been effective in reducing road crash deaths. I am certain that the report will serve as a much-needed catalyst for fostering collaboget road corridors. The report, released in the ration and encouraging the sharing of knowledge, through its practical solutions, drawn from real-world examples, that Governments, can be tailored to suit the diverse conditions found throughout India. By honing in on successful interventions specific to certain corridors or localities, the report provides a nuanced understanding of what works- and what can

Undertaken by SaveLIFE Foundation in close cooperation with the World Bank Group and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), the study, titled "Road Safety Good Practices

the occasion.

work elsewhere if appropriately adapted," Gadkari said on

in India", showcases road safe ty success stories from across the country. These are interventions that have led to a measurable and, in many cases, a remarkable reduction in road crash fatalities on tar-

presence of senior officials from Central and State

categorises interventions as corridor-based, networkbased, and state-based, covering nine corridor- based, two city/network-based, and two state-based interventions across ten states. The report not only documents "what has worked" but also "how it was done," to enable effective adoption and replication of the good practices.

To gather these practices, all the relevant departments (i.e., police, transport, health, etc.) of all 28 States and 8 Union Territories across India were contacted with questionnaires.

Centre likely to introduce Drugs, Medical Devices &



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

The Central Government is likely to introduce the Drugs, Medical Devices and Cosmetics Bill, 2023 in the ongoing session of Parliament with an aim to repeal the 80year-old Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and introduce a new law that amends and consolidates the regulatory requirements for the import, manufacture, distribution and sale of drugs, medical devices, and cosmetics in the country.

The proposed law will have an entirely separate section to prescribe regulatory norms for medical devices. It will not only result in a separate set of rules for medical devices but also provide for a separate team of regulatory officials with specific skill sets to approve and monitor all types of medical devices. The new law is expected to help advance clinical trials of new drugs and clinical investigation of investigational medical devices in the country.

Regulation of e-pharmacies will be another important feature of the proposed law.

Incidentally, the Bill was listed to be introduced in the Monsoon session of Parliament but had to be withheld due to opposition from the medical device manufacturers.

The Association of Indian Medical Device Industry (AIMED) had complained that the Bill does not propose an independent regulatory regime for medical devices but continues with the current practice of treating devices as drugs with the same punitive actions for errant manufacturers.

The medical device industry had also questioned the proposal to have a central medical device testing laboratory by stating that one laboratory in a single location to do biocompatibility testing, animal studies and testing, mechanical and chemical testing or electronic component and product testing for over 6,000 types of medical devices may not be

SC RULING ON ARTICLE 370

Historic day for India, says Fadnavis; hails Modi

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday hailed the Supreme Court ruling on Article 370 and called it a historic day for the coun-

The Supreme Court on Monday upheld the Union government's decision to abrogate Article 370, which bestowed a special status on the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, and said steps should be taken to conduct the election to the Union Territory's Assembly by September 30 next year. The apex court also directed that statehood to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir be restored at the

Speaking to reporters on the Vidhan Bhavan premises here, Fadnavis said, "Today is a very important day in the history of the country. The SC, in a way, has today given a stamp to the decision taken to remove Article 370 under the leadership of Prime Narendra Modi. The SC order is a victory for the people of the nation as well as J-K." After the abrogation of Article 370, terrorism has reduced in Jammu and Kashmir and development is taking place there on a grand scale, Fadnavis

The decision has paved the way for "Eksangh Bharat" (United and Together India), the senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader asserted.

Queried about Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray's comments on whether Pakistan-Óccupied-Kashmir (PoK) will come back to India, Fadnavis said this is what every Indian

"We are people who believe in Akhand Bharat. Modiji has done things considered impossible. I feel we should wait for the time to come," he said.

Speaking to reporters earlier in the day here, Thackeray had said "we also hope POK (Pakistan Occupied Kashmir) is merged into Kashmir so that elections are held in greater Kashmir which is an inseparable part of our country". Thackeray had also asked if PM Modi would give a "guarantee that Kashmiri



Pandits will return to their home state

Hitting back, Fadnavis said Thackerav did not have the right to speak on the

Fadnavis said Shiv Sena founder late Bal Thackeray had sought removal of

Article 370 for a long time, and the demand was fulfilled by PM Modi. "However, when PM Modi was doing this work, the (undivided) Shiv Sena had different stand in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha. Hence, he (Uddhav Thackeray) does not have the right to

speak about it," Fadnavis said Asked whether others would also be treated in the same manner as NCP leader Nawab Malik, who was jailed and is out on bail on medical grounds,

they too faced such charges. Fadnavis had written to deputy CM Ajit Pawar expressing the BJP's reservations on inducting Malik into the ruling alliance.

However, opposition parties have questioned Fadnavis over why the BJP did not have an issue with Praful Patel of the Ajit Pawar faction of the NCP who too is facing similar allegations. Asked to comment on Thackeray's statement that TDR (transferable development right) of the Dharavi redevelopment project must not be with (industrialist Gautam) Adani, Fadnavis pointed out that the MVA government had cancelled an earlier tender of the project despite Adani not being the winning bidder.

Thackeray has a policy of opposing development works, Fadnavis said in a swipe at the former chief minister.



The Pioneer fondly remembers its Founder Editor Dr Chandan Mitra (December 12, 1954 to September 1, 2021) on his 69th birth anniversary.

₹6,000 flood relief will be given to all ration cardholders: TN

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The flood relief sum of Rs 6,000 announced by the Tamil Nadu government will be provided to all ration cardholders in the four cyclone Michaung ravaged districts, including Chennai, state Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu said on Monday.

Tokens to avail the relief would be distributed on December 16 to all the ration cardholders in Chennai and the process of disbursing the amount would be completed in about 10 days, he

On December 9, Chief Minister M K Stalin announced financial assistance of Rs 6,000 to each of the flood-hit families and said the sum would be given in cash.

Chennai, Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram, and Tiruvallur were inundated due to the influence of cyclone Michaung on December 3 and 4. Speaking to reporters here, Thennarasu said the state government averted a catastrophe by effectively handling the situation.

"Major loss of human lives were prevented due to timely measures initiated by the state government," he claimed.

On the release of water from Chembarambakkam dam, he said the government reduced the storage ahead of the cyclone and later regulated the release of the reservoir water thereby staving off inundation in many parts of the city.



"Normalcy has returned to Chennai now. Due to the Chief Minister's direct involvement, a major catastrophe to Chennai has been averted, Thennarasu said

He flayed the BJP and AIADMK for needlessly criticising the state government for its handling of the floods triggered by the cyclone.

Meanwhile, an official rélease here said Rs 17.80 crore worth of relief has been distributed to the flood-affected people. This includes 10,77,000 drinking water bottles, 3,02,165 bread packets, 13,08,847 packets of biscuits, 73.4 tonnes of milk powder, 4,35,000 kg of rice, 23,220 kg of gram and cooking ingredients.

Also, 82,400 bedspreads, dress, and other essentials were provided to them.

discusses State issues

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

ssam Chief Minister AHimanta Biswa Sarma on Monday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi here and discussed with him a number of issues concerning the Sarma also invited the Prime

Minister to visit Assam to lay the foundation stone of the Kamakhya corridor project, dedicate to the nation the imposing statue of Bir Lachit Barphukan at Jorhat and inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of two medical colleges. "Chief Minister of Assam Shri @himantabiswa met Prime Minister @narendramodi," the Prime Minister's Office wrote on

Sarma wrote on 'X': "I had the privilege to call upon Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji today. Shared Assam's immense gratitude for his continuous guidance & leadership and briefed him on the ongoing pro-people programs during



our interaction.

The chief minister said it was his pleasure to extend an invitation to the prime minister to visit Assam and lay the foundation stone of the Kamakhya corridor project, dedicate the grand statue of Bir Lachit at Jorhat, inaugurate the Tinsukia medical college and lay the foundation of Sivasagar medical college.

"Furthermore, I took the opportunity to seek the prime minister's counsel on organising the Assam Business Summit in 2024. Our aim is to establish it as a platform to attract private investments and accelerate our economic growth," he said.

Assam CM calls on PM, SC ruling victory of India, says Chhattisgarh CM designate Sai

PTI ■ RAIPUR

hhattisgarh Chief Ministerdesignate Vishnu Deo Sai on Monday welcomed the Supreme Court ruling on Article 370 and termed it as the victory of India. In a post on his 'X' handle Sai wrote in Hindi, "The Supreme Court's decision on abrogation of Article 370 is historic. It is the victory of India. It is a resounding declaration of hope, progress and unity for our sisters and brothers in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh".

The Supreme Court on Monday upheld the government's decision to abrogate Article 370, which bestowed a special status on the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, and said steps should be taken to conduct the election to the Union Territory's Assembly by September 30 next vear The apex court also directed that

statehood to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir be restored at the earliest. "It is not just a legal judgment



but it is a testament to our colbhusan Harichandan on Sunday lective resolve to build a united India. Congratulations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji and Union Home Minister Amit Shah ji for this victory," Sai Minister. added. Sai was on Sunday elected as legislative party leader during the meeting of newly-elected 54 BJP MLAs here.

Chhattisgarh Governor Biswa-

evening invited Sai to form a government in the state and handed him a letter pertaining to his appointment as the Chief

The BJP won 54 seats in the recently held polls to the 90-member Assembly, while the Congress emerged victorious

BJP legislative party in Rajasthan meets today, new CM likely to be announced

PTI JAIPUR

The newly elected BJP MLAs **▲** in Rajasthan will meet here Tuesday to formally pick the next chief minister of the state, party leaders said.

The MLAs were informed

Monday about the meeting of the legislative party, where the BJP's central leadership is expected to make known its choice for the post and end days of suspense after the party won the assembly election. The results of the November 25

polls in Rajasthan were declared on December 3. BJP MLA Jogeshwar Garg said the observers appointed for the legislative party meeting will come to Jaipur on Tuesday and hold one-on-one talks with the MLAs in the morning. After lunch, a formal meeting

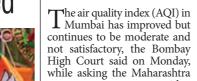
will be held in which the MLAs will choose the legislative party leader, or the CM-designate. The party has appointed Defence minister Rajnath Singh, Saroj Pandey and Vinod Tawde as observers. MLA Kirodi Lal Meena said the MLAs have been informed about the legis-



When asked about the MLAs who met former chief minister Vasundhara Raje at her home Monday, Meena said 17 MLAs have met him as well after the results and this should not be seen as lobbying.
Several MLAs have called on

former CM Vasundhara Raja in recent days in what was seen as a show of support for her, amid speculation over whom the party's central leadership will pick as the next CM. Raje also met party leaders in Delhi.

The BJP won 115 seats out of 199 for which elections were held in November. Polling in one constituency was postponed. Raje is being considered as one of the frontrunners for the post. Other leaders said to be in the running include Union ministers Arjun Ram Meghwal, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Ashwini Vaishnaw.



government to come up with a comprehensive plan to find a final solution to the issue. lature party meeting. A division bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhvava and Justice G S Kulkarni asked the government to take the issue seriously, as lakhs of people continue to suffer because of the air pollution

in the city.

The court took note of a news report which stated that seven project sites - road concretisation at suburban Bandra and Khar. the bullet train site at BKC Versova-Bandra sea link project, Mumbai Metro-III, Mumbai Coastal Road and the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link - were generating a lot of dust adding to the worsening air quality

The court noted that large mounds of construction material and rubble are reportedly left open at these sites

The bench directed the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) and the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) to con-



Air quality in Mumbai has improved

but not satisfactory: Bombay HC

duct a joint inspection at these seven sites and immediately take requisite steps, pass orders and ensure that all the norms are followed.

"We also direct that in case the stakeholders at these sites are found to be not following or deviating from the norms, legal action may be taken by the MCGM and MPCB," the court

The court noted that the AQI in the city continues to be at moderate levels, which indicates that such air quality will continue to cause breathing problems for people with heart and lung ailments, children and older adults.

The satisfactory level of AQI is 51 to 100. And therefore, a collective effort is required to be taken to bring the AQI to below 50 in the entire city," the court

"Anything beyond 50 is not good...It has to be brought down to below 50," it said.

The bench said a statutory body needs to be set up to address the issue regularly. 'We need to have a comprehen-

sive plan for the entire city of Mumbai. Ultimately, you need to find a final solution or mechanism so that every six months we need not intervene," the court said, asking the government to at least start the process. Advocate General Birendra Saraf, appearing for the government, said senior government officials were busy with the Nagpur winter assembly.

The bench then said the government should take this issue seriously.

"Are you wondering if there could be a situation more serious than this? Lakhs of people

are suffering daily. Be serious now. Last eight to ten days, there Justice Kulkarni said.

The court said the state government should consider framing some legislation mechanism along the lines of the central legislation - The Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act of 2021. The court said Saraf would take up the matter with the government and some appropriate decision be taken.

The bench also directed the MPCB and the Central Pollution Control Board to file affidavits stating how air quality is measured and if the machines are adequate.

The court said the expert committee set up by it last month will continue to monitor the situation and submit its periodical

The state government will consider the suggestions made by the committee and take an appropriate decision, it said. The court was hearing a bunch

of petitions along with one it had taken up on its own regarding the rising air pollution in the city. The court said it would hear the matter further on February 6,



India at turning point in history: Nagaland Governor

Nagaland Governor La Ganesan on Monday said that India is at a turning point in history as the country polevaults into the future confident of its capabilities.

Addressing a programme in the Raj Bhavan, he said India is the fifth largest economy in the world at present and will become the third largest by 2027 as its GDP is expected to cross USD 5 trillion.

The country is poised to be a USD 30 trillion economy with all the attributes of a developed nation by 2047, he claimed. The governor said that there has been a massive expansion in social and economic infrastructure through various policies and schemes of the government over the last few years.

He said India is one of the youngest nations with a median age of 29 years and it accounts for nearly 20 per cent of the world's total young population. This is an enormous opportunity, likely to last till 2047, he said. The governor called upon vicechancellors of universities and heads of other educational institutions who were present at the function to motivate students to participate in the nation-building process. A panel discussion on "Thriving and Sustainable Economy" was also held as a part of the programme.

Granted ASI nod, Bihar gears up for excavation of 2,600 years old site

PTI PATNA

The Bihar government is preparing the process for exploration of Buddhist sites visited by Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang in present-day Vaishali district, and excavation of the remains of 2,600-year-old structures in Banka, officials said on Monday

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) recently granted permission to the Bihar Heritage Development Society (BHDS), a wing of the state's Art, Culture and Youth department, to work in these two

The excavations will be made in Bhadaria village with links to

Hindu mythology and Buddhism, in Banka district near the Chandan river. "It has been established that

Bhadaria is a historical place. As per initial studies, the remains found there are 2,600 years old," said Harjot Kaur Bamhrah, Additional Chief Secretary of the state's Art, Culture and Youth department.

The ground-penetrating radar (GPR) survey, a geophysical method that uses radar pulses to image the subsurface, has already been conducted in Banka and surrounding areas to trace ancient structures that are buried below the earth, she

"A team of experts from IIT Chief Minister Nitish Kumar

Kanpur conducted the survey at Bhadaria village, where ancientage brick structures were found under the ground, both in the bed and on the bank of Chandan river," Bamhrah said. The Mandar hill in Banka has many references in Hindu mythology. In ancient Buddhist literature, Bhadaria is mentioned as a place where Buddha himself visited and one of his chief disciples, Visakha (a nun), stayed in that village

This hill was used for churning the ocean to extract the nectar from its bosom, as per mythology," said BDHS Executive Director Bijoy Kumar

Choudhary

had visited the site in December In the case of Vaishali visited by Hiuen Tsang over 1,000 years ago, the BDHS will start explo-

"Hiuen Tsang, also known as

ration work there

Xuanzang, came from China and travelled to places in India between 629 and 645 CE to obtain Buddhist scriptures during the reign of King Harsha Vardhana.

Sir Alexander Cunningham in 1860s and 1870s identify famous sites such as Nalanda and Vaishali," Choudhary told

Cunningham was a British army "Xuanzang's travelogue helped officer and archaeologist who

had also served as the first director of the ASI. However, no systematic work

has been undertaken since then to follow the footsteps of Xuanzang who gave distances, directions and descriptions of several ancient sites that he visited between 630 AD and 642 AD in Vaishali and other areas in Bihar, Choudhary said.

"Now, after obtaining permission from the ASI, the BHDS has decided to begin the process for the exploration of the Buddhist pilgrim sites visited by Xuanzang in Vaishali this month," said Choudhary. The BHDS has already explored several sites visited by Xuanzang

in South Bihar.

Patna-Jehanabad-Gaya-Nawada-Nalanda sector by the BHDS. In this process, all major hills falling in the region have been explored, and its sculptures, antiquities and archaeo logical features scientifically documented and studied," she said.

Vaishali.

Bamhrah said Xuanzang spent

several years in Nalanda and

'Buddhist pilgrim sites visited

by Xuanzang in South Bihar

have already been discovered in

Now, the BDHS will start exploration work in the Vaishali area. Exploration of these sites would help us discover and piece together our great heritage," said Bamhrah.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Validation

Saying the Centre was well within legal rights while abrogating Article 370, the SC lays the controversy to rest

pholding the Union Government's decision to abrogate Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, the Supreme Court wants the Assembly elections to be conducted there by September 30, 2024. Also, putting to rest any confusion regarding future status of J&K, the court has said its statehood should be restored at the earliest. Despite a longwinded and vicious campaign by parties in the Valley and in the Opposition, especially the Congress, the apex court put its seal of approval on the Government's decision of August 5, 2019, to abrogate Article 370, which gave special status to the State of J&K. The national security considerations were paramount in the decision. The special status had been a contentious issue, often exploited by separatist elements. The Narendra Modi-led NDA Government's move was intended to integrate the region more closely with the rest of India and marked a crucial shift in the political landscape. The region now adheres to the same constitutional



and legal provisions as other States and Union Territories of India, fostering a sense of equality among citizens. Economically, the decision was seen to work as a catalyst for development in J&K. Aligning with the Centre's policies, the region would attract more investments, subsequently fostering economic growth and job opportunities.

However, the repeal of Article 370 also triggered political unrest, with leaders angry over the perceived infringement on J&K's unique identity. This discontent manifested in protests and demonstrations, indicating the complexities of regional dynamics. Internationally, too, the abrogation drew attention, with

a few countries expressing concern about the situation. The move prompted debates on the global stage, highlighting the intricate relationship between national sovereignty and international human rights standards. There are very few decisions that change the course of history, or correct it. The revocation of Article 370 was one such decision; of course, it was the BJP's poll promise, too. However, had it perhaps been done after taking local people's concerns into account and in a more democratic way, it might not have raised the storm it did. It goes to the credit of the Modi Government that no related violence was reported but it did lead to some hardships for the people. However, geopolitics and ground reality have vastly changed since Article 370 was promulgated. Now any State having a separate flag or, for that matter, separate Constitution does not hold relevance. Ultimately, the move will lead to betterment of J&K as the region would have access to many Government policies and plans which could not be implemented earlier due to its special status. The decision has profoundly impacted J&K and the broader Indian polity. The Supreme Court verdict plays a pivotal role in determining the constitutional validity of the abrogation and shaping J&K's future.

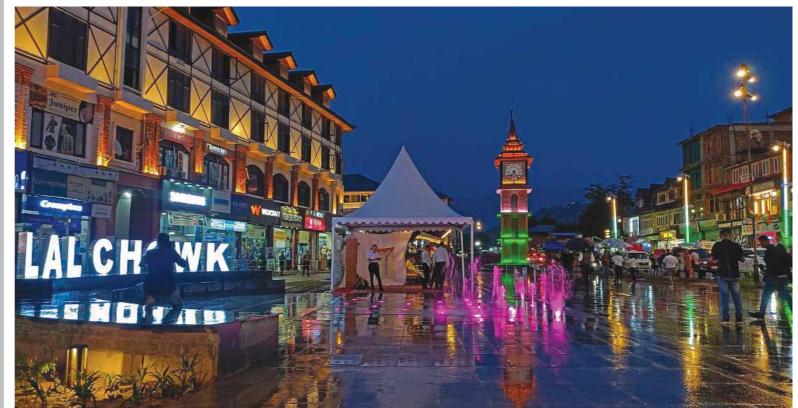


Students in jubilant mood after receiving their degree on 98th Foundation Day celebration of IIT in Dhanbad

Supreme Court vindicates abrogation of Article 370



The Supreme Court has given its seal of approval to the Government's decision to abrogate Article 370 saying it was temporary in nature



n 11th December, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India delivered a historic judgment on the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35(A). Through its judgment, the Court has upheld the sovereignty and integrity of India, something that is cherished by every Indian. The Supreme Court rightly observed that the decision taken on 5th August 2019 was done with the purpose of enhancing constitutional integration and not disintegration. The Court has also recognized the fact that Article 370 was not permanent in nature.

Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh's breathtaking landscapes, serene valleys, and majestic mountains have captivated the hearts of poets, artists and adventurers for generations. It is a place where the sublime meets the extraordinary, where the Himalayas reach for the sky, and where the pristine waters of its lakes and rivers mirror the heavens. But, for the last seven decades, these places have witnessed the worst form of violence and instability, something which the wonderful peo-

ple never deserved. Unfortunately, due to centuries of colonisation, most notably economic and mental subjugation, we became a confused society of sorts. Rather than taking a clear position on very basic things, we allowed duality, leading to confusion. Sadly, Jammu and Kashmir became a big victim of such a mindset. At the time of independence, we had a choice of making a fresh start for national integration. Instead, we decided to continue with the confused society approach even if it meant ignoring the long-term national interests.

I have had the opportunity of

being connected with the

Jammu and Kashmir Andolan from a very early part of my life. I belong to an ideological framework where Jammu and Kashmir was not merely a uncertainty about addressing the aspirations of society. Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee held an important portfolio in the have remained in government for a long time. Yet, he quit the Cabinet over the Kashmir issue and preferred the tough road ahead, even if it meant paying with his life. His efforts and sacrifice led to crores of Indians becoming emotionally attached with the Kashmir issue. Years later, Atal Ji, at a public meeting in Srinagar gave the powerful message of 'Insaniyat', 'Jamhooriyat' 'Kashmiriyat', which has also always been a source of great inspiration.

It was always my firm belief that what had happened in Jammu and Kashmir was a great betrayal- to our nation and to the people living there. It was also my strong desire to do whatever I can to remove this blot, this injustice done to the people. I have always wanted to work to alleviate the suffering of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

In very basic words- Articles 370 and 35 (A) were like major obstacles. It seemed like an unbreakable wall and the sufferers were the poor and downtrodden. Articles 370 pain of the people there.

last several decades, I had a nuanced understanding of

WHILE SERVING THE PEOPLE OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, WE GAVE PRIMACY TO THREE PILLARS — UNDERSTANDING OF THE CITIZENS' CONCERNS, BUILDING TRUST THROUGH SUPPORTIVE ACTIONS, AND PRIORITISING DEVELOPMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND MORE DEVELOPMENT

ities of the issue. Yet, I was crystal clear about one thingthat the people of Jammu and Kashmir want development and they want to contribute to the development of India based on their strengths and skills. They also want a better quality of life of their children, a life free from violence and

political issue. But, it was Thus, while serving the peopie of Jammu and Kashmir, we gave primacy to three pillars- understanding of the citizens' concerns, building Nehru Cabinet and could trust through supportive actions, and prioritising development, development and more development. In 2014, just after we assumed

> office, deadly floods struck Jammu and Kashmir, with a lot of damage in the Kashmir valley. In September 2014, I went to Srinagar to assess the situation and also announced Rs. 1000 crore as a special assistance for rehabilitation, signalling our government's commitment to supporting the people during crises. I had the opportunity to meet people from different walks of life and there was one common thread in these interactionsthe people not only wanted development but they also wanted freedom from the rampant corruption prevailing for decades. The same year, I decided not to mark Diwali in remembrance of those we lost in Jammu and Kashmir. I also decided to be in Jammu and Kashmir on

Diwali day. In order to further strengthen Jammu and Kashmir's development journey, we decided that our Government ministers would frequently go there and interact with people directly. These frequent visits also played a crucial role in building goodwill in Jammu and Kashmir. From May 2014 to March 2019, over 150 ministerial visits took place. This is a record in itself. The special package of 2015 was a significant step in addressing the developmental needs of Jammu and Kashmir. It contained initiatives for infrastructure development, job creation, tourism promotion and support to the handicraft industry.

We harnessed the power of sports in Jammu and

potential to ignite the dreams of the youth. Through sporting initiatives, we witnessed the transformational impact of athletic pursuits on their aspirations and futures. Sporting venues were upgraded, training programmes were organised and coaches were made available. One of the most unique things was to encourage the setting of local football clubs. The results were outstanding. The name of the talented footballer Afshan Ashiq comes to my mind- in December 2014 she was a part of a stone pelting group in Srinagar but with the right encouragement she

turned to football, she was

sent for training and excelled in the game. I recall interacting with her in one of the Fit India Dialogues where I said its time to move over 'Bend it like Beckham' because it is now 'Ace it like Afshan.' Other youngsters began to shine in kickboxing, Karate and more. The Panchayat polls were also a watershed moment in the region's quest for all-round development. Once again, we were faced with a choice of either remaining in power or standing by our principlesthe choice was never tough and we let go of a Government but preferred that that ideals that we stand for, the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir are given top priority. The success of Panchayat polls indicated the democratic nature of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. My mind went back to an interaction I had with Pradhans from the villages. Among other issues, I made a request to them- that at no point must schools be burnt and that must be ensured. I was delighted to see that this was adhered to. After all, if schools are burnt the biggest sufferers are the small children.

The historical day of 5th August is etched in the hearts and minds of every Indian. Our Parliament passed the historic decision to abrogate Article 370. Since then, much has changed in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. The judicial court verdict came in December 2023 but seeing the wave of development across Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh,

the people's court have given a resounding thumbs up to the Parliament's decision of abolishing Articles 370 and 35(A) for four years now.

At a political level, the last 4

years have been marked with

a renewed faith in grassroots democracy. The women, tribals, SC, ST and marginalised sections of society were not getting their due. At the same time, the aspirations of Ladakh were totally ignored. 5th August 2019 changed all that. All Central laws now apply without fear or favour Representation has also got more widespread- a three tier Panchayati Raj System is in place, BDC elections have been held, and refugee communities who were all but forgotten have begun to enjoy the fruits of development.

Key Central Government scheme have attained saturation levels, thus covering all sections of society. include Saubhagya, Ujwala and Ujjwala schemes. Strides have been made in housing, tap water connection and financial Healthcare, otherwise a major challenge for the people has

witnessed an upgradation of infrastructure. All the villages achieved ODF

Plus stats. Government vacancies, which were otherwise a den of corruption and favouritism have been filled in a transparent and process driven manner. Other indicators like IMR have shown betterment. The boost to infrastructure and tourism has been for everyone to see. The credit for this naturally goes to the resilience of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who have shown time and again that they want only development and are willing to be drivers of this positive change. Earlier, there was a question mark on the status of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. Now, there are only exclamation marks about record growth, record development, record tourist inflow.

In its verdict on 11th December, the Supreme Court has strengthened the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' - it has reminded us that what defines us is the bonds of unity and a shared commitment to good gover-

Today, every child born in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh is born with a clean canvas, where he or she can paint a future full of vibrant aspirations. Today, the dreams of the people are no longer prisoners of the past but are possibilities of the future. After all, Development, democracy and dignity have replaced disillusionment, disappointment and despondency. (This is a special article by the

Prime Minister on the historic *verdict of the Supreme Court)*

Soil pollution can lead to a major catastrophe

If the soil pollution is not checked, the environment will suffer and life as we know it, may come to a grinding halt

Soil and water are the essential components that sustain life, including that of humans, on our planet. Soil is the medium on which all types of living organisms are maintained. Every religion that has evolved with us has highlighted the importance of soil. The Vedic civilization held the soil in the highest regard as Mother Earth. The prayer to Prithvi, the Earth, is invoked in the Atharva Veda: "Let what I unearth from thee, O Earth, sprout and develop once more in a swift manner. The veneration of vegetation, trees, animals, and soils is exclusive India. to Consequently, it discourages the application of harsh chemicals and pesticides, as they may inadvertently cause harm to the beneficial nutrients and living microorganisms inside the soil. The Earth teems with biodiversity and is the foundation for all living organisms. Earth is where plants, trees, animals, and even soils are revered. Unfortunately, the present generation is doing more harm to the lifeline of our species. We have done enough damage to the soil by focussing on development and

ascetics. The fertile agricultur-



al lands pay way to flats and gardens with exotic plants. Soil is a fundamental resource for agriculture, providing essential nutrients and a medium for plant growth. Erosion, loss of topsoil, and degradation can significantly reduce soil fertility, leading to decreased crop yields. The cycling of nutrients in the soil is critical for the health and productivity of plants. Soil is home to various microorganisms, including bacteria, fungi, and protozoa. Unfortunately, these microbes are destroyed by chemical fertilizers, weedicides and pesticides. The health of soil and water is interlinked. Pollution caused by anthropogenic activities ulti-

mately reaches the soil through

water. We take soil for grant-

plastics, and toxic chemicals in the soil. We burn our solid waste on its surface without concern for its rich biodiver-

The ecological impact of soil pollution incurs significantly higher costs. It is imperative to refrain from using contaminated soil for agricultural purposes, as the chemicals can seep into the crops, harming consumers. Utilizing polluted soil for crop cultivation typically leads to lower yields than uncontaminated soil, exacerbating the issue by causing additional erosion due to a lack of plant cover, thereby transferring toxins to previously uncontaminated areas.

Addressing soil pollution is crucial for the long-term health of ecosystems, agricultural sustainability, and human well-being. Sustainable land management practices and a collective effort to reduce pollution sources are essential for mitigating the impacts of soil pollution. Healthy soils act as carbon sinks, sequestering carbon and mitigating the impacts of climate change. The fundamental meaning of the term "nature" is closely connected to notions such as ed. We dispose of solid waste, natal, nativity, and native, indi-

cating that anything that is born and destined to die is intrinsically Understanding this interdependence demonstrates that nature and mankind are inseparable. Hence, our interactions with nature have a direct influence on our own wellbeing. Our connection with nature is based on mutual reliance. It has been argued that the unrelenting destruction of rainforests and deciduous forests is justifiable to expand the amount of land used for agricultural purposes. Similarly, transforming agricultural lands into commercial areas is justifiable in the name of development. Our ignorance prevents us from seeing that even if we were to emerge victorious in this conflict, we would still be on the losing side. Our idea that the job of nature is to run the motor of our economy is the driving force behind this war against nature, which we intend to wage. The economy is an owned subsidiary of

(The Writer is an adjunct faculty at the National *Institute of Ádvanced Studies,* Bangalore, views are

and 35(A) ensured that the people of Jammu and Kashmir never got the rights and development that the rest of their fellow Indians got. Due to these Articles, a distance was created between people belonging to the same nation. Due to this distance, many people from our nation who wanted to work to solve the problems of Jammu and Kashmir were unable to do so even if they clearly felt the As a Karyakarta who has seen the issue closely over the

the specifics and the complex- Kashmir, recognising its

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FIRST COLUMN

BE STRONG AND HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

A mentally strong person always remains rooted in the present moment



RAVI VALLURI

eaders may recall that remarkable Sunday afternoon at Lords. The year was 1983 when India was defending a paltry 183 and Mohinder Amarnath ambled in and trapped Michael Holding, LBW. We won the World Cup -which was then known as the Prudential Cup - for the first time and Indian flags fluttered across the stadium and Indians in unison celebrated the victory.

This was a case of positive thinking by the Indian cricket team which metamorphosed in positive results. Bertha Calloway writes, "We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails." Why are some people mentally strong and some not? What distinguishes a decisive person from a person who only frets and fumes and lives in the past? Mental strength and attitudes greatly depend on two important factors. These are extraversion and introversion. Now who are extraverts and introverts? Extraverts are normally opened, sociable and socially assertive, oriented towards the world outside. On the contrary introverts are withdrawn and more than often shy by nature. They normally tend to focus on themselves, on their own thoughts and feelings. oted psychologists like Carl Jung elaborate this in depth by stating that humans have strains of both the attitudes - that is extraversion and introversion.

Invariably extraverted thinking leads to logical and objective thinking which at times can become dogmatic. Such individuals are creative by nature and seize opportunities. On the other hand, introverted thinking leads to reserved and undemonstrative thinking. So, on that salubrious Sunday when Lords (the Mecca of Cricket) was soaked in brilliant sunshine the Indian cricket team became extraverted and the West Indian cricket powerhouse turned into introverts. Perhaps we can configure an equation



mathematically in our minds. Mental strength = Positive Attitude + Extraversion Attitude-Introversion Personality. From a different space humans can become achievers in life and surmount problems, by living in the present. A couple lost their daughter in a tragic accident, yet through the powerful techniques imparted by Art of Living in the form of Sudarshan Kriya, pranayama, yoga, meditation, and seva/service were able to confront the problem and reconfigure their lives.

Another colleague lost his wife, but by attending various courses of Art of Living regained his mojo. He is not only attending courses but is continuously conducting courses and spreading waves of happiness. Yet another friend from the railways discovered that his daughter was suffering from life-threatening cancer. It was his surrender to the Master and following the techniques of Art of Living that transformed his life. Today he has guit railways and is running a software firm which is making path breaking advances.

All these people have one common strand. Their unflinching belief in Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and following the fundamental tenets of Sadhana, Satsang, practice of Sudarshan Kriya, being in knowledge and performing seva. This has brought sanity to their lives. There are innumerable such instances, where Gurudev has provided the necessary direction and devotees have followed the path. And they are all living in the present moment. A mentally strong person does not succumb to macabre thoughts. Such an individual maintains a positive disposition and controls emotions and not the other way round. Such individuals do not fall prey to stress easily, improve the quality of their lives and enhance their performance. But this the seeker can achieve through regular practice. They do not wallow in self-pity."Self-pity is easily the most destructive of the non-pharmaceutical narcotics; it is addictive, gives momentary pleasure and separates the victim from reality.'

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd and is a faculty of the Art of Living. Views are personal)

Consumer Protection Act needs to be revamped



SUBHASH CHANDRA

Despite many changes, consumer protection is weak and not taken seriously by many companies. Besides, many consumers in rural areas cannot afford legal remedy

onsumer Protection Act 2019 needs root-level changes either in the Act itself or by modifications in rules so that the need for filing complaints may not arise. A very small fraction of consumers approach consumer forums for their consumer rights against the malpractices of big

Portal Jago-Grahak-Jago on the website of the Department of Consumer Affairs (Government of India) acts like a post office to deliver eye-wash replies from companies against whom complaints are lodged. Consumers are advised to approach Consumer Court if they are not satisfied with the replies of the companies received through the portal. The portal must be made practically effective with the Department made to scrutinise replies from the companies, and take the matter further in case replies are found unsatisfactory. It should be made compulsory that all companies on their websites provide contact details including names of concerned senior officers and Directors. All such web-sites of companies should compulsorily give details of government portals and consumer forms. Annual-Maintenance-Contracts (AMCs) should be practically made Extended Warranties since most companies fool consumers by not entertaining many aspects covered under AMCs.

All packaged commodities must be packed in the true metric spirit in either unit of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, or 1000 and thereafter in multiples of 1000 basic units abolishing any need for printing unit-price on packs. A popular milk brand (Namaste-India) has started packaging milk packs in 950 meters and 1900 meters to look like earlier packs of 500 meters and one litre respectively. There are so many packages in milk and milk products like 400 mltrs, and 450 mltrs, confusing consumers to look like 500

Drug manufacturers at times cheat consumers by packing commonly advertised medicines like cough lozenges in eight per strip rather than the normal ten. Many drug manufacturers started packing medicines in strips of 15 rather than 10 simply to increase sales. The suggested packaging system may be for medicines unless exemption is sought from the competent authority for dose-wise administration. At times free gifts given by manufacturers to promote other products are swallowed by traders. The system should be to tie free gifts with marketed products. "Not for sale alone" should be prominently printed on the free

Commodities like Ghee are packed in litres in packs of 1 or 5 litres, but in packs of 15 kgs. A uniform system should be for marketing such products either by weight or by volume. Since the Supreme Court has allowed the use of A-4 size paper, any further production of legal-size paper must be banned. A slight modification in A-4 size paper is made from the present 29.5 cms x 21 cms to 30 cms x 20 cm to be in tune with the metric spirit.

Commodities with government-administered prices should be in round figure of rupee one per unit (like for petrol-diesel) and in multiples of rupee ten in commodities having sale price above rupees 100 (like LPG refill). It will not affect consumers, since delivery-persons never return balance coins. Rounding-off prices can earn extra revenue for governments.

Since the Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Association of India and the





INDIA BEING THE LARGEST **CONSUMER** BASE, CAN **IMPOSE** CONDITIONS ON **FOREIGN COMPANIES EXPORTING COMMODITIES TO** INDIA TO SET UP **THEIR** MANUFACTURING UNITS IN INDIA

National Restaurant Association of India challenged guidelines issued by the Central Consumer Protection Authority on levying service in bills of hotels and restaurants in the court, the Consumer Protection Act should be amended so that hotels and restaurants may not be able to impose any extra levy other than government-taxes. Moreover, the Consumer Protection Act should ban the colonial practice of paying tips directing hotels and restaurants to prominently display "No Tips"

India being the largest consumer base, can impose conditions on foreign companies exporting commodities to India to set up their manufacturing units in India especially when many such foreign companies flood Indian markets with products manufactured in countries other than the country of origin. An example is the setting of the biggest manufacturing plant of Samsung mobile phones in Noida (UP). It will result in huge earnings of foreign exchange by way of export from India rather than the drain of foreign exchange in importing such commodities. The union government should ban the import of items that are already available in India of much superior quality. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) should call a meeting of printer manufacturers including

representatives of foreign companies to minimise types of ink cartridges. The largest selling foreign company Hewlett-Packard (HP) has too many types of ink cartridges of similar shape and size for their vast range of inkjet and laser printers. Such standardisation will heavily reduce the cost of ink cartridges. The condition should be that such accessories may be allowed to be manufactured by Indian manufac-

chargers on lines of electrical plugs and sockets should also be done for mobile phones of all makes and companies. The Union government should also induce standardization of common accessories like tyres and batteries so that the same parts may be used in different models of cars produced by various car manufacturers. It will heavily bring down the cost of consumables through their

bumper production in extra large numbers in some limited sizes and specifications. It can be achieved by merging some nearing sizes and specifications. Such guidelines, though also mentioned in the autopolicy of the Union government, are never followed in actual practice. There may be just two variants apart from the third with automatic gears, one basic Lx for economy customers and the other vx with all company-fitted extra accessories and luxuries for affording customers Presently there is no limit to the allowed total profit margin on a commodity between the

Maximum-Retail-Price (MRP) and Ex-factory price of commodities allowing huge total trade margins. Even economically priced generic medicines have printed MRP which is ten times higher than their wholesale price. Such big trade margins induce corruption in purchases. Moreover, victims are normal consumers, especially in rural areas, who do not have access to and knowledge of wholesale markets. The Department of Consumer Affairs must fix the maximum total trade margin for any commodity to bring down the MRP of commodi-

Even renowned confectioners having daily sales in lakhs of rupees, do not issue bills resulting in big losses to the exchequer. Confectioners should be directed to compulsorily stick a copy of the GST invoice on each box of unbranded sweets sold in loose. GST authorities should be advised to have a common GST rate of say 12 per cent on all food items presently luxury sweets attract a GST rate of just 5 per cent while salted items attract 12 per cent GST giving liberty to confectioners often selling both items to show more sale of sweets to save GST under compositescheme. Such can be the case with other unbranded commodities taxable under GST sold loose. Fear psychology should be developed whereby traders may themselves voluntarily issue GST invoices to customers even without being asked

The National Anti-Profiteering Authority (NAPP) working under the Department of Revenue should be shifted to the Department of Consumer Affairs. There is no provision for entertaining suggestions coming from experts either by NAPP or by other authorities. There must be some authority that may have the power to study and implement suggestions (if feasi-

A consumer forum in Chandigarh once imposed a fine of rupees 9000 on a renowned shoe company for charging rupees 3 as the cost of paper-bags. But the same shoe company and many famous branded shopping malls, are still charging the cost of paper bags from the shoppers. The Department of Consumer Affairs should prohibit by law the "selling" of shopping bags just for packing goods.

(The writer is an RTI consultant holding the Guinness World record, views are personal)

Building an inclusive world without boundaries

The advocacy of activists has made a dent in societal attitude towards people with disabilities but still a lot needs to be done

ecember is a month of celebration, commemoration and above all recognition of the abilities of innumerable people who also make a difference. The world commemorated 'International Day of Persons with Disabilities' on December 3rd, acknowledging the unique challenges faced by individuals with disabilities (different abilities) and advocating for their rights and well-being. This day emphasises the potential for empowerment through inclusion and support. Closely following this, on December 5th, 'International Volunteers Day' recognises the countless volunteers globally who contribute their time and effort to make a positive impact in their communities

In 1992, the United Nations



General Assembly proclaimed the International Day of Disabled Persons (IDPD) via resolution 47/3. Dedicated to promoting awareness of disability issues and advocating for the rights of individuals with disabilities, it also ensures dignity for the differentlyabled. This year's IDPD focuses on "United in action to rescue and achieve the SDGs for, with, and by persons with disabilities," as its theme. The aim is to deepen understanding, gain support for their rights and dignity, and high-light the benefits of their inclusion in all aspects of life, fostering overall well-being and

societal inclusivity. Similarly, International Volunteers Day (IVD), observed yearly on December 5th, celebrates the invaluable

contributions of volunteers globally. Established by the UN General Assembly in 1985, IVD honours all those who selflessly dedicate time and skills to address societal challenges and make a difference in the lives of others. With over a billion volunteers worldwide, the day emphasises the transformative impact of collective efforts on social, economic, and environmental India, propelled by the 2016

Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act championed by activist Javed Abidi, has made notable strides in acknowledging and promoting inclusivity. Despite progress, challenges linger, including attitudinal barriers and many times, insufficient infrastructure. Drawing on a robust tradition of volunteerism, ranging from grassroots initiatives to established NGOs, India taps into the transformative potential of volunteers to dismantle stereotypes, provide support, and cultivate inclusivity for individuals, society per se, and the differently abled.

The 'Accessible India' campaign launched by the Government of India, aims to make public spaces, transportation, and information more accessible to persons with disabilities. Volunteers have been instrumental in driving this initiative, actively participating in awareness campaigns, accessibility audits, and advocacy efforts. Similarly, their role in the Clean River (Ganga and Yamuna) campaign is undeniable.

None can forget Hellen Keller unparalleled dedication to

the American author and activist who has been instrumental in changing perspectives about disability. She not only overcame her challenges but also worked tirelessly to advocate for the rights of people with disabilities.

The journey towards inclusivity has been guided by the wisdom and advocacy of thinkers and activists who have tirelessly worked to dismantle barriers and challenge societal attitudes. The late Stephen Hawking, a renowned theoretical physicist diagnosed with ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), made groundbreaking contributions to science. Also, great individuals like Beethoven, Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, Sudha Chandran and others have demonstrated

their art. Beethoven composed remarkable music despite losing his hearing. Chaurasia mastered the flute despite a childhood finger loss, and Chandran, an acclaimed dancer, returned to the stage triumphantly after losing a leg in an accident.

Their stories exemplify how passion and commitment can triumph over physical obstacles, challenging societal perceptions in the world of performing arts.

In the sporting world, the Paralympic Games highlight extraordinary feats by ath-letes with disabilities, showcasing resilience and athletic prowess. Icons like Deepa Malik (paralyzed from the waist down), exemplify indomitable spirit. Moreover, India's stellar performance in

the 2023 Asian Para Games, with 111 medals, including 29 gold, 31 silver, and 51 bronze, reinforces admiration for these remarkable sportspersons and their unparalleled achievements. None can forget Arunima Sinha's determination as she scaled Mount Everest with her prosthetic leg. Volunteerism acts as a catalyst for social change by fostering inclusivity and challenging societal norms. Commitment to the UN CRPD (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) signals a global push for inclusivity. To truly make a difference, a shift in attitude is imperative for a more equitable world.

(The writer is programme executive Gandhi Smriti Sansthan, views are personal)

Israel battles militants in Gaza's main cities

AP RAFAH (GAZA STRIP)

Israeli forces battled Palestinian militants in Gaza's two largest cities on Monday, with civilians still trapped in the fighting even after hundreds of thousands have fled to other parts of the besieged territory. Israel has pledged to keep fighting until it removes Hamas from power, dismantles its military capabilities and returns all of the hostages taken by militants during Hamas' Oct. 7 sur-prise attack into Israel that

ignited the war.

The US has provided unwavering diplomatic and military support for the campaign, even as it has urged Israel to minimize civilian casualties and further mass displacement. The war has killed thousands of Palestinian civilians and driven nearly 85% of the territory's 2.3 million people from their

Residents said there was heavy fighting in and around the southern city of Khan Younis, where Israeli ground

attack last week, and battles were still underway in parts of Gaza City and the urban Jabaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza, where large areas have been reduced to rubble.

In central Gaza, an Israeli airstrike overnight flattened a residential building where some 80 people were staying in the Maghazi refugee camp, residents said. Ahmed al-Qarah, a neigh-

bor who was digging through the rubble for survivors, said he knew of only six people who made it out. "The rest are under the building," he said.

Several of the dead were brought to a nearby hospital, where their loved ones could be seen sobbing and holding funeral prayers. In Khan Younis, Radwa

Abu Frayeh saw heavy Israeli strikes overnight around the European Hospital, where the U.N. humanitarian office says tens of thousands of people have sought shelter. She said

she said. "We thought it was the end and we would die."

Hussein al-Sayyed, who fled Gaza City earlier in the war with his three daughters, is staying in a three-story home in the city with around 70 others. He said they have been rationing food for days. "I don't know where to go," he said. "No place is safe.'

Hamas is believed to have suffered heavy losses, but on Monday it fired a barrage of rockets that set off sirens in Tel Aviv. One person was lightly wounded, according to the Magen David Adom rescue service, and Channel 12 broadcast footage of a cratered road and damage to cars and build-

ings in a suburb. FEARS OF PERMANENT DISPLACEMENT

With very little aid allowed into Gaza, Palestinians face severe shortages of food, water and other basic goods. Some openly worry that Palestinians will be forced out of the territory altogether in a repeat of the

Israel during the 1948 war surrounding its creation. That gave rise to built-up and seemingly permanent refugee camps like Jabaliya and Maghazi.

"Expect public order to completely break down soon, and an even worse situation could unfold including epidemic diseases and increased pressure for mass displacement into Egypt," U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told a forum in Qatar on Sunday.

Eylon Levy, an Israeli government spokesman, called allegations that Israeli intends to drive people en masse from Gaza "outrageous and false." But other Israeli officials have discussed such a scenario, raising alarm in Egypt and other Arab countries that refuse to accept

At the same time, it's not clear when or if Palestinians would be allowed to return to Gaza City and much of the north — home to some 1.2 million before the war — where entire neighborhoods have

Iraq scrambles to contain fighting between

Palestinians in Lebanon and the Israeli-occupied West Bank observed a general strike on Monday called by activists to demand a cease-fire, after the U.S. vetoed a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for one on Friday. A similar, nonbinding vote is planned in the General Assembly on

HARSH CONDITIONS IN THE SOUTH

Israel says it tries to avoid harming civilians and blames their deaths on Hamas, saying it endangers residents by fighting in dense areas and positioning military infrastructure including weapons, tunnels and rocket launchers — in or nea civilian buildings.

The military said five soldiers were killed in a battle in southern Gaza on Sunday, after militants fired at them from a school and set off an explosive device. It said the troops, backed by aircraft and tanks, returned fire and killed the militants. Forces operating in

consequences" if Iraq does not

act to stop the attacks, an Iraqi

condition of anonymity in line

mier earlier this month,

Blinken said that the

Americans would take matters

into their own hands, arguing

that Baghdad had not done

enough to pursue the perpetra-

tors, according to two Iraqi offi-

cials who spoke on condition of

anonymity because they were

not authorized to comment

on a drone launch site near the

Iraqi city of Kirkuk killed five

militants. The US and much of

the international community

have scrambled to prevent the

war in the besieged Gaza Strip

from expanding across the

said he believes Iran is making

sure the attacks remain below

a threshold that would provoke

a major US response. "Both

Iran and Iraq have maintained

thus far a clear line that, at the

moment, Iraq cannot turn into

a playground that could desta-

Analyst Renad Mansour

Two days later, a US strike

with briefing regulations.

The two officials spoke on

In a call with the Iraqi pre-

official said.

long-range rockets near a school, and a rifle, two rocketpropelled grenade launchers and explosives in a home, the army said. Israel has urged people to flee to what it says are safe areas in the south — and the fighting in and around Khan Younis has pushed tens of thousands toward the town of Rafah and other areas along the border with Egypt. But Israel has continued to strike alleged militant targets throughout the

Associated Press reporters saw nine bodies brought to a local hospital on Monday after an airstrike hit a home in Rafah overnight. The aid group Doctors Without Borders said people in the south are also falling ill as they pack into crowded shelters or sleep in tents in open areas. Nicholas Papachrysostomou, MSF emergency coordinator in Gaza, said "every other patient" at a clinic in Rafah has a respiratory infection after prolonged

Sunak apologises to COVID-hit families

AP LONDON

 $B^{\text{ritish Prime Minister Rishi}}_{\text{Sunak on Monday apolo-}}$ gised to the families who lost loved ones in the COVID-19 pandemic as he opened his evidence to an ongoing public inquiry in a tough week, which will also see him tackle a feared revolt over a parliamentary vote on his Rwanda policy to deport illegal migrants.

The British Indian leader said he was "deeply sorry" about the lives lost and stressed that he wanted to give his evidence to the COVID inquiry in the spirit of "constructive candour" so that lessons can be learnt from when he was chancellor of the exchequer 2020-21.

At several points he also defended Boris Johnson's decision-making pressures as prime minister at the time, saying he met his former boss even more than his wife Akshata Murty during the height of the first COVID lockdown period.

"I just wanted to start by saying how deeply sorry I am to all of those who lost loved ones, family members through the pandemic and also all those who suffered in various ways throughout the pandemic and as a result of the actions that were taken," said Sunak.

"I've thought a lot about this over the past couple of years, it's important we learn the lessons so we can be better prepared in the future. It is in that spirit, and with the utmost respect for all of those who were affected that I'm here today. I look forward to giving evidence in the spirit of constructive candour to help the inquiry with its deliberations," he said. The inquiry barrister, Hugo Keith, then took Sunak through

the entire timeline of the COVID pandemic decisions, starting from the first lockdown which was declared in March 2020. He was questioned about some missing WhatsApp messages, to which the UK prime minister claimed they were lost in the process of him changing his phone multiple times in

recent years and also that he is

not a "prolific" user of the

messaging service for govern-

Asked if there was a clash between him as finance minister and scientific advice in favour of lockdown at the time, he responded: "I don't think I ever refer to it as a clash. I think hearing live telecast evidence in

I saw my role as chancellor of the exchequer as making sure the prime minister had the best possible advice, information, analysis relating to the economic impact and consequences of some of the decisions he was having to make." The official inquiry into the government's handling of the pandemic is being chaired by Baroness Heather Hallett, who has been

London since June.

Poland's outgoing govt loses confidence vote

AP WARSAW

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki's government lost a confidence vote in parliament on Monday, ending the rule of his national conservative party after eight years in power. The vote paves the way for the majority in parliament to elect Donald Tusk, a centrist and former EU leader, as prime minister, a role he held already from 2007-2014. The lawmakers plan to tap him later Monday.Morawiecki's government was defeated 266-190 in the 460-seat lower house.

The vote was a key step in Monday in the Polish parliament, where the outgoing national conservative leaders made their farewell statements as a majority of lawmakers pre-

pared to elect Tusk. The power transition, two months since Poles turned out

keep his political allies in office long possible.Parliamentary proceedings have ignited widespread curiosity and emotions, leading to a spike in the number of subscribers to the Sejm's

by the president, who chose to

YouTube channel. Szymon Holownia, a former TV showman who leads a party allied with Tusk, became the speaker of parliament last month and has been trying to encourage discipline in the

A Warsaw cinema which livestreamed Monday's proceedings drew hundreds of corn and erupted in laughter as the outgoing prime minister

sometimes raucous assembly.

"So many disturbing things took place in the past eight years that I'm not surprised by this joy that it's over," said Justyna Lemanska, a young female ad agency employee in

in huge numbers to vote for change, was delayed for weeks

Visibly tired and frustrated top United Nations officials urged climate talks to push harder for an end to fossil fuels. Time seems to be running out both in the talks in could keep warming at or below the internationally

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres returned to the summit on Monday and said it was "time to go into overdrive, to negotiate in good faith, and rise to the challenge". He said negotiators at the COP28 summit in particular must focus on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and climate justice.

He said the global stocktake - the part of talks that assesses where the world is at with its climate goals and how it can reach them - should "phase out all fossil fuels" in order to reach the goal of limiting the rise of global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) compared with pre-industrial times. That phase-out was, he said, "a central aspect" for the summit to be considered a success. "We can't keep kicking the can down the road, Guterres said in brief remarks.

the bar for success is high," said EU Commissioner Wopke

But because scientists tell us that we have no alternative if we want to keep future generations safe."

Delegates were still waiting

He was asked if delegates were getting close to a final text. He didn't respond, but smiled, waved and gave a thumbs up to an Associated Press journalist before being

phone. \

the political decisions making

this transition real so that we

can stay below 1.5 degrees."

Just after 3 p.m., COP28

President Sultan al-Jaber

walked out with an entourage

and headed for an electric

cart while speaking on the

Polling centres open in Egypt's presidential polls

 $P_{\text{opened on Monday, the}}^{\text{olling centres in Egypt}}$ second voting day in a presidential election that is certain to see President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi secure another term. The vote, which began across the Middle Eastern nation on Sunday, has been overshadowed by the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, on Egypt's eastern bor-

The vote is also taking place amid a staggering economic crisis in Egypt, a country of 105 million people in which nearly a third live in poverty, according to official figures.

The crisis stems from mismanagement of the economy but also from the repercussions of the coronavirus pandemic and the ongoing Russian war in Ukraine, which rattled the global economy.

El-Sissi faces no serious challenger, although there are three other candidates: Farid Zahran, head of the opposition Social Democratic Party; Abdel-Sanad Yamama, chairman of the Wafd Party; and Hazem Omar, head of the

Customer Name

29378771 Praveen Kumar Siddhu | 21/11/2022 | 9815

20579858 Pradeep Kumar

HDB FINANCIAL



Republican People's Party. El-Sissi came to power in 2014, a year after he, as defense minister, led the military removal of an elected but divisive Islamist president amid widespread street protests against his year of rule. More than 67

million people are eligible to vote in this week's election. The vote is set to end on Tuesday, with a runoff scheduled for January 8-10 if no candidate secures more than 50 per cent of the vote, according to the National Election Authority, a judicial-chaired body that runs the electoral

Delhi NCR-Burari

Ground Floor, Zenith House, Keshavrao Khadye Marg Mahalaxmi, Mumbai - 400034

Tel No.: +91 22 49116300

FINAL AUCTION CUM SALE NOTICE FOR GOLD ORNAMENTS

The borrower(s) (whose details are provided in the table herein below), in particular, and the public, in general, are hereby informed that the below mentioned accounts are overdue, and the borrowers/account holders have not responded /complied with the communication, and

notice send by HDB Financial Services Limited (the "Company") requesting the borrower to

clear his/her/their dues as per the documents in respect of the below mentioned loan signed

accepted by the borrower(s) (such documents, collectively "loan agreement") and therefore defaulted in terms thereof. The Company has in excercise of its rights as a pledgee, decided to enforce the pledge and therefore hold a public auction of the gold ornaments pledged to the

company as security for the loan for the purpose of selling the same and realizing/recovering the dues owned by the borrower(s) to the company. The auction will be conducted

The state with a boundary of the below mentioned local branch of HDB Financial Services Limited from 11.00 am onwards on the date and branches mentioned in the below table;-

Date of Loan Overdue

24/12/2021 14217

US troops and Iran-backed groups **AP** ■ BAGHDAD

Dozens of attacks on US military facilities by Iranbacked factions in Iraq over the past two months have forced the government in Baghdad to perform a balancing act that is becoming more difficult by the day. A rocket attack on the sprawling US Embassy in Baghdad on Friday marked a further escalation as Iraqi officials scramble to contain the ripple effects of the Israel-

Iran holds considerable sway in Iraq and a coalition of Iran-backed groups brought Minister Moĥammed Shia al-Sudani to power in October 2022. But at the same time, there are some 2,000 US forces stationed in Iraq under an agreement with Baghdad, mainly to counter the extremist Islamic State group.

Baghdad also relies heavily on Washington's sanctions waivers to buy electricity from Iran, and since the US invasion of Iraq in 2003, Iraq's foreign currency reserves have been housed at the US Federal Reserve, giving the Americans significant control over Iraq's supply of dollars.

Al-Sudani's predecessors also had to walk a delicate line

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mr. Vinod Kumar Jain (2) Mrs. Anita

rom (1) Mr. Vinod Kumar Jain (2) Mrs. Anita Jaina (3) Mr. Dheeraj Gupta, who are owners of ne aforesaid property vide Authorization Slip PUDAY) dated 16.07.2022, which is egistered vide Document No.8347, at Sub-kegistrar-IX, New Delhi/Delhi, on 16.07.2022, und same to be finance & mortgage by Aditya Jaina Housing Finance Limited. To comply the equirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public police that if any Person baying any lyne of claim.

equirements of BANKINBEC, we give tris public tolice that if any Person having any type of claim.) ght / fille / interest / creating mortgage over the aid property may inform in witting, at the address tentioned below, about his objections, within 07 ays from today, failing which it shall be presumed tat the said property is free from all type of

organized an auction in below

mention respect of Vehicles.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

REG. NO. DL1LAE9095-YOM-2021

REG. NO. DL1LAJ9437-YOM-2023

REG. NO. DL1LX4063-YOM-2016

REG. NO. HR55U5340-YOM-2014

REG. NO. HR55T5724-YOM-2014

REG. NO. HR55U7058-YOM-2014

REG. NO. HR55T6735- YOM-2014

REG. NO.DL51GD1696-YOM-2022

REG. NO.UP14GT6891-YOM-2018

REG. NO.HR38AD0153-YOM-2022

UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH

M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK

IS UNDER SALE IN ITS

"AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE

THEIR QUOTATIONS WITH IN 7

DAYS AT

4) TATAMOTORS TLPT1109FB

5) TATAMOTORS TLPT1109FB

6) TATAMOTORS TLPT1109FB

7) TATAMOTORS TLPT1109FB

8) PIAGGIO_GR PIAGGIO_GR

9) ASHOK LEY AL4923FBT

10) EICHR_VECV PRO_2110

1) TATAMOTORS TACEGOLD

2) TATAMOTORS TATAACE

3) EICHR VECV E 1059

Washington, but the Israel-Hamas war has considerably upped the stakes.

Since the onset of the war on October 7, at least 84 attacks on US bases in Iraq and Syria have been claimed by an umbrella group of Iran-backed Iraqi militants dubbed the Islamic Resistance in Iraq. The militants say their attacks are in retaliation for Washington's backing of Israel and its mili-

tary presence in Iraq and Syria. Al-Sudani has condemned the attacks and US counterstrikes as a violation of his country's sovereignty. He also ordered authorities to pursue militants involved in the attacks, most of which did not cause injuries or major damage. His office declined further comment.

Washington has sent messages that its patience is wearing thin.

After the embassy attack, the Pentagon said that Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin "made clear (to al-Sudani) that attacks against US forces must stop".

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told al-Sudani that Washington expects Iraqi officials to take more action to prevent such attacks, and believes they have the capability to do so, a US official told a recent trip to the region, CIA Director William Burns warned al-Sudani of "harsh

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is breeby given that my client Rahul Simon Bunny is in process to purchase the Freehold Residential Hat No. 1.6-1 on Lower Ground Floor super area measuring 900 sq. ft Built on Plot No. 6/8 Situated at Sector-6 Vaishali Ghaziabad Tahsil & Distr. Ghaziabad (availing loan from Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd) from Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd) from Digamber Prasad vide GPA, ATS and Will dated 16/6/2021

All person/s having any claim against or in respect

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has

All person/s having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by wa of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate) Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahaluxmi Metrc Tower Sec-4, Vaishall, Gzb., J.P., Mob. 9810063351

bilise the Sudani government," said Mansour, a senior research fellow at the Chatham House think tank. to Iraq's role of passing messages between Washington and Tehran. Sometimes the messenger is al-Sudani. In early November, Blinken

met with al-Sudani in Baghdad a day before the Iraqi prime minister was set to visit Tehran. Al-Sudani had won a specific promise from the militias that

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that MR. PAWAN KUMAR SIO. MR. JAGDISH PRASHADIGPA HOLDER), the owner of BULL TUP PROPERTY WITH WHOLE STRUCTURE BEARING PROPERTY NO. 16411-A. OLD NO. 1251/MJ. AREA MEASURING 64 T2 SQ. YARDS, OUT OF KHASRAN. 1884/22.8, SITUATED IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE SIKDARPUR, INTHE ABADIO FO GALINO. 5, EAST ROHTASH NAGAR, ILLAGASHAHDARA, DELH-110032, wide Registered General Power of Altorney Dated 23.07.2021 Executed By Mrs. Shakuntla Devi Wib. Mr. Jagdish Prashad, General Power of Altorney Jack 23.07.2021 Executed By Mrs. Shakuntla Devi Wib. Mr. Jagdish Prashad, General Power of Altorney Jack 23.07.2021 All Persons are hereby informed that MR. CHANDERPALMR. SACHIN, MRS. RAKH, MR. ALAY & MRS. SARTIA montgaging the said property with SMF-G india Credit Company Limited (Formerly Eulerton India Credit Company Limited) (Formerly Fullerton India Credit Company Limited) (Formerly Eulerton India Credit Company Limi

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS Capri Global Capital LTD - Gold Loan Registered & Corporate Office Address 502, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel Mumbai, Mahasathra, India Fincode-400013. Telephone: 40888100, Fax: 40888170

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that gold ornaments pledged with under the below mention branches of the company, which were overdue for reclemption and have not been recisemed so far in spite of repeated not. We will conduct the auction at the concerned branches on 15th December 2023 at 11:00 AM Address of such Talkate/Cern have been duly notified at our website: www.caprilcans.in. Capri Global has the authority to remove any of the account from the auction its without prior information and lass the right to cancel/change the auction date without prior information.

We will conduct the auction at the concerned branches on 15° December 2023 at 1:00 AM Address of such Takkas/Conters have been duly notified at our websiter wavecappinasanic. Capril Global has the aurithority to remove any of the account from the auction list without prior information and has the right to cancel/change the auction date without prior information and has the right to cancel/change the auction date without prior information and has the right to cancel/change the auction date without prior information.

Mention Below is The District Name and Gold Loan Number
Delhi - GL220047907708, GL220013343, GL230115276, GL2300215112, GL23003242432, GL2304257055, GL2304265177, GL23003220156160, GL2300457555, GL230037919, GL2300384846, GL230034948, GL2200351745, GL220050707, GL2200537926, GL220045755, GL230045755, GL230045791, GL220045755, GL2300457955, GL220045755, GL220045775, GL2200457914, GL2200457914, GL2200457914, GL2200457914, GL2200457914, GL2200457914, GL2200457913, GL2200457913, GL2200457913, GL2200457913, GL2200457913, GL2200457913, GL2200457913, GL2200457915, GL2200457915, GL2200457913, GL2200457918, GL2200457915, GL2200457915, GL2200457913, GL2200457918, GL2200457918, GL2200457915, GL2200457915, GL2200457915, GL2200457917, GL2200447281, GL2200447288, GL2200447288, GL2200447281, GL220044

BRANCH ADDRESS: KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK 3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO 7. **SECTOR 125, NOIDA-201313 OR** CONTACT: RAMAN AHUJA KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. CONTACT NO. 8377988238 EMAIL-raman.ahuja@kotak.com

member of the Kataib Hezbollah militia. Following the visit, al-Sudani carried a message from Blinken to Iran to restrain the militias. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly. A week after the Iraqi premier's diplomatic efforts, the United States extended Iraq's sanctions waiver by four

no attacks would be launched

during Blinken's visit, accord-

ing to an Iraqi official and a

months to purchase Iranian electricity. Iran-hawks in Washington criticized the move, saying it would shore up revenue for Tehran while its proxies are at war with Israel. Mansour says the US has

used the sanctions waiver as "one of its cards" in economycentred efforts to pressure Iran and Iraq. Unlike Lebanon's Hezbollah group, seen as Iran's

most powerful proxy in the region, Iraq's militias have so far only played a limited role in the conflict. For now, only small number of militiamen from Iraq are in southern Lebanon, near

Israel's northern border, said the official from the Kataib Hezbollah group. He said the Iraqis are working on "battle Hezbollah and representatives of Hamas, the militant group that has ruled Gaza for 16 years and is currently battling Israel.

He said the Iran-backed groups in Iraq do not want the conflict to spread across the region, but are prepared to respond with force to any

UN officials ramp up urgency as climate talks enter final days

Dubai and for action that agreed-upon threshold.

"We are out of road and almost out of time."

"What is very clear is that

Activists display signs reading "hold the line" near United Nations Secretary

General Antonio Guterres as he speaks during a news conference at the COP28 U.N.

Climate Summit, Monday in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. policy. "Hopefully at this COP, we will also be able to make

Hoekstra. "And that is not because these Europeans say so, or because small islands say so, or Africa or Latin America say so.

on a new text on Monday afternoon.

"Why hasn't the text arrived? Because it is difficult," said Dan Jorgensen, Denmark's minister of climate

33426481 Sami Ullah 28198974 Billu Singh Delhi NCR-Burari Delhi-Adarsh Nagar 14/10/2022 16563 35463115 Rekha Lal 34474979 Prakash Kumar 26423357 Gautam Sehgal 17/05/2023 15700 06/08/2022 560832 Delhi-Badarpur Delhi-Dilshad Garden 27679347 Ved Prakash Mishra 30404792 Mohd Zakir Idrishi Delhi-Dilshad Garden Delhi-Dilshad Garden 26/09/2022 13925 31/12/2022 27739 26710188 Rishipal Yadav 31720701 Amandeep Singh 33950180 Aakash Yaday 32348735 Amandeep Singh Delhi-Gandhi Nagar 34785370 Amandeep Singh Delhi-Gandhi Naga 35710940 Madan Kumar Jindal 22/06/2023 9003 29989098 Wasim Beg Delhi-Jagatpuri 30540995 Shahzad So Mirza Delhi-Jagatpuri 03/08/2022 383449 Delhi-Kailash Nagar 34749249 Govind Singh Delhi-Kamla Nagar 14758622 Gyan Prakash 24/03/2021 18961 Delhi-Karol Bagh 35976537 Saurabh Pandey 30/06/2023 5914 Delhi-Kashmiri Gate Delhi-Malviya Nagar 31329911 Mahernder Pa Delhi-Nangloi 34666003 Kaushik Saha 23/05/2023 23798 Delhi-Nangloi 32030035 Praveen Kumar Delhi-Patel Nagar Mohammadalaudd

26392943 Manoj Kumar Pushkar 05/08/2022
 34042575
 Himanshu Yadav
 02/05/2023
 16052
 Delhi-Uttam Nagar

 34782602
 Varsha Rani
 25/05/2023
 14398
 Delhi-Uttam Nagar

 The auction shall be conducted on an "AS IS WHERE" and "AS IS WHAT IT" basis and the properties of Company is not making and shall not make any representation or warranties as regard the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. It shall be the sole and absolute responsibility of the potential purchaser to verify, examine and satisfy themselves about the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments prior to placing their bid and for such purpose it shall be open to potential purchasers to examine, at their sole cost and expense, and at the address set out herein above, the gold ornaments whether with or without expert advice 45 minutes prior to the time stipulated for the conduct of the auction. All the bid shall be subjected to sucl ninimum reserve price as the company may deem fit to fix in this regards. The auction process and sale (if any) pursuant to such auction shall be subjected to such further ter and condition as the company may at sole discretion deem fit to impose.

auction without further notice. Please note the it is the absolute discretionary power of the undersigned authorized officer of the company, either to postpone or to cancel the auction proceeding without prior notice and without assigning any reason thereof and to reject amor all the bids or offer without assigning any reason for the same.

34576056 Santosh Kumar Tiwari 12587776 Asha Attri 30381083 Intjar Ali 14074169 Sunil Kumar Delhi-Shahdara Relationsh 11137 5587 29/01/2021 Delhi-Shastri Nagar 27072033 Vishal Raju 31/08/2022 Relationship 31251086 Sunil Pal 31/01/2023 11045 Relationship

If the borrower(s) mentioned above pays the amount due to the Company in terms of the loan agreement in his individual loan account in full before the auction as mentioned above, the pledged ornaments securing the said loan may be withdrawn from the said

Russia targets Kyiv with ballistic missiles

Ukraine says it intercepted all of them

Russia fired eight ballistic missiles at Kyiv early on Monday, all of which were shot down, Ukraine's Air Force said. The thwarted attack still left one person injured by shrapnel and three more suffered severe stress reactions, officials said. A series of loud explosions rang out in Ukraine's capital just after 4 a.m., as the city was under its nightly curfew, followed by air raid sirens.

Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said that in Darnytskyi district of eastern Kyiv the debris of an intercepted missile fell without catching fire, and elsewhere in the capital the explosive wave damaged the windows of a house. The attack also left 120 households in the city without electricity, Ukraine's Ministry of Energy said. Last winter Russian troops were deliberately targeting Ukrainian energy system causing power outages and blackouts across the country. Over the weekend the UK Ministry of Defence noted that Russia last week used its heavy bomber fleet for the first time since September. It predicted the start of a more concerted campaign aimed at degrading Ukraine's energy infrastructure as winter sets in.

Kyiv is routinely targeted

by Russian drone and missile attacks. Just over two weeks ago, Kyiv came under what Ukrainian officials said was the most intense drone attack since the beginning of Russia's fullscale invasion in 2022. Ukraine's air force said Russia launched 75 Iranian-made Shahed drones against the capital, of which 74 were destroyed by air defences.

Monday's attack on the capital happened as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was in Argentina, where he attended the swearing-in of the country's new president, Javier Milei. It was the Ukrainian leader's first official trip to Latin America as Kyiv continues to court support among developing nations for its 21-month-old fight against Russia's invading forces.

Zelenskyy met with Milei as well as with the presidents of Uruguay, Paraguay and Ecuador. During the inauguration ceremony, Zelenskyy could be seen exchanging words with Hungarian leader Viktor Orban, widely considered one of Russian President Vladimir Putin's closest allies in Europe and one of the few European leaders who hasn't sided with Ukraine in the war.

In his nightly video address, Zelenskyy said he had a "highstraightforward conversation" with Orban, "focused on our European affairs". He said

he also spoke by phone with French President Emmanuel Macron and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen "about joint work at the EU level and about the joint defense of Europe".

EU leaders are meeting later this week in Brussels Orban has demanded that EU membership talks with Ukraine and billions of euros in funding meant for Kyiv be taken off the agenda. Zelenskyy was due to travel to Washington for meetings on Tuesday with President Joe Biden and other US offi-

"Volodymyr Zelenskyy will focus on ensuring unity among the United States, Europe and the world in supporting Ukraine's defense against Russian terror and strengthening the international order based on rules and respect for the sovereignty of each nation," his office said in a statement.

Biden has asked Congress for a USD 110 billion package of wartime funding for Ukraine and Israel, along with other national security priorities. But the request is caught up in a debate over US immigration policy and border security. Elsewhere in Ukraine on Monday, Russia fired 18 drones overnight, and the Air Force intercepted all of them, mostly over the southern Mykolaiv

below 30 per cent in Hong Kong elections

Voter turnout plunged below 30 per cent in Hong Kong's first district council elections since new rules introduced under Beijing's guidance effectively shut out all pro-democracy candidates, setting a record low since the former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997. According to official data

on Monday, 27.5 per cent of the city's 4.3 million registered voters cast ballots in Sunday's polls — significantly less than the record 71.2 per cent who participated in the last elections held at the height of antigovernment protests in 2019. The pro-democracy camp won those polls in a landslide victory, in a clear rebuke of the government's handling of the protests. Beijing loyalists are expected to take control of the district councils after Sunday's elections, with results showing big pro-government parties winning most directly elected

"The newly elected district councilors come from diverse backgrounds," Hong Kong leader John Lee said. "They will make the work in the districts more multidimensional

jects and public facilities, were

Hong Kong's last major political bodies mostly chosen by the public. But under new electoral rules introduced under a Beijing order that only "patriots" should administer the city, candidates must secure endorsements from at least nine members of government-appointed committees that are mostly packed with Beijing loyalists, making it virtually impossible for any pro-democracy candidates to

An amendment passed in July also slashed the proportion of directly elected seats from about 90 per cent to about 20 per cent. Many prominent pro-democracy activists have also been arrested or have fled the territory after Beijing imposed a harsh national security law in response to the 2019 protests.

Critics say the low voter turnout reflects the public sentiment toward the "patriots" only system and the government's crackdown on dissent. The previous record low for participation in the council elections since the handover to Chinese rule was 35.8 per cent in 1999. The electoral changes further nar-rowed political freedoms in the city, following a separate overhaul for the legislature in 2021. Following those changes, turnout in the last legislative

Voter turnout plunges | SC verdict upholding abrogation of Art 370 has 'no legal value': Pak

Pakistan on Monday said India's Supreme Court verdict upholding the abrogation of Article 370 has "no legal value", asserting that the international law does not recognise New Delhi's "unilateral and illegal actions" of August 5, 2019. The Supreme Court on Monday unanimously upheld the Centre government's decision of August 2019 to abrogate Article 370, which bestowed a special status on the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

"International law doesn't recognise India's unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019. The judicial endorsement by the Indian Supreme Court has no legal value. Kashmiris have an inalienable right to self-determination in accordance with the relevant UN SC resolutions," caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani said. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Jilani said India has "no right to make unilateral decisions on the status of this disputed territory" against the will of the Kashmiri

people and Pakistan.

"Pakistan categorically rejects the judgement

Court of India on the status of" Jammu and Kashmir, he said. He said that the judicial endorsement of India's "unilateral and illegal actions" was "a travesty of justice".

He said that Jammu and Kashmir is an internationallyrecognised dispute, which remains on the agenda of the UN Security Council for over seven decades. "The final dis-position of Jammu and Kashmir is to be made in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and as per aspirations of the Kashmiri people," he said. "Pakistan does not acknowledge the supremacy of the Indian Constitution over Jammu and Kashmir. Any process, subservient to the Îndian Constitution, carries no legal significance. India cannot abdicate its international obligations on the pretext of domestic legislations and judicial verdicts," he said.

Relations between India and Pakistan have often been strained over the Kashmir issue and cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan. However, their ties nose-dived after India abrogated Article

Indian envoy and downgraded the trade ties. India has time and again said that Kashmir is an internal matter, and added it desires normal, friendly relations with Pakistan in an environment free of terror, violence and hostility.

Gilani alleged that India's "unilateral and illegal measures" since 5 August 2019 have been aimed at changing the demographic structure and political landscape of Kashmir.

'They remain a matter of grave concern for Pakistan as their ultimate goal is to convert the Kashmiris into a disempowered community in their own land. These measures must be rescinded to create an environment for peace and dialogue," he said. The minister said Pakistan will continue to extend its full political, diplomatic and moral support to the people of Kashmir for the realisation of their inalienable right to self-determination.

"We will soon call a meeting of all stakeholders and determine our future course of action," he said. To a question, he said that Pakistan would like to maintain peace on the LoC after this decision

Bilawal moves supreme court for ... better aligning with the interests of the citizens." The district councils, live streaming of proceedings turnout in the last legislative which primarily handle municipal matters such as election two years ago plunged organising construction proto 30 per cent from 58 per cent **ZULFIKAR BHUTTO'S DEATH SENTENCE**

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan People's Party chairman and exforeign minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Monday approached the Supreme Court for live streaming of proceedings on a case seeking to revisit the controversial death sentence given

to the party founder and former

premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. In March 1978, a fourmember bench of Lahore High Court had given the death sentence to Bhutto, which was later challenged in the Supreme Court. In a four to three split verdict, a seven-judge apex court bench upheld the sentence during the military regime of the then-army chief Gen Ziaul Haq in March 1979.

A nine-member larger bench of the apex court will commence on Tuesday the long-pending presidential case seeking to revisit the death sentence given to Bhutto.

The case was filed on behalf of former president Asif Ali Zardari on Ápril 2, 2011, to seek an opinion on revisiting the death sentence given to the former premier under the Supreme Court's advisory jurisdiction. Headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, the larger bench will consist of Justices Sardar Tariq Masood, Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Yahya Afridi, Aminud-Din Khan, Jamal Khan Mandokhel, Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi and Musarrat Hilali. On Monday, Bilawal, through his lawyer Farooq H Naek, filed a petition in the top court requesting that the hearing of the case should be "live/on-air" so that the entire country could hear it, Dawn newspaper reported.

The reference was filed by the then president of Pakistan namely Asif Ali Zardari, who is the father of the present applicant, hence, the applicant is the son of Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and the grandson of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, who was the founder of the Pakistan People's Party and a great leader of unprecedented scale, caliber, and character," the plea

Allies of Navalny say they haven't heard from him in 6 days

Tallinn (AP): Allies of imprisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny sounded the alarm on Monday, saying that neither they nor the politician's lawyers have heard from him in six days. Navalny, who is serving a 19-year term on charges of extremism, was due to appear in court Monday via video link but didn't, spokeswoman Kira Yarmysh said. She said prison officials cited electricity problems. Lawvers in recent days also haven't been able to access Navalny, according to Yarmysh.

"It is already the sixth straight day that we don't know where Alexei is and what is happening to him," Yarmysh wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter. Navalny, 47, has been As President Vladimir Putin's fiercest foe, he campaigned against official corruption and organised major anti-Kremlin protests. His arrest came upon his return to Moscow from Germany, where he recuperated from nerve agent poisoning that he blamed on the Kremlin.

Navalny has since been handed three prison terms and spent months in isolation in a penal colony in the Vladimir region east of Moscow for alleged minor infractions. He has rejected all charges against him as politically motivated.

Yarmysh said on Friday that the developments were concerning given that Navalny recently fell ill: "He felt dizzy and lay down on the floor. Prison officials rushed to him, unfolded the bed, put Alexei on it and gave him an IV drip. We don't know what caused it, but given that he's being deprived of food, kept in a cell without ventilation and has been offered minimal outdoor time, it looks like fainting out of hunger."

36 hours since Muhammad

Amin landed in Indonesia. He

arrived in a wooden boat with

136 other Rohingya Muslims

who left their refugee camp in

Bangladesh. Their boat had

been at sea for nearly 1 1/2

months, with no water or food

Saint-Germain soccer jersey

that bore the marks of being

worn for days. He, together

with his wife, his children and

hundreds of other Rohingya

refugees, tried to get some rest

as they waited at a skateboard

park in the city of Banda Aceh,

next to the governor's office.

They have been relocated five

Amin, 27, wore a Paris

for days

Nepali soldiers employed in both Russian and Ukraine armies: PM Prachanda

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' on Monday said that Nepali citizens are not only serving in the Russian Army but reportedly also serving in the Ukrainian Army. The Nepal government recently confirmed that six Nepalese nationals who fought for the Russian Army died in the war between Russia and

over 200 Nepalese serving in the Russian Army, the Prime Minister said while interacting with pro-Maoist journalists here. "We have also learnt that Nepalese soldiers are serving in the Ukrainian Army too," he said. We are finding out the truth in this matter, Prachanda said while inaugurating a Press Centre Nepal central office bearers' meeting.
The Press Centre Nepal is



affiliated with the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-Maoist). "I have got reports that over 200 Nepalis are in Russian Amy and there are also reports about Nepalis working for the Ukraine army," Prachanda said.

The Nepal government has, however, clarified that it has no policy of sending Nepalese to the Russian Army and that people in search of foreign employment have gone to join the armies of other countries.

Philippines military chief angered by confrontations in SCS

boat when it was blasted with a water cannon, surrounded and bumped by Chinese coast guard ships over the weekend in the disputed South China Sea. Gen Romeo Brawner Jr. told The Associated Press in a telephone interview that China was escalating its aggression in the contested waters but said it would not deter Filipino forces from defending the Philippines' territorial interests in the busy waterway.

More than 100 Chinese government and suspected militia ships have swarmed the high seas around the contested Second Thomas Shoal, where a longmarooned Philippine navy ship that Brawner visited has stood for decades. He said the swarm of Chinese ships was much bigger than in previous months. "It's pure aggression," Brawner said of China's high-seas maneuvers. "I witnessed how many times the big Chinese coast guard and militia ships cut our path. They water-cannoned us, then bumped us. It's angering."
"This really needs a diplo-

matic solution at the higher level," he said, but added that the The Philippine military chief said on Monday he was with Philippine "armed forces will continue our mission because it bring supplies to our troops in the frontlines, and it's our obligation

to protect our fishermen".

Brawner, the US-educated chief of the 150,000-member Armed Forces of the Philippines, joined navy personnel in a wooden-hulled supply boat, the Unnaiza Mae I, which brought Christmas gifts, food and other supplies to a small contingent of Filipino marines and navy personnel stationed aboard the BRP Sierra Madre at the Second Thomas Shoal. Although now crumbling with rust and holes, the slightly listing BRP Sierra Madre remains an actively commissioned Philippine navy ship, meaning any assault on it would be considered an act of war. It has become a fragile symbol of the territorial claims of the Philippines in the strategic waterway, which China claims virtually in its entirety. After the Philippines deliberately grounded the Sierra Madre in the shallows of Scarborough Shoal in 1999, China surrounded the atoll with its coast guard, navy and suspected militia ships to isolate the Filipino forces there.

standoff has flared regularly and flashpoints in the South China Sea and a delicate fault line in the US-China regional rivalry.

The United States has repeatedly warned it is obligated to defend the Philippines, its oldest treaty ally in Asia, if Filipino forces, ships or aircraft come under an armed attack, including in the South China Sea. China has warned the US not to meddle in what it says is a purely Asian dispute.

Brawner said he conveyed President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s Christmas greetings to the Filipino forces aboard the BRP Sierra Madre, where he shared a traditional rice lunch eaten by hand with them. The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said it summoned the Chinese ambassador on Monday and filed diplomatic protests against Beijing. A Philippine coast guard spokesman Commodore Jay Tarriela, called the Chinese coast guard's actions "barbaric" in a news conference and said the Philippine coast guard would not use its water

The yearslong territorial Miguel Zubiri called on Marcos row with water cannon blasts to order the expulsion of the and rammed one of them, caus-Marcos administration has not indicated how it would react to the call. On Sunday, Marcos said that "the aggression and provocations perpetrated by the China coast guard and their Chinese maritime militia against our vessels and personnel over the weekend have only further steeled our determination to defend and protect our nation's sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction" in the South China

Over the weekend, Philippine officials said the Chinese coast guard and suspect-

Senate President Juan Philippine vessels two days in a Filipino crew members off the Second Thomas Shoal and separately in the Scarborough Shoal off the northwestern Philippines.

The Philippines, along with the US and Japan, condemned the maneuvers by the Chinese coast guard and accompanying ships. More than a dozen countries, including the European Union, Germany, France, Canada and Australia, also expressed support to the Philippines and expressed alarm over the incident, Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Teresita Daza said.

United Kingdom sends two minehunters to Ukraine London (AP): Britain is trans- defend inland and coastal

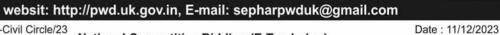
security in the Black Sea, the Ministry of Defence said on Monday. Transfer of the two Sandown class vessels, which are designed to help clear mines from coastal waters, comes as Britain and Norway announce plans for a new maritime coalition to increase support for Ukraine in the war with Russia.

The coalition will work with the Ukrainian navy to expand its forces in the Black Sea, develop a Ukrainian Marine Corps and enhance the use of river patrol craft to

ferring two minehunting ships waterways, British authorities to Ukraine as part of a package said. "These minehunters will Ukraine, which will help save lives at sea and open up vital export routes, which have been severely limited since (Russian President Vladimir) Putin launched his illegal full-scale invasion,' Defence Secretary Grant Shapps said in a statement.

Britain first announced a deal to sell the two minehunting ships to Ukraine in June 2021, before Russia's fullscale invasion of Ukraine. Ukrainian soldiers began training on the ships last year in Scotland.

Office of Superintending Engineer Civil Circle, P.W.D., Devpura Haridwar



Letter No. 2852/06C-Civil Circle/23

National Competitive Bidding (E-Tendering)

On the behalf of "Governor of Uttarakhand" Superintending Engineer, Civil Circle, PWD, Haridwar invites item rate bid through E-tendering under Two Bid system (In anticipation of the financial sanction). All information will be available from 19.12.2023 and onwards on website http://www.uktenders.gov.in.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Earnest Money (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Tender (Rs.)	Time of Completion of work (Months)	Validity of Tender (Days)	Category of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Construction of drain on both sides of remaing part of NH-58 from ROB to Bijhauli drain in Roorkee Constituency of district Haridwar Under Honorable Chief Minister announcement number 101/2021 (State Plan Year 2021-22)	32.00	Rs. 5000.00+ 18% GST	12 Months	120 Days	Registered in category A or above for Road work in any of the Govt. department /Govt. undertaking of Uttarakhand state or registered in category A or above for Road work in any other State Govt./ Central Govt. department/Govt. undertaking.

Submission of following documents in original is essential in office of undersigned on/before the last date and time of uploading tender by the bidders.

- Cost of tender document Rs. 5000.00+G.S.T. as applicable only in the form of demand draft in the name of Executive Engineer, Construction Division, PWD, Roorkee. Bank Draft for Rs. 5000.00 & GST Rs. 900.00 to be submitted separately. Rs 100.00 Non Judicial stamp affixed with duly signed Rs. 1.00 Revenue stamp for the validity of the Tender
- including certificate for validity up to 120 days and the name of work/Tender ID. Earnest Money to be pledged in the name of Superintending Engineer, Civil Circle, PWD, Haridwar.
- Attach Copy of Registration.
 - The undersigned reserves the right to cancel any or all tenders without explaining any reason. No claim from anyone will be valid in this regard.

Superintending Engineer Civil Circle, PWD, Haridwar

Rohingya Muslims struggle to find shelter AP BANDA ACEH claimed that they were being times in less than two days and are yet to find shelter. Two shot at, and one night a couple H^{is} face showed exhaustion, restlessness, and conof Rohingya refugees got killed. boats carrying two groups of more than 300 Rohingya About 740,000 Rohingya fusion. It has been more than

camp in Bangladesh," he said

while holding his two toddler

daughters to calm them down.

to keep on guard every night.

We couldn't sleep." Amin

We, the Rohingya men, had

Muslims, including emaciated Muslims have fled Buddhistwomen and children, reached majority Myanmar to camps in Indonesia's northernmost Aceh Bangladesh since August 2017, province on Sunday. A third following a brutal counterinboat, carrying more refugees, surgency campaign. Myanmar remains missing. security forces have been The UN refugee agency warned that people onboard accused of mass rapes, killings and the burning of thousands could die if more is not done to of Rohingya homes, and interrescue them. Amin and his national courts are considering whether their actions constitute family left the refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh and arrived at Lamreh village in Indonesia's northmost Ache province. "It was not safe at the

genocide. The refugees have been trying to find shelter in other countries including Bangladesh, Malaysia and Indonesia. After their boat docked at Lamreh village, Amin and the other Rohingya refugees saw

the locals were unwelcoming of

their arrival. On Sunday

evening, residents loaded the they landed.

Finally, the refugees were driven back to where the governor's office was located. They stayed overnight in a convention hall complex in Banda Aceh city owned by the government. Shahidul Islam, 34, arrived with Amin.

Rohingya Muslims in four trucks and took them to the place near the governor's office, about 1.5 hours from where

When they arrived, police officers drove them for anoth-

er hour to a scout camp in Pidie regency, only for residents there to block the camp's entrance and deny them entry. Authorities escorted them to a convention centre run by the Ministry of Social Affairs, but locals still wouldn't allow them

'Retail inflation now stable'

TEMPORARY INCREASES DUE TO DEMAND SUPPLY MISMATCHES: FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

¬inance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said retail inflation is now "stable" and temporary increases in inflation on a few occasions are caused by demand-supply mismatches arising out of global shocks and adverse weather conditions.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Sitharaman said India's retail inflation has declined from an average of 7.1 per cent in April-October 2022 to 5.4 per cent in the corresponding period of 2023

The retail inflation is now stable and within the notified tolerance band of 2 per cent to 6 per cent. A steady decline in core inflation, estimated after removing volatile food and fuel items from retail inflation, has been

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Viksit Bharat's

country," he said.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on

Monday said India's bioecono-

my has grown eight-fold in the

last eight years to \$80 billion,

and the country has set a target

to reach \$600 billion by 2030. The minister was speaking at the pre-Vibrant Gujarat seminar

on Biotechnology: The Path of Innovation and Wellness for

"The Indian bioeconomy has

grown eight times in the last eight years to \$80 billion from

\$10 billion earlier. India has set a target for the biotechnology

industry to grow to \$150 billion

by 2025 and \$600 billion by

2030. There are more than 760

companies and 4,240 startups in

the biotechnology sector in the

The country is not far from

being among the top 10 in the

biotechnology global ecosys-

ised as part of the upcoming Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit

"Biotechnology will become

the biggest foundation for

health treatment, and will help

resolve complex questions in

the fields of agriculture, envi-

ronment, industrial produc-

tion, and several such areas,

The economy will be based on

biotechnology because of all these factors, he added.

The National Biotechnology Development Strategy 2022-25 has focused on skill develop-

Mandaviva said.

India bioeconomy grew to \$80

billion in eight years, target to reach

\$600 billion by 2030: Mandaviya

critical in weakening the inflationary pressure in the Indian economy," she said.

The core inflation rate has declined from 5.1 per cent in April 2023 to 4.3 per cent in October 2023. The minister said retail inflation

in India has been mostly within acceptable limits after the notification of the inflation tolerance band in 2016. 'Temporary increases in infla-

tion on a few occasions are caused by demand-supply mismatches arising out of global shocks and adverse weather conditions," Sitharaman added. Proactive supply-side initiatives by the government and effective demand stabilisation measures by the Reserve Bank of India have helped resolve the demandsupply mismatches and rein in inflation, she added.

ment, R&D, knowledge sharing,

commercialisation facilities and

public-private partnership

mode to connect to the markets.

sector contributed 62 per cent

to the Indian bioeconomy, fol-

lowed by bio-agriculture (16 per cent), and bio-services and bio-

industries (together accounting

By developing five vaccines for

COVID-19, India showed its

biotechnology prowess to the world, and it was made possi-ble due to the biotechnology

skills available in the country, he

"India provided affordable vac-

cines to more than 125 coun-

tries. In coming times, India will

make available many such biotechnology-based products

for the welfare of the world," he

Speaking at the seminar, Chief

Minister Bhupendra Patel said

Under the visionary leadership

of the then chief minister and

Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Gujarat has focused on the

development of the biotechnol-

ogy sector since 2004, he said.

A golden era has begun in the

field of biotechnology in the

country and Gujarat is poised

ing "technology of hope"

for 22 per cent), he said.

the minister informed. As of 2020, the pharmaceutical



The measures taken by the government to restrain inflation include strengthening buffers for key food items, making periodic open market releases, easing imports of essential food items through trade policy measures, and preventing hoarding through imposition/revision of stock limits, and channelling supplies through designated retail outlets.

To ensure food security for the poor, the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, which provides free foodgrains to about 81.35 crore beneficiaries, has been extended for five years with effect from January 1,

In October 2023, the government also increased the subsidy under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana from Rs 200 to Rs 300 per 14.2 kg cylinder.

ed 542 instances of malfunction-

Technical snags in aircraft are

TOP GAINERS Change (+27.70

Sensex scales 70,000 peak

PTI MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex breached a new milestone of 70,000 points before closing 102 points higher, while Nifty settled just shy of the 21,000 mark on Monday, driven by gains in banking, IT and metal

After a gap-up opening, the 30-share index rose to a record intra-day high of 70,057.83 points. Later, it shed some of the gains to close at 69,928.53 points, showing a rise of 102.93 points or 0.15 per cent.

As many as 18 Sensex shares closed in the green, 11 declined, and one settled unchanged. The broader Nifty also hit its record trading high of 21,026.10 amid early gains in global markets. The 50-share index gained 27.70 points or 0.13 per cent to settle just below the 21,000 level at 20.007 10, its all time cleains. 20,997.10, its all-time closing

high. Among Sensex shares, Ultratech Cement jumped the most by 3.04 per cent. Nestle rose 1.3 per cent, Power Grid 1.05 per cent and Tata Motors 0.85 per cent. Gains in IndusInd Bank, HCL Tech, TCS, Tech Mahindra, NTPC, ITC. ISW Steel and Tata Steel helped the barometer scale a

Axis Bank fell the most by 1.26 per cent, M&M by 0.99 per cent and Hindustan Unilever by 0.67 per cent. Maruti, Bajaj Finsery, Bharti Airtel, and HDFC Bank and Infosys also declined.

'The market crossed 70,000 levels today, while the broader market outperformed the main indices. However, profit booking was evident at higher levels as traders anticipated clues from tomorrow's significant data releases on inflation from the US and India, as well as the IIP," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial

Services, said.

Investors will be closely watching the upcoming FOMC meeting tomorrow for clues about potential future rate cuts while expecting to keep rates the same this time, Nair added. The US Federal Reserve will announce its next move on interest rates on Wednesday. The US government will report on consumer inflation on Tuesday.

In the broader market, BSE LargeCap advanced by 0.21 per cent, BSE MidCap by 0.91 per cent, while SmallCap rose

by 0.71 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, BSE

Commodities rose by 1.16 per

cent, BSE Metal by 1.1 per cent,

BSE Services by 0.95 per cent,

cent, BSE Utilities by 0.67 per cent, and BSE Auto by 0.48 per

However, BSE Healthcare dropped 0.38 per cent and Oil & Gas by 0.15 per cent.

On the Nifty scaling 21,000 level, Rupak De, Senior Technical analyst at LKP Securities, said, "The Nifty traded mostly sideways as traders stayed on the sidelines at the beginning of a datapacked week. There's a strong resistance at 21,000, with call writers actively building positions. A decisive breakthrough above 21,000 is necessary to resume the uptrend. Until then, it's anticipated that the market will consolidate within a broad

er range". Meanwhile, Asian markets were mixed. Hong Kong's Hang Seng dropped 0.8 per cent, and the Shanghai Composite added 0.7 per cent, while Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index gained 1.5 per

In Europe, Germany's DAX was unchanged, and the CAC 40 in Paris gained 0.2 per cent. In London, the FTSE 100 was down 0.4 per cent.

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have turned bullish, investing Rs 26,505 crore into domestic equities in the first six trading sessions of December.

'406 instances of aircraft malfunctioning reported in January, November 2023'

Domestic airlines reported 406 instances of aircraft malfunctioning in the first 11 months of this year, according to the gov-

Minister of State for Civil Aviation VK Singh shared the data in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha on Monday.

From January to November 2023, IndiGo reported 233 instances of aircraft malfunctioning, while SpiceJet reported 44 such cases

Air India reported 52 instances of malfunctioning of aircraft, followed by the now-grounded Go First (22), Akasa Air (20), AirAsia (India) Ltd (15), Vistara (13), Fly Big (5) and BlueDart Aviation (2).



nents/accessories fitted on the aircraft," the minister said. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has laid down regulations under Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR), which requires that the aircraft is maintained in accordance with the manufacturer and DGCA guidelines, and all snags

reported on the aircraft are rectified before it is

ing of aircraft.

released for flight, he added. In a separate written reply, Singh said there was no shortage of pilots in the country.

Kinetic Green launches e scooter ZULU, targets big play in 2, 3 wheeler market

 $E^{lectric\ vehicle\ maker\ Kinetic\ Green\ on}_{Monday\ said\ it\ is\ looking\ to\ play\ big\ in}$ the electric two and three-wheeler space as it rolled out its all-new e-scooter ZULU in the domestic market.

The Made-in-India Fame-II compliant high-speed electric scooter comes at an introductory price starting from Rs 94,990 (ex-showroom, Mumbai), the company

The Pune-based company also announced a new brand identity as part of its commitment to sustainable mobility plans. The all-new Zulu will offer "Battery as a

Subscription" plans and a fast-charging, long-life lithium-ion battery with oil-cooled Kinetic Green aims big with the launch of all-new e-scooter ZULU, the company said. This is a significant moment for the Kinetic Green family and the EV industry at large. With the launch of our e-scooter Zulu, Kinetic Green is excited to announce that we will be developing and bringing to our customers a range of two and threewheelers in the coming years," said Sulajja Firodia Motwani, Founder and CEO of Kinetic Green.

to be a leader in it as well, he We are indeed excited to re-begin the 2-Patel expressed confidence that wheeler journey in this new avatar! In addition, our rebranding marks a momentous the biotechnology sector will prove to be important in achievmilestone in our pursuit of innovative and ing the goal of a developed India through a developed Gujarat. sustainable mobility solutions for the masses," she added.



The battery subscription model ensures that the customer does not pay for the battery upfront, as the customer can subscribe for the battery on a "pay as you use" model, reducing the initial purchase cost of the scooter and eventually, can also own the battery at the end of the subscription term, the company said.

This structure results in a reduction of more than 35 per cent in acquisition cost and great savings on running costs as well, the company said, adding the system is fully integrated with a mobile app for a seamless user experience.

With a range of 104 km and a city speed of 60 kmph, ŽULU is powered by a 2.27 kWh (kilo-watt hour) lithium-ion battery capac ity and is equipped with a portable charger, facilitating convenient charging at home The e-scooter also comes with a range of features such as front and rear disc brakes, under-seat storage, LED Daytime Running Lights (DRL), a digital speedometer, front storage space, a front bag hook, an auto power-cut charger, a USB port and a boot light, among others, Kinetic Green said.

adani

EBITDA jumps 47 per cent in H1

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

dani Group on Monday Asaid pre-tax profit or EBIT DA of its portfolio companies that span from apples to airports jumped 47 per cent in the first half of the current fiscal year to Rs 43,688 crore on growth across businesses.

"Core infrastructure businesses that provide a high degree of predictability, stability and multidecadal visibility contributed 86 per cent of total EBITDA," it said in a statement.

Trailing 12-month EBITDA of Rs 71,253 crore (USD 8.6 billion) is around 3x of FY19 (April 2018 to March 2019 fiscal year) EBIT-

"The integrated business portfolio, which focuses on fortifying India's infrastructure development, has delivered a strong performance across all its businesses. The substantial cash flows from these businesses lay the foundation for sustained future growth," the statement said. The group had the highestever cash balances of Rs 45,895 crore (USD 5.5 billion) at the

end of September. Headquartered in Ahmedabad, the Adani portfolio is the largest and fastest-growing portfolio of diversified businesses in India with interests in logistics (seaports, airports, logistics, shipping and rail), resources, power generation and distribution, renewable energy, gas and infrastructure, agro (commodities, edible oil, food products, cold storage and grain silos), real estate public transport infrastructure, consumer finance and defence. "The incubation continues to be

a success story with airports green hydrogen and other incubating assets emerging strongly and now contributing near 8% of the portfolio EBITDA," said Jugeshinder (Robbie) Singh, Group CFO.

"The Portfolio has withstood the test of time and has a track record of tremendous growth in spite of macroeconomic and

other challenges. In the first half of fiscal year 2024, the Adani portfolio of further enhancing its strong credit profile. During the April-September period, the portfolio level EBIT-

companies demonstrated robust

financial performance while

DA stood at Rs 43,688 crore (USD 5.3 billion), up 47 per cent year-on-year. This growth outpaced the portfolios historical five-year compound annual growth rate (CAGR) trajectory of 26.3 per cent. "The H1 FY24 EBITDA sur-

passed the full-year EBITDA of FY22. Additionally, trailing 12month EBITDA is notably close to three times FY19 EBITDA, the statement said.

The growth was driven by performance of the core infrastructure businesses, which grew by 52 per cent to Rs 37,379 crore, contributing 86 per cent of the total EBITDA.

These businesses include the utility (Adani Green Energy, Adani Energy Solutions, Adani Power and Adani Total Gas), transport (Adani Ports & SEZ) and other infrastructure businesses (those being incubated by Adani Enterprises - green hydrogen integrated manufacturing,

airports and roads).
"The expansion reflects the portfolio's focused investment in infrastructure development, which is yielding significant results. AEL's strategic initiatives to bolster its infrastructure portfolio are in line with the rising demand for sustainable and robust infrastructure in India and beyond," it said.

On major business-wise highlights, the Adani group said the incubation under Adani Enterprises continues to progress well, with the assets contributing 8 per cent of the overall EBITDA.

The emerging business of the low-cost green hydrogen integrated manufacturing delivered 212 per cent year-on-year revenue growth and 10x EBITDA growth. The airports business under Adani Enterprises witnessed a 29 per cent y-o-y growth in passengers in the first half, thus resulting in revenue growth of 42 per cent.

States should look at asset sales in infra sector to bolster revenues: RBI report

States' finances improved in FY23, and there is a need to look at asset monetisation to help garner non-tax revenues, a Reserve Bank report said on Monday.

In the report on state budgets, which is done annually, the Reserve Bank said road, trans-

Seven airlines, including Alliance Air, SpiceJet, IndiGo

and Emirates, together have

pending dues of more than Rs

95 crore to the Airports

Authority of India (AAI),

according to the government.

Other foreign airlines that have

pending dues are Biman

Bangladesh Airlines Ltd, British

Airways Plc and Qatar Airways,

as per data provided to the Rajya

The figures exclude interest and

take into account only dues

that are over Rs 1 crore pending

for more than one year as of

As per the data provided by Civil

Sabha on Monday

November 30, 2023

port and power sectors hold considerable potential where the states can undertake asset

States need to scale up their initiatives for asset monetisation in order to increase non-tax revenue. The monetisation of assets unlocks their value, eliminates their holding cost and enables scarce public funds to be

Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya

Scindia in a written reply, three

domestic carriers — Álliance Air, SpiceJet and IndiGo togeth-

er owe Rs 86.89 crore to the AAI.

Out of them, the maximum dues

amount is that of Alliance Air at

Rs 83.38 crore, followed by

SpiceJet (Rs 2.13 crore) and

Among the four foreign airlines,

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has

the highest dues of Rs 4.02

crore, followed by British

Airways (Rs 1.85 crore),

Emirates (Rs 1.44 crore) and Qatar Airways (Rs 1.01 crore).

'No dues exceeding Rs 10 lakh

have been reported on the part

of any now-defunct airlines to

AAI since 2021," Scindia said.

IndiGo (Rs 1.38 crore).

Seven airlines owe more

than ₹95 crore to AAI

deployed into new projects, thus fast-tracking new infrastructure creation," the report recommended.

States possess a sizeable infrastructure asset base with significant potential in roads, transport and power sectors, which can be looked at, the report said. It recommended mobilising revenues by undertaking a compre-

hensive review of unutilised land assets and converting them into revenue-generating industrial estates or doing an outright

The RBI report also said that in the case of non-operational public sector undertakings (PSUs), states may expedite liquidation

'ONDC has to address liability issue' advantage of digital commerce.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

onsumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh on Monday asked the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to resolve the issue relating to liability, which is important for consumers to get

satisfactory services. He said that the governmentpromoted ONDC has to work on fixing liability in case a consumer does not get the right product.

ONDC is an initiative of the

Commerce and Industry

Ministry to create a facilitative

model to help small retailers take

It is not an application, platform, intermediary or software but a set of specifications designed to foster open, unbundled, and interoperable open networks. "If I order through an app of a bank through Amazon and buy it from a seller located elsewhere and I get the wrong phone, then who is liable? So the issue of liability..

"I keep telling (ONDC CEO) Mr T Koshy that you have to address the issue of liability otherwise this thing is not going to work," Singh said at the 'Deloitte Growth with Government Summit'.

Ling country in terms of workplace culture, as a significant percentage of Indian workers consider a positive organisational culture as a primary factor for their commitment, according to As per the recent research con-

ducted by SHRM, 64 per cent of Indian workers are likely to stay if given good organisational culture, significantly higher than the global average of 37 per cent among employees. The study, based on 1,000

responses from India out of a global sample of 11,080 participants, noted that the key drivers for employee retention include a favourable organisational culture, job security, and fair treat-"Specifically in India, the data

reveals a noteworthy trend, with a significant number of employees expressing high ratings across all five dimensions: Respectful Workplace Interactions, Good Manager Communication, Work/Life Integration, Career Fulfilment, and Equitable Leadership Practices,"

said Achal Khanna, CEO - SHRM India, APAC & MENA. Despite the economic upheavals, rising inflation, and supply chain disruptions that characterised 2022 and 2023, the study reveals that workplace culture perceptions in India remained notably

Notably, the ratings in India Khanna added.

Indian employees rated their satisfaction level.

employment.

According to the study, despite

Majority of Indian workers likely to stay if given good organisational culture: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India has emerged as the leadpositive, the study said.

> surpass those of other countries examined in the study, underscoring the robust nature of workplace culture in our region," An impressive 80 per cent of

organisational culture as "good" or "excellent", showing a high However, on the factors influ-

encing organisational commitment among Indian employees, the study noted that 39 per cent cited inadequate pay as a primary reason for seeking new

boasting favourable workplace attributes like equitable leadership practices, career fulfilment, and work/life integration, Indian workers exhibit the lowest commitment ratings compared to other surveyed countries.

Adani group

JUNIOR WORLD CUP HOCKEY

INDIA FACE TOUGH DUTCH TEST

¬wo-time champions India will need to raise their game by a few notches while curbing complacency during their quarter-final encounter against a formidable Netherlands in the men's Junior World Cup hockey tournament here on Tuesday India won the tournament twice in 2001 in Hobart, Australia and at home in Lucknow in 2016. Besides they were runners-up once way back in 1997 in Milton Keyes, England, losing 2-3 against Australia in the final.

The Indians started the tournament on a bright note, beating Korea 4-1 and then suffered a 1-4 defeat at the hands of Spain before getting their acts together to thrash Canada 10-1 in their final pool match.

second-placed team from Pool C with two wins out of three games behind Spain, who had an all-win record. The Netherlands, on the other hand, finished atop Pool D with two wins and a

India sealed their quarterfinal place as the

Having started off on a positive note, the

Indians were taken to the cleaners by Spain, who relied on crisp, short passes



which worked perfectly for them. So, the Indian team will have to be on its toes against a clinical side like the Netherlands, which is capable of breaching any defence with its structured hockey.

The Indians will also have to do away of their habit of conceding unnecessary penalty corners when put under pressure. A big win against Canada should act as a confidence booster for India going into Tuesday's match, a fact which skipper Uttam Singh agreed.

We have played some good hockey in this World Cup. Coming off a big 10-1 win certainly boosts our confidence going into the knockout stages. We'll look to put our best foot forward and play to the best of our ability like we always do,"

India coach CR Kumar said his players are ready to tackle whatever comes in their way.

'The players are in a good space and are ready to take on whatever is thrown at them. We'll continue to take this tournament one match at a time

Yes, the quarterfinal is a big match but it's nothing the boys aren't prepared for." The semifinals and final will be held on Thursday and Saturday.

Oosthuizen overcomes Schwartzel

AP MALELANE (SOUTH AFRICA)

ouis Oosthuizen came out Lon top in his final-round duel with close friend and fellow South African Charl Schwartzel to win the Alfred Dunhill Championship on Monday for his first European tour title in five years.

Oosthuizen closed with a 3under 69 to win by two strokes, but only after a nervy finish that saw him make bogey at No. 17 and roll in a long par putt at the par-5 18th hole after hitting his drive into water.

"Just got lucky on this one," said the 2010 British Open champion, who finished on 18-under

The climax to the tournament was pushed back a day after much of Sunday's play was wiped out because of stormy weather.

Oosthuizen and Schwartzel, major champions and friends since their days playing junior golf, resumed on the eighth hole in a tie for the lead - three strokes clear of their nearest Christiaan challenger, Bezuidenhout - and with puddles dotted around the course at Leopard Creek Country Club

Sunday. They were still tied with six holes to play, when Oosthuizen made birdies from 10 feet, 30 feet and 6 feet to move into a three-shot lead.

because of heavy rain on

He gave one back on No. 17 and

arrived at the 72nd hole with a two-stroke lead over Schwartzel, only to push his tee shot into a water hazard. He took a drop, chipped into the fairway and hit his fourth shot to about 25 feet. with Schwartzel on the green for a birdie opportunity from clos-

However, Oosthuizen holed his putt and pumped his fist, knowing he'd claimed a 10th win on the European tour and a first since the South African Open in December 2018.

Schwartzel, who was looking to win the event for a fifth time, shot 71 and finished in second place, two strokes clear of Bezuidenhout.

'I knew I needed to play well -Charl plays really well around this place," Oosthuizen said. "I made a few putts there in the middle of the round and got ahead of Charl. I was in between what to do on 18, and made five the hard way."

It means the tour's three seasonopening events in South Africa were all won by home players, with Dean Burmester triumphing in both the Joburg Open and the South African Open Championship.
Oosthuizen and Burmester are

both players in the Saudi-funded breakaway LIV Golf series. There is another tournament in Africa - the Mauritius Open starting Thursday - before the tour takes a break until mid-January ahead of events in the Gulf region.

Girona trying to lower expectations



AP MADRID

irona was trying to lower Gexpectations after proving itself a genuine contender for the Spanish league title with its biggest win yet in a historic start to the season.

A 4-2 statement win at defend-Sunday put the Catalan club in sole possession of first place nearing the halfway point, and showed that it might have what it takes to keep up with the usual powerhouses in Spanish soccer. But coach Míchel Sánchez was quick to point out that winning the league still isn't the team's main goal. He acknowledged that Girona can aspire for more than just avoiding relegation, which was the main objective at the start of the season, but it is too early to think about the pos-

sibility of lifting a trophy. "I think mathematically we have escaped demotion, which was the goal," Michel said. "I don't think we can keep up with Barcelona, Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid and win the league. It's not our objective. But we are very pleased. Today soccer fans are a bit of Girona fans as well. A lot of people are saying, these guys can play. Girona has won 13 of its 16

AP ■ DUESSELDORF (GERMANY)

Six years and 39 games. That's how long it's been since

Bayern Munich lost a Champions League group stage

game.
That makes Tuesday's game against Bayern an especially

daunting task for Manchester

After its own loss to

Bournemouth, United needs to

beat Bayern to have any chance

of avoiding an embarrassingly

early exit from the Champions

Bayern - which is already qual-

ified for the knockout stages

won't just be playing to add a

40th game to that unbeaten

record. After a shock 5-1 loss to

Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday,

forward Thomas Müller called

emotion at Old Trafford.

heads," he said.

United.

League.

Spanish league matches and is the team with most victories in the top five European leagues so far. It has a two-point lead over Madrid and is seven ahead of both Atletico Madrid and Barcelona. Míchel praised his ending champion start at the Lluís Companys Olympic Stadium on Sunday. He said it showed that the team has the character and attitude to try to fight for loftier goals.

'We are not in the lead because the top teams are struggling. It's been a historic year for us, Míchel said. "But winning it all still is something too far away to think about. When we get to the final third of the season we will see how things are and what our goals will be." Girona, partly owned by Manchester City's Abu Dhabi ownership, has finished 10th in the league last season after three consecutive years in the second tier.

"Girona deserves a lot of credit. It has a great team," Barcelona coach Xavi Hernández said. "It's the best team I've seen play

Girona, which has the league's best attack with 38 goals, has been near the top of the standings from the start. There were

some doubts regarding Míchel's team after it failed in its first big test - a 3-0 loss at home to Real Madrid in September. But that was Girona's only defeat of the season. Its other setbacks were a draw at fifth-place Real team for not being scared of Barcelona and challenging the and a home draw against sixthplace Athletic Bill "We'll see what happens," said Girona defender Miguel Gutierrez, who scored one of the goals on Sunday. "We are in the lead and we will keep fighting to stay in the lead. We have been doing things well and we need to continue like this?

BARCELONA'S REALITY Xavi said it was an even match against Barcelona's Catalan rival but the loss represented a step backward in the club's rebuild-

ing process "It's our reality," he said. "This is a Barcelona team that is being rebuilt. And this is part of it. You take a step backward to be able to take two steps forward."

Barcelona next visits Valencia in the Spanish league, while Girona hosts Alaves

Barcelona visits Antwerp in the Champions League on Wednesday. It has already secured a place in the knockout stage, something it had failed to do in the last two seasons



Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur, inaugurates the first ever Khelo

Want to put up a show in bigger events: Ashwini

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

sensational run over the Alast two weeks has given wings to Ashwini Ponnappa's Olympics dreams, and the ace Indian shuttler now wants to continue her fine run in the upcoming bigger tournaments Paris

Ashwini, 34, and the 20-year-old Tanisha Crasto, who joined hands in January this year, secured their third women's doubles title and the second Super 100 crown with a 21-13, 21-19 win over Chinese Taipei's Sung Shuo Yun and Yu Chien Hui in the final of the Guwahati

Masters on Sunday. The pair had finished runnersup at the Syed Modi International Super 300 tournament last week in Lucknow and will start as favourites this week at the Odisha Open Super 100 in Cuttack.

Their exploits in Guwahati will lift them to world No. 23 when the BWF ranking is issued on Tuesday, taking them closer to top 16, which is the cut off mark for the Paris Games.

... The goal of course is to play at the Olympics but since we are a new pair, our focus is to do well in every single tournament we are playing, to put up a good show and that is what we are focusing on right now," Ashwini, a two-time Olympian, told PTI. "I think there are a lot of factors to get to the Olympics, and for us it is important to simplify our journey and focus on our performance, and if we are meant

Currently, world No. 19 pair of Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly are the frontrunners in the Olympic race.

to be in the Olympics, then it's

Ashwini and Tanisha had won the Abu Dhabi Masters Super 100 and Nantes International Challenge also this year.

"Now, we will get an entry in to

bigger tournaments. We actually started off the year playing in Super 500 event (Îndonesia Masters) where we reached the quarterfinals, that gave us a lot of confidence because it was our first tournament together.

Now, having had this journey of playing smaller tournaments and gradually working our way ip, it gives us a lot of confidence. We have a lot of matches under our belt. So, now, the idea is to take all this positivity into next vear but before that our focus is giving our best in Odisha." One of India's finest doubles

exponents, Ashwini has enjoyed a lot of success with Jwala Gutta, winning the 2011 World

France to host Germany

Championships bronze and gold and silver medals at the 2010 and 2014 Commonwealth Games respectively.

Ashwini and Jwala had also participated in the 2012 and 2016 Olympics in London and Rio de Janeiro but couldn't cross the group stage on both the

After the 2016 Games, the duo parted ways and Ashwini forged an alliance with N Sikki Reddy. The pair parted ways last year. Asked how she sees her role of a senior partner, Ashwini said: Tanisha makes it easy for me because she is someone who is a fast learner and understands things really well. She holds her own on court and she keeps me calm when I go off track, having that freedom makes a differ-

It is not easy to keep performing at 34 and Ashwini said focus on her diet and nutrition was the key

"I made a few changes, especially in terms of looking after my body. I now understand the importance of being mindful of what I am eating and drinking. In the past, I got away by eating things in moderation but now it doesn't work. I used to love sweets but now I don't even eat sweets in moderation.



May go pro but don't know what I will do: Kom

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Olympic bronze medallist pugilist Mary Kom is not ruling out turning pro in the coming years as the veteran boxer admitted that she can no longer fight in amateur boxing

due to age restrictions. The six-time world champion boxer has not competed since tearing her anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) during the Commonwealth Games selection trial in 2022 though she is yet to announce her retirement. As per the rules, a boxer above the age of 40 cannot compete in

amateur category and Mary Kom is 41 now. "If I say from my heart, I am still hungry to do something. I still want to compete and represent the country. But I am not being able to compete from this year because of age limit," Mary

medals to the podium finishers of the inaugural Khelo India Para Games here on Monday. "But I will still try to do someyet what I will do. I still have the

The legendary boxer said she missed competitions because of injuries also.

I could not compete this year due to age bar, I missed a lot of competitions. I had a major injury, an ACL and after recovery I missed a lot of competitions like Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and World Championships."

real heroes as they had to fight against odds to bring laurels for

Bayern Munich brings anger, unbeaten record to Man United Robert Lewandowski. The for-

shots than its opponent - but Bayern is keen to bounce back. Midfielder Leon Goretzka suggested Bayern hadn't been helped by having 10 days without a game after its last Bundesliga match was called off because of heavy snow. He told broadcaster ZDF that Bayern had been training well, though "we couldn't have sensed in training that we'd fallen into a hole, but after kickoff today it looked very much like that. Against United, Bayern needs to show the Frankfurt loss was just

a "slip-up," Goretzka said. on his teammates to show their It was Bayern's third loss of the "There has to be a reaction folseason but the first with England lowing this. We need to tap into captain Harry Kane in the startour anger, but we can't lose our ing lineup.

Kane had tasted defeat on his The Frankfurt game was much debut for Bayern against Leipzig closer than the score suggests in the German Super Cup in Bayern actually had four more August, but on that occasion



Bayern was already 2-0 down before Kane came on for a halfhour cameo - and he had the excuse of having been up late the night before for a medical and contract signing. Kane was an unused substitute in Bayern's only other loss of the season, an upset away defeat to third-division Saarbruecken in the

German Cup. Kane has 22 goals in 19 games

The 5-1 loss to Frankfurt was Bayern's worst loss in the Bundesliga since a defeat by the same score, to the same opponent, back in 2019. On that occasion it cost coach Niko Kovac his job. Thomas Tuchel is

entertaining 4-3 win in Munich

in September.

rather more secure in his job but history shows it doesn't take much to unsettle Bayern coaches. A draw or loss at United would be Bayern's third game in a row without a win.

Bayern heads to Manchester without forward Serge Gnabry after he lasted just five minutes off the bench against Frankfurt for Bayern, numbers that resembefore he had to go off with a ble his Munich predecessor groin strain.

AP PARIS World Cup runner-up France will face Germany mer Tottenham striker has a career seven goals in 20 games against United and scored in the

in a friendly next March as part of its European Championship preparations. Coach Didier Deschamps' side

take on Julian Nagelsmann's struggling Germany team on March 23 at Lyon's Groupama Stadium in its first friendly match leading up to Euro 2024, which will be hosted by Germany from June 14-July 14. Germany's 2-0 loss to Austria last month capped a year of bad results, with Germany having lost six of the 11 games it played and winning just three. One of those, however, was a 2-1 friendly win over France in Dortmund in September under caretaker coach Rudi Völler.

Of the teams who beat Germany - Belgium, Poland, Colombia, Japan, Turkey and Austria -

in a friendly game only Belgium is ranked in the top 10 in the world.

By contrast, free-scoring France coasted into Euro 2024 on the back of seven wins and a draw in qualifying, scoring 29 goals and conceding only three. France routed Gibraltar 14-0 along the way for a for record win, while star striker Kylian Mbappe led Les Bleus with nine

goals in qualifying. Germany also confirmed a friendly for March 26 against the Netherlands in Frankfurt. The Dutch team lost twice to France in European Championship qualifying this year but finished the year with three consecutive wins without conceding a

Two tradition-rich duels against big soccer nations are the perfect way to start the European Championship Nagelsmann said in a state-

Kom told PTI after giving away thing relating to boxing. (I) May go to pro but don't know spirit to play one to two years or even four years," she added.

She said the para athletes are the the country.

Kohli is a massive player: Kallis Amanjot earns praise for all round show

rirat Kohli's form and knowledge about South African conditions will be key to India's success in the upcoming two-Test series, reckons legendary all-rounder Jacques Kallis.

India will play two red-ball games in Centurion and Cape Town from December 26-30 and January 3 to 7 respectively as part of the ICC World Test Ćhampionship.

"I am sure he will want to have a big series here in South Africa. He has been in good form. He will play a major role in helping India. If they are to win here, he will have to have a good series," Kallis told Star

Kohli amassed 932 runs from 30 innings to emerge as the highest run-scorer for India during the last WTC cycle. He has already scored a century and a fifty in two completed Tests against the West Indies as part of the current cycle.

Kohli is in imperious form, having racked up a whopping 765 runs in the ODI World Cup on home soil to be awarded the Player of the Tournament.

"He's a massive player, no matter where it is. Having played here quite a bit and had a fair amount of success," Kallis said.



"He'll be able to pass that knowledge on to the other guys, especially the younger guys and give them ideas on how to manage these conditions and then what to expect."

Kohli, 35, scored two of his 29 Test centuries against the Proteas away from home. India had suffered a 1-2 loss in South Africa during the last World Test Championship

"This is a good Indian team but South Africa is tough to beat in South Africa," Kallis said. "Centurion will probably suit South Africa and Newlands

will probably suit India. It will be a good series and it will come down to one or two sessions that one team might play better than the other. It would be a closely-fought contest."

(on Sunday), 12 off 12 balls, the first ball she (faced was)

whipped through the covers." India looked shoddy on the field

in the first game and Bali said it was difficult for the players to

adjust to playing under lights which led to some glaring errors but they improved as the series

We played a day-night game

after almost six to seven months.

The last game that the girls had played was in WPL after that

they have not played in the night

"It is always very difficult as a

team when you are playing after

6-7 months but we started prac-

tising under lights that is why the

England coach Jon Lewis

impressed with young Ishaque

progressed.

time," he said

results are coming."

and Shreyanka

PTI MUMBAI

India fielding coach Munish Bali has described Amanjot Kaur as an 'impact player' after her all-round heroics helped the hosts register a consolation win in the third and final women's T20I against England here. India defeated England by five

wickets in the third match after losing the first two T20Is comprehensively in the three-match

On Sunday, Amanjot not only hit the winning runs for India but also produced impactful performances throughout the course of the game as she returned 2 for 25 in her three overs and also took a splendid

India were in a tricky situation after a couple of quick wickets fell and 11 runs were required to win in the last two overs.

Amanjot hit 13 of just four balls, including three boundaries, to finish the game with six balls to

She's an impact player, if you see she bowled the fourth over in the powerplay and bowled very well," Bali told the media after the conclusion of the series.

She fielded very well. She bowled for 3-4 overs yesterday (on Saturday during second T20I) and made an immediate impact with a brilliant catch.

England head coach Jon Lewis, who also holds a similar responsibility with Women's Premier League side UP Warriorz, was impressed with the fact that India chose to go with young players in the series such as Shreyanka Patil and Saika Ishaque.

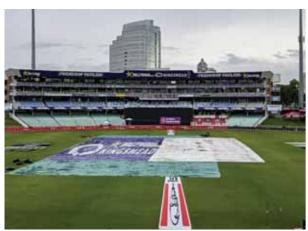
"She (Ishaque) obviously had a really good WPL and it was not a surprise to me that she has been selected for India. She has got great control," Lewis said. I actually really like, Shreyanka Patil. She is really smart. She uses

angles, she turns the ball. She looks a real prospect to me and obviously we played against RCB for UP and yeah, I was really impressed.

She looks a really good cricketer. She fields well and she moves well and she can hold the bat. She is a real talent." Lewis said England want to

play an 'aggressive' brand of cricket as the two teams now move to Navi Mumbai for their one-off Test to be played at the DY Patil from December 14-17. We want to play aggressive cricket, but we want to play smart cricket as well. Putting bowlers under pressure and

absorbing pressure is all part of Test cricket, so the way we bat, we will very much be looking to put the opposition bowlers under pressure," he added.



Gavaskar urges CSA to follow Eden Gardens model

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Legendary Sunil Gavaskar turged Cricket South Africa to take a leaf out of Eden Gardene' book of the control of Eden Gardens' book after rain forced the abandonment of the first T20I between India and South Africa at Durban without a ball being bowled.

Gavaskar said the South African board should follow the whole perimeter of the ground during the rain to minimise the damage.

"What the boards need to do now is to cover the entire ground. Let's have no excuse. Everybody (cricket boards) is getting a lot of money. Let's

make no mistake. "All the cricket boards have got plenty of money. If they say they don't, they are lying, Gavaskar told Star Sports.

"They might not have as much money as the BCCI. Fair enough. But every board has got money to buy these covers to cover the entire ground," Gavaskar said.

Kolkata's Eden Gardens is currently the only stadium in the country to have the facility to cover the whole ground in the event of rain, an initiative

taken by Sourav Ganguly when he was at the helm of the Cricket Association of Bengal. The former Indian captain then pointed at the 2019 World Cup in England where four matches were washed out.

"So many World Cup matches in England did not take place because the ground was not covered. The rain had stopped, but the rest of the ground was, teams lost points.

vision of Ganguly in making Eden Gardens a rain-safe

"I think there was one Test match at Eden Gardens called off. During the next game, Eden Gardens had the entire ground covered. That is the kind of initiative that you want

Stop clock trial to get underway during West Indies, England series

The stop clock trial, which will restrict the amount of time taken between overs, will get underway during the white-ball series between West Indies and England, the sport's governing body ICC said on Monday. The trial will start with the first T20 between the West Indies and England on Tuesday

The stop clock will restrict the amount of time taken between overs, meaning that the bowling team will need to be ready to bowl the first ball of their next over within 60 seconds of the previous over being complet-



ed, the ICC said in a statement. Failure to do so for the third time in an innings (following two warnings) will result in a five-run penalty being imposed

against the fielding team. "We are continually looking at ways to speed up the pace of play across international

The stop clock trial in white ball international cricket follows the introduction of a successful new playing condition in 2022, which resulted in the fielding team only being allowed four fielders outside of the inner circle if they were not in a position to bowl the first ball of their final over in the stipulated time. "The outcomes of the stop clock trial will be assessed at the end of the trial period," Wasim Khan, ICC General Manager - Cricket, said.

Holder, Pooran, Mayers decline West Indies central contract

PTI ■ KINGSTON (JAMAICA)

Joining the growing tribe of cricketers who stay away from the country's central contract, premier white ball players Nicholas Pooran, Jason Holders and Kyle Mayers have declined to join the West Indies roster for the 2023-24 season.

However, the trio will be available to play T20Is for Windies season, announced the Cricket West Indies (CWI) in a media release.

The latest West Indies central contract list includes 14 men and 15 women players

"We are very clear in the direction we want to go. The players who have been offered contracts are among those who we expect to feature, as we look to build towards challenging for the top spot when we host and compete in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 on home soil," said Desmond Haynes, WI men's chief selector.

'We also have away Test Series in Australia and England - these are two major assignments. In the 50-over format we look to build a nucleus of players aimed towards the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2027," added

Former captain Holder last played for the West Indies in July - Test and T20I against India at home and in ODIs against Scotland during the ICC World Cup gualifiers in Harger Cup qualifiers in Harare. Pooran, also an ex-Windies captain in white ball formats, last

played a T20I against India in August while his last ODI appearance was against Sri Mayers' last T20I and ODI were

against India in August while his previous Test appearance came against South Africa at Johannesburg earlier this March. List of contracted WI players: Men: Alick Athanaze, Kraigg Brathwaite, Keacy Carty, Tagenarine Chanderpaul, Joshua Da Silva, Shai Hope, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Gudakesh Motie, Rovman Powell, Kemar Roach, Jayden Seales, Romario Shepherd. Women: Aaliyah Alleyne,

Shemaine Campbelle, Shamilia Connell, Afy Fletcher, Cherry-Ann Fraser, Shabika Gajnabi, Jannillea Glasgow, Sheneta Grimmond, Chinelle Henry, Zaida James, Mandy Mangru, Hayley Matthews, Karishma Ramharack, Stafanie Taylor, Rashada Williams.

PTI GQEBERHA (SOUTH AFRICA)

fter a washout in the series-Aopener robbed the auditioning Indian youngsters of valuable game time, the think tank will be hoping for clear weather in the second T20I against South Africa here on Tuesday. Even the toss could not be held in Durban on Sunday and there is a rain forecast even for the second game of the three-match series. Now only five games are left in the build up to the T20 World Cup in June and the management has a very small

window to try out players. In the current scenario, form in the IPL will carry a lot of weight for selection in the Indian team bound for USA and Caribbean. The selectors announced a 17man squad for the series and it is highly unlikely that all of them would get an opportunity in the remaining two games.

Shubman Gill, who was not part of the T20 series against

"South Africa, I remember that they wanted to play against some team and the match didn't take place or something had happened, mainly because the outfield was wet," Gavaskar

Gavaskar then lauded the

"Sourav Ganguly was the man in charge and he made sure that nobody could point the finger at Eden Gardens," Gavaskar

Women cricket progressed more than men since 2019: Ganguly

 $F^{ormer\ Indian\ captain\ Sourav\ Ganguly}_{feels\ women's\ cricket\ has\ attained}$ immense strides in its growth and reach counterparts. Ganguly based his argument on the emer-

gence of the Women's Premier League, a pool of talented players like Harmanpreet Kaur and Smriti Mandhana and the team's good efforts in some global events of late. The progress the women's cricket in India has made since 2019 is, perhaps, more than the men's team. The men's team has always been very good.

"But from where the women's team was to where they went -- from winning the Asia Cup, the way they played in the World Cups. They were the best team in the Commonwealth Games (runners-up in 2022)," Ganguly told Jio Cinema.

"Harmanpreet, Smriti, you name them, Richa, Jemimah, Shafali, the way they have progressed is impressive." Ganguly was also effusive in his praise for

young pacer Renuka Singh.

When Jhulan (Goswami) finished, we thought where the next seamer would come from, and then Renuka (Singh)

being seen as the finisher for India in the shortest format.

with only Arshdeep Singh and

Jasprit Bumrah, who is not

playing this series, straightfor-



Thakur has developed over the last three years. So, that's the best thing about women's cricket," said the former BCCI president. Ganguly, the Director of Cricket at the Delhi Capitals, was delighted to see the side picking up some talented Indian players from the recent WPL auction.

"I think Ashwani Kumari is someone who they (DC) kept an eye on because she can hit the ball a long way and she bowls. We needed a back-up keeper, so we got another keeper. We had three slots to fill, we knew one will always be the most important one and we got (Annabel) Sutherland,"

said Ganguly.
The Capitals had purchased Australian cricketer Sutherland for Rs 2 crore from the recent player auction held at Mumbai.

Indian men, women hockey teams leave for 5 Nations Tournament in Valencia

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Indian men's hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh has set his eyes on climbing up the FIH rankings, while his female counterpart next month's Olympic Qualifiers at the 5 Nations tournament in Spain.

Both the Indian hockey teams will begin their campaign against Spain in Valencia on December 15

For the men, the tournament will serve as a preparatory event ahead of the 2023-24 Hockey Pro League season. India will play against Spain, Germany, France and Belgium during the tournament. The event also gains significance for the

women's team as it will serve as the preparatory assignment ahead of the all-important Olympic Qualifiers in Ranchi beginning January 13. The women's team will take on Spain in the

first game before taking on Belgium on December 16, Germany on December 19, and Ireland in their last match on December

Similarly, the men's team will open against Spain on December 15, followed by matches against Belgium (Dec 16), Germany (Dec 19), and France (Dec 20).

Now with the series-opener washed out, they will only get a single outing before shifting focus to red ball cricket.

India: Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Shreyas Iyer, Ishan Kishan (wk), Jitesh Śharma (wk), Ravindra Jadeja (VC), Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Mohd. Siraj, Mukesh Kumar, Deepak Chahar.

South Africa: Aiden Markram (captain), Ottniel Baartman, Matthew Breetzke, Nandre Burger, Gerald Coetzee (1st and 2ndT20Is), Donovan Ferreira, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen (1st and 2nd T20Is), Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, David Miller, Andile Phehlukwayo, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs, and Lizaad Williams.

With only 5 games left ahead of T20 World Cup, auditioning youngsters running out of time selection, raising questions over the scheduling of India's T20 commitments before the World Australia held right after the World Cup, Suryakumar Yadav ward selections for the World Cup. Like Rinku, Jitesh Sharma is also

and Rinku Singh seem to be the only certainties in the batting order for the ICC event six months later. Both Yashasvi Jaiswal and

month. The selectors will be

forced to consider only IPL performance for World Cup

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Ruturaj Gaikwad have got runs under their belt but if Virat After showing promise against Australia, Jitesh will be hoping Kohli and Rohit Sharma make for game time against the themselves available for the Proteas. World Cup, the two fringe play-The extra bounce on South Africa pitches will pose a stiff test for the young batting lineers would need a sensational effort in the IPL to make the cut. The only other series India play before the World Cup is against In the bowling department,

Afghanistan at home next multiple spots are up for grabs



Deepak Chahar, who was picked for his comeback series, remains

in India due to a personal emer-Both Kuldeep Yadav and Ravi Bishnoi, who impressed in the T20s against the Aussies, would

like to carry their good form into the series. Ravindra Jadeja, who went on a break after the World Cup, has also linked up with the squad.
Like India, South Africa too have only five games left to identity their core for the World Cup.

Pace duo of Marco Jansen and

Gerald Coetzee were only

picked for the first two games.

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